



openhousenewyork

**Media Contacts:** Linda G. Miller, 212.725.7656, [lindagmiller@earthlink.net](mailto:lindagmiller@earthlink.net)  
Deborah Kirschner, 917.239.7696, [deborahkirschner@hotmail.com](mailto:deborahkirschner@hotmail.com)

**OPENHOUSENEWYORK CELEBRATES SIXTH ANNUAL OHNY WEEKEND  
SHOWCASING NEW YORK'S DIVERSE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN**

**2008 OHNY Weekend Presented by Target, Saturday & Sunday, October 4 & 5**

**Free Access to Over 350 Sites and Programs, including Tours, Talks,  
Performances, and Family Activities in All Five Boroughs**

**NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008** – openhousenewyork (OHNY) will celebrate its 6th Annual OHNY Weekend, America's largest architecture and design event, October 4 & 5, 2008. Presented by Target, OHNY Weekend provides the public with free access to nearly **200 sites** of architecture, landscape architecture, engineering and design significance throughout all five boroughs, including many that are normally closed to the public, as well as nearly **150** tours, talks, performances, and family activities and workshops.

"Our sixth annual OHNY Weekend is the largest and most diverse ever," said Scott Lauer, founder of openhousenewyork. "We encourage the public to explore new neighborhoods in all five boroughs, not only well-known architectural treasures but hidden gems that will be brought to life by architects, designers, historians, and other visionaries who want to share their knowledge of our great city."

More than 200,000 people are expected to participate in this year's event, which in past years has drawn audiences from beyond the five boroughs to encompass all 50 states and many nations around the world. This year, noteworthy new and returning sites include **Shigeru Ban's Metal Shutter Houses, behind the scenes at Radio City Music Hall, the addition to Queens Theatre in the Park originally designed by Philip Johnson** for the 1964/1965 World's Fair; and tours of major civic projects including the redevelopment of the **High Line, Governors Island, Fresh Kills** and the **World Trade Center site. Flux Factory** will partner with OHNY to present Living Room, where ten artists transform strangers' homes into sites for interactive works. **The Museum of Modern Art** will offer a private tour of *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling*, a pre-renovation tour of **The BankNote**, a landmarked building. There will also be a screening of a work-in-progress, **Learning from Bob and Denise**, an upcoming feature-length documentary that examines the personal, academic and professional lives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. In addition, OHNY will present its first **OHNY Family Festival** at the Center for Architecture that will engage children in activities about the design and building process featuring the Brooklyn Children's Museum, Hester Street Collaborative, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, National Building Museum, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Solar One, and the South Street Seaport Museum.

OHNY Weekend 2008 marks the fifth year of leadership support from Target. In addition, *The New York Times Company* is for the third year printing and distributing 400,000 Event Guides with a cover designed by Maira Kalman, in the September 26 City Edition of its paper, and a special Kids Activity Guide will be distributed by *The New York Times* to 300 New York City schools on September 30. During the Weekend, Event Guides and Kids Activity Guides will also be available for free at all OHNY sites in all five boroughs, the Times Square Information

Center, Wall Street Rising, and The Center for Architecture, operated by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which will again serve as a welcome center. All site and program information will be available at [www.ohny.org](http://www.ohny.org) starting the night of September 25. In addition to the Weekend programs, OHNY will again sponsor “Focus on Architecture,” a photography competition where all ages can submit photos taken during the event.

**For all event information, including those that require advance reservations, the public can access RSVP info at [www.ohny.org](http://www.ohny.org) and in the print edition of the guides. For event updates and other information, the public can also call (212) 991-OHNY.**

\* \* \*

Below are a few of the many highlights of OHNY Weekend 2008:

#### **NOTEWORTHY NEW ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN:**

Tour **Steven Holl Architect’s New York University Department of Philosophy**, the interior renovation of a 1890 corner building at 5 Washington Place; 2008 AIA/NY Design Award Winner **Banchet Flowers**, a modern hybrid atelier and event space carved out of a warehouse in the Historic Meatpacking District; **Metal Shutter Houses**, Shigeru Ban's first new construction condominium project in the United States, which consists of nine duplexes with motorized, perforated metal shutters that rise and fall to shut off the street-facing windows and terraces. Architect Lyn Rice will give a behind-the-scenes tour of **The Sheila C. Johnson Design Center**, a new campus center for Parsons The New School for Design created from the shell of four historic buildings. Other featured new works include **Annabelle Selldorf’s** condo at **520 West Chelsea**, tours with the architects of the **Museum of Art and Design**, **SANAA’s New Museum of Contemporary Art**, and renovation/modernization of the **Cherry Lane Theater**.

