At last summer is here and we can shed some of that gloom and doom that went with one of the worst winters I can remember. Maybe it wouldn’t have been so bad if the economy was in better shape, but that’s a whole other thing.

In this issue, House magazine is filled with features from top interior designers such as Marilyn Rose and her cover story. The list of designers goes on with Natalie Weinstein, Lee Najman, Samhal Interiors, Robyn Baumgarten, diSalvo and kitchen designers such as newcomer to the magazine Gene Spevak of LI Custom Design and such mainstays as Kitchen Designs by Ken Kelly, Ciuffo Cabinetry, Bisulk Kitchens, Aladdin Kitchens and Creative Edge.

There are other fascinating features such as the digital presentation of how Deck and Patio designed a landscape project and then there is another Jarro remodeling beauty.

Another newcomer to our pages is Busch Associates with a fascinating project.

Interior designing goes on forever but it starts at the Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design (MIID). This very special feature helps all of us understand what it takes to be an interior designer.

I think all of us love to go to parties and in this issue we had the pleasure of attending a surprise birthday party for architect Jay Sears who celebrated his 70 years on the planet. Jay was the architect who designed a house called Villa Vanilla in Remsenburg. It was the cover story of our first issue of the magazine and set the tone for high quality publishing since 1981. Jay is truly unique and about 60 of his friends showed up to wish him well and a long life.

I think it’s about the time for the economy to loosen up, and with that in mind, House magazine will celebrate “the Best of Long Island” in the September/October issue. The magazine will highlight the works of Long Island’s best designers, architects, builders from a variety of markets. Hopefully, the issue might generate the kind of business we had been used to prior to the downturn.

So keep those cards and letters coming...
The Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design moves its designers to a new spacious facility

By June Sullivan

The Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design (MIID), which offers two diploma programs in Practical and Advanced Interior Design, recently moved to a spacious new facility at 200 Oak Drive, Syosset. According to MIID’s president, Anthony E. Maceli, the newer 5,500-square-foot contemporary building allows for a larger enrollment of students with space for more and larger classrooms and communal areas, including libraries, conference and study rooms.

Although the plans to move to Syosset from their former Plainview location had been in the works for some time, Maceli suggests that the move couldn’t have been better timed.

"Metropolitan gave me a solid foundation on which I have built my interior design firm. My teachers were really top rate — it was an intensive 144 hours of design coursework. They encouraged me to reach higher than even I had planned for myself. My career has been on a fast track, and I use the knowledge that I gained at MIID everyday in my business."

— Mariaina Teich Designs, Corp.

MIID, he explains, has long-filled a special niche locally in the education of interior design, due to its enrollment focus on mature students — those changing careers after years in other fields or at home.

"At a time when the economy is causing many to pursue new directions," says Maceli, "our ability to handle more such students — and in a beautiful and more comfortable environment — is very helpful to the Long Island community." He adds that present MIID students, in addition to being from other artistic backgrounds, include former lawyers as well as three former investment bankers.

According to MIID administrators, in their 35 years as an educational institution, between 375 and 400 students have already been certified by their school. "We have graduated some of the top interior designers of the region," says Maceli.

In addition to indoor and outdoor residential design, Maceli says some MIID graduates specialize in office planning, retail, restaurant and hotel interior design.

"We find that about 80 percent of those who enroll graduate," he adds. "Most of our students have been to college and are accustomed to a study discipline. They range from about 30 years of age to about 50 with a few under 30," he says.

"MIID's classes are held during the hours that best suit mature students — that is mostly in the morning," says Maceli, "and they are usually finished by 1:30 p.m."

"In total, forty-three interior design courses are offered,
as well as regular enrichment seminars.” Students, he adds, study architectural detailing including floor plans, home renovations and construction codes. “We also teach our students how to focus on the selection of interior items within a space, such as furniture, accessories, finishes and room layout.”

Presentation skills are also emphasized. “Being able to make a good public presentation is important to a student’s future success,” says Maceli.

School administration officials say that design professionals, art historians and architects serve as instructors and lecturers at MIID in their areas of specialization.

One such practicing interior designer, author and MIID educator is Susan J. Slotkis. Slotkis is the founder and chief designer of her own firm, Profiles-Professional Interiors, and her book Foundations of Interior Design is used in course study at MIID.

