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ADAC

# ADAC

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# B

uilt 60 years ago by renowned architect and developer John Portman Jr. 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), the world's largest operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home decor, and gift industries. The ADAC campus consists of ADAC and ADAC West, with more than 550,000 square feet and over 60 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.

Open every Monday through Friday, ADAC invites designers and design enthusiasts alike to shop stunning showrooms, visit design studios, explore the campus for inspiration, attend signature events, and dine in one of two incredible restaurants.



ADAC Atrium

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## Explore ADAC

The showrooms, design studios, and events that make the Center an essential design resource

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## Meet Katie Miner

*General Manager  
Atlanta Decorative Arts Center*

BY FRAN WORRALL

Katie Miner came to ADAC in 2012 after serving as executive director of leasing at AmericasMart—ADAC’s sister property—where she began her career as a tradeshow sales manager in 1999. Today, as ADAC’s general manager, Miner is responsible for overseeing operations, including leasing, marketing, and property management. Over the years, she has worked with some of the most notable architects and designers in the industry. She also was instrumental in opening the center’s showrooms to the general public in 2012. She serves on the boards of Design Centers International and the Decorative Furnishings Association.

Miner has long been on a mission to make the design process more transparent. “Consumers often don’t understand how architects and designers work,” she says. “I want to shed a light on everything from item availability to pricing structure, so that the public feels comfortable with design.”

Miner says that ADAC is more relevant now than ever. “With everyone working from home, people are imagining what can be done to improve their living spaces,” she says. “ADAC is a one-stop shop, with showrooms filled with things that can’t be found online or in retail stores. We have the items and expertise that not only make a home beautiful but also make it stand apart.”

### Navigating Design with Katie

**HIRE A PROFESSIONAL.** Design can be overwhelming. A professional not only can create the look and feel

you want but also can help you avoid costly mistakes. “A designer’s expertise is invaluable when it comes to getting it right the first time,” Miner says.

**INVEST IN QUALITY.** There are certain areas where you should

never skimp: “Quality matters, especially in upholstery.”

**DON’T TRY TO DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE.** Decorate in phases. “Trust your designer to tell you where to begin,” she says. “You can fill in along the way.”

**MIX IT UP.** Blend modern with traditional. Add layers. And don’t be afraid to combine high and low price points. “Mixing is what makes design interesting and authentic.”

**BE OPEN-MINDED.** Be receptive to new

ideas and challenge yourself when it comes to your creative comfort zone. “You want your home to be a reflection of your personality, but a designer can often lead you to a place that’s better than you ever envisioned,” Miner says.

HAROLD DANIELS



## Showrooms in Vinings & Atlanta

Both locations open Monday–Friday, 9am to 5pm

Vinings Showroom (S. Atlanta Rd) open 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am to 4pm

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## Meet Bob Maricich

*Chairman and CEO  
International Market Centers*

BY FRAN WORRALL

Bob Maricich is widely regarded as one of the most innovative leaders in the home furnishings industry. In 2011, he founded International Market Centers (IMC) with sponsors Bain Capital and Oaktree Capital Management by raising more than \$1 billion to fund the purchase of three High Point, North Carolina, properties—the International Home Furnishings Center, ShowPlace properties, and Market Square properties—and merging them with World Market Center Las Vegas to form the world’s largest operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home decor, and gift markets. Six years later, he led the migration to new ownership when Blackstone, one of the world’s leading investment firms, and Fireside Investments acquired IMC. In 2018, he oversaw the merger between IMC and AmericasMart Atlanta as well as the acquisition of ADAC. Today, IMC owns 22 million square feet of premium exhibition space, and its pre-pandemic yearly economic impact in Atlanta was more than \$640 million.

