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**VARIETY OF ENGAGING, INFORMATIVE EXHIBITS AWAIT VISITORS
TO NEW AMERICAN HOME FURNISHINGS HALL OF FAME BUILDING**

HIGH POINT, N.C., April 21, 2023 — Visitors to the new American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame building in High Point will find a wealth of engaging, informative exhibits to explore when the doors of this new industry and community hub open for the first time on April 22.

Opening exhibits will include the Iconic Design Spotlight, which focuses on four iconic home furnishings designs and the impact they've had on the industry and consumer lifestyles; the Gallery of Invention, which includes a Timeline of key industry events, an Innovation Showcase and a Future Projections spotlight; and two permanent displays highlighting the role of the industry in American life and the evolution of the High Point Market into the Home Furnishings Capital of the World.

"Our permanent opening exhibits feature a lively mix of themes designed to captivate and educate our visitors," says Karen McNeill, CEO and president of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors. "These permanent galleries address key topics of high interest to the industry, and the public, and they will be constantly updated with new displays and artifacts to keep them relevant and timely."

Here's a roundup of the Hall of Fame's key permanent opening exhibits set to debut on April 22:

- **Home Furnishings Capital of the World™:** Underwritten by fabric resource Culp Inc. and located at the front of Celebration Hall, the Home Furnishings Capital of the World exhibit examines how and why the High Point Market has grown from its humble beginnings in a single showroom building in 1921 into the center for an entire global industry. Today, the High Point Market covers more than 12 million square feet of showroom space extending over 180-plus buildings, and it draws thousands of visitors from every corner of the globe.

The Market represents the largest economic event in North Carolina, with an annual impact of \$6.73 billion – greater than four Super Bowls, 47 NCAA Final Four weekends, and 99 World Series home games. Every six months, tens of thousands of products are showcased, in any style imaginable, including residential furniture for every room, rugs, lighting fixtures, art, pillows, wallpaper and accent items. The furnishings introduced in High Point become the merchandise assortment for stores all over the nation and, from those stores, are purchased by consumers for their homes, where they help transform and elevate daily life.

- **Industry by the Numbers:** Also located at the front of Celebration Hall and underwritten by Culp, the Industry by the Numbers exhibits focuses on the immense impact that the home furnishings sector has on the U.S. economy and American lives. Estimated at \$150 billion annually, the home furnishings industry in the U.S touches every room in the home, producing and selling products

that range from sofas, tables and mattresses to lamps, rugs and accessories. Thousands of manufacturers sell their products to wholesale buyers known as “the trade” at the semi-annual High Point Market and other major shows in Las Vegas, Dallas, New York and Atlanta. Manufacturers put together collections for sale by a wide range of sellers, from local stores and online retailers to interior designers and architects, and tens of thousands of these buyers attend the market regularly to choose which products they plan offer to consumers in their business’s merchandise assortments. These markets are open only to the trade, but the buying decisions made here profoundly impact how American consumers furnish their homes each year.

- **The Gallery of Invention:** Three distinct exhibits form the Samson Holding Ltd. Gallery of Invention, sponsored by and located on the first floor near the Surya Presentation Staircase. The gallery focuses on the ever-evolving nature of home furnishings design and how new technologies, ideas and innovations are constantly moving products forward to meet the changing needs of consumers.

The first exhibit in the Gallery is called **The Family of Michael Massood Enterprising Spirit as a Step Through History**. This display features a Timeline of key industry developments.

The exhibit spotlights the innovative spirit surrounding design and how it has contributed to the industry’s growth over time. The Timeline starts in the 1700s, when furniture makers focused on creating handcrafted pieces using traditional techniques. In the 1800s, the industry took a leap forward with the rise of mass production and the introduction of new materials such as cast iron and machine-made fabrics. The 1900s brought about even more advancements in technology and design, including the widespread adoption of electric lighting and the introduction of mass-produced, ergonomic furniture. Today, the industry continues to evolve, with a focus on sustainability, technology integration and customization.

The second exhibit in the Gallery of Invention is the **Stickley Furniture Innovation Showcase**. In this area, visitors will learn how design innovation sparks new construction techniques for home furnishings or, conversely, how new engineering techniques expand the realm of design.

The debut display in the Innovation Showcase will feature three versions of a chair: one made by hand, the second made by machine and a third version created on a 3-D printer. The types of furnishings featured in this display will be updated regularly to include the full spectrum of products offered for the home – from recliners and rugs to mattresses and mirrors.

The third Gallery of Invention exhibit is the **Flexsteel Future Projections**. Future Projections features a series of dynamic videos highlighting new technologies.

