



PRESS RELEASE

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PAVE Announces 2008 Rising Star Award Winner

Hollywood, Fla. (Dec. 16, 2008)-- The Planning and Visual Education Partnership (PAVE) presented its 2008 Rising Star Award to Rachel Zsembery, AIA, LEED AP, associate, Bergmeyer Associates Inc. The award presentation took place during the 12th Annual PAVE Gala on Wednesday, Dec. 10 in New York City.

"PAVE has historically acknowledged the most talented students, awarding them with scholarships for outstanding achievement. Now with the introduction of the Rising Star Award, we have the opportunity to award a young professional working in the industry who has proven to be a leader with talent and vision in the retail environment. We are proud to present the 2nd Annual Rising Star Award to Rachel Zsembery, of Bergmeyer Associates, Inc.," said Nancy Jackson, Gala co-chair and president of Architectural Systems Inc.

Retailers and retail design firms were invited to nominate an individual who works in retail design, visual presentation, or contract design and is a proven innovator and leader among his or her peers. The three finalists for the 2008 award were: Pamela De Blanc, visual merchandise manager, MGM MIRAGE Retail; Matthew Grubar, director, visual merchandising, Elie Tahari Ltd.; and Rachel Zsembery, AIA, LEED, associate, Bergmeyer Associates Inc.

The following industry professionals are the judges for the 2008 Rising Star Award competition:

Rachel Arnold, partner, Transit Culture/R.A.A.; Christine Belich, vice president, visual merchandising, Sony Electronics Inc.; Ignaz Gorischek, vice president stores, visual, planning, and design, The Neiman Marcus Group Inc.; Nancy Jackson, president, Architectural Systems Inc.; and Steve Kaufman, editor, *VMSD Magazine*.

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.

PAVE — The Planning and Visual Education Partnership

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