Prior to his current position, Maricich served as CEO of World Market Center Las Vegas and Century Furniture. He also has held executive positions at American Drew Furniture and American of Martinsville, divisions of LADD Furniture. He has received numerous accolades throughout his career, including the Furniture Industry Icon award from the International Home Furnishings Representatives Association, the American Heritage Distinguished Service Award from the American Home Furnishings Alliance, and the Man of the Year award from the Tri-State Home Furnishings Association. This June, he will be inducted into the Home Furnishings Hall of Fame, the industry’s highest honor.

Maricich notes the resilience of Atlanta’s design community during the pandemic. “Throughout the events of the past year, our industry has remained strong,” he says. “Designers have expanded their businesses, and consumers have invested in their homes, many with a renewed interest in their living spaces.”

He predicts a bright future for ADAC, as well as for the design industry in Atlanta and the Southeast. “We’re on track for a quick recovery from the pandemic,” Maricich says. “As we reimagine the home as both workspace and haven, ADAC is where people will envision and execute designs that serve a new way of living, and IMC is committed both to maintaining its unique position in the design ecosystem and to expanding its impact throughout the region.”



50 YEARS OF INSPIRATION



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# ADAC: A Look Back



1961

## Celebrating six decades in the design community

By Fran Worrall

**MORE THAN 60 YEARS AGO**, renowned architect and developer John Portman Jr. had an idea that would forever change the landscape of design in Atlanta and the Southeast. And it all began with his high school job.

As a teenager, Portman worked at a downtown parking garage called Belle Isle, which the government converted into an office building during World War II. In the mid-50s, the newly minted architect, eager to make a name for himself, heard that the government was vacating the property. Sensing that Atlanta was ready for a bona fide furniture mart, he hatched a plan to renovate the structure. Excited about the possibility of creating a centralized place where furniture

makers could show their merchandise to retail buyers, he presented his idea to the owner of the building—his former boss—who told Portman he would lease him the building only if the young entrepreneur created a company to run the business.

Portman took him up on the offer, finding investors to back the venture and transforming the 40,000-square-foot former parking garage into a furniture mart with 24 tenant spaces. The Belle Isle project opened in 1957.

1961



← John Portman Jr. opens ADAC as a design center for the trade



← As the demand for luxury interior design resources grew, a two-story addition is built



← The second and third floors are added, as well as one of Portman's hallmark atriums

1970

1978

→

OU SHAK 10.5" X 13.2"



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Soon, he was looking to expand the business and set his sights on prime real estate at the corner of Harris and Peachtree streets. Within walking distance of most major downtown hotels, the property was perfect for a first-rate mart. Needing funds for the construction, he formed an alliance with local developer Ben Massell, who agreed to build the new mart and give Portman two years to buy it. In 1961, the Merchandise Mart opened with three floors of apparel, three floors of gifts, two floors of textiles, and 14 floors of furniture, laying the foundation for the present-day AmericasMart.

Although the Merchandise Mart served both design professionals and the retail trade, Portman believed the city also needed a decorative arts center exclusive to the design community. So, in 1961, he developed the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center (ADAC), opening the first phase in Buckhead's Peachtree Hills neighborhood.

Designed as a display and distribution center for the manufacturers of fabrics, furniture, lighting, kitchen and bath fixtures, flooring, wall coverings, and accessories, the original ADAC complex consisted of two long, parallel one-story buildings connected at either end by brick screen walls. In 1970, as the demand for luxury interior design resources grew, Portman designed a two-story addition that connected the two buildings at the rear of the property. The three elements faced an open interior court with parking, plantings, and fountains. Eight years later, second and third middle floors were added, along with an atrium at the center of the initial two-story expansion.

In 1982, ADAC expanded again, with the addition of fourth and fifth floors to the building's central core. At the same time, skylights were added above the atrium. In 1986, Portman purchased the warehouse facility next to the main ADAC building and created more

showroom space in what is now known as ADAC West.

