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MILLER HOUSE AND GARDEN IN COLUMBUS, INDIANA, TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC TOURS IN MAY 2011

***Acquired by the IMA in 2009, Modernist National Historic Landmark
Was Designed By Saarinen,
With Interiors by Girard and Landscape Design by Kiley***

Indianapolis, IN, October 25, 2010—Maxwell L. Anderson, The Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, announced today that the IMA will open Miller House and Garden to the public in May 2011. Located in Columbus, Ind., and 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 donated the house and gardens, along with many of its original furnishings, to the Museum in 2009. Additionally, members of the Miller family and the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation have donated \$5 million to establish an endowment for the house and surrounding grounds. The IMA is working with the Columbus Area Visitors Center to offer public guided tours of the house and gardens beginning in May 2011. Visitors will be able to purchase tickets online in April 2011.

Commissioned by industrialist and philanthropist J. Irwin Miller and his wife Xenia Simons Miller in 1952, 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. “We look forward to making this significant Modernist landmark available to the public.”

Columbus, Ind., is ranked sixth in the nation by the American Institute of Architects for architectural innovation and design. *National Geographic Traveler* 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 public facilities in the central Indiana community of Columbus, Miller created the Architecture Design Program within The Cummins Foundation. Miller met Eero Saarinen during the construction of the First Christian Church in Columbus, which was designed by Saarinen's father Eiel. Eero

Saarinen helped Miller design the Architecture Design Program and recruit rising young architectural talent to participate in the 1950s. In addition to the Cummins Foundation's Architecture Design Program, which funded excellent design for public facilities, 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, Ind.), Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., Stiles and Morse Colleges (New Haven, CT) and North Christian Church (Columbus, Ind.). 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 535 objects for the IMA's collection and the opening in October 2008 of a new Design Gallery (the Lori Efroymsen Aguilera & Sergio Aguilera Gallery). Located on the Museum's fourth 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 the spring of 2009, the IMA premiered the exhibition *European Design Since 1985: Shaping The New Century*, which was organized by the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Denver Art Museum in conjunction with Kingston University, London. The exhibition also traveled to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and it is on view at the Milwaukee Art Museum from October 9, 2010, to January 9, 2011.

About the Indianapolis Museum of Art

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

Additionally, art, design, and nature are featured at 100 Acres: The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park and Oldfields—Lilly House & Gardens, an historic Country Place Era estate on the IMA grounds. Beyond the Indianapolis campus, in 2011 the IMA will open to the public the recently acquired landmark Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Indiana. One of the country's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist residences, Miller House was designed by Eero Saarinen, with interiors by Alexander Girard, and landscape design by Daniel Urban Kiley.

Recognizing the IMA's positive impact on its community, the Museum was named a 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Services – the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. The IMA's commitment to free general admission, programming

for schools and teachers, environmental leadership and online initiatives were among cited community contributions in the Museum's selection for the award.

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