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TRADITIONAL JAPANESE ART FORMS INSPIRE NEW ANN SACKS® SAKURA TILE COLLECTION

PORTLAND, Ore. (May 8, 2007) – ANN SACKS Sakura tiles evoke the timeless quality of classic Japanese design — each tile unique and handcrafted, much like the hand-dipped silk kimonos of the Far East.

Inspired by the illusory quality of renowned Japanese textile artist Itchiku Kubota’s stunning kimono collection and the magnificent folding screens from the Edo period, Sakura captures the essence of raw silk in the medium of hand painted ceramic tiles. Though based in these ancient traditions, the Sakura designs are also exceptionally modern in their rich use of color and graphics.

The name Sakura is Japanese for “cherry blossom,” which is a theme of great beauty and symbolic of the changing seasons. Nature imagery and the four seasons have long been influential in Japanese art and are clearly represented in the Sakura collection.

“The ANN SACKS design team was drawn to the aesthetic of Japanese art as expressed in the traditional media of lacquer, pottery, textiles and kimono painting,” says John Hart, chief merchandising officer - ANN SACKS & Kallista.

“Our goals with Sakura were to think in terms of the complete environment — elegant and sophisticated design that can cover an entire surface and influence the mood of the interior. “



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Many of the Sakura designs are sold as sets, intended to be installed as continuous murals. The murals vary in complexity from the simple 4-tile repeat pattern of the Spring Breeze design to the more elaborate 35-piece Cherry Tree design.

Most sets are intended to repeat and can fill any size space. Custom designs and glaze colors are available for this made-to-order program.

Founded in 1981, ANN SACKS has built its reputation with inspiring designs in tile, stone, plumbing, lighting and accessories. Based in Portland, Ore., the company is a division of the Kohler Co. Interiors Group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kohler Co., that includes Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Inc., Baker furniture, Baker Knapp & Tubbs Showrooms and Baker Stores, Kallista plumbing and McGuire Furniture Company.

Founded in 1873 and headquartered in Kohler, Wis., Kohler Co. is one of America's oldest and largest privately held companies. Kohler is a global leader in the manufacture of kitchen and bath products, engines and power generation systems, cabinetry, tile and home interiors, and international host to award-winning hospitality and world-class golf destinations.

For additional information regarding Sakura tiles or other ANN SACKS products, consumers may call toll-free 1-800-278-TILE or visit the ANN SACKS website at www.annsacks.com.

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