



Casual Living announces Merchandising Award winners 2007

Hauser's Patio & Rattan earns top honor

Courtney M. Paschal -- Casual Living, 6/6/2007 8:43:00 AM

Once again, staff here at Casual Living pulled together a panel to judge entries in our seventh annual Merchandising Awards contest. This year, in particular, we wanted to do something a little different. For the first time, we received a sponsor for the contest – Glen Raven, makers of Sunbrella fabrics – and have also awarded the Most Fashionable Retailer with not only a crystal plaque and certificate, but a store visit with designer Mark Abrams.

We recognize winners of this year's contest as exemplary retailers who present fashionable showrooms with plenty of accessories to accent the furniture as well as show off current trends in the industry.

Judges for the 2007 awards included Mark Abrams, visual merchandising expert and designer; Susan Dickenson, retail editor of Home Accents Today; and members of the Casual Living staff — Becky Boswell Smith, former editor in chief; Cinde W. Ingram, editor in chief, and Courtney M. Paschal, associate editor.

As always, we thank all the retailers who took time to submit photos of their stores. And we invite other retailers to photograph their stores during the year so they can enter next year's competition. We also extend an invitation to manufacturers and sales reps to submit photos of outstanding vignettes in their customers' stores. For more on the winners, see our June issue.

Winners are:

Most Fashionable Retailer 2007
Hauser's Patio & Rattan