



Susan Dickenson

Home Accents Today welcomes new Retail Advisory Board

April 28, 2015

THIS MONTH, Home Accents Today welcomes its new **Retail Advisory Board**, a group of 11 multichannel and multidisciplinary individuals spanning the brick-and-mortar, e-commerce, interior design, furniture store and franchise worlds of home décor and design. They, and the companies they represent, are respected, successful, award-winning names whose markets and reputations extend well beyond U.S. borders.

We're honored to present them here, in alphabetical order:



Ryan Fitzpatrick

Ryan Fitzpatrick, Wayfair's senior director of category management, oversees the day-to-day management of the online retailer's furniture and home décor business, responsible for overall strategy from a revenue, supplier management, merchandising and buying standpoint. Ryan has been with Wayfair for nine years, beginning in a customer service role and eventually moving into managerial and associate director positions in category management. Two of those years were spent working in Wayfair's London office to build up the company's U.K. business. Ryan earned his bachelor's degree from Bates College.

Yvonne Jacobs, president of **Slifer Designs**, grew up in southern Colorado where she first discovered her love for nature. After majoring in interior design she started her career in New York. When designing, Yvonne relies on her heritage – her great grandmother was part Navajo and loved creating folk art – along with her keen eye for combining the new with the old, and the elegant with the casual. She believes good design brings families together. Yvonne has been in the design industry since 1991. Slifer Designs and Home Store, operating for more than 30 years in Colorado's Vail Valley, was honored for retail excellence at the 26th Annual ARTS Awards.



Yvonne Jacobs



Mac Hoak

Mac Hoak, founder of **Mecox** home and garden stores, grew up in North Carolina and moved to New York City in 1984 with a degree in economics from the University of North Carolina and an MBA from the University of Virginia. After 10 years in finance, Mac followed his passion for antiques, design and fine furniture, opening the first Mecox location in 1996 in Southampton and eventually expanding to Palm Beach, New York City, East Hampton, Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and Houston. Each Mecox location is stylistically united by a "Mecox look" yet personalized according to local design styles and flavor. Mac was honored with the prestigious Academy of Achievement Honor at the 26th annual ARTS Awards in 2015.

Kecia T. Hielscher, **Nordstromrack.com** | **Hautelook's** vice president and e-commerce merchandise manager, Home, is a seasoned retail executive with more than 24 years of experience in multichannel platforms and 15 years specifically with a digital focus. She is responsible for developing the Home strategy across all categories and oversees the buying team responsible for acquiring and maintaining strong relationships with Hautelook's hundreds of Home brand partners. Kecia spent the majority of her career with Williams-Sonoma Inc., holding buying positions with both brick-and-mortar, e-commerce and direct-to-consumer channels, across multiple categories. She has also held buying positions in soft and hard goods with Cooking.com, Time Warner and The Walt Disney Company. Kecia is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles.



Kecia T. Hielscher

Mat Herman is the curator, co-founder and CEO of **Apt2B**, an e-commerce lifestyle brand of home furnishings and décor. Founded in 2011, Apt2B.com caters to apartment living and life in metropolitan areas, serving customers across the U.S. With a branded, relatable and often funny approach to home furnishings, Apt2B has built a reputation for filling a gap in the industry: a place for 20- to 40-year-olds to furnish their stylish homes on a budget. Prior to Apt2B, Mat worked on both sides of

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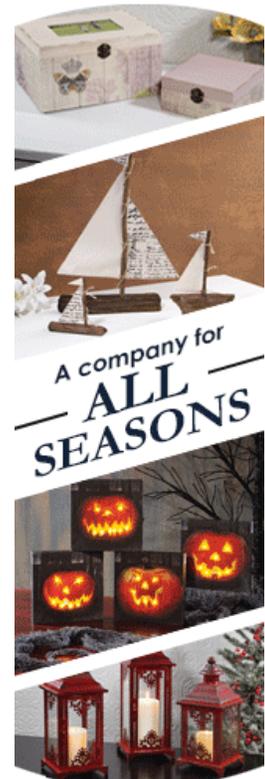
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Mat Herman

the retail aisle, running operations for a well-known furniture retailer in Southern California and as a wholesale rep for both Ashley Furniture and Simmons Upholstery.

Heather and Scott Harkovich opened **Heather Scott Home and Design** in 2007 in Austin, Texas. Heather, who leads the design operation, has

a fine arts degree from Vanderbilt University and an MBA from Texas A&M. Scott leads the retail operation with an undergraduate degree from Purdue University in retail management, and an MBA from Warwick University in England. Having worked more than a decade in corporate America, their combination of personal and professional experience has led to a focus on customer satisfaction, unique branding and timeless style. In 2013, they were awarded the ARTS Award for best Midwest/Southwest Home Accents Store, and named a Home Accents Today Retail Star.



Heather and Scott Harkovich

Kyle Johansen is the executive director of merchandising for **HOM Furniture**, a Top 50 furniture retailer with 15 HOM Furniture, four Gabberts Fine Furniture and Design, and two Dock86 showrooms in the upper Midwest. Kyle began with the company in 2003 as a retail sales associate before transferring to the buying office. He has also held internships with The Brick Group in Alberta, Canada and First Oceans in Shanghai, China. Kyle has a business management and human resource management degree from the University of St. Thomas.



Kyle Johansen

Jeffrey and Marisa Whittaker Humphrey, Real Deals on Furniture, Real Deals on Home Décor. Jeff and Marisa own The Old Jefferson Cotton Mill in North

Georgia, a 100-year-old factory turned retail destination that houses their two-acre furniture

store, Real Deals on Furniture. The Humphreys are also co-founders of the 80+ store franchise Real Deals on Home Decor. They have been importing furniture and home décor since 2004 with their import company Jackson & Harrison Imports and are co-founders and partners in a home décor factory in Shanghai. Marisa studied at Moscow State University in Russia; Jeff studied art and theatre in London; and they both received degrees from the College of Fine Arts and Communications at Brigham Young University.



Jeff Humphrey, Marisa Whittaker Humphrey

Barbara Mooney is the owner of San Francisco Bay-area **Daisy's**. Daisy's began in 2004 as a small gift and home store. As the store expanded, so too did its focus on home accents and furnishings categories. Although her degree is in accounting, Barbara has spent years creating the style that has become Daisy's signature look. During that time she has also, on numerous occasions, answered Home Accents Today's call to share her strategies – and passion – for clever and creative retailing, both in print and in person. Daisy's, located in Oakland and Alameda, Calif., has twice been named a Home Accents Today Retail Star.



Barbara Mooney

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