

## A CHAIR BEFITTING A CLASSICAL GARDEN

LONDON, UK – When sitting in a Paris garden, most people focus on the natural beauty of their surroundings; however, designer Suzanne Trocmé focuses on the composition, framework and rhythm of the space, which was created by man rather than nature. It is within the strict structure of the formal garden that she finds the catalyst for the creation of her aptly named Allée chair.

Allée is Trocmé's first contribution to Bernhardt Design's Global Edition. Her work joins that of other highly acclaimed designers Arik Levy, Patrick Jouin, Christian Biecher, CuldeSac, Fredrikson Stallard, Jaime Hayon, Jeffrey Bennett, Lievore Altherr Molina, PearsonLloyd, Shin Azumi, and Yves Béhar and meets the collection's criteria of purity, simplicity, timelessness and permanence, set by the Creative Director of Bernhardt Design, Jerry Helling.

Trocmé chose the name Allée since “the word relates to the stringent design of French classical gardens – a pathway that is bordered by strict lines of trees, between which you can stroll freely so there is a contradiction of freedom with formation.” As with a French formal garden, the chair possesses a tension in its form, like many of the buildings Trocmé admires. “We all know that a chair is architecture in miniature as mid-century modernists proclaimed, but it is vital to go beyond that statement to create pieces which are wholly original and are suitable for modern temperament, yet embody their own personalities.”

Allée has equal curves and straight lines with shards appearing to have been sliced off the edge of a precipice. “I lived in St Germain-en-Laye for a while, and the garden there, designed by Le Notre, drops off a cliff. These shards are the cliff.” Trocmé describes this juncture: “There is one moment in the chair, at a point of union in the frame, where three planes meet with equal confidence and the form is multi-directional, that the chair appears to levitate.” The kick of the back leg echoes the Allée theme while making the chair appear kinetic. “It looks as if it were about to walk away.”

Allée is suitable for most environments from formal boardrooms to contemporary museums as well as the home. Allée is also designed for dining comfort, befitting a square or rectangular table as well as circular or oval, with a balance of curves and straight lines merging around any superficial form. The Allée is 29”h x 21”w x 23”d and available in solid maple in a variety of finishes and paint colors.

## **ABOUT SUZANNE TROCMÉ**

Born and educated in London, Suzanne Trocmé FRSA (née Huthert) moved to the USA where she began working in store development for Benetton. Her interest in retail space and design led her to work subsequently for Paul Smith as Retail Coordinator during his expansion years and for Ralph Lauren as Creative Coordinator for Polo Store Development, Europe. While spending many years in New York and Paris, Trocmé wrote on the subjects of art, fashion, music, interiors and architecture for a variety of magazines including The New York Times Magazine, Architectural Digest, House & Garden, The Telegraph, Interior Design (European Editor) and Wallpaper\* (Editor at Large). Apart from her contributions to print journalism, Trocmé began writing books following the birth of her first two sons and is the author of many publications which include Influential Interiors (Clarkson Potter), Retro Home (Rizzoli), Fabric (Mitchell Beazley), The New Moderns (Stewart, Tabori, Chang), Attention to Detail (Stewart, Tabori, Chang) and Cool Homes in Hot Places (HarpersCollins). Trocmé has received awards for her journalism and books including the American Fabric and Fiction Award, usually awarded for fiction, for her non-fiction work Influential Interiors. An expert in her chosen world of architecture and design, the author is often called upon to judge competitions. She has also presented radio programs in New York on WBAI and television in the UK with Granada, the BBC and Channel 4 television. Trocmé is married to designer Paul Verburg and has four sons

## **ABOUT BERNHARDT DESIGN**

Bernhardt Design was founded in 1980 by the 120-year-old Bernhardt Furniture Company and continues to be a leader and innovator in furniture design and production. During the past 10 years, Creative Director Jerry Helling has assembled an extraordinary creative team that has positioned Bernhardt Design as one of the leading international design companies with a roster of talent that includes: Ross Lovegrove (London), Yves Béhar (San Francisco), Fabien Baron (Paris), Patrick Jouin (Paris), Christian Biecher (Paris), Jeffrey Bennett (New York), Arik Levy (Paris), Suzanne Trocmé (London), Lievore Altherr Molina (Barcelona), Shin Azumi (London), hansandfranz (Munich), Tyler Brûlé (Zurich), Jaime Hayon (Barcelona), Erla Oskarsdottir (Reykjavik), Patrick Norguet (Paris), Fredrikson Stallard (London), Philippe Cramer (Geneva), Jhane Barnes (New York), CuldeSac (Valencia) and Bang Design (Sydney). Setting a precedent for leadership within the corporate community, Bernhardt Design created and sponsors an annual interdisciplinary course with the world renowned Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, challenging students to create world-class designs for mass production. The students' designs are then included as part of the Bernhardt Design standard product collection. Bernhardt Design also sponsors ICFF Studio, a scholarship program which provides emerging design talent exposure to manufacturers, retailers and the media from around the world.

**CONTACT**

For further information and images please contact:

Amy Dollamore or Pia Malling Pedersen at Camron PR:

Tel: +44 20 7420 1700

Email: [amy@camron.co.uk](mailto:amy@camron.co.uk) / [pia@camron.co.uk](mailto:pia@camron.co.uk)

Amy Clark

T 828 759 6641

[amyclark@bernhardt.com](mailto:amyclark@bernhardt.com)