



*Democratizing Design: American Furniture, 1940-1955*

This exhibition of about 25 examples of extremely rare American furniture will be presented at the Museum of the City of New York from December 19, 2009 through early February 2010. The show will coincide with the Museum's presentation of **Eero Saarinen: *Shaping the Future***, placing Saarinen's furniture in the broader context and themes of American design after World

War II, including the exploration of new materials and forms and the search for affordable designs targeted to the mass market. Of special interest will be furniture from the Museum of Modern Art's Organic Design in Home Furnishings competition, at which Saarinen and Charles Eames won two first place awards. Exhibited pieces are from the collection of Andy Lin and Larry Weinberg.

*Exhibition Sponsorship:* Exhibition sponsors are afforded exclusive access and attractive benefits, including:

- Sponsor name on the exhibition title wall
- Recognition in the Museum's bimonthly Program Calendar, web site, and Annual Report
- Private behind-the-scenes exhibition tour led by the curator with refreshments
- Free Museum admission and 10% Shop discount during the exhibition

*Contact:* For further information about sponsorship benefits, please contact:

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# The New York Times

ANTIQUES

## Modernist Furniture of Futures Past



By Eve M. Kahn

Dec. 24, 2009

Andy Lin and Larry Weinberg, modernist furniture dealers who ran a SoHo gallery from 1994 to 2004, always squirreled away the more idealistic mid-20th-century pieces that they uncovered. They bought dozens of 1940s and '50s prototypes or rarities by obscure designers who had hoped to make decorating a home easier: lightweight, foldable and stackable chairs, tables and dressers by names as little known now as Willo von Moltke and Franziska Hosken. The products, whether because of impractically curvy frames or materials shortages during World War II, never reached the market.

“I love this conceptual, exciting stuff from the '40s and '50s,” Mr. Weinberg said. “There was a concerted effort to improve everyday objects, and empower the homeowner, and offer a humanistic counterbalance to the machine age.” He and Mr. Lin, who never got around to organizing a long-planned show about these pieces, have lent them to the Museum of the City of New York. The exhibition, “The Future at Home: American Furniture, 1940-1955” (through Feb. 8), also contains the dealers’ accessories and ephemera, like vintage fabrics patterned with spirals and fruit slices, white ceramic vessels spattered with black commas, and promotional booklets with titles as improbable as “Useful Objects in Wartime” and “Bloomingdale’s Presents Organic Design.”

Mr. Weinberg and Mr. Lin, who now run separate antiques stores, will be donating a few objects from the show to the museum, including a table with a butterfly-shaped base. As for the rest, Mr. Weinberg said, “we’ve agreed with the museum to not put them up for sale for at least a year.”







JOIN **CINDY ALLEN** EDITOR  
IN CHIEF OF *INTERIOR  
DESIGN* MAGAZINE FOR  
**THE FUTURE AT HOME**  
AN EXHIBITION ON AMERICAN  
FURNITURE (1940-1955)  
AT THE **MUSEUM OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Come for an animated discussion on the height  
of the modern movement in American home design,  
with **Donald Albrecht**, curator; **Phyllis Ross**, author;  
**Gunnar Birkerts**, architect; and **Andy Lin**  
and **Larry Weinberg**, exhibition lenders.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010**

6:30 pm Panel discussion  
Reception to follow

**MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

1220 5th Avenue at 103rd Street  
New York City

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Admission: \$6, (reference *Interior Design*)  
212.534.1672 x 3395

Guests are invited to view the  
*Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* exhibition  
at 6pm prior to the panel discussion.



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MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK: WHERE THE PAST INFORMS THE FUTURE

FY2010

# Annual Report



## EXHIBITIONS



Curator Donald Albrecht (left) at the opening reception for *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* with Saarinen's daughter Susan, exhibition Honorary Chair Robert A. M. Stern, Nancy Mirvoshel Director Susan Hershaw Jones, Consul General of Finland Riva Jokkioinen, architect and exhibition supporter Kevin Roche, and Jukka Veltonen, exhibition Honorary Chair.

The Museum was proud to present *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* (November 10, 2009 - January 31, 2010). Organized by Donald Albrecht, the Museum's Curator of Architecture and Design, and designed by architect Wendy Evans Joseph, the show was the first-ever retrospective on this prolific, unorthodox, and controversial architect, whose work transformed 20th-century design. For the Museum's presentation, the international travelling show was expanded with further examination of Saarinen's New York work, including the CBS headquarters building and the famed TWA Terminal at JFK Airport, and a section exploring his life with his second wife Aline, who was a distinguished art editor and critic for *The New York Times*. The show drew admiring press attention. In *The Wall Street Journal*, legendary architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable wrote, "There is something profoundly moving about this show; an inescapable nostalgia pervades it for that elusive American Century.... Seeing how one architect expressed its hopes and aspirations helps us to recapture the moment and value the maker on his own terms, in his own times, and in the context of what we have become."

*Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* was organized by the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, the Museum of Finnish Architecture, Helsinki, and the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., with the support of the Yale University School of Architecture.

In conjunction with *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future*, the Museum mounted *The Future at Home: American Furniture, 1940-1955* (December 19, 2009-February 18, 2010)—a selection of furniture, textiles, and print materials by Saarinen and his contemporaries, also curated by Donald Albrecht and Phyllis Ross, that demonstrated the height of the modern movement in American home design.

