



NEWS RELEASE

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THE MICHAEL S SMITH COLLECTION **Comfortable, Livable Forms, Engaging Fabrics Enhance Baker Upholstery Offering**

CHICAGO (October 16, 2010) – At the Fall 2010 International Home Furnishings Market, Baker introduced The Michael S Smith Collection of casegoods and upholstery designed by internationally renowned designer, Michael S Smith. Perfect scale, proportion, curvaceous form and supreme comfort are all prevalent in Smith’s upholstered designs, which include sofas offered in two lengths, occasional chairs, lounge chairs and ottomans. Expertly tailored by Baker, Smith brings a range of forms that are sophisticated and complex in execution. Inspired by English design, these are classic pieces that are at once refined and relaxed. Details include:

- Tightly upholstered frames
- Unique pillow designs and configurations for comfort and visual appeal
- Sweeping waterfall skirts
- Carved and fluted legs
- Solid brass ferrules and casters
- Nail head trim

Smith places great importance on upholstery, designing classic forms that can be repurposed and reused for generations to come. The forms have a transitional ability to easily move from traditional to modern settings and Baker stick-built craftsmanship to ensure it maintains its exceptional shape and comfort despite the daily rigors of everyday life.

An example of this marriage of established forms made modern and engaging is the Mayfair Sofa, which is inspired by 1930s English upholstery. This engaging sofa is a study in continuous, sculptural movement. The fine shaped back carries down to sculpted arms that slightly flare out. Three loose back cushions and three loose seat cushions are flanked by two plump throw pillows. The sofa is offered in 86-inch and 98-inch lengths and in customer’s choice of tight upholstered base with nail head trim or elegant dressmaker’s skirt.

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Each upholstered piece is crafted by the exacting standards synonymous with Baker. Fabric is hand-cut and sewn on-line one inch at a time, then hand tacked and re-tacked to a perfect flow match on all four sides. Endless quality checks are made to ensure perfect pitch and correct cushion selection for extraordinary comfort and support. Hardwood frames are hand-constructed with corners blocked, glued, screwed, and dowelled in Old World fashion. True eight-way hand spring-to-base tying to position more springs to support pressure points ensures the furniture maintains its beauty for years to come.

There are two main fabric color palettes – Cornflower and Pomegranate – that were selected by Smith to enhance these forms. It is also Smith’s love for all things traditional that brings a strong connection and a passion for printed fabrics, as well as those with a rich historical connection. An elegant mix of toiles in three colorways, a 19th century French damask document print, and an Indian-inspired blanket print in two colorways, all add to the wealth of color and texture found in his Baker fabric line.

Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Inc. includes Baker furniture, Baker Knapp & Tubbs Showrooms, and Baker Stores. Along with McGuire Furniture Company, Ann Sacks tile, stone and plumbing company, Kallista plumbing, and Mark David hospitality furniture, it is part of the Kohler Interiors Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kohler Co., a global leader in kitchen and bath designs.

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