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In 1999, Apartment Zero captured the attention of design enthusiasts nationwide by pushing the boundaries of industrial design and locating its business in the heart of the nation's capital. Partners, Douglas Burton and Christopher Ralston, quickly became Washington DC's leading resource for cutting-edge contemporary design by providing area residents with international objects never before seen in the region. Their large selection of well-edited products represented industrial design innovations, new materials and developing technologies for over 10 years. Apartment Zero marketed quality products to design savvy consumers who appreciated style in all its forms while quickly becoming a contemporary cultural center for the community as well as a destination for design education and incubation.

In a city where Corinthian columns are still the order of the day, the owners of Apartment Zero now offer a refreshing alternative. The store, the public programs series and most recently the design studio have all become champions of the contemporary movement both through the products they represent, as well as through the support they give to talented contemporary designers. Christopher and Douglas encourage young artists who have the vision to create the products of the future today, and showcase their wares through exhibits and special events in venues as varied as embassies, museums, universities and cultural institutions. Working as a gallery, as well as a retail space, Apartment Zero is committed to presenting the work of the up-and-coming with the same enthusiasm bestowed upon their network of renowned contemporary designers from around the globe.

Now in its 13th year, Apartment Zero has reinvented itself again by concentrating its efforts in a new direction. Continuing its public program series and exhibition schedule, Apartment Zero will curate and produce travelling exhibitions covering industrial design innovations up to 3 times a year. Gearing up for an exciting future, Apartment Zero will now represent over 100 product lines to architects and interior designers in the trade. They will also continue their residential and commercial interior design services and have recently brought on board a new team of experts to assist them in this endeavor.

APARTMENT ZERO EVENTS

Apartment Zero's mission has always been to foster and support the arts in its many forms. To fulfill this mission, Apartment Zero has created an annual design series called the "Art of Design". Through this annual series, Apartment Zero has partnered with some of the world's leading industrial designers, as well as many local art institutions. Events have included designer workshops, traveling exhibitions, symposiums and philanthropic projects. Please view below to learn more about Apartment zero's public programs presented over the past 13 years:

Bravos: Groundbreaking Spanish Design: In collaboration with the **Embassy of Spain**, Apartment Zero presented BRAVOS, a unique design exhibition that portrayed the innovation and diversity of the new Spanish design scene. It included the work of twenty-one of the most talented and successful young Spanish designers of today, and represented the best industrial design creations of the Spanish Design Boom. The exhibition was presented in conjunction with The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), the **American University Museum at the Katzen Center** and the Embassy of Spain in Washington DC as part of the Cultural Program: SPAIN ARTS & CULTURE 2011. **Juli Capella**, the curator of the exhibition, has undertaken the task of research and selected the most significant and interesting of a new generation of Spanish Designers. He has chosen 21 designers that are and will be key in next decades of the 21st Century.

Sunny Memories: The Fusion of Solar Technology and Industrial Design – in partnership with Apartment Zero, the **Embassy of Switzerland** presented this intriguing exhibit at the **Washington Design Center**. A project that involved more than 80 students from four leading design schools, this exhibit explored the broad new realm of technology, energy, and design that solar dye cells have heralded. Led by the EPFL+ECAL Lab in Lausanne, Switzerland, the "Sunny Memories" workshops took place in collaboration with the University of Art and Design Lausanne (ECAL), the California College of the Arts (CCA), the Royal College of Art in London (RCA) and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle in Paris (ENSCI).

Jonah Takagi: New American Design – Apartment Zero partnered with **Civilian Art Projects** to present the the work of this Japanese-born, American-based industrial designer whose work has been gaining favorable attention and who has been featured internationally. **Atelier Takagi** represents the functional and aesthetic ideals of artist and designer Jonah Takagi, who conceives his work as an outlet for an overactive imagination. Atelier Takagi is a multi-disciplinary design studio and workshop producing objects that require closer examination, that inspire and inform and re-contextualize our surroundings. Jonah has won numerous international design awards like Bernhardt Design's Best American Designer at ICFF, and has been featured in Wallpaper, Metropolis, Dwell, Intramuros, Interior Design and Details, to name a few.

Sevres: Then and Now, Hillwood Museum: In conjunction with the Hillwood Museum exhibition, *Sevres: Then and Now*, Apartment Zero co-owner Douglas Burton discussed how industrial design blended with and reacted to minimalism and decoration throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, while curator Liana Paredes joined Douglas and introduced the little known yet fascinating Sèvres creations of the same period. Highlights of the presentation included comparisons and contrasts with other avant-garde objects of note spanning from 1920 to 2010 and discussed in relation to the contemporary Sèvres designs in this elegant exhibit.

