

neocon

officeinsight



River Drive Park (Photography by Jeff Beck Photography and the officeinsight team)

## Delights of NeoCon 2015

by officeinsight staff and contributors

As the dust from NeoCon 2015 settles, we at officeinsight are excited to continue a long-standing tradition of offering readers our “Delights of NeoCon.” For people who attended this year’s show, we hope this issue reminds you of the things – products, parties, seminars and more – that made NeoCon 2015 special for you. And for our readers who were unable to attend, we hope to bring an insider’s peek into the things and people that caught our eye throughout the show.

Arriving on Saturday this year, we were looking forward to seeing “**River Drive Park**” for ourselves. It’s the new green space in the south drive-through where the trucks used to park. Since we thought the truck parking was getting tired, we liked the idea of a nice outdoor spot for a bit of a battery recharge. As it turned out, Saturday was one of the best days to enjoy the space. The park is a terrific addition to the **Merchandise Mart** and an important symbolic statement of Vornado’s investment intentions for the venerable building.

Each year, more companies are scheduling press walk-throughs and briefings on Sunday afternoon and evening. We’d be delighted to attend them all, but unfortunately we have to choose. The **Steelcase** press gathering is always



Steelcase leaders: Gale Moutrey, Allan Smith and Christine Congdon

interesting because before the walk-through, they have a presentation on the big ideas circulating through the industry and report on their own research. As usual, Christine Congdon, Editor of **360° Magazine** did a great job of hosting the gathering and moderating a panel consisting of James Ludwig, vice president of design, Gale Moutrey, vice president of communications, and Allan Smith, vice president of global marketing wherein they discussed some of the emerging brain science knowledge concerning the effects of workspace design on brain function. If you haven't already done so, we recommend picking up a copy of latest edition of 360° Magazine, entitled "Think Better."

At **Teknion**, we were treated to a tour by Teknion Studio President **Charlie Bell**. He introduced us to **Toan Nguyen** of Toan Nguyen Studio, Milan, the designer of **Infito** lounge and the **Masalla** Tables. The pair enchanted

us with the story behind these two gorgeous but highly rational products.

**HBF's** Sunday press gathering sent us around to speak face-to-face with the designers of each of the company's new products; it turned out to be a real treat because we got a great inside scoop on many of the HBF's

Best of NeoCon award winners. More on this later!

Come Monday morning, the halls of every show floor were unbelievably packed. We dove right into the fun, spoke with some amazing people, and succeeded in finding a plethora of contract furnishings that inspire.



Steelcase: James Ludwig



Toan Nguyen and Charlie Bell at Teknion with Infito

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