

Celebrating the elements of design

King East. Large-scale public art installations set to transform design neighbourhood



CONDO TRENDS
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The King East Design District is a tightly knit business community of some of Toronto's finest contemporary furnishing showrooms. Here you will find every imaginable element of design to deck out your condo in style.

For 24 hours this weekend, King Street East will be transformed into an outdoor exhibition and art gallery. Somewhat like a cross between Doors Open for designers and an art crawl, installations will be curated by top local and international designers and artists that will span the neighbourhood.

KEDD is Toronto's largest public festival celebrating contemporary design, with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity. Starting in St.



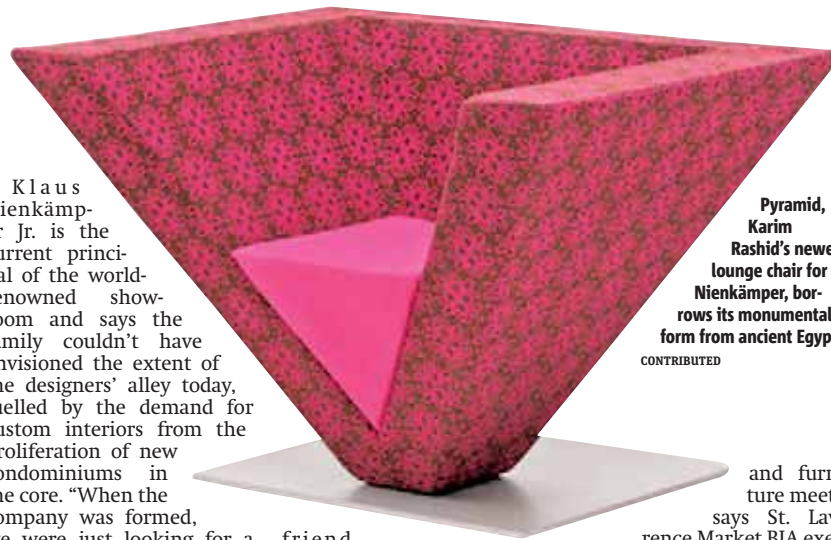
King East showroom owner Klaus Nienkämper Jr. CINDY BLAZEVIC

James Park, the event will run along King and Church to east of Parliament, and along Adelaide from Church to Parliament.

The King East Design District found its roots as early as 1968, when Klaus Nienkämper converted the circa 1845 building at 300 King St. E., into one of his first showrooms. This historic stretch of King Street would eventually become Toronto's SoHo for condo designers and outfitters.

Klaus Nienkämper Jr. is the current principal of the world-renowned showroom and says the family couldn't have envisioned the extent of the designers' alley today, fuelled by the demand for custom interiors from the proliferation of new condominiums in the core. "When the company was formed, we were just looking for a building that we could afford and had no idea at the time that this would become the cornerstone of the contemporary design scene here in Toronto."

One of the many exhibits will be a public art project at Klaus by Toronto artist Thrush Holmes, a massive 10x10 ft. installation set to become a permanent public art display. "Thrush Holmes is a



Pyramid, Karim Rashid's newest lounge chair for Nienkämper, borrows its monumental form from ancient Egypt. CONTRIBUTED

friend and he's an artist. He also has one of his studios in our building. He is doing an installation on the side of the building," explains Nienkämper.

The KEDD design festival will establish the neighbourhood as the go-to hub for contemporary design in Toronto. "Sept. 20 is the catalyst for launching the design district in Toronto. It's where design

and furniture meet," says St. Lawrence Market BIA executive director Alan Smith. "It's a distinct neighbourhood that has been around and we're bringing it out and presenting it to the public."

The festival has been two years in the planning stage says Smith. "They're creating large-scale art installations that basically transform the neighbourhood. Each showroom will have some of its own unique traits as well."



Heart Mountain by Canadian artist Thrush Holmes. CONTRIBUTED



A collage of King Street Design District showrooms. DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Legal Matters

In tight spot over parking error

We recently purchased a condo with two parking spots that are side by side. A couple of weeks after the closing, the builder's lawyer approached our lawyer saying they had transferred the wrong parking spot and they requested that we sign the deed parking spot back to them for correction. We are concerned that the new spot that they are proposing will not be side by side and will make for inconvenience. We would like to keep the spots. What would you suggest?



LEGAL MATTERS
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First, determine where the new proposed parking spot is. If it is simply on the other side of the static spot then you should be fine. Otherwise, a workable solution may be to request that the parking spot they want to change you to would be suitable for the person for whom they have allotted to your old side-by-side. Otherwise you may have a bit of a battle on your hands and you should consult with your lawyer or someone who can assist you, such as litigation counsel. The basis of your argument is that you were sold the spots that you received and so the builder needs to find an alternate solution for their allotment problem.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.



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