



# PINNACLE

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF FURNITURE DESIGNERS

## 2006 Pinnacle Design Achievement Award Winners

ASFD held its 2006 Eleventh Annual Pinnacle Design Achievement Awards ceremony on Monday evening, last October 17 during the High Point Furniture Market.

Following a gala cocktail reception sponsored by Hickory Springs Manufacturing Company, Jim DiPersia, ASFD president welcomed the nearly 300 guests thanking everyone for their continued outstanding support, including the High Point Market Authority, MMPI and IHFC who joined *Furniture/Today* in sponsoring the evening's upscaled audio/visual ceremony presentation.

F/T editor-in-chief, Ray Allegrezza served as Pinnacle master of ceremonies; and special guests from the furniture retail community participated in the awards ceremony. The distinguished presenters were Leslie Fishbein, Kacey Fine Furniture; Joe Bograd, Bograd's Fine Furniture; Caroline Hipple, Storehouse; Judy George, Domain; and Michael Wilkov, Cantoni.

*Furniture/Today* was the Major Underwriter of the 2006 Pinnacle Awards and co-sponsors included APA-The Engineered Wood Association, Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers, Elmo Leather, *Furniture Style*, Hafele America Co., Hickory Springs Mfg., *Home Furnishings Business*, *Home Lighting & Accessories*, Leggett & Platt, The October Company, Weyerhaeuser and World Market Center Las Vegas.

Pinnacle judges were Dr. Richard Bennington, High Point University; Gary Evans, FurnitureToday; Leslie Fishbein, Kacey Fine Furniture; Francel Goude, RFG-Global Design Group; Jackie Hirschhaut, AHFA; Dan Minor, Boyles Furniture; Dr. Thelma Lazo-Flores, Savannah College of Art & Design; Sheila Long O'Mara, Home Furnishings Business; Max Shangle, Kendall College of Art & Design; Julie Smith, Furniture Style and its supplements; John Summey, NC State/Furniture Manufacturing and Management Center; and Rhonda Wolf, Havertys.

The 2006 Pinnacle Award winners including a comment from the Pinnacle Judges follows:

### CONTENTS

Outstanding Member Award.....	3
President's Award .....	4
Remembering O.B. Solie.....	5
Spring '07 Market News .....	6
President's Letter .....	7
Scholarship Design Contest .....	7



### OCCASIONAL TABLES

#### *Glasgow*

Matt Hurley, ASFD; Dudley Moore, Jr., ASFD; Susan Leis, ASFD, for Magnussen Home  
*Good value; innovative use of materials; retro influence; flexible utility and very saleable.*

### ACCESSORIES

#### *Stone Sculptures*

Yuri Zatarain for  
The Phillips Collection  
*Novel use of ceramics; artistic interpretation of human form; interesting, delightful conversation piece.*



*accepted by Mark Phillips*



*accepted by Bob Duncan*

### MOTION UPHOLSTERY

#### *Zac & Jill*

Rick Lee, ASFD  
for American Leather  
*Beautiful design. Takes recliners to a new sophistication of shape and form; dramatically heightened design standard.*

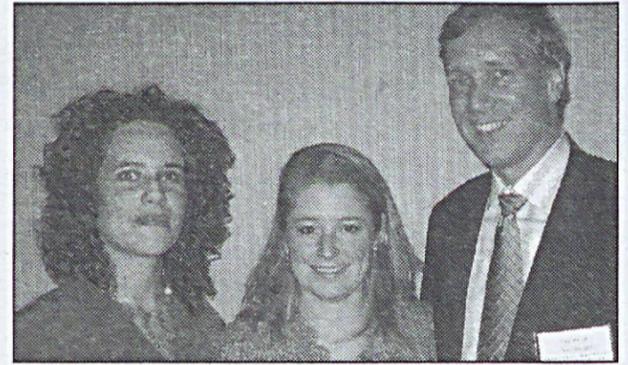
# 2006 Pinnacle Award Winners continued...



