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**ANN SACKS® COMES TO HOUSTON'S GABLES WEST**

**PORTLAND**, Ore. (July 24, 2014) – ANN SACKS, an industry leader for unique and innovative luxury tile, stone and plumbing products, announced the opening of its latest showroom at **2800 Kirby Drive, Suite A122, Houston, TX 77098, phone (713) 522-0805**. ANN SACKS Houston brings a remarkable range of styles and international influences to consumers, architects, builders, and design professionals.

Based in Portland, Ore., ANN SACKS was founded in 1981 and built on the concept that tile and stone, with its tactile warmth, strength and versatility, is an expressive medium for creating imaginative, emotionally relevant spaces. Dedicated to providing personalized service, ANN SACKS opened its first showroom in Portland in 1985, and now boasts 17 national and international locations.

“Joining the dynamic Gables West shopping experience is the correct, next step for ANN SACKS,” explained Ted Chappell, president, ANN SACKS. “We take great effort to strategically select points of distribution where design and commerce are appreciated. Houston is a natural fit. Virtually every top luxury brand is represented in the marketplace, offering retailers a sophisticated audience that embodies style and substance.”

ANN SACKS will also feature kitchen and bathroom designs by its sister company, KALLISTA®, a high-end luxury plumbing manufacturer. KALLISTA is known for its decorative plumbing products, offering faucets and fixtures thoughtfully created for tasteful, whole-bath solutions. A selection of kitchen and bath plumbing products are showcased in a striking range of modern and traditional designs, including lifestyle collections by such renowned designers as Mick De Giulio, Michael S Smith, Barbara Barry, Bill Sofield, and Laura Kirar.

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ANN SACKS' entrée into the Houston marketplace also marks the unveiling of **Gen 2**, ANN SACKS' comprehensive new retail space design. The first of its kind, the **Gen 2** concept was developed over the past six month to incorporate a crisp contemporary feel and studio intimacy with an efficient, customer-focused sales approach to create the ultimate shopping experience.

The comprehensive planning and detail is apparent from every angle of the showroom. A crisp white center soffit area is juxtaposed by charcoal gray walls and serves as the anchor to the space, which includes a large display of Kallista plumbing products and a cutting-edge digital media wall. Three vignettes, including a kitchen suite, will be in the center of the space. The store boasts 15 foot ceilings and polished cement floors with front and rear windows bringing in ample natural light allowing visitors to see the pure color and beauty of the tile and stone as it would be presented in their home. A state-of-the-art, 90-percent low-energy LED track lighting and ambient light lend continue its modern aesthetic. On-wall racking allows 520 different tile products to be displayed. The sample store is adjacent to the racking for easy accessibility, while ample sized desks allow associates to work with customers' side-by-side for immediate access to sales tools, computer data bases, and web site information.

Utilizing every inch of its 1,700 sq. ft. space, ANN SACKS presents a virtual walking tour of potential design installations. Offering inspiration with every step, suites and vignettes present the latest in tile and plumbing, including designs by Michael S Smith, Robert Kuo, Clodogh, and Laura Kirar, and the Ann Sacks Collection, made at its Portland, Ore. facility.

The foundation of the ANN SACKS retail strategy is its responsiveness to its clientele. With an experienced staff and hours to accommodate the hectic pace of today's consumer, ANN SACKS Houston will also feature basic color and floor planning assistance, or for more sophisticated needs, will assist you by presenting a variety of ways to bring design ideas to life.

Founded in 1981, ANN SACKS has built its reputation with inspiring designs in tile, stone, plumbing, lighting and accessories. Based in Portland, Ore., the company is a division of the Kohler Co. Interiors Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kohler Co. Ann Sacks Tile and Stone, Inc., along with Kallista plumbing and Robern mirrored cabinetry and vanities are part of the Kohler Interiors Decorative Products sector. Under its Furniture sector resides Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Inc., Baker furniture, Baker Knapp & Tubbs Showrooms and Baker Stores, and McGuire Furniture Company.

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Founded in 1873 and headquartered in Kohler, Wis., Kohler Co. is one of America's oldest and largest privately held companies. Kohler is a global leader in the manufacture of kitchen and bath products, engines and power generation systems, cabinetry, tile and home interiors, and international host to award-winning hospitality and world-class golf destinations.

For additional information regarding ANN SACKS products or showrooms, consumers can visit the ANN SACKS web site at [www.annsacks.com](http://www.annsacks.com).

For additional information regarding KALLISTA products, consumers can visit the KALLISTA web site at [www.kallista.com](http://www.kallista.com).

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