By 2006, the design community throughout Atlanta and the Southeast viewed ADAC not only as a center for sourcing products but also as a place for networking and learning. In response, Portman began an extensive renovation that included the creation of an inviting Designer Lounge and a Presentation Room complex, the latter of which is a choice event venue for many of the world's top design talents. Additional renovations included the building of a bridge that connects the main ADAC complex to ADAC West, updating the interior finishes, painting the exterior, and refreshing the landscaping.

In 2007, the dynamic sculpture grouping entitled *South Music* was installed in front of ADAC. The perforated Corten steel tower formation, commissioned by Portman and created by sculptor Angel Orensanz, features dramatic night lighting and has come to symbolize the power of design to illuminate and inspire.

In 2012, as technology and the media created an ever-increasing consumer demand for information about design, ADAC opened its doors to the public. During a two-week celebration called DISCOVER ADAC, guests were invited to attend showroom events, lifestyle panel discussions, designer presentations, book signings, and educational seminars, many of which focused on the value of working with design professionals.

Three years later, ADAC Design Studios opened. The office spaces give select trade professionals—architects, interior designers, and high-end custom homebuilders—the opportunity to collaborate on ideas with clients and use ADAC as their sample library. The ADAC Design Studios are located on the fifth floor of the main building.

In 2018, ADAC was acquired by Interna-

1982

1986

2006

2007



← More growth, more floors: The fourth and fifth middle floors are added



← ADAC West is built



← The Designer Lounge and Presentation Room are created. These enable more learning and networking opportunities.



← The iconic *South Music* formation is added to the campus



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tional Market Centers (IMC), the world's largest owner and operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home decor, and gift industries. IMC properties encompass more than 20 million square feet of facilities in Atlanta, Las Vegas, and High Point, North Carolina.

Today, ADAC is regarded as the center of the design world in the Southeast and one of the leading design centers in the nation. The vibrant 550,000-square-foot complex, which is home to more than 60 showrooms, 26 design studios, and two restaurants, features a curated mix of furniture, fabrics, rugs, lighting, tile and stone, kitchen and bath products, wall coverings, fine art, and accessories. It also serves as an educational resource for both designers and consumers, hosting more than 150 events each year, including signature industry presentations, celebrity and media events, and networking opportunities. Many events are free and open to the public.

As ADAC marks six decades in the industry, it celebrates creativity, collaboration, and most of all, great design. During the next 60 years and beyond, it no doubt will continue to evolve and grow, inspiring generations to come and shaping the world of design in Atlanta and the Southeast.

## Design Legacies

In conjunction with its 60th anniversary, ADAC is paying homage to the designers, architects, and showroom owners whose legacies are woven into the foundation of the interior design community in Atlanta and the Southeast. "As we celebrate our 60th anniversary and beyond, we look back on the incredible leaders and brands that have helped shaped who we are and where we are going," says Katie Miner, general manager of ADAC. "We are proud to have partnered with some of the industry's most beloved names who have left behind powerful legacies." The following are among the many honored at ADAC for their enduring achievements:

### HAL AINSWORTH | *Ainsworth-Noah*

Hal Ainsworth, along with life and business partner Winton Noah, founded Ainsworth-Noah in 1977, first opening a shop on Peachtree Road and then moving to ADAC. Today, the Ainsworth-Noah showroom—ADAC's largest at 40,000 square feet—represents many of the world's finest manufacturers of furniture, lighting, wall coverings, artwork, fabrics, floor coverings, and accessories. Ainsworth died earlier this year at age 82.

### CHARLES "JERRY" PAIR | *Jerry Pair & Associates*

Jerry Pair was a pioneer in the interior design industry. Determined to provide the design community with the finest products available, he opened Jerry Pair & Associates at ADAC in 1970. Along with business partner Mavis Cahoon, he also opened showrooms in south Florida and New York City. His mission—to provide architects and interior designers with exceptional products and service—still endures. Pair died in 2020 at age 79.