Foodjects the Spain-USA Foundation and Apartment Zero, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Spain**, presented its annual **PREVIEW SPAIN Arts&Culture09** program with the launch of **“Foodjects”**: **Design and the New Cuisine** in Spain, a careful selection of more than 100 objects that cover the relation between chefs, designers and companies in Spain, on exhibit **May 8 through June 7** at Apartment Zero. Conceived by Curator, designer **Martín Azúa**, under a variety of headings: “science and art”, “tradition and cross-breeding”, “magic and humor”, “performance and deconstruction”, “happiness and provocation”. From the cutlery of Javier Mariscal, the glasses of Oscar Tusquets, Patricia Urquiola’s coffee service for Rosenthal and Jaime Hayón’s decorative pieces for LLadró, to the ham stand by Alejandro Mingarro or Cosmic’s “spherification kit”, the upshot of collaboration with Ferran Adrià, all the objects in the exhibition reflect the creativity, modernity and dynamism of contemporary Spanish society from a specific standpoint.

Phillips Collection: Apartment Zero co-owner Douglas Burton presented the program: **“When Objects Work”**, an exploration of the history of industrial design, from mass production to sustainable design and beyond. Burton presented the ideas behind the final product, how they have changed over time and how one can arrange the objects that occupy their space with style. This event was part of the exhibition **Morandi: Master of Modern Still Life** and also included a “Make your own Morandi” photo contest on Flickr.com that encouraged participants to create their own contemporary version of a Morandi using their imagination. Winners were judged by Burton, DCist.com and The Washington Studio School.

Fink & Co. Apartment Zero, in collaboration with the **Embassy of Australia** and **Craft ACT: Craft and Design Centre**, celebrated the distinctive work of Fink & Co., **Robert Foster’s** Canberra-based design group. A selection of innovative designer tableware was showcased at Apartment Zero between September 10 and October 13, complementing a retrospective exhibition of the entire Fink & Co. line at the Embassy of Australia until October 31 2008. Robert Foster and his team have explored the versatility and potential of aluminum, one of Australia’s most important resources, creating unique products for the home environment that are at once utilitarian and beautiful.

All Horizons, Quebec Design -was presented in conjunction with the **Embassy of Canada** and **the Design Center at the University of Quebec, Montreal**. This traveling exhibition was part of a larger program celebrating the 400th year anniversary of Quebec City and was presented with the **Smithsonian Associates** for its DC run. Apartment Zero traveled to Montreal and hand-picked objects from 15 local Industrial Designers to showcase in its showroom as a complement to the exhibition at the embassy. Prototypes, one-offs and pieces in production were exhibited alongside mass-produced items to showcase Quebec design in its most unusual form.

Marc Newson for Dom Perignon -was presented at Apartment Zero as one of only a few locations to showcase this unique limited edition product. The neon-green and orange ice bucket designed specifically for the elegant champagne purveyor, made its mark one special evening at Apartment Zero to a crowd of admiring fans of this Australian designer's work. The oversized object was showcased in the showroom and in downtown DC spaces to launch this special month of iconic design.

Spotlight Sweden -Apartment Zero proudly partnered with the opening of the new **House of Sweden/Embassy of Sweden** by creating an exhibit of Scandinavian products from pieces in production to prototypes in furniture, lighting, fiber and glass. AZ also premiered *New Scandinavian Design*, a book by author **Kathryn Nelson** of Metropolitan Home magazine. Iconic designer **Ingegard Roman** was also present for the opening as well as the Swedish ambassador, **Gunnar Lund**. AZ's owner Douglas Burton spoke during a symposium of Swedish design during the month's festivities at the new embassy.

Going Dutch – Apartment Zero was proud to present an exhibition of contemporary Dutch design, **“Going Dutch”**, in its Penn Quarter showroom. Dutch designer **Pim van den Akker** was featured, as well as a selection of products from porcelain to furniture by Dutch companies Goods, Royal Tichelaar Makkum, Artifort and Moooi. Apartment Zero's exhibition was in conjunction with **“Meet the Dutch”**; a week of events celebrating Dutch-American friendship, sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Windows on Industrial Design – Apartment Zero presented “Windows on Industrial Design”, August 3 through September 30, 2005. This event was in conjunction with the National Conference of the Industrial Design Society of America, and Apartment Zero won a Momentum award from the city for achievement in supporting the arts for this event. Apartment Zero took part in a discussion panel during the conference to discuss innovations in product design. Local industrial designers, their work in production, prototypes and concepts were featured in Apartment Zero’s window and in 7 separate window displays throughout the city. Designers included **Inna Alesina, Roland Bears Staana, Cristian Wicha, Jeff Jenkins, Arthur Carr, Scott Mason, and Tom Shiner.**

James Dyson – On September 24th, 2004, Apartment Zero and the Industrial Designers Society of America presented an evening with British Industrial Designer James Dyson: The Art of Engineering. Dyson gave a presentation/discussion at the Navy Memorial Auditorium and then visited Apartment Zero to mingle with customers and sign books at a reception.

