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COMING FULL CIRCLE:

***Durkan Collaborates with Celebrated Designer Tracy Lee Stum,
Pushes Boundaries of Design for Hospitality Spaces with Mandalas Collection***

MIAMI, Sept. 17, 2008 – Durkan stretches the limits of conventional carpet design in a unique collaboration with celebrated designer Tracy Lee Stum. Continuing Durkan’s tradition of innovative, high style hospitality flooring solutions, this marks the second major collaboration announced by the company in less than six months. Designed with Stum, Durkan’s **Mandalas** Collection will debut at Hospitality Design Boutique 2008 (HD Boutique) in Miami, Sept. 17-18. Bringing together contemporary design, cultures and colors, the transitional collection is as versatile as the influences that inspired it and designer who designed it.

“An accomplished artist of many trades, Tracy Lee Stum brings a distinct dimension and a previously unexplored perspective to hospitality carpet design,” said Lee Blair, senior vice president of Durkan. “By collaborating with designers such as Tracy Lee, Durkan continues to push the envelope to deliver to our customers flooring solutions that are not only stylish, but on the leading edge of innovation and design.”

Recognized internationally for street painting, drawing and decorative designing, Stum worked closely with Durkan to successfully master creativity in carpet design with Mandalas, which is named for the Hindu symbolic circular design that serves as one of the many inspirations for the Collection. Playing with seemingly unrelated visual styles – from Japanese geometric art and decorative designs, to objects such as bubbles and flowers – Stum achieves designs that are unexpectedly complementary and bring fresh personality to hospitality interiors.

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“This collection was designed with a non-traditional approach, combining influences from the many visual paths that inspire me,” notes Stum. “In one pattern, I take a brocade design and insert it into a simple graphic shape. The result is a new contemporary version of this old classic.”

Inspired Designs, Variety of Spaces

Mandalas offers 21 stylish, contemporary patterns. From entryways and lobbies to corridors and guestrooms, the Collection’s products cleverly coordinate to offer a cohesive and dynamic aesthetic throughout the facility.

Providing versatility combined with durable performance, Mandalas blends effortlessly into a range of environments. For endless design possibilities, designers can specify Mandalas with Durkan’s new **Synthesis** base textures. The first and only of its kind, Synthesis is manufactured with a patent-pending technology that allows for a layering of pattern and texture on carpet to bring a never-before-achieved dimension to hospitality interiors.

Mandalas products are available with a variety of backings and attached cushions including **Duralon Attached Cushion**. Providing dense cushioning and appearance retention for carpet, Duralon Attached Cushion can enhance carpet performance and installation flexibility. Continuing The Mohawk Group’s longstanding dedication to sustainability, Mandalas products are CRI Green Label Plus certified, and recommended adhesives meet the most stringent rules for VOC emissions.

From the hotel lobby and corridors to guest rooms and ballrooms, casinos, and areas of assisted living facilities, Durkan is world-renowned as an industry leader in innovative design solutions and high style, high-performance hospitality carpeting. With state-of-the-art spectronic printing and forward-thinking pattern and texture technologies, Durkan’s comprehensive line of patterned and custom carpet products provide the inspired design, advanced engineering and expressive style needed to set the right tone for every installation. Durkan’s primary manufacturing facility is located in Dalton, Ga. For additional information, look for Durkan at www.durkan.com or www.themohawkgroup.com or call 800-241-4580.

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Designer Biography:

Tracy Lee Stum is an internationally recognized talent whose versatile and exceptional abilities excel in the realms of street painting, drawing, painting and decorative designing. A visionary leader in these creative arenas, Tracy Lee's wealth of experience, expertise and imagination makes her one of the most highly sought after working artists in her respective oeuvres today.

Considered by Madonnari peers, festival directors and viewers to be among the finest street painters, Tracy Lee has participated as an invited featured artist in festivals and events around the world. Her paintings have won numerous awards and accolades and she currently holds a Guinness World Record for the largest street painting by an individual, which was set in 2006.

In conjunction with her international reputation as a highly respected street painter, Tracy Lee is well known for her extraordinary trompe l'oeil murals, oil paintings and decorative design work. Her works graces the walls of high-end hospitality, entertainment and luxury residential spaces throughout the country including The Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace and The Venetian in Las Vegas, The Borgata in Atlantic City, and Hong Kong in the Disneyland Hotel.

Always eager to explore new avenues that utilize her unique visual sensibilities and talents, Tracy Lee recently took on the role of carpet designer in a collaboration with Durkan. With the launch of the resulting Mandalas Collection, she is proving that she can successfully master virtually every realm of design.

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