Topics to be explored include the brave new world of robotics, artificial intelligence, computer-aided design and 3-D printing. Visitors will get a glimpse of where the industry is headed, and how manufacturers are using the latest technologies to deliver the fashion and function tomorrow’s consumers will require.

- **Sunbrella Design Gallery:** Still under development, ultimately, the home furnishings industry is all about fashion and design. In this gallery, located on the second floor, visitors will explore the latest trends in the wide, wide world of fashion, culture and living and see how these trends get translated by designers into the home furnishings products seen in stores, shelter magazines and showcase homes. Highly interactive, the Design Gallery provides new insights into how a personal style is developed and the impact that home furnishings have on each of us every day.

The opening exhibit of the **Palecek Iconic Design Spotlight** highlights four iconic home furnishings products, designers or companies that have had a lasting impact on the industry and the design world. Products featured here will change over time, and the initial mix includes:

Palecek's Damien Lounge Chair: When he founded Palecek nearly 50 years ago, Hall of Fame inductee Allan Palecek was inspired by the beauty of the natural materials found in abundance in the tropics of Southeast Asia. Ever since, his family-owned company has transformed those materials into furnishings of exceptional appearance and outstanding durability. The Damien Lounge Chair, the featured item in the Iconic Design Spotlight, surrounds the clean lines of a hardwood frame with 32 layers of sustainably sourced abaca fiber rope, hand-woven in an intricate concave pyramid pattern to create a piece that brings natural beauty and modern sophistication to any space.

Sonneman Lighting for George Kovacs: George Kovacs has often been called "the father of modern American lighting," and his company brought innovative products to market for nearly 50 years. Kovacs hired the architect Robert Sonneman to produce many of his company's designs, and their alliance resulted in some of the iconic designs of contemporary lighting. Three of these items are on display in the Iconic Design Spotlight. The first is the Feather Desk Task Lamp, a postmodern design with a strong, slender silhouette. The second is a vintage, postmodern-style banker's desk lamp featuring a thick, glass top, brass and chrome columns and a bumpy, lizard-like paint surface. The third item on display – the planet-inspired Saturn Pendant Chandelier – features a circular glass shade positioned underneath a round dome.

L. & J.G. Stickley Desk with Deck: This writing table was originally designed circa 1903 by artist and architect Harvey Ellis during his brief tenure with Gustav Stickley's Craftsman Workshops. Inspired by Japanese woodblock prints, Native American motifs and by the British Arts and Crafts Movement, Ellis' designs brought delicacy, color and sophistication to Stickley's substantial solid furniture. This desk of quartersawn white oak features an overhanging top and inlaid design composed of various wood species and copper.

Eames Lounge Chair Metal for Herman Miller: Designed in 1946 by the husband-and-wife team of Charles and Ray Eames, the Lounge Chair is a low-seated easy chair with a metal base. Influenced by nature, and technological advances in bending plywood and metal, the Eames Lounge Chair Metal was designed to create a shell that would ergonomically fit the sitter's body, eliminating the need for upholstery. Additionally, the designers wanted to create furniture that was attractive, comfortable, affordable and easy to manufacture. The Eames Lounge Chair, on loan from entrepreneur and collector Charles Sutton, has inspired many other modern ideas for furniture over time and the concept of molding wood into two concaving pieces and connecting on a metal frame also has had a big influence on design.

The **Four Hands Trend Spotter** exhibit is created in collaboration with global trend forecasting Fashion Snoops. Each market, the area will feature one of the key trends Fashion Snoops has identified as being a major influence on furnishings for the coming year. The Trend Spotter display will change each market and will include a digital mood board highlighting key trends as well as a display of 15 actual products. The products will range from upholstery and case goods to lighting and rugs, featuring design elements that reflect the key lifestyle trends being spotlighted.

The first trend to be introduced at the new Trend Spotter area will be entitled, "Symbiotic." This theme encompasses the shift of sustainability to the forefront of design and the desire to conserve the planet's resources.

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The American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., is an industry-wide organization founded to preserve its history, to celebrate exceptional individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the U.S. home furnishings industry, to inspire the next generation of innovative leaders and to engage the community with the world of home furnishings. In 2019, the organization purchased a building at 311 S. Hamilton St. in High Point. Our new home will be a symbol of the Home Furnishings Capital of the World™ where the industry gathers, where we tell our story and learn from our past, and where we inspire future generations. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, funds support our history and leadership programming. The organization is based in High Point, North Carolina, at 311 S. Hamilton St., and can be reached at 336.882.5900. Watch for ongoing developments and details about the grand opening of our new permanent home at www.homefurnishingshalloffame.com in April 2023.

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