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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2006

KI SPOTLIGHTS HEALTHCARE DESIGN AT NEOCON: DISPLAY OF AWARD-WINNING SOLTICE™ COLLECTION, SPECIAL EVENTS FEATURED IN SHOWROOM #1181

CHICAGO – KI showcases its furniture, expertise and partners for healthcare design at NeoCon World's Trade Fair 2006, June 12-14, at The Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

KI's full slate of activities for the healthcare market at NeoCon includes displays of its furniture in patient room, resource center and lobby settings. KI also provides furniture for administrative offices, cafeterias and training centers within acute and ambulatory care facilities. Dan Cramer and Paul James, designers of KI's new healthcare collection, Soltice™, will be on hand to meet with attendees.

On Monday, June 12, KI hosts the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID) as the organization recognizes its new certifiants. Immediately following the ceremony, "Healthcare Spaces No. 3" author Roger Yee presents "Can design improve America's healthcare?" Both events run concurrent with KI's annual wine and hors d'oeuvres reception.

"At this year's NeoCon, KI demonstrates its long-standing commitment to providing healthcare furniture that addresses the unique needs of patients, families and staff," said Debbie Breunig, RN, BSN, MBA, Vice President – Healthcare Market, KI.

The Soltice collection, winner of the prestigious Nightingale Award presented at Healthcare Design.05, will be prominently featured in showroom #1181. Soltice features sophisticated, classic lines softened by feminine sensibility and a simple, natural aesthetic that create a healing environment that is comfortable rather than clinical.

"We developed Soltice following extensive research with acute care providers and healthcare designers," said Breunig. "Soltice embodies our approach to understanding the healthcare market and developing furniture that serves all of the different users throughout a healthcare environment."

Each patient-centered, family oriented piece in the Soltice collection evokes a warm, residential feel. The elements work together without being identical to establish a consistent visual signature throughout an entire healthcare facility.

“A real point of distinction for Soltice is the breadth of style and scale in the line,” said James. “Instead of simply making large and small expressions of a single theme, we proposed three different sizes of chairs with complementary styling cues that make them functionally and aesthetically appropriate for different spaces. This approach gives the customer and space planner more choices on how to best furnish spaces such as private rooms, waiting areas or signature lobby situations.”

Other KI healthcare furniture on exhibit at NeoCon includes the multi-functional Three[®] Sleeper-Recliner, which incorporates a recliner and sleeper in one design. It has a wide range of recline positions for sitting and extends to a flat sleep surface that is 25 inches wide and 79 inches long to provide sleep-over comfort for family and guests.

In addition to displays of furniture, KI hosts a special healthcare event on Monday, June 12 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. AAHID will present certificates to professional interior designers who passed its first advanced healthcare certification examination.

“The exam recognizes the distinct challenges and skills required in designing interiors for healthcare. Earning certification is a significant achievement and we look forward to honoring this year’s recipients,” said Dan Lee, President of the Board of Regents of AAHID and CEO of Dan Lee Associates, Richardson, Texas. “We appreciate the support of KI as we continue to establish standards of professional training, excellence, experience and examinations for designers working in the complex field of healthcare interior design.”

As part of the event, editorial director Roger Yee launches his new book, “Healthcare Spaces No. 3,” which includes more than 800 color images of 150 hospitals and medical facilities with photos of specific areas such as lounges, recreational, patient rooms, dining areas, labs and more. The installations in the book reveal a profound change in the delivery of healthcare based on issues such as aging populations and the drive towards patient-focused care.

For more information about KI’s offerings for the healthcare market, go to www.kihealthcare.com.

KI manufactures innovative furniture and wall system solutions for educational, healthcare, business, commercial and government markets. The employee-owned company is headquartered in Green Bay, Wis. and operates sales offices and

manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. KI tailors products and service solutions to the specific needs of each customer through its unique “Market of One” customer service and manufacturing philosophy. For more information, visit www.ki.com.

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