## JUVENILE FURNITURE

### *Z-Bedroom*

John Conrad, ASFD; Anne Russell, ASFD;  
Sean Slack, ASFD for Powell Company  
*Edgy, contemporary design; multifunctional pieces;  
sophisticated enough to grow with the child.*



## HOME OFFICE

### *New Amsterdam Nickel-Inlay Secretary*

Martha Stewart Signature Design Team: Dale Peterson,  
Jonsara Ruth, Stacy Mar for Bernhardt Furn.  
*Decorative wire inlay adds panache. Sized well for laptop users and  
smaller spaces.*



## CASUAL DINING

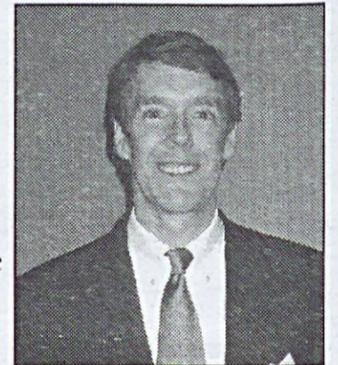
### *Marga Chair*

Marcel Opstal and Maya Basyroel  
for Box Furniture  
*Poetic, lyrical and very artistic. Good  
combination of fabric and wood with fine  
tailoring; stylish low profile.*

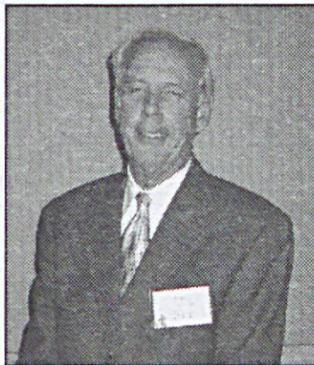
## HOME ENTERTAINMENT

### *Umbler TV Console*

Gordon Stannis, ASFD &  
Joe VanFaasen for Sligh Furniture  
*Fashion forward solutions for today's  
popular t.v. technologies;  
architectural character.*



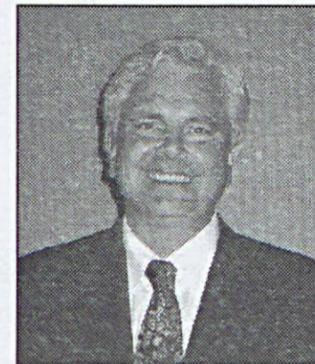
*accepted by Rob Sligh*



## FORMAL DINING

### *Omni Dining*

William Faber for Century Furniture  
*Enduring, contemporary design.  
Outstanding continuity of line.*



## SUMMER/CASUAL

### *Sun Chaser*

Dale Campbell for  
Lloyd Flanders  
*A real conversation piece!  
Innovative functionality.  
Extraordinarily durable and  
cool to the touch.*



## STATIONARY UPHOLSTERY

### *Teri*

Nancy Genova, ASFD  
for John Charles Designs  
*Beautiful concise styling; tailored  
contemporary design.*



## MAJOR COLLECTIONS

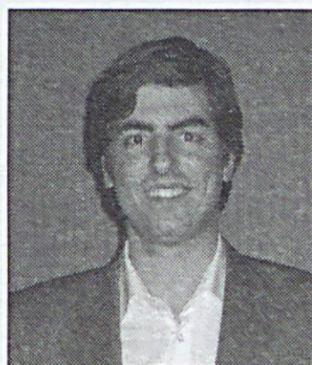
### *Belle Maison*

Michael Black, Ed Ball for Drexel Heritage Furniture  
*Eclectic combination of a Thirties Parisian flea market with deep  
breadth of line offering with multiple finishes and larger scaling.*

## LEATHER UPHOLSTERY

### *Pasadena*

Michael F. Galardo for  
Elite Leather Co.  
*Very sleek, low profile; shapely  
designed arms and great legs.*



