



For Immediate Release...

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ADAC ANNOUNCES THE 2021 SOUTHEAST DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS FINALISTS AND JUDGES

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Decorative Arts Center is thrilled to announce this year’s finalists for the 2021 Southeast Designers and Architect of the Year Awards. The 22 finalists represent the most creative and innovative minds in the business across the fields of residential design, contract design and architecture. Entries were received from across the southeast, spanning over eight states including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. The featured finalists were selected by an esteemed panel of top industry professionals including VERANDA Executive Editor **Ellen McGauley**, Founding Partner of Peter Pennoyer Architects, **Peter Pennoyer** and A-list interior designer, **Ashley Whittaker**. Winners will be announced at a private awards gala on Thursday, Sept. 23.

“SEDY is anything but a simple award show – it’s a celebration that allows us to bring together and recognize some of the most influential visionaries in the design world,” said Katie Miner, general manager of ADAC. “These incredible finalists represent the new and the next – they’re inspiring the masses and defining the future of design. We’re tremendously excited to showcase their work and witness such a high caliber of artistry.”

The 2021 Southeast Designers and Architect of the Year Awards coincides with ADAC’s fall market, **DISCOVER ADAC**, taking place **Sept. 21-23**.

2021 Finalists include:

- **Residential Design Finalists**
 - B. Berry Interiors | *Charleston, SC*
 - Betsy Brown of Betsy Brown Inc. | *Birmingham, AL*
 - Charlotte Lucas Design | *Charlotte, NC*
 - Dana Wolter Interiors | *Birmingham, AL*
 - Janie Molster Designs | *Richmond, VA*
 - Mark Simmons Interiors | *Nashville, TN*
 - Pursley Dixon Ford Interior Design | *Charlotte, NC*
 - R. Higgins Interiors | *Nashville, TN*
 - Tammy Connor Interior Design | *Charleston, SC*
 - The Design Atelier | *Atlanta, GA*
 - The Mix Interiors | *Nashville, TN*
 - Whitney Ray and Joel Kelly, Wyeth Ray Interiors and Joel Kelly Design | *Atlanta, GA*
 - William Peace of Peace Design | *Atlanta, GA and Bozeman, MT*
- **Contract Design Finalists**
 - Blackberry Farm Design | *Walland, TN*
 - Cortney Bishop Design | *Charleston, SC*
 - Kelley Harris of Harris Interiors | *Atlanta, GA*
 - Smith Hanes Studio | *Atlanta, GA*
- **Architect Finalists**
 - D. Stanley Dixon Architect, Inc. | *Atlanta, GA*
 - Harrison Design | *Atlanta, GA*

- Historical Concepts | *Atlanta, GA*
- Paul Bates of Paul Bates Architects | *Birmingham, AL*
- Summerour Architects | *Atlanta, GA*

About the 2021 Judges:

Ellen McGauley, *Executive Editor of VERANDA*

Ellen McGauley is the executive editor of VERANDA, a national design magazine based in Birmingham, Alabama. Over the course of her career that includes senior editorial roles at Coastal Living and Charleston Home, she has built a writing portfolio rooted in historic and contemporary architecture, modern interior design and global decorative arts traditions, as well as led discussion panels on topics ranging from architectural precedent to antiques and fine art. Her stories have taken her from the Pacific Northwest to the northern coast of France and from the midlands of Ireland back to the American South.

Peter Pennoyer, *Founding Partner of Peter Pennoyer Architects*

Peter Pennoyer is a founding partner of Peter Pennoyer Architects, a New York-based architecture and design firm. He is a member of Architectural Digest's AD100 and a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is the co-author, with Anne Walker, of five books on twentieth-century American architects and the author of "A House in the Country," written with his wife, interior designer Katie Ridder. Recent projects include a house for the Jeff Koons family, a deco-style apartment building on Madison Avenue and the lauded Art Deco clock in New York City's new Moynihan Train Hall. The firm's new book, "ROWDY MEADOW: House - Land - Art," is being published by Vendome in October 2021. Follow the firm on Instagram [@peterpennoyerarchitects](#) or visit them online at www.ppapc.com.

Ashley Whittaker, *A-list Interior Designer*

Described as a "neo-traditionalist," Ashley Whittaker reveals her fresh and modern perspective on traditional design and architecture in all her work. The New York City decorator's hallmarks are distinctively embodied by classic taste and chic sophistication. Characterized by tailored rooms incorporating charming detail and engaging plays on color and pattern, Whittaker's signature style is immediately evident. Listed on Elle Décor's A-List of top designers, Whittaker's work has been published in The New York Times, VERANDA, Southern Living, Coastal Living, Domino and most notably, on the cover of House Beautiful on six separate occasions. Achieving instant and renowned respect from the industry, Whittaker shows a natural and effortless ability to create flawless interiors. A Florida native, Whittaker received her bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. She credits her training in the design industry to legendary decorator Markham Roberts, for whom she worked before starting out on her own in 2006. Her work includes projects in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Florida, California and Montana.

ABOUT ADAC:

Built 60 years ago by renowned architect and developer John Portman in the prestigious Buckhead community of Atlanta, ADAC is a community-focused, nationally recognized leader in the world of interior design and home fashion, serving as the essential one-stop shopping resource for interior designers, architects, and builders. In November 2018, ADAC was acquired by International Market Centers (IMC) and parent company Blackstone, the world's largest operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home décor and gift industries. The ADAC campus consists of ADAC and ADAC WEST with more than 550,000 square feet with over 65 showrooms offering 1,200 of the industry's finest product lines including furniture, fabric, rugs, lighting, accessories, floor and wall coverings, antiques, fine art and framing, kitchens, bath, tile and stone, and home theater products. Likewise, ADAC's extensive services include custom designs such as framing, electronic systems, faux finishing, and draperies. To learn more, visit www.adacatlanta.com. Follow along on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Media Contact: Tara Murphy | 360 Media, Inc. | 404-577-8686 | tara@360media.net

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