



## PRESS RELEASE

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### PAVE Gala Celebrates the Best in Retail Design

*Hollywood, Fla. (Dec. 18, 2008)*-- On Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2008, retailers, designers, and industry suppliers gathered at PAVE's 12th Annual Gala at Gotham Hall in New York City to celebrate and show their support for the future of the retail design industry. The Gala event drew a crowd of nearly 500 influential retailers, designers, and industry suppliers from companies including Macy's, Chico's, Polo Ralph Lauren, Sony Style, Target, Bergdorf Goodman, Louis Vuitton, Bank of America, Harley-Davidson, Chute Gerdeman Retail, Bergmeyer Associates, Gensler, Little, Callison, and many others. The event raised over \$65,000 for PAVE's educational programs. Ten students with winning projects in the Student Design Competition and six educators were able to attend the event through seats donated by industry companies.

Following a cocktail reception, guests were seated for dinner and the awards ceremony. During the awards presentation, PAVE recognized the winners of this year's PAVE Student Design Competition, sponsored by Macy's, awarding \$22,000 in grants to students and schools. For a complete list of student and school recipients, visit [here](#). PAVE Helping Hand Fund grants totaling \$25,000 were also announced. The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and O'More College of Design were both awarded \$12,500 to further projects for students.

Other awards presented at the gala included:

**Rising Star Award, presented by PAVE**

PAVE presented the second annual Rising Star Award to Rachel Zsembery, AIA, LEED AP, associate, Bergmeyer and Associates Inc. Please visit [here](#) for details on the award.

**The Best Windows of New York City, presented by DDI**

1st Place Platinum Award - Bergdorf Goodman

2nd Place Gold Award - Macy's

3rd Place Silver Award - Sony Style

Visit [here](#) for award details.

**Excellence in Visual Merchandising and Design awards, honoring retail design excellence in New York City, presented by VMSD**

Louis Vuitton

Polo Ralph Lauren

Visit [here](#) for award details.

***PAVE 12th Annual Gala Sponsors***

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*Note for editors: High-resolution images of the Gala are available. PAVE can also provide contacts for interviews. Contact Catharine Scott, above, for more information.*

**About PAVE**

Founded in 1992, The Planning and Visual Education Partnership's (PAVE) objective is to encourage students to study in the field of retail design and planning and visual merchandising through its annual Student Design Competition. Additionally, PAVE seeks to encourage retail management, store planners, visual merchandisers, architects, and manufacturers to interact with and support design students. This is accomplished through projects, seminars, workshops, and the annual fundraising Gala with proceeds dedicated to educational programs and projects benefiting students. PAVE is a 501(c)(3) educational foundation administered by A.R.E.