# Outstanding Member Award — Arto O. Szabo, ASFD

....presented by Steve Hodges, ASFD at the 2006 Pinnacle Awards Ceremony, High Point, NC and also commemorating ASFD's Twenty Fifth Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago, just down the hall from us, at the old Top of the Mart, a group of men and women first met to establish an organization that would represent the interests of furniture designers. I, of course was only 10 at the time, but I remember being in awe of just being in the same room with some of the legendary names of this profession: Max Stout, Milo Baughman, Nick Ungaro, Dave Warren, O.B. Solie, Roland Carter, Gus Tron, Jim Peed, to name just a few. From that initial meeting, the American Society of Furniture Designers was born, in no small part thanks to the invaluable efforts of the late P. Douglas Kerr, our first executive director. Almost immediately, the rumor started circulating within the industry that we were forming a "union," as if you could get two furniture designers to agree on where to go for lunch, much less on how to stick it to the man.

At one of our subsequent organizational meetings, I met a gentleman who I would come to know very well over the next quarter century and who has been such a rock of support for ASFD. He and I served on the committee that put together our new association's first newsletter. I quickly learned that he was very opinionated and in the course of our dealings with one another over the years, we didn't always see eye to eye. We have for many years, however, been in total agreement on the burning issue of our time, namely that Bill Gates is Satan incarnate and that the computer world would be a much better place if everyone used a Mac.

I have long admired his tremendous dedication, boundless energy and unshakable loyalty to ASFD. Praise from him does not come lightly, but is all the more meaningful when it does. He continues, even after 25 years, to make important daily contributions to this organization. I have tremendous respect for him as a colleague and am proud to call him a friend.

It is an honor and a privilege to honor this man and his many contributions to our association. Please join me in **paying a much overdue tribute to an ASFD original: Arto O. Szabo, the recipient of the ASFD Outstanding Member Award, October 17, 2006.**

*Unfortunately, due to family illness, Arto could not be with us on that evening and ASFD president, Jim DiPersia accepted on his behalf. Again, please join us all in saluting Arto -- a true friend of ASFD!*

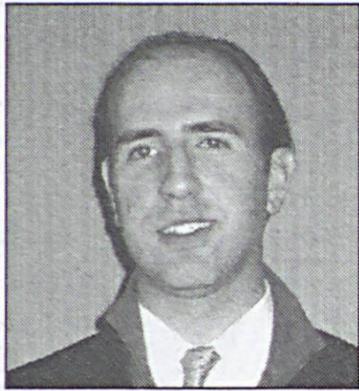


Arto O. Szabo  
ASFD

## CONTRIBUTIONS – A SHORT LIST

- From 1983-85, he served as chairman of the North Atlantic chapter of ASFD
- From 1983-1994, he was the publisher and editor of the Chapter Forum, their quarterly publication
- Served on the national ASFD board of directors several terms from 1983-94
- For our April 1989 conference in New Orleans, he organized and conducted a seminar on CAD and furniture design, probably the first such demonstration most of us had ever seen.
- Helped to organize subsequent conferences in Clearwater, FL, Kiawah, SC, and Washington, DC. In 1996, he planned perhaps our best conference ever in San Francisco
- In the early 1990's, he, along with four other professional members, helped ASFD avert a severe financial crisis by loaning the association money to put us on a sound footing; the association was able to repay the loans with interest within one year.
- Served as president of ASFD 1994-95. During his presidency, he
  - Hired a new Executive Director
  - Purchased a computer for ASFD (a Mac, of course)
  - Designed and set up the ASFD data base
  - Designed and set up ASFD's financial software
  - Established ASFD's "rainy day" fund bank account, today valued at over \$30,000
  - Established ASFD's scholarship fund, today worth over \$38,000
  - With Karl Felperin, suggested the idea of a design awards competition that became the ASFD Pinnacle Awards, now in its 12th year. As a member of the Pinnacle committee since 1995, he has been instrumental in all planning and decision making of the Pinnacle Awards.
  - From 1995-96, served as chairman of ASFD
  - Collected and created our ASFD memorabilia album collections
  - 1995-2006, updated our data base and financial records several times
  - Has served as treasurer of ASFD since 1996 to this day

# O'Leary Wins 2006 ASFD President's Award



**Thom O'Leary**  
ASFD

Thom O'Leary, ASFD, Co-Founder, Partner and Designer of ApparenZA Design Studio since 2002 has won the second ASFD President's Award which was announced at the Eleventh Annual Pinnacle Design Achievement Awards ceremony held last October during the High Point Furniture Market.

