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New American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame opens in High Point

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American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame Foundation

Freeman Kennett Architects of High Point designed the new American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame in High Point. New Atlantic Contracting of Winston-Salem was the general

contractor.

Just in time for the Spring Market, the American Home Furnishing Hall of Fame will open the doors of its new museum for the first time today in High Point.

Located at 311 S. Hamilton St., the 17,500-square-foot former Flair Enterprises showroom has been expanded and reimaged into a 23,500-square-foot hub of innovation, excellence and leadership in the heart of the Market district. The building, one block from the International Home Furnishings Center, was designed by Freeman Kennett Architects of High Point, and New Atlantic Contracting of Winston-Salem was the general contractor.

The new space incorporates glass, steel, concrete and digital imagery to interpret elements of masonry buildings that were common to early furniture manufacturing. The most imposing design element is the two-sided, 25-by-17-foot Dynamic Story Wall, a digital matrix of interlaced LED screens visible from the street on one side and throughout the interior on the other that will be used to tell the stories of the home furnishings industry.

The hall's opening features an exhibit showcasing two modern furniture design icons – Milo Baughman and Thayer Coggin, a native of High Point. The “King of Mod” exhibit allows visitors to sit and experience the exhibited classic modern furniture pieces. The exhibit features some of the most iconic pieces from their collaboration, showcasing the elegance, quality and innovation that made both men legends in the world of American home furnishings.

After serving in the Army, Thayer Coggin returned to his hometown of High Point to start the furniture company that carries his name. He soon established a long collaboration with Baughman. Also an Army veteran, Baughman had established himself in 1940s as a leader in The California Style design movement.

“My father, Thayer, and Milo had a special relationship for 50 years, collaborating on some ground-breaking designs that remain cornerstones in American-made, modern furniture,” said Mrs. Royale Wiggin, president of Thayer Coggin.

Baughman’s work has been exhibited in “Good Design” at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and in “High Styles: Twentieth Century American Design” at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The men’s collaborative work continues to be produced in the Thayer Coggin workshops in High Point, where the company celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

The exhibit is open to the public and continues through November 2023. Admission is free.

The American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame also includes Celebration Hall, an open gathering space that can host seated dinners for 150 people or cocktails for 450, permanent exhibits and a gallery featuring plaques with photos and biographies of the 111 inductees.

The Spring Market of the High Point Furniture Show runs Saturday through Wednesday under the leadership of new High Point Market Authority CEO Tammy Nagem.



Daniel Finnegan
 Managing Editor - *Triad Business Journal*

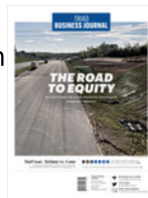
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