

CFCRA luncheon demonstrates apps that mean business

At its recent holiday luncheon hosted at the **Ardex** training centre and Canadian headquarters in



Mississauga, Ont., the CFCRA invited members to experience software training designed to streamline their businesses. Typically, the Georgetown, Ont.-based **Canadian Flooring, Cleaning and Restoration Association** offers regular training sessions that help members improve their installation technical skills, but this time chartered accountant Etelvina Igrada (second from left above) of **Clever Accounting** in Toronto, Ont., provided the instruction. Igrada's clients include hardwood flooring installers, custom millwork and architectural businesses, so her expertise comes with an inside knowledge of their operations. She demonstrated how mobile apps can provide flooring installers and estimators the ability to perform estimates and generate electronic invoices that can be signed in the field on any smartphone. "With online banking, you're already using an app," says Igrada. "Now you are just bringing them into your business."

NAFCD announces 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award winner



Bob Wagner

In November, the Chicago, Ill.-based **North American Association of Floor Covering Distributors** (NAFCD) recognized Bob Wagner of **Fishman Flooring Solutions** in Baltimore, Md.,

as the recipient of the 2017 NAFCD Lifetime Achievement Award. Wagner currently serves as president and ceo at Fishman. His experience in the flooring installation business dates back to the mid-1970s, when he was trained as a floor covering installer while in high school and worked in his family's flooring installation supply business. He is a strong believer in giving back to the flooring installation community, and is actively involved in industry affairs and is a past president of NAFCD. In his current capacity, Wagner oversees more than 210 employees working in 35 locations who, since May 2012, own 100 percent of their company. The award recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional leadership and made outstanding contributions that have led to expanding the vision of the floor covering distribution channel.

Ivanhoé Cambridge begins major work to the Place Ville Marie Esplanade



Initiating a new chapter in the "Projet Nouveau-Centre," its plan for downtown Montreal, Que., **Ivanhoé Cambridge** has announced an investment of \$200 million to revitalize the Esplanade and renew the commercial offering at Place Ville Marie. To execute this historic project, Montreal-based Ivanhoé Cambridge has called upon Montreal firms **Sid Lee Architecture** and **Menkès Shooner Dagenais Létourneux Architectes**. The revitalization of the Esplanade is a new milestone in Projet Nouveau-Centre, Ivanhoé Cambridge's plan to invest \$1 billion in downtown Montreal.

J+J Flooring promotes Ginger Gilbert to vice president



Ginger Gilbert

Dalton, Ga.-based **J+J Flooring Group**, a diversified manufacturer of commercial specified flooring, has announced that Ginger Gilbert has been promoted to vice president of Design &

Development. Gilbert most recently served as director of Product Design. She is now responsible for all standard and custom product design and development, product fulfillment and sampling, and overall product management and performance. She reports to J+J president David Jolly.

Montreal firms win World Architecture Festival award

Montreal, Que.-based **CannonDesign** and **NEUF architect(e)s** have announced that their recently opened new Centre



Receiving the 2017 Inside World Festival of Interiors in Health and Education category — Azad Chichmanian (centre), architect partner NEUF architect(e)s and Gustavo Lima (right), architect partner CannonDesign.

hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) has won the 2017 Inside World Festival of Interiors Award in the Health and Education category. In integrating existing facilities and adjacent heritage buildings, the judges recognized the new CHUM as an "urban experience of lively and accessible nature." The Inside World Festival of Interiors is part of the World Architecture Festival (WAF) in Berlin, Germany, an event that brings together the best projects of the year from all over the globe in a competitive setting. This year marked the festival's 10th anniversary.

Boa-Franc receives grand prix honour at Quebec awards for second time



For the second time in a row, **Boa-Franc**, the 35-year-old Saint-Georges, Que.-based manufacturer of the Mirage brand of pre-finished hardwood floors, has received the highest award bestowed by the Quebec government on businesses and organizations that successfully apply best business practices. A Grand Prix in the small to medium-size independent manufacturing company category was presented to Boa-Franc in a ceremony at the Palais des congrès de Montréal in November. The award recognizes organizational excellence and outstanding results, but Boa-Franc was further singled out by the jury for the quality of its strategic planning process and its attentiveness to both customers and markets.

Coverings show searches for talent under 35

Coverings, the largest international tile and stone show in North America, is now accepting nominations for 2018 Rock Stars, an emerging leader program honouring young industry talent. Individuals under the age of 35 and currently employed by or as an architect, designer, distributor, retailer, contractor/installer, fabricator, specifier, trade association, or manufacturer in the tile or stone indus-

try are eligible for the award, and must be nominated by a colleague who is also active within the industry. Selected 2018 Rock Stars and their nominators will be honoured at the Rock Star Awards Luncheon during Coverings 2018 in Atlanta, Ga., from May 8-11. In addition to being profiled on the Coverings website for one year, Rock Stars will also receive a free one-night hotel stay in Atlanta, Ga., for Coverings 2018, social media promotion, inclusion in a Coverings press release, and a dedicated Rock Star badge ribbon. A com-

mittee of industry leaders will select winners based on individuals' impact on and previous recognition within the industry. To nominate a mentee or colleague, complete a submission form at coverings.com/coverings-rock-stars. All nominations must be submitted by Monday, February 5, 2018. Taking place in Atlanta for the first time in five years, the 2018 show will feature 1,100 exhibitors representing more than 40 countries and take over 450,000 square feet of exhibition space at the Georgia World Congress Center.



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