

For Immediate Release

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## Brentano's *Smart Home* Contest Winner Visits Chicago Kim Klingeisen of Smithgroup tours "Chicago's Greenest Home"

**Wheeling, IL (January 2010)**—In early November of 2009, Kim Klingeisen, an Associate at [Smithgroup](#) in Minneapolis, received an email with a subject line reading "And the winner is..." Upon opening it, she was surprised to read her own name. Soon after, plans were made to fly Kim and a guest to Chicago for a weekend in the Windy City and a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry's *Smart Home* exhibit, which is a free-standing, fully-functioning modular home that showcases the big and small ways to make eco-friendly living part of daily life.

Named "Chicago's Greenest Home," the exhibit focuses on environmentally-conscious architecture, practices, technology, and products, including an array of fabrics from the [Brentano Green](#) collection of eco-friendly interior textiles. This year's home featured bold colors, like 100% post consumer recycled polyester [Casita](#) in bright teal as well as eco-friendly faux leather [Royal Coach](#) in Su Fong Red which was used to upholster an ottoman.

After touring the home, Kim and her friend Kristin Slaikeu were accompanied by Brentano's National Sales Manager Jeff Frank and Marketing Coordinator Emily Mendenhall back to their hotel. Brentano selected the Wit hotel for the pair both for its ideal location and impressive design. The group went up to the Roof bar to check out the views over State Street. Following a chat about green design and the *Smart Home* exhibit, Jeff and Emily left Kim and her guest so they could get ready to enjoy the rest of their weekend in Chicago, which included a tacky holiday sweater pub crawl.

The *Smart Home: Green + Wired* exhibit closed on January 3, 2010. Additional information and photos can be found [here](#).





Exterior of the *Smart House: Green + Wired* exhibit decorated for the holidays with LED energy-saving Christmas lights.



From left: Kim Klingeisen, Krisin Slaikeu, and Brentano National Sales Manager Jeff Frank pose for a photo outside the festively-decorated 2009 *Smart Home*.

### **About Brentano:**

Founded in 1990 by Design Director Iris Wang and her husband and President E-Kwan Chen, Brentano has grown from a modest beginning of eight patterns to an internationally represented textile house. Brentano's fabrics stem from Wang's philosophy of balancing beauty + performance. Their growing collection of eco-fabrics expands this ideology by demanding textiles to meet thoroughly researched standards of environmental consciousness while maintaining their beauty. Celebrating their 20th anniversary in 2010, Brentano continues to offer a variety of innovative and interesting textiles, including eco-friendly faux leather, high performance upholstery, fire-resistant, outdoor and Crypton and Nano-Tex fabrics. Please visit [www.brentanofabrics.com](http://www.brentanofabrics.com) for more information.

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