

IMA ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE MILLER HOUSE AND GARDEN IN COLUMBUS, INDIANA

***Modernist National Historic Landmark Was Designed By Saarinen,
With Interiors by Girard and Landscape Design by Kiley***

Indianapolis, IN, November 18, 2008—Maxwell L. Anderson, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, announced today that the IMA is moving forward with the acquisition of the landmark Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. One of the country's most highly-regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences, the Miller House was designed by **Eero Saarinen**, with interiors by **Alexander Girard**, and landscape design by **Daniel Urban Kiley**.

Members of the Miller family have agreed to donate the house and gardens, along with many of its original furnishings, to the Museum. Additionally, the Miller family and the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation have pledged \$5 million toward an \$8 million endowment for the house and surrounding grounds. The IMA is raising \$3 million for the remainder of the endowment and \$2 million for the 18-month renovation of the house, which will entail a careful restoration of many of the original period details. Once the renovation is completed, the IMA will work with the Columbus Area Visitors Center to offer public access to the house and gardens.

Commissioned by industrialist and philanthropist J. Irwin Miller and his wife Xenia Simons Miller in 1952, the Miller House and Garden was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000. The house expands upon an architectural tradition developed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe—epitomizing the international Modernist aesthetic—with an open and flowing layout, flat roof and vast stone and glass walls. The rooms, configured beneath a grid pattern of skylights supported by cruciform steel columns, are filled with strong colors and playful patterns. Amid the residence's large geometric gardens, its grandest feature is an allée of honey locust trees that runs along the west side of the house. The Miller House was the first designated National Historic Landmark listed with a still-living landscape architect that also was still occupied by its original owners at the date of its designation.

“The Miller House showcases the work of leading 20th-century architects and designers and we believe that it's important to preserve this internationally known jewel in the Columbus, Indiana community,” said Maxwell L. Anderson, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art. “Upon the successful completion of our fundraising efforts, we look forward to making this significant Modernist landmark available to the public.”

Columbus, Indiana is ranked sixth in the nation by the American Institute of Architects for architectural innovation and design. *National Geographic Traveler* recently ranked Columbus as America's most significant historic place on the strength of its architectural heritage. As a way to attract outstanding architectural talent to design civic buildings in the central Indiana community of Columbus, Miller created the Architectural Program within the Cummins Engine Foundation. Miller met Eero Saarinen during the construction of the First Christian Church in Columbus, which was designed by Saarinen's father Eliel. Eero Saarinen helped Miller design the Architectural Program and recruit rising young architectural talent to participate in the 1950s. In addition to the Architectural Program, which funded excellent design for public buildings,

Cummins, other businesses and many churches in Columbus adopted the same strategy of using good design to create a more economically vibrant and livable city. Today there are more than 70 buildings by noted modern architects—such as I. M. Pei, Cesar Pelli, Robert Venturi, Richard Meier, John Carl Warnecke and Harry Weese—in the city, as well as public art works by internationally renowned architects and artists.

J. Irwin Miller and Xenia Simons Miller

In addition to being a patron of modern architecture, Joseph Irwin Miller was a philanthropist and industrialist best-known for his civic activism. A lay leader in the Christian ecumenical and civil rights movements, he was the first layman to be President of the National Council of Churches and was a strong advocate for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (working with Martin Luther King Jr. to organize the March on Washington). Miller was instrumental in the rise of Cummins Engine Company—founded by his great-uncle—which builds diesel engines in Columbus, Indiana. Although beset with early difficulties, under Miller's leadership the company persevered to become the leading independent diesel manufacturer in the world. He attended Yale University for his undergraduate studies and later received a master's degree from Oxford University. In 1943, Miller married Xenia Simons, the daughter of Luther A. Simons, the owner of an Indiana furniture manufacturing company.

Eero Saarinen

Eero Saarinen was one of the outstanding American architects and designers of the 20th century. He worked fluently within the austere geometry of international Modernism, but also created highly expressive and boldly sculptural buildings. He designed such landmarks as the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (St. Louis Arch), Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., and the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, Michigan. **Kevin Roche**, Pritzker Architecture Prize-winning architect, became Saarinen's principal design associate when he joined Eero Saarinen and Associates in 1950, and Roche played a significant role in the design of Miller House as well as many other Saarinen projects.

