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DESIGNER EXPERIENCE DEBUTS

SOCIAL EVENTS, FACTORY TOURS AND CEU CREDITS
INSPIRE 75 DESIGNERS FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

Last month, our editors — with a few industry principals from around town — helped present a unique conference format to interior designers from around the country.

Dubbed "Designer Experience," the event was hosted by Home Accents Today and sister publications Designers Today and Casual Living and offered participants a chance to socialize, relax, earn CEU credit and explore some of Piedmont North Carolina's furniture, food and design roots.

Designer Experience, kicked off Wednesday, Aug. 22nd at Greensboro's **Proximity Hotel** with welcoming remarks from editors Susan Dickenson, Jane Dagmi and Waynette Goodson, who gave brief overviews of their brands along with personal and professional thoughts on the regional focus, **High Point Market** (headline sponsor for the event), and the interior design industry.



Following registration and opening remarks, the Proximity's Dennis Quaintance, assisted by in-house artist Chip Holton, gave a presentation on the hotel's LEED Platinum status, design and history. Quaintance was introduced by Karen Johnson, creative director, Hooker Furniture, seminar sponsor.



Designer, media personality and author Libby Langdon gave an inspiring talk on her personal and professional path. Langdon, who grew up in High Point, also spoke about her years growing up in the "furniture capital."



Worlds Away sponsored an evening of cocktails, dinner, music and live art installations during which Holton painted an abstract of the crowd and event.

Thayer Coggin →



Phillips Collection



Artistica Home
←



On Day Two, the group traveled to High Point for tours, custom programming and refreshment at Thayer Coggin, Phillips Collection and Artistica Home. The evening ended with dinner at The Colonnade at Revolution Mill, a beautifully renovated cotton mill that is now a creative living, dining, entertaining and work space. Dinner sponsors were Universal Furniture and Crypton Fabric, and creamware pieces were loaned by Replacements Ltd.

Revolution
Mill



The group traveled to the Goat Lady Dairy in Climax, N.C., where they sampled award-winning cheeses and enjoyed a farm-to-table luncheon. Las Vegas-based designer Jackie Von Tobel gave a presentation on lamps and lighting, sponsored by Currey & Company.



Goat Lady Dairy



The conference was deemed a huge success by the hosts, speakers, sponsors and attendees. Best practices were shared, new ideas were showcased, old stories were made fresh, and many friendships were forged. Several designers likened the event to "summer camp for designers" and said they came away feeling rested, recharged and "ready for a repeat."



Photos and commentary can be found across social media platforms by searching #DesignerExperience, and on the slideshow portal at homeaccentstoday.com. The conference agenda is at designer-experience.com.