A 2000 Honors Graduate from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, Thom holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology/Anthropology and Asian Studies. Thom currently serves on the ASFD Board of Directors and is the Editor of its *Pinnacle, The Journal of the American Society of Furniture Designers*.

"Before entering the furniture design industry, I made it my goal to learn as much about it as possible. Careful research and planning led me to the ASFD, and taught me as much about the industry as an "outsider" can learn in a very short time. This methodical approach of setting goals, careful consideration and research, then taking decisive action to attain those goals has defined my work ethic in all past endeavors".

Thom describes his "design philosophy as every piece has a story. Inspiration is everywhere. Furniture should engage the eyes, tempt the fingers, and spark the imagination. Negative space defines the piece as much as positive space. My love of designing furniture must always be obvious in the work. Design to the strengths of the manufacturer. Play!"

And by now, Thom and his partner Frank Spano, ASFD have won three Pinnacle Awards in 2004 and 2005 in the Occasional Storage and Formal Dining. In his letter of recommendation, Polidor's president Jacek Nidzgorski described Thom's proactive approach to pursuing good design and good marketing as having led their company to growth, interest, and greater success for them all.

ApparenZA Design's own line "ApparenZA Couture" debuted at the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in the Spring of 2006, and was highlighted in three issues of Architectural Digest magazine and the New York Times in early 2006.

**Congratulations, Thom!**

*The President's Award is intended to honor talented young furniture designers in conjunction with the Pinnacle Design Achievement Awards presented each year during the October Market. Open to staff or free lance designers under 35 years of age, entrants were judged by a Pinnacle Awards subcommittee according to criteria including 1) a high degree of originality and creativity in home furnishings design, 2) demonstrated sales success of designs in the retail home furnishings marketplace, and 3) strength of recommendation letters by an employer, co-worker, client or supervisor.*

## More Pinnacle Award Winners...



### BEDROOM

#### **Young Classics**

Jena Hall, Stephanie Lena  
for Aspenhome

*Loaded with functionality; scaled for today's home. Pierced fretwork of headboard compliments the form of the demilune chest.*

### OCCASIONAL STORAGE

#### **Larkspur Bar Cabinet**

Martha Stewart Signature Design Team  
Barbara Kurgan, Paul Loebach, Jonsara Ruth  
for Bernhardt Furniture

*Upscale; sophisticated mix of materials; great, sexy legs; supports consumer trend of entertaining at home.*

### LIGHTING

#### **Celeste Table Lamp**

Ian Fowler for Decorative Crafts

*Delicate arc; nice fluid movement; great perceived value; traditional elements elegantly balanced and updated.*

# Obituary.....O.B. Solie, 80

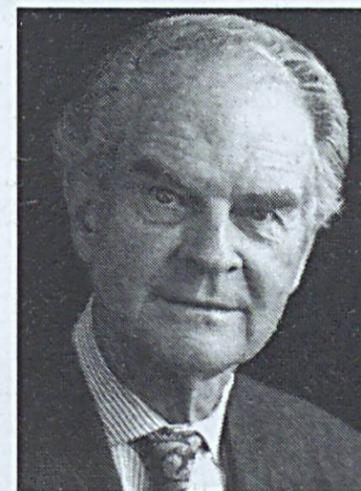
O.B. Solie, of Rockford, beloved husband, father and grandfather, died at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, 2006, in Provena St. Anne Center. Born Oct. 29, 1925, in Thorp, Wis., the son of Henry and Jennie (Dahl) Solie. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II on a mine sweeper around Japan. Married Lorraine M. Ormson, May 24, 1952, in Madison, Wis. He received a B.S. and M.S. degrees in Art/Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating with high honors. Associate with Ernest L. Swarts Design Studio from 1951 to 1964, after which he started his own design company, OBLtd, (Inc.). For more than 30 years, he was the designer for Ello Furniture, working with owner, Larry Molton.

