

AMERICAN LEATHER DONATES TO GROUND ZERO MUSEUM

*Furniture as Centerpiece for 9/11
Commemorative Exhibit*

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DALLAS – April 16, 2009 – AMERICAN LEATHER, a Dallas-based design innovator and leather furniture manufacturer, recently donated to the Ground Zero Museum Workshop in New York. The donation of one of its white sectional designs will now be used as a centerpiece seating area in this museum, which is dedicated to commemorating the events of 9-11.



The Ground Zero Museum Workshop in New York City features images and artifacts from the Ground Zero "recovery period." Rated as the "5th Most Popular Attraction" in New York City by TripAdvisor.com, this five-star museum has daily tours in four languages that educates visitors about the special stories that took place inside Ground Zero. Founded and designed by Gary Marlon Suson, the official photographer at Ground Zero for the Uniformed Firefighters Association, the museum is non-profit. It also raises funds for breast cancer research, and for the FDNY firefighter Joe Graffagnino Children's Fund.

According to Suson, he had seen American Leather in some leading area retail stores, and wanted one of their designs to be part of the museum. "It was a wonderful surprise when Bruce Birnbach, president of American Leather, offered to donate the entire three-piece sectional to us as a gift," says Suson, an Honorary Battalion Chief in the FDNY. "We took the money we had put aside for the sectional, and donated it to the children of firefighter Joe Graffagnino, who died in the 2007 Deutsche Bank Fire at Ground Zero."

"Mr. Suson's portrayal of 9/11 in the Ground Zero Museum shows incredible strength, hard work, and dedication in recognizing so many families impacted by such a traumatic event in history," says Birnbach. "American Leather was delighted to be a part of such a historical depiction of the Ground Zero events."

Suson spent seven, unsalaried months at Ground Zero documenting every aspect of the 'recovery', and authored the Barnes & Noble Photography book, "*Requiem: Images of Ground Zero*." The museum collection, dubbed "*Rare Photos*" by the *New York Times*, is located in the Meatpacking District of Manhattan. "We like our guests to feel physically comfortable in the museum since 9/11 was such an emotionally traumatic event, and having the beautiful American Leather sectional helps us achieve this goal," states Suson.

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Founded in 1990, AMERICAN LEATHER is a manufacturer of custom upholstered, premium leather and fabric furniture, and is recognized as one of the leaders of innovative, high-quality, made-to-order furniture without the wait. Please visit www.americanleather.com for more information.