

MEDIA ALERT: DESIGN MAKES A STATEMENT AT NEOCON 2022 Shaping the Built Environment of the Future June 13-15

WHAT: A launchpad for innovation and a catalyst for new ideas, NeoCon is a powerful force in influencing the world's commercial interiors—from offices to hospitality, retail, healthcare, education, and government spaces. Held June 13-15 at theMART in Chicago, the three-day show continues to be the most important annual event for the industry, bringing together thousands of manufacturers, dealers, architects, designers, end-users, design organizations, and media from around the globe to share, learn, and experience the latest advancements in commercial design. Encompassing one million square feet of exhibition space, NeoCon will showcase thousands of cutting-edge new product launches from hundreds of established and emerging brands. An authoritative hub for professional enrichment and connection, the show will also feature daily on-site keynotes and special presentations, CEU-accredited virtual sessions, dynamic activations, award programs, exciting events, and more.

Highlights include:

• Game-Changing New Product Launches & Trends

NeoCon exhibitors continue to innovate and illustrate agility in responding to the latest market needs, offering solutions-based products across the workplace, healthcare, hospitality, education, retail, and government vertical markets. The future office continues to be a hot topic and introductions on display will address the latest trends including:

- Hotelification
- The Rise in Phygital Spaces
- Privacy and Adaptability
- Biophilia & Wellness
- ESG-Oriented Solutions
- Neurodiversity

• Powerful Programming & Thought Leadership

An invaluable component of every NeoCon is the multitude of educational opportunities it offers. The programming includes:

 Compelling Keynote Presentations from internationally renowned artist Nick Cave alongside Founder, Principal, and Creative Director for art and design studio Faust, Bob Faust (June 13, 11 AM CST); designer, artist, and educator Bruce Mau (June 14, 11 AM CST); and design futurist and educator, Shashi Caan (June 15, 11 AM CST). Details on the keynotes are available <u>here</u>.

- Special Presentations each day from industry leaders including Todd Heiser (Gensler Chicago) and Lily Diego (Gensler St. Louis), who will offer a sneak peek of the exciting renovation plans for theMART. Additional special programs include the IIDA Equity Roundtable (June 13, 4 PM CST), ESG Onsite Workshop (June 14, 9 AM CST), and ASID Outcome of Design (June 14, 2 PM CST). There will also be a conversation with past and present recipients of Designing a Better Chicago's Design Impact Grant program (June 15, 1 PM CST). Each year, \$25,000 is given to individuals and organizations that are using design to directly address pressing issues within the Chicago Community. This year's grant was given to Chicago Eco House, a local agricultural organization dedicated to alleviating poverty through sustainable, urban flower farms. More details are available here.
- Hitting on pivotal topics such NFTs/The Metaverse, ESG, and more, the 2022 CEU assortment will feature 46 virtual programs from an impressive roster of leading industry experts spanning 8 tracks: Workplace, Healthcare, Education, Facilities, Wellness, Sustainability, Design Skills, and Industry Direction. The full schedule of CEU programs is available <u>here</u>. Registrants and members of the media can watch each session when it runs live or anytime on demand (for accreditation) through July 15.

• Exciting Experiences & Activations

 theMART will offer a wide range of engaging installations and experiences throughout the show floors and extending outdoors into the inviting River Park and nightly Art on theMART projections showing on theMART's facade featuring original work from Nick Cave and a special presentation celebrating 100 years of Chicago design. More details and a full listing of interactive displays and special exhibits can be accessed <u>here</u>.

• Special Events

- Gatherings include the Best of NeoCon breakfast on June 13 at 7:30AM. The event celebrates the winners of the 2022 awards, which are determined by an influential jury of industry leaders, facility managers, and active specifiers from top firms and companies such as Blitz, Studio O+A, HDR, HOK, CBRE, Oracle and NetJets.
- Additional happenings will be hosted by DIFFA Chicago, Interior Design, i+s, IIDA, Material Bank, BIFMA, Design Center @ NeoCon and more. Details and a full listing of events can be found <u>here</u>.

WHEN: Monday, June 13, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Tuesday, June 14, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; Wednesday, June 15, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

*The PR contacts and show team will be available as early as Friday, for interviews, appointments, trend-spotting forecasts, and walk-throughs. B-roll is available.

WHERE: theMART, 222 W Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL, 60654 and digitally available on the <u>NeoCon Hub</u>.

WHO: NeoCon, the premier event for the commercial interiors industry and a go-to source for the latest in product and design trends for more than 50 years, is produced by theMART. Interviews are available with Byron Morton, VP Leasing, NeoCon, Keynotes and Presenters, as well as NeoCon manufacturers, and Best of NeoCon jurors.

REGISTRATION: Attendees, exhibitors, and press can register to attend NeoCon and NeoCon programming <u>here</u>. *Please note, media have complimentary access to the virtual CEU Programs, to register as media, please contact <u>emma@novitapr.com</u>.*

PRESS INFORMATION: Media can access the official <u>NeoCon 2022 press kit</u> for new product images, press releases, and more.

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NeoCon is open to trade, C-Suite executives, and other industry-related professionals at <u>www.neocon.com/register</u>. Credentialed members of the media can register for press passes <u>here</u>. Interviews with NeoCon leadership, exhibitors, and speakers are available. To set up an interview, or for more information and images please email alexandra@novitapr.com. Additional details for attending NeoCon can be found at <u>www.neocon.com</u>.

For showroom, exhibitor, and general NeoCon news, images, and real-time information, follow NeoCon Shows on the following: <u>Facebook (@NeoConShows), Twitter</u> (<u>@NeoCon_Shows</u>), and <u>Instagram</u> (<u>@NeoCon_Shows</u>).

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About NeoCon: NeoCon is the world's leading platform and most important event for the commercial interiors industry, held each year at theMART in Chicago. Since launching in 1969, NeoCon has served as the annual gathering place for the commercial design world's manufacturers, dealers, architects, designers, end-users, design organizations and media. The three-day event showcases game-changing products and services from both leading companies and emerging talent—providing unparalleled access to the latest and most innovative solutions. A robust educational program of keynote presentations and CEU sessions offers world-class expertise and insight about today's most relevant topics as well as the future of commercial interior design. <u>www.neocon.com</u>

NeoCon® is a registered trademark of Merchandise Mart Properties Inc, a subsidiary of Vornado Realty Trust.

About theMART: theMART (formerly The Merchandise Mart), located in the center of the sought-after River North submarket, is interwoven into the fabric of Chicago as an innovator in business, technology, culture, art, media and more. As the largest privately held commercial building in the United States, it is one of the world's leading commercial buildings, wholesale design centers and the preeminent international business location in Chicago. Encompassing 4.2 million gross square feet, theMART spans two city blocks, rises 25 stories, and is visited by an average of 30,000 people each business day and nearly 10 million people annually. Offering continuous innovation and creativity from leading manufacturers and design forward showrooms, theMART serves as the home to Chicago's most creative and technologically innovative companies.