He received many awards, including 1988 ASFD Distinguished Designer Award, American Walnut Fashion Award, Resources Council Product Design Award, National Home Fashions League Award, 2002 iFurniture, Drawings by O.B. Solie Exhibit at Furniture Discovery Center, High Point, N.C. Served as ASFD Director, Vice President, and Chairman, 1984 to 1989, an organization which he helped to establish and which, honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. Member of Rockford Country Club, former member of the University Club.

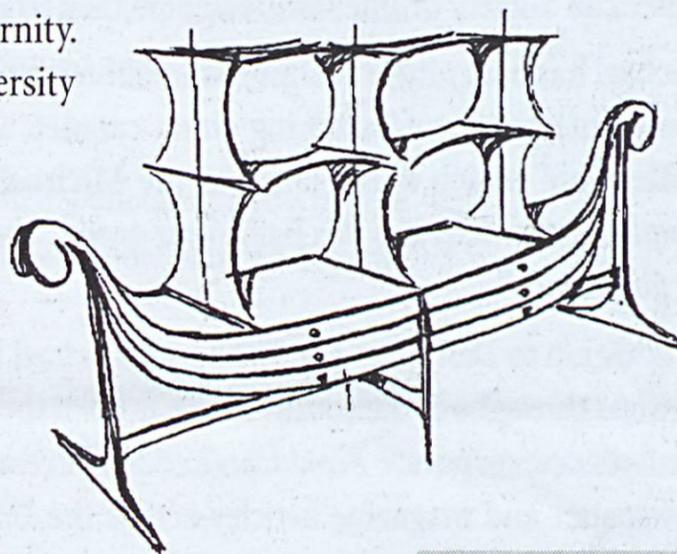
For nearly 40 years, he traveled to the spring and fall Furniture Market in High Point, N.C., presenting his latest designs. He also made annual trips to Germany and Italy touring the European showrooms. He enjoyed those times and the many friends he met over the years. OB was a lover of sports and photography. He also lived part-time in Delray Beach, Florida.

Survived by his wife, Lorraine of Rockford, daughter Susan (James) Patterson of Palm Beach, Fla., grandson, Jack, brother, Marshall (Gert) Solie of Cornell, Wis., nephew, John Solie, niece, Karen (Gino) Lambo, sister-in-law, Romelle (Sam) Roth, brothers-in-law, Jim (Jean) Ormson and Gib (Karla) Ormson, and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Mildred and Milo Galvin.

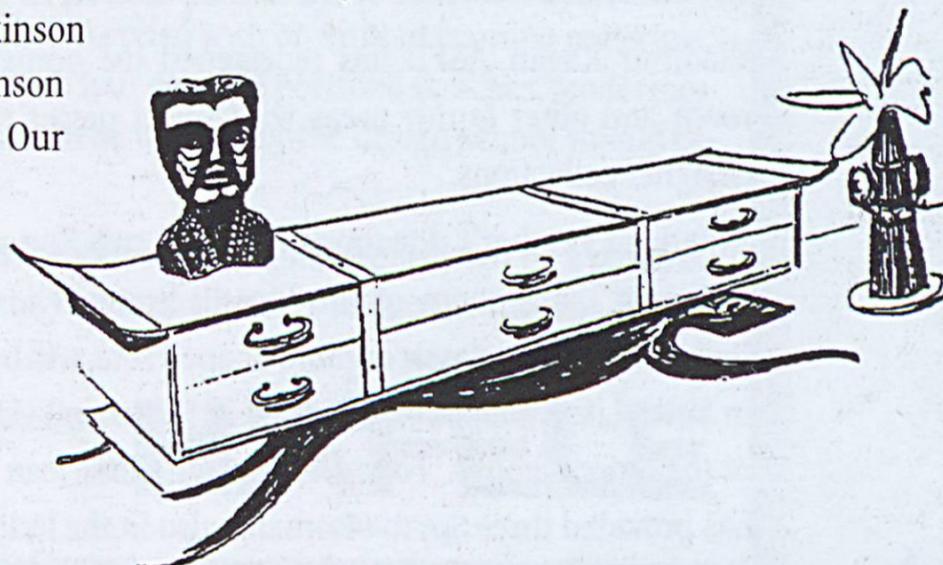
There is a long standing mystery surrounding O.B.'s surname and what it stands for. Rumors have included, Old Badger, Old Boy, Off Broadway, Old Brigadier, Old Beloved, Old Beautiful and many others, but that mystery now becomes legend. Memorials to American Parkinson Disease Association, 135 Parkinson Ave., Staten Island, NY 10305, or Our Savior's Lutheran Church.