Nordic Cool – The “**Nordic Cool: Hot Women Designers**” exhibition took place from April 23 – September 12, 2004 at the **National Museum of Women in the Arts**. From celebrated furniture, fabric and glass to the latest in digital short film and web design, the items chosen for the exhibit were among the finest examples of beautiful and functional design created in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Apartment Zero complemented this exhibition by designing/furnishing the museum’s reading room in a sleek contemporary style to harmonize with the theme, and by loaning many pieces from its own collection to the museum. On display at Apartment Zero were a number of unique Nordic products by women in the exhibition.

MICA Exhibition – Apartment Zero, hosted a special exhibition titled **BUY*PRODUCT**, a collection of original designs for the home, office, and person, created by talented members of the Graphic Design MFA Studio at Maryland Institute College of Art. **BUY*PRODUCT**, curated by **Ellen Lupton**, was a commentary on how people live in today’s society. Each item used contemporary materials, found objects, and cultural icons to yield a fresh and functional object. All proceeds went back to the students.

InterfaceFlor – Apartment presented an exciting event for the Washington community. Focusing on new discoveries in design technologies, Apartment Zero welcomed the debut of InterfaceFLOR’s new high-style carpet-tile floor coverings. Apartment Zero was the first gallery to show these tiles in the US and this exhibit and launch was a provocative new line only carried by Apartment Zero.

Oiva Toikka Exhibition – Apartment Zero presented the work of Oiva Toikka, the distinguished and beloved Finnish glass designer, who was present on two separate dates, one in 2003 and again in 2005 to celebrate Finnish Design Year. This was a collaboration with the **Embassy of Finland** with exhibits at both the embassy and at Apartment Zero. In addition, Apartment Zero created a shop-within-a-shop of Finnish design brand **Iittala**, for both exhibits.

Tapio Wirkkala, Design Legend from Finland – Apartment Zero executed a collaborative effort with the **Embassy of Finland**, who with the Finnish Museum of Art and Design presented the exhibition, Tapio Wirkkala. This was the first comprehensive view of the enormous genius of Tapio Wirkkala (1915-1985), a pioneer of Finnish industrial art and a symbol of the international success of postwar Finnish design. The exhibition revealed his enormous creative output and mastery of material-glass, porcelain, metal, wood and plastic. Complementing the exhibition, Apartment Zero displayed at the embassy, Wirkkala's pieces in current production, from Iittala, Rosenthal, and Venini.

“Intersection: Craft Artisans and Industrial Designers in the 21st Century” -The Smithsonian Associates Masters Program and Apartment Zero presented a free colloquium examining the ever-blurring lines of distinction between craft artisans and industrial designers in the new millennium. Traditionally viewed as two parallel professions running in opposite directions, the two are now beginning to intersect in terms of material choice and manufacturing techniques. Participants included: **Harry Allen**, Industrial Designer; **Constantin and Laurene Leon Boym**, Industrial Designers; **Peter Danko**, Craft Artisan; **Clive Dilnot**, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Parsons School of Design; **David Revere McFadden**, Chief Curator, Museum of Arts and Design; **Ellen Lupton**, Curator of Contemporary Design at The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum and moderated by **Heidi Nasstrom Evans**, Decorative Arts Historian.

Norway Says -The designers of Norway Says are out to break with convention and shake up the system, describing their design style as “straight, simple, unpretentious, and honest.” **Norway Says** premiered its most exciting new furniture designs in a decidedly avant-garde display in the Main Hall at Union Station. The three designers, **Torbjorn Anderssen, Andreas Engesvik, and Tore Borgersen**, were on hand to discuss their vision. In addition, Apartment Zero hosted a reception at the design house in collaboration with **The Embassy of Norway**.

“Celebrating Dutch Design” – a month-long city-wide event featuring co-sponsors such as the **Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Virginia** Design Forum, Whole Foods Markets and Fusebox. Apartment Zero brought this wide variety of institutions together to present an exhibition and lecture series on the avant-garde in Dutch Design and visual art. Visiting designers from the Netherlands included **Marcel Wanders, Jurgen Bey and Andre Martens** as well as artists **Margi Geerlinks and Jan-Marc Spaans**. The curated exhibit featured the work of **Hella Jongerius, Richard Hutten, Job Smeets and Henk Stallinga**, in addition to existing innovative manufacturers Artifort and Pastoe, to name a few. In addition, Apartment Zero premiered **Marcel Wanders’** “Can of Gold,” a philanthropic project which donated over \$20,000 to the Capital Area Food Bank. This Apartment Zero conceived exhibition was transformed into a traveling show to Los Angeles and Mexico City.

