

ICFF 2010

By Peter Carey

The middle of May marks the return every year of the International Contemporary Furniture Fair to the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York. Drawing visitors from around the country, it is a showcase and a dialogue between small, local NYC enterprises and sophisticated international companies. Highlighting innovation and style, it did not disappoint this year.

Early on Saturday morning, I joined the LMNOP preview tour hosted by Beth Dickstein of BDE Enterprises. LMNOP is a non-profit organization that focuses on professional development within the architecture and design community. Ms. Dickstein, the chief coordinator and promoter of ICFF, kindly donated her time by giving insights on new product developments this year. Taking advantage of her networking instincts, she introduced LMNOP members to company principals that were exhibiting at the event. In her typical cheerful and insightful way, Ms. Dickstein pointed out the themes and changes happening in the industry in general and ICFF in particular. For this year, she has seen manufacturers put an emphasis on material innovations and push the envelope regarding color. It makes perfect sense; when everyone's budgets have dwindled to miniscule amounts, designing an interior from scratch doesn't make sense anymore. By adding just enough sparkle and color, the old can look new again, at least until we all get out of this financial mess.

Two notable additions to ICFF's roster of manufacturers were Artek and Tom Dixon. Originally founded in 1935 by Alvar Aalto, Artek has only recently entered the US market.

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