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MARCH/APRIL 2015



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Best of IDS
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Best of shows

Text and photos by David Lasker





DX Dinner by Design

Monogram, Casey House and the Design Exchange teamed up on the DX's Trading Floor to present Dinner by Design, featuring dining installations by Burdiflek, Castor Design, Hariri Pontarini Architects, KPMB, Mason Studio, NH Design, Candice and Alison, Partisans, Sarah Richardson Design, I-V, and Uffie – all in support of Casey House, the AIDS hospice.

1—At Burdiflek's booth, partners Paul Filek and Diego Burdi flank Cecilia Lai, their marketing and business development specialist. The 24-karat-gold swirls painted by Moss and Lam on the stretched-canvas walls, combined with the asparagus ferns on the table, "create a sense of calm and elegance," Burdi says. 2—Mason Studio partners Stanley Sun and Ashley Rummy at their booth depicting a dinner "among good friends stuck in a cottage." Rummy says of the scenario inspired by poet Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." 3—Owens Dr. John MacLeod, physician and HIV treatise; Yona Zakerman, administrator, Zakerman Family Foundation; and Alex Filasmark, area director, sales and marketing, Toronto and Vancouver, Shagori-La Hotel. 4—Sarah Richardson of her eponymous design firm and her associate Tommy Smythe created a winter garden with vintage furniture, fabrics from her Kravitt collection, maple trees and, on the table, vintage silver and quince blossoms. 5—At GE Monogram: Emil Telek, founder, and Joquin G., junior designer, at I-V, who created the 2001: A Space Odyssey–inspired booth, flank Philip Meyerson, general manager, marketing and training at GE appliance distributor Mabe Canada. Says Telek, "It's based on fire as the foundation of food preparation in a primitive place, juxtaposed against the science and technology of the GE brand." 6—Architects Alan Wong and Vanessa Guillen of booth design firm Hariri Pontarini Architects flank Kathryn Walter of Felt Studio, creator of the felt hearts on the wall; and Stephanie Karapita, CEO of Casey House.



IDS Opening Night Party

At the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, North Building, 5,700 design aficionados enjoyed live bands, drinks, snacks and a first look at exhibits at the opening-night party for the 17th annual installment of the venerable Interior Design Show.

1—At Victoria & Albert: Sary Louw, sales consultant; Nicola Dankovich, assistant sales consultant; Jonathan Carter, marketing director; Janine Keeble, business development, all from Victoria & Albert; and Eric Bagleton, sales growth manager, Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique. 2—At Le Pattern: Le Pattern's Elena Slepneva, co-owner, and Dimitri Rezvan, sales manager; Maxim Grigorovich, general manager, Fortune Custom Cabinets; and Le Pattern's John Zhebbyba, customer service manager, and Sasha Muravyeva, co-owner. 3—At Roche Bobois: interior designers Nina Bazian, owner of NB Designs, and Allan Guinan, partner at Figure8; Lisa Schneider, account rep at furniture supplier Plan B; and Gillian Gillies and Cyndie Jerome of their eponymous interior design firms. 4—At Dala Decor: Randy Phipps, publicist, Evolution PR; Dala Decor's Priya Ami, business development; Seema and Deep Gill, owners (and spouses); and Meg Peth, president, Evolution PR. 5—At Dadi, the luxury bathroom fixture supplier: Homes Publishing Group's Jessica MacInnis; Samantha Sannella, booth designer and owner, Urban Retreat Homes; Cindy Grenke of Crag Studio, where she creates custom art objects; Maria Finkel, York University nursing student; Godi's Eugene Leiderman, sales and marketing specialist; Godi CEO Dmitry Zherinov; and Homes Publishing Group's publisher Michael Rosset. 6—At patio-furniture maker Hauser's house. Standing, shop-ops George Adamidis, VP customer relations management, and Nick Crain, partner, business development; and booth designer Drew Hauser, principal, McCallum Sather Architects. Seated: Tanya Rentzos, market rep, Canberra; and Hauser's Holly Hauser (Drew's brother), retail operations, and Jay Hauser (Holly's cousin), GTA contract salesman. 7—At Avani Kitchens: Paul Kruger, senior industrial designer, Teklon; architect Justin Ford of Hariri Pontarini Architects, the booth designers; Coraline Allard and Pierre Quesnel, partners in Q and A Design Lab, who built the driftwood cloud overhead; Radha Chaddah, multimedia artist; and her husband, Dave Marcus, president, AYA and Avani Kitchens. 8—At the Designjunction wall: Alex O'Brien, director of first impressions, Veritas Communications; Joshua Nelson, principal designer at commercial designers JNKM Design Group; and Peter Kattan, furniture designer and decorator. 9—Up against the green wall at Miele, who once again boasted the show's biggest booth: Breanna Armstrong, product trainer, B.C.; Gina Garaventa, product marketing and marketing communications manager; brand ambassadors Mads Pilested and Sarah Nanacali; and national training manager Kirby Dumont.