O.B. Solie, ASFD  
1925 - 2007

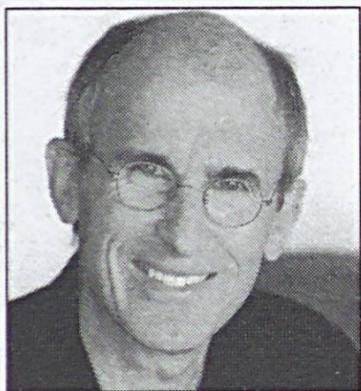


*For over forty-five years O.B. has been entertaining friends and colleagues in the furniture industry with his quick, whimsical sketches combining an idea about furniture with an actual piece of furniture. This process of combining images and ideas is known in design fields as the process of ideation.*



---

# spring '07 market news



Michael Payne

## Payne to speak at ASFD Spring Market Dinner

Michael Payne, host and interior designer of HGTV's *Designing For The Sexes*, obtained a bachelors degree in physics and mathematics from Southampton University in England. After ten years in the computer industry, during which he was transferred from England to the United States, he decided to pursue a career in interior design and graduated from the UCLA interior design program in 1980.

While attending UCLA, Michael gained design experience by working with a Los Angeles-based design firm that specialized in high-end, international clients. He founded Michael Payne Design in 1980, offering interior design services to clients on a national and international basis. Incorporated in 2002, his firm is now involved primarily with projects featured on *Designing For The Sexes*, but he also offers design consultation services to private clients. Michael teaches an interior design seminar at UCLA. He is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and is a Certified Interior Designer in the State of California.

Michael has a furniture design/manufacturing partnership with the Powell Company. A casual contemporary dining room, home entertainment/bunching china cabinet, a plasma T.V. stand and occasional pieces all are included in the "Apollo Collection" which is the latest in the **Michael Payne Collections licensed to Powell**. Designer Payne says, "Modern simplicity characterizes this handsome group...the design is reminiscent of the Art Deco period, a design style that continues in its popularity."

In addition to *Designing For The Sexes*, Michael has been featured on numerous network television programs and on radio stations throughout the country. He has been the featured speaker at various national home shows, design events, museums, conferences, corporate events, and charity events. Michael and his show *Designing For The Sexes* have been the subject of newspaper and magazine articles across the United States. Michael's first book, "Let's Ask Michael" was published in the spring of 2003.

Michael and his wife live in Los Angeles. Their son, a 2002 graduate of Colgate University, also resides in Los Angeles. An avid runner, Michael has completed six marathons and numerous 10K races. His interests include gardening, automobiles, and antique toys.

---

## American Leather Goods Slated for Kagan Project in Vegas

Pieces from Dallas-based leather upholstery manufacturer American leather will be featured in designer Vladimir Kagan's redesign of the historic Morelli house in Las Vegas. The renovated residence opens to the public April 9.

Vladimir Kagan, ASFD has redesigned the home's living room and other family areas with select pieces from his designer collections.

American Leather's donations included two Zoe sofas for the main living room of the Morelli house. The sofas, a revival of Kagan's classic organic-shaped sofa, will be shown in SuedeLife Ruby, and are located in the main living room of the Morelli house. For accent design, American Leather has provided three Spyro ottomans, also in the living area.

"The Morelli house is a special project providing a resource for interior designers and consumers alike," said Matthew Hayward, vice president of marketing for American Leather. "The company also sees this project as an opportunity to tap into the Las Vegas furniture Market which is a growing region in the home furnishings sector."

