

2009/04: BKLYN DESIGNS Contemporary Furnishings Show

BKLYN DESIGNS® is proud to announce its 7th annual all-star lineup, which features 45 of Brooklyn's top furnishing designers. The BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 show will highlight the freshest and most innovative contemporary furniture, lighting, carpet, flooring, and wall coverings designed by both new and veteran exhibitors. The show, presented by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce from May 8 – 10 at DUMBO's legendary St. Ann's Warehouse, kicks off New York Design Week.

Over The Years

In 2003, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce asked Karen Auster, the president of auster*events and an active member of the Brooklyn community, to research emerging economic sectors within the borough of Brooklyn. After selecting the design industry as Brooklyn's hottest and most evolving economic sector, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce presented BKLYN DESIGNS in an effort to highlight and promote economic development of the design sector throughout the borough. Thanks to the plethora of talent in Brooklyn, the first BKLYN DESIGNS tradeshow was a huge success and has grown into New York's hottest exhibition of designers and manufacturers of contemporary furnishings, lighting, and accessories made and/or designed in Brooklyn.

Over the past seven years BKLYN DESIGNS has developed into a not-to-be-missed tradeshow that encourages locally grown designers to join the internationally know design community. Kicking off New York Design Week, BKLYN DESIGNS' weekend-long array of events will be held in DUMBO Brooklyn, a popular and exciting artistic Brooklyn community.

Who Attends

As BKLYN DESIGNS has developed over the past seven years, so has the show's line up of exhibitors and array of attendees. Last year, BKLYN DESIGNS featured 70 contemporary Brooklyn-based designers, spread out over four venues in DUMBO. Drawing over 6,500 visitors, BKLYN DESIGNS attendees include interior designers, retailers, manufacturers, distributors, developers, DUMBO community members, and other design-conscious members of the public who follow New York City's hottest trends.

BKLYN DESIGNS 2009

The BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 exhibitor line up was selected by a celebrity jury, including design aficionados that hail from top publications like New York and Interior Design magazines, from popular blogs including Design*Sponge and Inhabitat, as well as acclaimed New York City educational and cultural institutions like the Brooklyn Museum, Guggenheim Museum and Pratt Institute.

Carl Hum, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, is especially excited to have the jury return for a second round of deliberations to select five designers from the BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 roster to attend the world-renowned International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) as "Brooklyn's future international stars." These five exhibitors will attend ICFF one week after BKLYN DESIGNS as deserving representatives of BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 and Brooklyn's undeniably talented design scene.

Courtney Sloane, juror and founder of Alternative Designs, said this year's selection process was difficult, "We chose the show's final 45 exhibitors from over 100 applicants. The jury raised the bar for accepting exhibitors and selectively chose designers that kept an eye on sustainability, while escalating their material in response to the changing marketplace."

The selected exhibitors for BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 will be centrally located in the legendary St. Ann's Warehouse, located at 38 Water Street in DUMBO, Brooklyn. In conjunction with the design showcase at St. Ann's Warehouse, BKLYN DESIGNS will be spread out over numerous venues to include, a specially curated "green" exhibition at the BSH Showroom, an off-site expo located at Jane's Carousel, as well as multiple design related evening festivities across DUMBO.

Keep Your Eye On

This year's BKLYN DESIGNS exhibitor lineup includes both new and veteran designers from the borough. Design firms such as Takeshi Miyakawa Design and Uhuru are returning to BKLYN DESIGNS to premier their brand new and unreleased designs. Takeshi Miyakawa Design's mission is to bring a fresh surprise to BKLYN DESIGNS and to keep the attendees' expectations high. This will be Uhuru's fourth year participating in the BKLYN DESIGNS show. Bill Hilgendorf who started Uhuru with Jason Horvath in 2004 said, "the show has been directly related to our growth as a company, giving us local, national and international exposure and helping us to double our sales every year since we started doing the show."

For more information about BKLYN DESIGNS 2009 and to view a complete list of the exhibitor lineup, please visit bklyndesigns.com.