

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2013-2014 *gia* GLOBAL HONOREES ANNOUNCED AT THE INTERNATIONAL HOME + HOUSEWARES SHOW**

**CHICAGO (March 16, 2014)** – The International Home + Housewares Show and the International Housewares Association (IHA), the global sponsors and organizers of the Global Innovation Award (*gia*) program, today announced the 2013-2014 *gia* Global Honorees. The Global Honorees are:

- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • TheSuperCool            | Australia       |
| • K & Ö HOME              | Austria         |
| • Merci                   | France          |
| • Galleria Fiaba          | Italy           |
| • Kookwinkel Bianca Bonte | the Netherlands |
| • Lakeland                | United Kingdom  |

The global *gia* jury, consisting of four retail/visual merchandising experts and seven editors and publishers of co-sponsoring housewares trade publications from around the world, selected the *gia* Global Honorees from the winners previously chosen in their respective countries by the national *gia* sponsors. In addition, the Martin M. Pegler Award for Excellence in Visual Merchandising was awarded to LERCHE design of Denmark.

*gia* was created in 1999, with the objective of fostering innovation and excellence in housewares retailing throughout the world. Today, *gia* is the most recognized, high-profile awards program for homegoods retailers around the globe. The competition is structured on a two-tier level, national and global, evaluating retailers within the following categories:

- Overall mission statement, vision and strategy
- Store design and layout
- Visual merchandising, displays and window displays
- Marketing, advertising and promotions
- Customer service and staff training
- Innovation

Co-sponsoring the country-specific *gia* award programs with IHA are housewares trade publications worldwide, which sponsor national *gia* programs in their respective

countries. This year, 23 national *gia* winners from 22 countries were selected by co-sponsoring trade publications with targeted distribution in over 30 countries on five continents. All winners were automatically entered the global competition at the International Home + Housewares Show in Chicago, where the global jury selected the final *gia* Global Honorees.

Both *gia* national winners and Global Honorees are recognized and prominently featured at the International Home + Housewares Show. A festive *gia* awards dinner was held at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel. In addition, introducing the national *gia* winners to visitors and exhibitors of the International Home + Housewares Show, there is a special *gia* display in the Hall of Global Innovation, in the Lakeside Center Lobby, and large *gia* winner banners span the walkway connecting the Lakeside Center to the Grand Concourse.

*For more information about the *gia* awards program, the co-sponsors, or participating in 2014-2015, contact Piritta Törrö at [piritta.torro@inspiredconnection.fi](mailto:piritta.torro@inspiredconnection.fi). Additional information on the *gia* program is also available online at [www.housewares.org/gia](http://www.housewares.org/gia).*

Editor's note: Images of the 2013-2014 national *gia* winner stores are available for download at: <http://housewares.smugmug.com/2014/2014-gia-winners-Press-Photos>. In the same folder, you'll also find *gia* Global Honoree and Martin M. Pegler Award winner photos from the *gia* awards dinner. Password for the folder is "gia2014".