

Honoring Charles Pavarini III for the IFDA Circle of Excellence Award May 2010

As designers we all work with the same tools, solve the same standard range of problems using a common language and yet there is a magical moment that occurs when we manipulate these elements as points of departure, wonderful and unexpected new ideas and visions begin to emerge; in our own unique individual voice.

Charles Pavarini III is being honored this evening for his 26 years of extraordinary sound and vision.

Mr. Pavarini possesses an intriguing legacy and history. A man with a flair for the dramatic but grounded in design's firm principles that provide body and substance to a spectacular display of interior bravura whether along a classical theme or combined with contemporary elements, his work always maintains a powerful central design core. He has a no holds barred approach to interior design in his use of scale, color, lighting, layering and message.

That his grandfather Charles Pavarini Senior, founder of the eponymous Pavarini Construction company, builder of iconic Modern and Postmodern structures including the Seagram's Tower, The United Nations and the State Theatre at Lincoln Center was a major influence is not surprising in that he provided encouragement and a window from early childhood into the work of the Modernist masters of architecture filling this young man's head with visions of the possible and the impossible. His forays in the theatre with leading roles in off Broadway productions of "A Chorus Line", Cabaret, Hair, and costume and set designs for a range of productions including High Spirits and Mornings at 7 were outlets for his developing curiosities and talents; an expanding web of formative exercises and canvasses in which to play out his passion for the performing arts which are still an active interest and pursuit of Charles's today.

Additionally Charles cites the profound and enduring influence of his mentor Ruben de Saavedra the legendary larger than life master of the interior with his flair for the opulent and exquisitely choreographed environment.

In Charles's own work we see exquisite craftsmanship, to die for materials mind-blowingly combined - a redefinition of the opulent, a surgical use of lighting with a steady understanding of the theatrical, a keen affinity for color, the ability to conceive projects in any scale, a constant evolution of diversity but with the essentialness of livability and always, always a "cool" style.

We note from the parade of images how his projects move from the Park Avenue penthouse, to desert retreats and mountain hideaways. Of particular note is the commission to re-define and re-create one of New York's architectural jewels – The Apthorp in reconsidering and restoring the public areas, elevators, exterior use of light, and many of the apartments then re-entering the market.

Over the years Charles has been a sought after participant in the major show houses including his outstanding and ultra spacious 2009 Kips Bay Show House drawing room entitled “The Lounge”; the 2006 Kips Bay Show House bedroom aptly entitled “Buonanotte” and the 2003 Kips Bay “Cabin 17” Luxury Stateroom.

Mr. Pavarini believes “the soul illuminates when giving back to others.” We mark the worth of an individual not by his or her net worth, yes, by their creative gifts but most importantly how they use their net worth and creativity to positively affect others' lives. Philanthropy has been a cornerstone throughout his adult life. Charles has been active with the Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club in particular in 2005 by creating a new fundraising venue – The Dinner Dance – on the Princess Yacht. He participates in Broadway Cares-Equity Fights Aids, The March of Dimes, the Starlight Foundation, many activities surrounding the Komer Cure for Breast Cancer and currently aligning with Christies Great Estates for a new charity event amongst an array of other initiatives.

And lastly on this tour of Mr. Pavarini's work and after hours activities we note his participation on the numerous boards throughout the design industry as a past president of the NY Chapter of the ISID, involvement with the IIDA, the ASID, the IFDA and he continues to serve on the board of directors of the Designers Lighting Forum of New York.

Winning awards, competitions and receiving honors is always wonderful. From my own experiences of winning a few and losing a few I've learned that in addition to the requisite talent - you win when others, your peers, want you to win. To be a member of and surrounded by a particular community and then to be invited to stand alone before your colleagues and be recognized by them not solely for talent but for the larger scope of your contributions is one of life's rare and coveted experiences and Mr. Charles Pavarini III it is our pleasure to have you stand before us to receive the IFDA Circle of Excellence Award. Congratulations!

Dakota Jackson May 4, 2010