“In one of my classes,” says Slotkis, “I take information about previous lifestyles and design styles and show how they apply to current trends and our present way of life. One of my assignments requires students to choose a historical period as the inspiration behind the design of a restaurant, beginning with the logo and menu – all the way through to the restaurant’s motifs, colors, layout and furnishings.

“With this project, students consider ‘how did people eat at that time – at small intimate tables or did they eat in a communal way,” says Slotkis. “It’s not that the students would design a medieval restaurant or kitchen or dining room but they would express the communal spirit without having everybody eating with their fingers,” she smiles.

Slotkis first earned a master’s degree in social work from Boston University. Later, she changed careers, graduating with
honors in interior design studies at Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT/SUNY). "FIT's historical style classes opened my eyes. I would walk around Manhattan as if I was a tourist, staring at the gargoyles on the churches and reveling in the varied and exciting architecture."

Slotkin adds that the students at MIID find these courses life-transforming. "One of my students said recently that she was accustomed her whole life to being the quiet one when they went out with friends. And now, within just one semester at MIID, all ears and eyes seem to be on her.

"When our students are in a restaurant," says Slotkin, "they can understand how the lighting is affecting the experience, how the colors and furniture are contributing to the dynamics of the space. People are fascinated by that."

In speaking of interior design education, Slotkin emphasizes that you can never get too much of it. "The instructors at MIID definitely keep their skills up, learn new regulations, new products and new applications. It's not just about the aesthetics of a space."

One of today's new trends, says school trustee, Sherry Schweitzer, is "green" interior design. Beyond particular woods or trees that are endangered from over-cutting, at MIID students learn about sustainability in many ways related to the earth's resources.

Schweitzer, who owns her own successful event planning business, says that as a trustee she focuses on how to market the school in a way that shows how studying at MIID can help students build their own businesses for today.

"They can get an interior design education without having to take on difficult math and science courses in order to develop a wonderful career."

In her own business, event planners, she explains, often use interior designers for the table settings, as well as for help with the flooring for tents, and with the decorative fabric and lighting for high-end events. "But there are many ways those educated in interior design can specialize." Most importantly, says Schweitzer, MIID helps students own self worth to be brought forward.

Schweitzer explains that MIID's new location has allowed the school to expand their technology base. "There's a new computer course under development, and more computers and programs for class courses and.

"I chose to go to the Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design to pursue my creative passion and to fulfill my desire to become an interior designer. I began classes in 2003 and graduated in 2005, immediately opening my freelance interior design corporation, Creative Design by Ellen Sender Inc.

MIID is great because it offers many elective classes to suit one's interests. The programs are great for anyone with a busy schedule, especially for family oriented mothers such as myself. This summer I will complete my degree with an advanced diploma and become an allied ASID member. MIID helped me gain the self-esteem and confidence needed to become a successful interior designer."

- Ellen Sender
Creative Design by Ellen Sender, Inc.
individual study are available. Years ago, one had to sketch out the plans—do layouts by hand—often changing them over and over. But now it's all computerized."

Trustee Schweitzer is particularly proud of the great care school administrators have taken to ensure that the new facility is eco-friendly in its decor as well as inviting. "It's a very soothing and comfortable place. There are many people out there—both men and women—who's children may now be in high school and who are asking themselves: where do I go from here?" she says.

The Institute's president, Anthony Maceli suggests that, for some, MIID might be the answer they are looking for. "Here students learn they are not vulnerable to others and that their own efforts can bring the rewards. Our experience is that some begin working professionally before they even graduate."

In addition to their main focus on interior design programs, the school also offers diploma courses in fashion design and feng shui.

Administrators say that all diplomas are issued by the school through New York State's Department of Education.

MIID frequently holds free interior design seminars that are open to the public.
Design Your Future with Metropolitan Institute of Interior Design

200 Oak Drive, Syosset NY - 516-845-4033

www.met-design.com

OPEN HOUSE
August 27, 2009
1-4pm &
5:30-7:30pm

We offer Diploma Programs in
Interior Design & Advanced Studies
Kitchen & Bath Design, Window Treatments, Sustainable Design
Feng Shui for Designers, Accessories, Home Staging, AutoCAD
Portfolio Development, Professional Business Practices - Ask about our
Fast Track 1 Year Diploma Program - Classes meet 1 day per week