#### **SITES OF HISTORIC INTEREST:**

Tour the **French Embassy**, built in high Italian Renaissance style by architect Stanford White; learn about the **Chrysler Building** in a special talk in its grand lobby; take a tour of **Mid-century Modernist architectural gems** that defined the movement; and view the preservation and green renovation of the **Eldridge Street Synagogue**. In addition, visit the **Octagon on Roosevelt Island**, a former municipal asylum converted into sustainable apartments; and **The Gatehouse**, a fortress-like structure once part of Croton Aqueduct system, now a performance space in Harlem. In the Bronx, visit the Greek Revival **Bartow-Pell Mansion**; the **Van Cortlandt House**, a revolutionary war era Georgian fieldstone country house; and the **Old Croton Aqueduct**. In Brooklyn, discover the **Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House**, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Colonial farmhouse; **The Montauk Club**, inspired by a Venetian Gothic palace; and **Floyd Bennett Field**, the city’s first airport with its unique underground tunnels. In Queens, visit the 1860s battlements of **Fort Totten** and tour the site of the **1939 and 1964/1965 World’s Fairs**. And in Staten Island, visit the **St. George Theatre**, a former vaudeville house decorated in a mixture of Spanish and Italian Baroque styles; and the **Alice Austen House**, initially a farmhouse and renovated into a Gothic Victorian on the shores of New York Harbor.

#### **PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SPACES:**

Take a behind-the-scenes tour of some of the city's most interesting residences, including a **NoHo Penthouse and Roof Garden**; a modern **Sutton Place Apartment**; the **Duane Street Live/Work Loft**, home of Marpillero Pollak Architects; the **Fairfax & Sammons Residence**, an architect’s home of composed of two Greenwich Village carriage houses; the experimental **Forsyth Street Loft**; the Upper West Side **Giesen Residence**, home to a designer who mixes traditional and contemporary design; a renovated wood-frame **Federal-style townhouse** in Brooklyn, an 1880s renovated **Park Slope Row House**, architect **Adam Kushner’s** residence in Greenwich Village and join **SHoP Architects** for a tour of **The Porter House**.

### **GREEN DESIGN:**

The public can tour the office of **Atelier Ten Environmental Designers**; learn to harvest water and solar energy to light and irrigate the **Target East Harlem Community Garden**; the East Village's **Wild Project**, a manufacturing building turned into a performance space with a green rooftop oasis; **Build It Green! NYC**, a marketplace for reusable building materials in Queens; the multi-award winning **Queens Botanical Garden Visitor Center**, that received a LEED-platinum rating; a **walking tour of green homes in Battery Park City and the East Village**; and Staten Island's **Greenbelt Native Plant Center**.

### **FAMILY PROGRAMS:**

In addition to the **OHNY Family Festival**, OHNY Weekend offers a number of fun activities for families, including a walking tour of **Soho's Cast-Iron Buildings**; **House About It!** an exhibition about the who, what and how of house building at the Staten Island Children's Museum; the **John J. Harvey Fireboat**, a hero of 9/11; tours of the **Science Barge**, a floating, sustainable urban farm powered by solar, wind, and biofuels; **Harlem Through Our Five Senses**, a workshop that will teach kids how to develop a non traditional sense-based map; **School of the Future's Green Roof and Garden**, where kids will plant sedums and hear students talk about the impact of green roofs on our city; a historical tour of the **Great Brooklyn Bridge**; and **Preservation Detectives at Eldridge Street**, where kids uncover the story of the synagogue and create artwork inspired by their discoveries.

### **NEIGHBORHOODS REFLECTING THE CHANGING FACE OF NEW YORK:**

There are hundreds of distinct neighborhoods in New York City, and many can be explored during OHNY Weekend. In the Bronx, discover the **Mott Haven** section with its old factories, tenements and brownstones; Art Deco and Art Moderne buildings along the **Grand Concourse**; the historic houses of **Wave Hill**; and **Melrose Commons**, an award-winning, community-developed urban renewal project. In Brooklyn, tour **Coney Island**, America's playground, poised for commercial and residential development; the **Gowanus** waterway, an industrial area undergoing a renaissance; historic **Weeksville**, built by a community of free African-Americans in the 19th century; **Wallabout**, a proposed landmark district with wood-frame houses and an industrial landscape. In Manhattan, visit **Tudor City**, a 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development with a Tudor feel; the **Fourth Arts Block**, a new cultural district in the East Village; Harlem's **Mount Morris Park** with its collection of late 19th century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century townhouses; and re-envision the future of **South Street Seaport**. In Queens, visit historic **Richmond Hill** in Queens, the first planned garden community; and hilly **Jamaica Estates**, known for its private homes. And on Staten Island, visit **Snug Harbor**, once a retired sailor's community.

### **CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS:**

A number of cultural institutions will provide free access during OHNY Weekend, this includes **Bronx Museum of the Arts**, **Brooklyn Children's Museum**, **the Brooklyn Museum**, **Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum**, **Guggenheim Museum**, **Morgan Library and Museum**, **Museum of the City of New York**, **New Museum of Contemporary Art**, **Rubin Museum of Art**, **the New York Botanical Garden**, **Queens Museum of Art**, **the Sculpture Center**, **Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge**, as well as the **Austrian Cultural Forum**, **Japan Society**, **Scandinavia House**, and the **Storefront for Art and Architecture**. **The Museum of Modern Art** will also offer a private tour of their new exhibit *Home Delivery: Fabricating the Modern Dwelling*.

