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MEDIA ALERT...

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DIRECTIONS IN DESIGN VIGNETTES SHOWCASE THE SOUTHEAST'S ULTIMATE DUAL-VENUE DESIGN RESOURCE

Atlanta-Based Designer Steve McKenzie Creates Vignettes Blending Products from Both AmericasMart and ADAC

ATLANTA: Last week, AmericasMart and ADAC joined together to celebrate design through their complementary offering of industry-related events, Fall Design Week and DISCOVER ADAC. The sister properties welcomed thousands of designers, retailers, and design enthusiasts to experience unparalleled product selections coupled with presentations, book signings, panel discussions, and parties with top talent and industry leaders. This year, an exciting addition to the lineup included luxurious pop-up vignettes from Atlanta-based designer Steve McKenzie. Inspired by the vast range of new products offered in showrooms at both resources, McKenzie masterfully utilized pieces to express his view of the ever-evolving world of design.

In the following Q&A, McKenzie shares his inspiration behind the vignettes, why he loves shopping at both AmericasMart and ADAC, and more about the biggest trends he's seeing in the design industry.

Where did you draw your inspiration from for both vignettes?

For AmericasMart, I had been intrigued with the Wendover Art Group's wallpaper program and the ability to turn their art into large-scale wallpaper. I fell in love with their Swimming Lesson 1 piece and that set the tone for the rest of my design. After selecting the art, I stopped in Modern History, Classic Home for the leather chairs, Caracole for the serpentine sofa, Jaipur Living for a beautiful rug, Avala International for the blue and white wares, and Currey and Company for lighting. I was thrilled to source from Curated Home Brands as well; I wanted a touch of ethnic objects and the beaded headdress I chose was the perfect fit.

At ADAC, I found inspiration in the gold-leafed bed from Made Goods. From there, I went directly to Peacock Alley (my go-to source for bedding) and their beautiful new Seville collection set the color palette. I also selected an exquisite rug from Moattar, nightstands and side chairs from Century Furniture, and a stunning bar from Ernest Gaspard & Associates. I was also lucky enough to use custom art created by my design assistant, Stephen Shon, to finalize the space.



Steve McKenzie's Vignette at ADAC. Photo credit to VENVISIO, LLC.

Which major trends caught your attention while creating the vignettes?

As I began sourcing for the vignettes, three major trends caught my attention. The first trend I found was the use of big, **bold color**. Naval by Sherwin Williams at AmericasMart and Hidden Sapphire by Benjamin Moore at ADAC were both perfect paint colors in the vignettes. The second trend showed me that **wallpapers** are back with a vengeance. I loved designing with them – the abstract wallpaper from Wendover Art Group at AmericasMart took the vignette to the next level and the glam wallpaper from Phillip Jeffries at ADAC truly lent itself to the room. The third trend was the clear **juxtaposition with old and new**. I'm thrilled that brown furniture and antiques are coming back in style. In the vignettes, I included the Modern History piece against the wallpaper at AmericasMart and the Ernest Gaspard & Associates bar with the nightstands from Century Furniture.

What advantages does shopping the combined resources of these two venues offer designers?

We are spoiled here in Atlanta – I feel we have the best design resources of any city in the United States. Both ADAC and AmericasMart are highly accessible and filled with a wide variety of products. While the resources offered at each location are vastly different, I find they complement each other and I'm able to use both resources to find the perfect item for each project.

Tell us more about the range of products available at both ADAC and AmericasMart.

Accessories are more heavily available at AmericasMart, along with more lighting and reproduced art options. I have also find that the price point varies some at AmericasMart – Jaipur Living is a fantastic rug resource at a more affordable price point. I tend to do the bulk of my design at ADAC and supplement with items from AmericasMart, but you definitely need both.

What are the resources you recommend to make your time at both locations more effective?

If I were giving advice to a new designer before they shop at AmericasMart or ADAC, I'd tell them to look online and get familiar with the showrooms available and what they have to offer. Upon arrival, make sure to stop by the front desk, ask for a guide, and don't be afraid to ask for directions if you have a specific showroom in mind.



Steve McKenzie's Vignette at AmericasMart. Photo credit to PWP Photography.

Showrooms are more than happy to tell you about their lines and how you might be able to work with them. Once you have working relationships, you don't always have to be onsite to work with them. However, as a designer, I know it's easy to get in a rut and I've found that browsing showrooms in person allows you to find inspiration and stay abreast of what's new.

Where can visitors find the vignettes?

The vignettes will be on display at AmericasMart in Building 1, Floor 14, Seminar Space through The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market®, January 14-21, 2020 and at ADAC in Suite 205 through October 11.

Additional photography of the vignettes can be viewed [here](#). Media interested in viewing the vignettes or scheduling an interview with Steve McKenzie, please email Katie Cline at katie@360media.net or call 404-577-8686.

About ADAC: Built over 50 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), 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](#).

About AmericasMart® Atlanta: AmericasMart® Atlanta is a leading wholesale marketplace housing the nation's largest gift product mix complemented by a broad selection of home accents, décor, tabletop, gourmet, area rug and fashion apparel merchandise. Its 16 annual markets and shows serve specialty retailers, designers and major buying groups from every U.S. state and nearly 60 countries. For more information, visit AmericasMart.com.

About International Market Centers: International Market Centers (IMC) is the world's largest operator of premier showroom space for furniture, gift, home décor, rug, and apparel industries. International Market Centers owns and operates nearly 20 million square feet of world-class exhibition space in High Point, N.C., Las Vegas and Atlanta. IMC's mission is to build and operate an innovative, sustainable, profitable and scalable platform for the furniture, gift, home décor, rug, and apparel industries. For more information on IMC, visit www.imcenters.com.

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