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World Premiere Screening Set for New Documentary Film on Influential British Designers Robin and Lucienne Day

Denver, March 1, 2010 – Design Onscreen--The Initiative for Architecture and Design on Film announces the world premiere screening of its latest documentary, *Contemporary Days: Robin and Lucienne Day Design the UK*. The sixty-minute film premieres at 7:30pm on May 15, 2010 at the National Geographic Museum's Grosvenor Auditorium, 1145 17th Street NW, Washington, DC. A question and answer session with Director Murray Grigor and Cinematographer Hamid Shams will follow the screening. For more information on the premiere and film, and to purchase tickets to the event, please visit www.designonscreen.org. **Tickets must be purchased in advance via the Design Onscreen website.**

The May 15th premiere event has been scheduled to coincide with the opening of *Art by the Yard: Women Design Mid-Century Britain*, on view at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC May 15 through September 12, 2010. The exhibition features Lucienne Day's work as well as a selection of furniture designed by her husband, Robin, and textiles by two of her design contemporaries: Jacqueline Groag and Marian Mahler. An excerpt from the film is featured in the exhibition. For more information on the exhibition and related programs, please visit www.textilemuseum.org.

About the Film:

Robin and Lucienne Day transformed British design after World War II with striking furniture and textiles that signaled a new era of modernist sensibilities for everyday living. Robin's revolutionary furniture designs introduced materials such as plastic, steel and plywood to homes, offices and schools. His stacking polypropylene chair endures as an icon and now graces a Royal Mail postage stamp. Lucienne's abstract textile designs brought accessible elegance into the homes of postwar British consumers. The Days' fresh design approaches, including their contributions to the Royal

Festival Hall in 1951, helped fuel the artistic and commercial awakening that led Britain out of the devastation of World War II. The film traces the Days' personal and professional progression over the course of their careers, spanning more than seventy years—from their days at the Royal College of the Arts in the 1930s, through their long heyday at the forefront of British design, to their recent rediscovery by new generations of design aficionados.

About the Filmmakers:

Director Murray Grigor is a Scottish filmmaker, writer and curator renowned for his films on architecture and design. His first film, on Charles Rennie Mackintosh, won five international awards, and he has since co-authored *The Architects' Architect* on Mackintosh's international influence. Grigor's other award-winning films include groundbreaking documentaries on Frank Lloyd Wright, Robert Adam and John Soane, and the landmark PBS series *Pride of Place* with Robert Stern. His most recent film, *Infinite Space: The Architecture of John Lautner*, has been a festival favorite since its premiere in 2008 at UCLA's Hammer Museum.

Cinematographer/Producer Hamid Shams has served as director, cinematographer and/or producer for numerous television commercials, music videos and short and feature documentary/narrative films, including *Infinite Space: The Architecture of John Lautner*, *Tie-Died: Rock 'n Roll's Most Dedicated Fans*, and *Painting the Town*—all of which received highly favorable reviews for cinematography in major newspapers and festivals around the US and Europe.

About Design Onscreen:

Design Onscreen is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit foundation dedicated to producing, promoting and preserving high-quality films on architecture and design. Founded in 2007 by Denver documentary enthusiasts Jill A. Wiltse and H Kirk Brown III, Design Onscreen's other architectural documentaries include: ***William Krisel, Architect*** (screening at LA's Getty Center in April 2010), ***Journeyman Architect: The Life and Work of Donald Wexler*** (2009) and ***Desert Utopia: Midcentury Architecture in Palm Springs*** (2009). Another Design Onscreen film, ***Hella Jongerius: Contemporary Archetypes*** (2009), premiered in May 2009 at New York's Museum of Modern Art and Museum of Art and Design. Please visit www.designonscreen.org.

About The Textile Museum:

The Textile Museum is a nonprofit art museum dedicated to expanding public awareness and appreciation – locally, nationally and internationally – of the artistic merit and cultural importance of the world's textiles. The museum presents changing exhibitions of historical textiles from its 18,000-piece collection and other holdings as well as contemporary fiber art, complemented by a range of public programs for all ages. Established in 1925 by collector George Hewitt Myers, the museum is housed in two historic buildings at 2320 S Street, NW, Washington, DC. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. The suggested donation for admission is \$5 for non-members. For more information, please visit www.textilemuseum.org or call (202) 667-0441.

About *Art by the Yard: Women Design Mid-Century Britain*:

The art of textile design changed radically after World War II as Britain was transformed from a country devastated by war into an optimistic consumer society. Three women designers were pivotal in this artistic revolution: Lucienne Day (1917- 2010), Jacqueline Groag (1903-1985) and Marian Mahler (1911-1983). Incorporating dramatic saturated colors and bold motifs inspired by artists like Alexander Calder and Joan Miró, these young designers transformed the market by inspiring elegant yet affordable product lines that brought the world of contemporary art into everyone's homes. ***Art by the Yard: Women Design Mid-Century Britain, on view at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC May 15 through September 12, 2010***, will showcase the work of these groundbreaking women designers through the display of textiles together with drawings and collages, ceramics and period furniture, all drawn from the Jill A. Wiltse and H. Kirk Brown III Collection of British Textiles.

End

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World Premiere Documentary Screening Information Sheet

Contemporary Days: Robin and Lucienne Day Design the UK

A new documentary film presented by Design Onscreen—The Initiative for Architecture and Design on Film.

Audience question & answer session with Director Murray Grigor and Cinematographer Hamid Shams immediately following the screening

The May 15th premiere event coincides with the opening of the *Art by the Yard: Women Design Mid-century Britain* exhibition at DC's Textile Museum on May 15.

WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING

Saturday May 15th, 2010

Washington, DC

7:30pm film start time

(Run time: 60 mins)

Gilbert H. Grosvenor Auditorium

National Geographic Museum

1145 17th Street NW

Washington, D.C., US

20036

Telephone: +1 202 857 7588

Tickets: \$15

Special ticket price for Textile Museum members: \$10

Tickets must be purchased in advance via the Design Onscreen website:

www.designonscreen.org

Free garage parking included with ticket purchase.

No onsite ticket sales.