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SWEETS NEWS AND PRODUCTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MCGRAW-HILL COMPANIES | SWEETS.COM | MAY / JUNE 2009



■ MAIN EVENT

Showrooms Open with a Splash

A NEAL SMALL RETROSPECTIVE marks the opening of the new showroom and headquarters of **Material ConneXion**, a New York-based resource center for novel architectural materials. Small, a pioneer in the use of Plexiglas and Lucite in furnishings and lighting products, is also in the **Museum of Modern Art's** permanent collection with his famous red acrylic *Floor Lamp* (1966) and white spherical *Area Lamp* (1968). The Small exhibit is just one example of the competition manufacturers now face to lure designers into their display spaces. Even commercial product makers, such as plumbing products company **Toto** and Dutch cladding maker **Trespa** have opened showrooms where they mount exhibitions and symposia to draw in the crowds. Material ConneXion has hit the nail on the head, however, pairing a great designer's legacy with its own mission to encourage the use of novel ceramics, glass, metals, and plastics.

LAB FOR THE NEXT PIONEER?

The library at Material ConneXion, where a new retrospective exhibition honors designer Neal Small.