### ERNEST "ERNIE" GASPARD | *Ernest Gaspard & Associates*

Known as a gentle man with extraordinary vision, Ernie Gaspard opened his showroom at ADAC in its earliest days, offering a unique collection of furnishings, fabrics, wall and floor coverings, and accessories. Today, David Boone owns the showroom, carrying on the founder's legacy by providing exceptional products and service to the design community. Gaspard died in 2010 at age 71.

### DOROTHY "DOTTY" TRAVIS | *Travis & Company*

Dotty Travis was an award-winning decorator who built Travis & Company from a small but smart shop into one of ADAC's premier decorative showrooms. An avid traveler and self-proclaimed Francophile, she enjoyed antique buying in the flea markets of Paris, often bringing back unique treasures to Atlanta. Her showroom carries fine fabrics, antiques, acrylic furniture, decorative items, and one-of-a-kind chandeliers imported from France. Dorothy Travis died in 2019 at age 84.

2012

2015

2018

2021

→  
ADAC opens to the public with a month-long celebration



↑  
ADAC Design Studios open, which give professionals the opportunity to collaborate with clients in a central space

↑  
ADAC is acquired by IMC, world's largest owner and operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home decor, and gift industries



←  
ADAC celebrates 60 amazing years of creativity, collaboration, and design

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# Why a Designer?

Sometimes it's best to leave it to the experts.

Interior design is more than just the visual enhancement of an interior space—it seeks to optimize and harmonize the home, and a designer can help with all aspects of the process. Many factors come into play when redesigning a space, and many times, hiring a designer will help create an interior with custom-designed pieces, making everything special and a true fit for the space.

Chairs from  
Context Gallery,  
rug from Moattar



## You may be in the market if...

### YOU'RE FEELING OVERWHELMED.

A quality designer will help optimize your budget and prioritize expenses. Your designer can develop a long-range plan, establish a list of priorities, and determine a timeline for completion.

### YOUR WEEKEND PROJECT HAS STRETCHED INTO A YEAR-LONG EVENT—WITH NO END IN SIGHT.

In addition to project management and problem solving, interior designers will discuss project duration and deadlines, and manage expectations accordingly.

### YOU'VE MADE COSTLY MISTAKES.

There's nothing more heartbreaking than bringing home a pricey pair of lamps or an incredibly comfortable sofa only to find the items don't conform to the space—physically or aesthetically. Interior designers help clients make informed decisions and investments and have the advantage of taking items out on loan.

### YOU'VE BEEN BURNED BY A CONTRACTOR.

Interior designers bring long-standing relationships with residential design professionals to the table. Whether you're looking for an architect, a cabinetmaker, a plumber, or a painter, designers are educated to see through the allure of an estimate that's too good to be true.

**Ask an Expert** | One way to ensure you are working with a professional interior designer is if he or she is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). ASID member designers must meet the profession's education and experience requirements, as well as adhere to a strict code of ethics and professional conduct. The ASID appellation after a designer's name indicates that he or she is an accredited designer who has passed rigorous professional scrutiny and testing. For more information, contact the Georgia Chapter of ASID at **404-231-3938** or [administrator@ga.asid.org](mailto:administrator@ga.asid.org). Visit [ga.asid.org](http://ga.asid.org) for referrals and to view designer profiles.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO **ADAC** ON SIXTY YEARS. WE ARE HUMBLLED AND INSPIRED TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE LAST FIVE. — **KIM REGAS**

EXPLORE ADAC:

# Showrooms

Shop the Center's campus for products of all types, from carpets and cabinetry to tile and textiles

ADAC continues to lead the region as a design powerhouse and a must-visit destination for designers and design enthusiasts alike. Filled with the industry's most beloved brands and an expansive array of home furnishings, the Center offers luxury, quality, and diversity right at designers' fingertips—allowing visitors to create a design that is finely crafted and tailored, uniquely their own, and that stands out from the mainstream.