The Morelli house will receive a designation from the City of Las Vegas on the public opening date from the Nevada State Register of Historic Places. An interpretive study of the house will lead to a published book and stand-alone Web site.

Source: Home Furnishings Business, 2/6/07

# President's Letter

Bon Giorno,

I am glad to have this opportunity to speak to the members. Membership for me goes back a ways when early on I was thrilled to be invited as a board member, then vice president and finally president of one of the most prestigious, influential and recognized organizations in our industry.

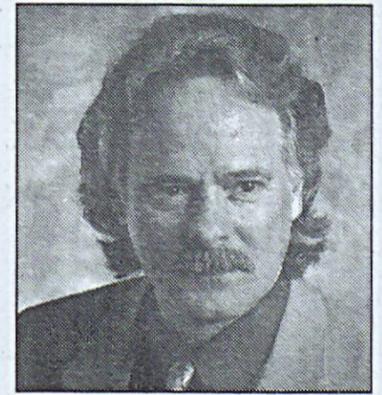
Working with the ASFD Board members and membership gave me an insight to the responsibilities we have as designers to educate, promote and support the upcoming talented individuals that are an integral part of the future design community. Many of us coming up the ladder may have craved for an organization such as ASFD to call on for support, direction and just some good business savvy as we progressed and to help us over the stumbling blocks.

Sitting at the helm of this organization over recent years, I have had the honor to meet and greet and interact with a vast amount of talented people with considerable pooled know how and career experience. All of this opportunity is at the memberships' beckoned call and there for the asking.

Your opinions and input are invaluable to keep our organization well oiled. I encourage you to take an active part and get involved to obtain a birds eye view of our industry and how you can become a more valuable entity.

As outgoing president, thank you for the honor and your confidence. I'm confident that Jack Lewis will provide great leadership which will continue to bring ASFD front stage. Join me in congratulating and welcoming Jack as the new ASFD president, 2007-09.

Jim



**James DiPersia**  
*ASFD President*

## Häfele America and ASFD Seeking Student Design Entries

Winners will be announced March 27 during High Point Market at ASFD.

In tribute to furniture designer David Kline, the American Society of Furniture Designers (ASFD) and hardware and electronic systems manufacturer Häfele America have again teamed up to present the 2007 ASFD David Kline Memorial Scholarship Design Contest. Honoring student furniture designs, the awards program is open to all students in North America currently enrolled in an accredited design program.

To participate, applicants must **submit a design incorporating Häfele's Tab A Honeycomb connector**, which is used to construct and connect furniture out of honeycomb materials. Applied with or without framing materials, the connector produces thick, light weight panels. A design brief, up to four pages of portfolio sketches, renderings and details of the work, and a letter of standing by the department head or dean of the design school should be included with each entry.

Winning entries, awarded \$3500, \$1000, and \$500 for first, second, and third place, will be selected by a panel of industry professionals. Awards will be presented at the ASFD Spring Furniture Market dinner on Tuesday, March 27 at the High Point Country Club.

Applications, instructions, and more information are available on the ASFD website. Deadline for entries is February 28, 2007.

# HÄFELE



American Society of  
Furniture Designers  
144 Woodland Drive  
New London, NC 28127

*The American Society of Furniture Designers*  
**MISSION STATEMENT**

The American Society of Furniture Designers is dedicated to excellence, innovation, and originality in the practice of Furniture Design. It serves as the unified voice of the Furniture Design community, and advocates professional practice and integrity at all times. It seeks to demonstrate the value of design, whether provided by staff or independent designers, to the home furnishings industry.

**American Society  
of Furniture Designers**

---

*Christine Evans, Executive Director*

Phone: (910) 576-1273

Fax: (910) 576-1573

email: [info@asfd.com](mailto:info@asfd.com)

*Thom O'Leary, ASFD - Journal Editor*

Phone: (914) 924-0338

email: [studio@ApparenzADesign.com](mailto:studio@ApparenzADesign.com)

[www.asfd.com](http://www.asfd.com)