

Casual Living®

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Monday
September 21, 2009

At-market issue for the
International Casual Furniture
and Accessories Market

Design Excellence honors

Awards spotlight 10 categories

WINNERS OF the 2009 Design Excellence Awards were named today during a 6 p.m. ceremony in the Merchandise Mart's 7th floor Market Suites. Immediately following the presentation, complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served on the Mart's 8th floor at a Market Welcome Party, hosted by *Casual Living* magazine and Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.

Judges selected products from 10 categories in the design contest, which salutes the best in new product designs and drew just over 100 entries. The Resin/Fiberglass category did not attract enough entries to be judged. Outdoor rugs, carpeting and flooring were judged in a separate category from the Complementary Casual niche.

Tubular aluminum designs drew the largest number of entries for a second consecutive year. Running a close second was the number of entries in the rattan/wicker/woven category, which dominated the contest two years ago.

The winner of this year's Lillian B. Winchester Best of Show Award will be announced Wednesday, Sept. 23, during the 50th annual Apollo Awards at Union Station Great Hall. Winners of Apollo Awards for retail excellence also will be named and 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award winners Richard Frinier and Art Thompson will be honored during the gala dinner. In addition, the latest outdoor fabric trends will hit the runway with an *Al Fresco* Fashion Show. Tickets are required for entrance to the event, hosted by MMPI and the International Casual Furnishings Association.

For more winners, see page 4

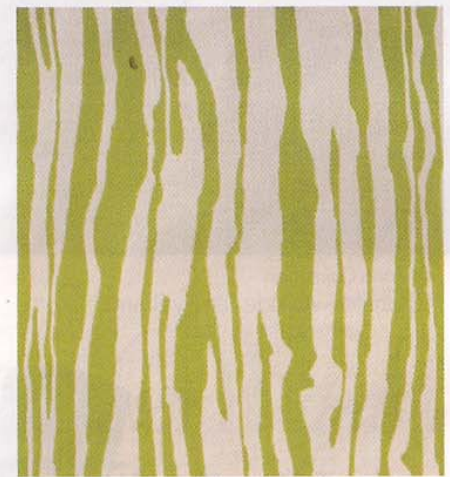
Complementary Casual Products

Gloster
Axis Coffee Table



Cast Metal

Pride Family Brands
Sophia Formal Cushion Dining Chair



Fabric

Veneman Collections
Woodgrain Hill - Green

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