Ernest Gaspard

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The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) advances the interior design professional and communicates the impact of design on the human experience. The Georgia chapter is a regional resource for knowledge sharing, advocacy of interior designers' right-to-practice, professional education, and expansion of the interior design community.

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## While You're There

Grab a bite to eat at one of the two on-site restaurants after a day of shopping ADAC's selections:

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UpCountry Home



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EXPLORE ADAC:

# Design Studios

The essential one-stop shopping resource for the design industry

Don't have a designer yet? Partner with one of the 26 on-site Design Studios for your next project. The studios allow designers and architects alike to use the Center as a personal sample library, while making it convenient to source new inspirations, collaborate with clients, and fully streamline the design process in one place.



## ADAC

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Suite 234  
designgalleria.net

**DWH INTERIORS**  
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showroom58.com

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habachydesigns.com

**J. WHEELER DESIGNS**  
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jwheelerdesigns.com

**LEE BRYAN INTERIORS DESIGN, INC.**  
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**MARK WILLIAMS DESIGN ASSOCIATES**  
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mcalpinehouse.com

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Suite B6, janegroupinc.com

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**SPITZMILLER & NORRIS, INC.**  
Suite C5  
spitzmillerandnorris.com

**STEWART | MOHR DESIGNS**  
Suite B3  
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**Q + A:**  
**Bill Peace**  
*of Peace Design*

### TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR DESIGN FIRM.

Peace Design creates interiors that are contextual. We gather inspiration from natural surroundings, honoring the local vernacular with an edited

choice of comforting materials. The environments we design embody a spirit of authenticity, purity, and reflection—whether the space is a cosmopolitan high-rise, a western ranch, or a lakeside family retreat.

### WHY ARE YOU HEADQUARTERED AT ADAC?

John Portman gave our industry an inspiring backdrop.

We have a beautiful design studio in the hub of the best design sources, and there is a sincere sense of community that comes from working with such passionate colleagues and friends through the years. There is a trust and camaraderie that is unique to the South and ADAC.

### WHY IS ADAC AT THE HEART OF

### THE DESIGN COMMUNITY?

ADAC has always nurtured the creativity and spirit of the South, offering the best multi-line showrooms and exposing designers and the public to artisans from other regions, but it is their dedication to education and industry involvement that really puts them at the heart of the design and architectural community.

EXPLORE ADAC:

# Signature Events

The Center offers a full roster of sample sales, seasonal markets, product launches, and more

ADAC's open doors welcome trade professionals and consumers to more than 150 events each year. Guests can enjoy signature events, including exclusive product and book launches, keynote presentations by the industry's most notable icons, continuing education courses, monthly tours, trade discussions, and social and philanthropic events.



## DESIGN ADAC | SPRING MARKET

DESIGN ADAC kicks off the year with inspiration in a way that only the strongest design community in the U.S. can. Past presenters have included Bunny Williams, Charlotte Moss, Suzanne Kasler, Darryl Carter, Shelia Bridges, Ray Booth, and Martyn Lawrence Bullard.

### Sample Sale

For more than 30 years, ADAC has hosted one of the Southeast's most highly anticipated sales of fine furniture, rugs, and accessories from top designer brands. Hundreds of high-end pieces are available for immediate purchase at discounted prices twice a year in showrooms throughout ADAC and ADAC West.

## DISCOVER ADAC | FALL MARKET

DISCOVER ADAC brings together programming partnerships with top lifestyle and shelter publications such as *Atlanta Magazine's HOME*, *Architectural Digest*, *Traditional Home*, *MILIEU*, *LUXE Interiors + Design*, *Garden & Gun*, and *Hearst Design Group* magazines. Keynote presentations and showroom events, crafted to showcase the hottest topics and talents in the industry, draw crowds from cities across the Southeast and beyond.

### Southeast Designers and Architect of the Year Awards Gala

This gala, co-sponsored by VERANDA, recognizes the region's most innovative creators, exemplifying the highest level of talent in the categories of residential design, contract design, and architecture.