### **ARCHITECTURE INSPIRED PERFORMANCES, STUDIO VISITS, INSTALLATIONS:**

The public can enjoy *Angles & Accordions*, a site-specific tour/performance by choreographer **Martha Bowers** and **Dance Theatre Etcetera** at Green-Wood Cemetery; **Dancing in the**

**Streets** presents five short works created by five choreographers in five days for a mystery site that will only be revealed to the public on September 29, five days before the public performances; *The Crane Wife*, a traditional Japanese performance at Pier 66 in West Chelsea; and the **Flux Factory's** Living Room, where this art collective has invited ten artists to transform strangers' homes into sites for interactive works. In addition, **HomeBase at Whitebox** screens a documentary about its annual community based project in which international artists inhabit a raw urban space and interpret the meaning of home; a screening of a work-in-progress, **Learning from Bob and Denise**, an upcoming feature-length documentary that examines the personal, academic and professional lives of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, followed by Q & A with director Jim Venturi; glass blowing demonstrations at **One Sixty Glass** in Williamsburg; tours of **EverGreene Painting Studios**, the largest architectural decorative arts company; **Artists in Place**, a program of public artists discuss their site-specific works below 14th Street; and award winning lighting installations in lower Manhattan and at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge in DUMBO.

\* \* \*

### **Background on OHNY**

OHNY was inspired by the success of similar events, starting with London Open House, Doors Open Toronto and other cities around the world. The 2003 inaugural OHNY Weekend was launched as part of New York City's first Architecture Week. Through the Annual openhouse**newyork** Weekend and year-round public programs, OHNY educates a diverse audience about New York's architecture by providing access to innovative, inspiring and engaging sites of architectural, engineering and design significance. OHNY is a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Supporters of OHNY include many of the city's leading arts institutions, civic groups and government officials, including: Alliance for the Arts, American Institute of Architects/NY Chapter, American Planning Association/NY MetroChapter, Architectural League, Architecture for Humanity, arthARLEM, Arts & Business Council, Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association, Battery Park City Authority, Big Apple Greeter, The Bronx County Historical Society, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Historical Society, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Brooklyn Museum, C. Eule Dance, Center for Architecture Foundation, Center for the Urban Environment, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Creative Time, cultureNOW, Dance Theatre Etcetera, Dancing in the Streets, The Design Trust for Public Space, DOCOMOMO US, The Emerging NY Architects Committee/AIA NY Chapter, EverGreene Painting Studios, Inc., Flux Factory, The Forbes Galleries, Friends of the High Line, Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, Governors Island Preservation & Education Corporation, GreenHomeNYC, Harlem One Stop, Henry Street Settlement, Historic House Trust, Historic Richmond Town, Japan Society, Kentler International Drawing Space, Landmark West!, Leave It Better, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, The Montauk Club, More Art, The Morgan Library & Museum, Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden, Museum at Eldridge Street, Museum of the City of New York, Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, National Building Museum, National Park Service, The New York Botanical Garden, New York Transit Museum, New Museum, NYC & Company, NYC Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Department of Education, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Office of the Mayor, NY Sun Works, Noble Maritime Collection, Office of the Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer, One Sixty Glass, Pier Glass, Queens Botanical Garden, Queens Museum of Art, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Richmond Hill Historical Society, Salvatori Center, Save Ellis Island, School of the Future, Solar One, South Street Seaport Museum, Staten Island Children's Museum, Times Square Alliance, Tom Otterness, Tudor City Living, Union Square Partnership, Walkin' New York, Wall Street Rising, The Waterfront Museum and Showboat

Barge, Wave Hill, Welcome to Harlem Tours, WQXR-FM, Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Representative Jerrold Nadler, State Senator Thomas K. Duane, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate Levin; and Council Members Gale Brewer, Leroy Comrie, Bill de Blasio, Daniel Garodnick, James Gennaro, Alan Gerson, Eric Gioia, Joel Rivera and borough historians Stanley Cogan, Richard Dickenson, Michael Miscione, Ron Schweiger, and Lloyd Ultan.

### **About Target**

Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at 1,648 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Target is committed to providing guests with great design through innovative products, in-store experiences and community partnerships. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at Target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Target (NYSE:TGT) gives more than \$3 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs. In New York, Target partners with organizations such as openhouse**newyork**, The Museum of Modern Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, El Museo del Barrio, Wave Hill, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and the Brooklyn Museum to offer families free access to cultural performances and exhibitions.

### **Support Provided By:**

Extell Development Company, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, New York Council for the Humanities (state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities), NYC Council, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, New York University, Office of Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Target, The New York Times, Trust for Architectural Easements, WABC-TV.

### **Additional Support Provided By:**

Activaire, Architectural Record, Battery Park City Authority, Bertha and Isaac Liberman Foundation, Hon. Daniel Garodnick, Hon. James Gennaro, KidsGuide.com, National Park Service, NYC & Company, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, NYC Speaker Christine Quinn, Peak Organic Brewing, The Architect's Newspaper, The Marrus Family Foundation, The Whitman Foundation, and Viromare.

# # #