Jonathan Adler – the New York based potter, publicized in the hit series “Will and Grace,” showcased his entire collection, as well as premiering custom pieces designed specifically for Apartment Zero. Adler also spoke about his “Aid to Artisans” program that employs artists from Peru and New Mexico to use their native skills and heritage to benefit their local community.

Angela Adams -the Maine based weaver Angela Adams displayed her collection of hand-loomed rugs, hand formed furniture and accessories prominently known for their beauty and sophistication.

Karim Rashid – the prolific and award-winning New York based industrial designer, best known for his work with Issey Miyake, Nike, Umbra, Totem, and more discussed his inspiration and signed many of his products. The exhibition featured more than 200 of his international product designs.

Blu Dot – the Minneapolis based architects, Blu Dot, presented their work in conjunction with the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis. This exhibit showcased the designs of this award-winning trio, who the Cooper Hewitt Design Museum recently nominated for an industrial design award.

“Valley of the Dolls” – a performance piece with designer Michael Graves and visual artist, Mark Bennett. The event was co-sponsored by Conner Contemporary Art Gallery.

Hirshhorn Museum – Co-sponsored local artisan, Dan Steinhilber’s exhibition and conversation, and furnished the contemplation space for artist Jim Hodges

Other Events – Apartment Zero has also hosted book release events with local author Deborah Dietsch (Simon & Shuster), the AIA Residential Design Awards with Washingtonian Magazine, The Shakespeare Bard Society functions, the traveling Mono Tabletop exhibit from Germany, Saks Fifth Avenue’s Save the Music fundraiser, and the National Building Museum Silver Anniversary Fundraiser.

Apartment Zero Projects

In addition to the many products on display and events executed, Apartment Zero takes part in various commercial and residential projects. These projects include retail space design, residential and commercial interior design, restaurant, bar and hotel interiors, and model apartment design. Please note some of the many projects Apartment Zero has completed over the past three years:

Hotel Rouge – included the outfitting of Hotel Rouge’s “Dark Room Bar” and fifteen specialty rooms.

Hotel Monaco – included the accessory outfitting of Hotel Monaco’s banquet and catering department.

Hotel Helix – included the furniture and accessories for 18 specialty rooms and accessories for the bar.

Dragonfly – included the interior bar furniture and accessories.

Mondo Sushi – provided furniture and accessories for restaurant.

The Park Connecticut – interior design of luxury model apartment for Charles E. Smith.

The Consulate -interior design of luxury model apartment for Charles E. Smith.

Alban Towers -interior design of luxury model apartment for Charles E. Smith.

The Radius – interior design, products, accessories and signage for the lobby, all offices, community room, and all common area spaces for this JBG project.

Mather Studios – interior design of luxury model apartment for PN Hoffman.

Mantis -included the interior bar and restaurant design for lighting, furniture and accessories.

Celadon – interior design for hair salon’s furniture and accessories.

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Human Right Campaign Headquarters Offices – provided signature pieces of furniture in offices.

Flashpoint – donated furniture for Washington’s first arts incubator for emerging artists. Apartment Zero is also a partner in event execution for Flashpoint.

Park Center, Alexandria – designed and supplied products for two separate model apartments and the design and supply to the Sales center area for this Monument Realty property.

The Prime – interior design of sales office and lobby for this Monument Realty project

The Chase – interior design of sales office, lobby, and 3 model apartments for this Monument Realty project

City Vista – 2 model apartments for this Loe Enterprises project.

Fort Totten – 1 model apartment for this Clark Realty project

Park Center, Manassas – interior design of lobby, offices, and all common area spaces for this Clark Realty project.

Signature Theatre – custom 75-ball chandelier, scrunch acoustical wall panels, bar stools and bar tables, sofa and chairs, and all lighting for this new Arlington theatre.

The Shakespeare Theatre, Harman Center for the Arts – interior design of entire patron’s lounge including all furniture, lighting and rugs for this Washington DC arts space. All common area seating including benches, tables, and flower arrangements

ASAE – specified common area, cafeteria, and lobby seating for this VOA architecture project.

Volkswagen/Audi – specified common area seating, lighting, rugs, and accessories for this VOA architecture project.

30 Customer Homes – start to finish interior design for over 30 homes