Daniel Urban Kiley

Dan Kiley's work has been compared with that of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and the DeStijl School of Art and Architecture, notably the work of Piet Mondrian. Kiley's landscapes are highly structured geometric compositions that use three-dimensional natural elements as spatial enclosures. One of the earliest collaborations between Kiley and Saarinen was the winning submission for the 1947 Jefferson Expansion Memorial Competition in St. Louis. Kiley's commissions with Eero Saarinen included Concordia College (Fort Wayne, IN), Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., Stiles and Morse Colleges (New Haven, CT) and North Christian Church (Columbus, Indiana). Kiley is a recipient of the Arnold W. Brunner Prize in Architecture (1995) and the National Medal of Arts (1997).

Alexander Girard

Trained at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London and at the Royal School of Architecture in Rome, Alexander Girard's early associations with Eero Saarinen included his work as a collaborator on the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (St. Louis Arch) design team. He also served as a color consultant on the General Motors Technical Center (1948-1956) and on the Miller Cottage (1950-1952) in Ontario. In 1952, Girard became design director of the textile division of the furniture manufacturing firm of Herman Miller, which had been producing the designs of Charles and Ray Eames (who also designed furniture for the Miller House) since the late 1940s.

Design at the IMA

The IMA's Department of Design Arts focuses on collecting, preserving and interpreting modern design from an international perspective. In October 2007, R. Craig Miller joined the IMA as

Curator of Design Arts and Director of Design Initiatives, following 17 years as Curator of the Department of Architecture, Design & Graphics at the Denver Art Museum. Since arriving at the IMA, Miller has ambitiously embarked on many design initiatives, including the acquisition of more than 85 objects for the IMA's collection and the opening in October 2008 of a new Design Gallery (the Lori Efroymson Aguilera & Sergio Aguilera Gallery). Located on the Museum's third floor, which is principally devoted to showing art from the post-World War II era, this gallery is a laboratory for exploring many of the conceptual and aesthetic ideas that have shaped modern design.

In addition to building a design collection, the Museum opened the IMA Design Center in October 2008. The Design Center provides the museum visitor with unique design solutions for everyday life. The Center features a wide variety of products including lines that reflect the IMA's contemporary design collection and complement exhibitions at the Museum. It showcases both mid-century classic pieces by Charles and Ray Eames, Isamu Noguchi and others, as well as more recent items by designers working today including Ron Arad, Maarten Baas, Jurgen Bey, Tord Boontje, Erwan and Ronan Bouroullec, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Jasper Morrison and Philippe Starck. In addition, the Design Center features products from major manufacturers such as Alessi, Cappellini, Droog, Kartell, Magis, Moooi and others.

General IMA Information

The Indianapolis Museum of Art connects visitors to an expansive view of creativity through its collection of more than 54,000 works of art that span 5,000 years of history from across the world's continents. Encompassing 152 acres of gardens and grounds, the IMA is among the 10 largest encyclopedic art museums in the United States, and it features significant collections of African, American, Asian, European and contemporary art, as well as a newly established collection of design arts. The collections include paintings, sculpture, furniture and design objects, prints, drawings and photographs, as well as textiles and costumes.

Through its new articulation of the interconnectedness of art, design and nature, the IMA welcomes its visitors to experience 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, which will be the largest contemporary art park in the United States when it opens in 2009, and the Oldfields–Lilly House & Gardens, an historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA's grounds.

The IMA completed a \$74 million expansion project in May 2005. The construction added 164,000 square feet to the Museum and includes renovation of 90,000 square feet of existing space. In order to present major exhibitions of its own and to accommodate major traveling exhibitions, the expanded Museum was outfitted with new 10,000-plus-square-foot Clowes Special Exhibition Gallery on the Museum's first level. In November 2008, the IMA will open the renovated 600-seat Tobias Theater. Nicknamed, "The Toby," the theater is a venue for talks, performances and films.

Located at 4000 Michigan Road, the IMA and Lilly House are open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The IMA is closed Mondays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's days. For more information, call 317-923-1331 or visit www.imamuseum.org.

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