

AmCham executive survey and report
on academia & business cooperation:

A conundrum

The academic community in Poland should listen carefully to what the private sector wants in terms of research, invention and innovation, or else it will be economically marginalized.



Newsline

News from AmCham and its members

Massive Design



The Luna chair is a contender in *Design Magazine's* 2009 Best of the Year Awards

Chair project from Polish designer competes on international scene

The Luna chair designed by the president of Massive Design, Przemysław "Mac" Stopa, for Italian manufacturer Diwar is a contender in *Interior Design* magazine's 2009 Best of the Year Awards competition in two product categories: Seating: contract/lounge and Seating: residential lounge. Finalists for both product and project design will be posted online November 9, 2009. Best of Year award winners will be announced at a live ceremony at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City, on December 3, 2009. Be sure to pick up the December issue of *Interior Design* or watch this space for coverage of the winners of the Best of Year Awards in all categories.

In addition, the Luna chair will be exhibited at NeoCon East, www.neoconeast.com, the premier East Coast design exposition for commercial interiors held at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Luna chair, designed for the ACTA collection by Italian manufacturer Diwar, has a unique spherical shape and is ergonomically designed for comfort.

In an interview published in the September issue of the Polish magazine *Office & Facility*,

Stopa said that being based in Warsaw is a good thing for an interior designer: "Warsaw has the most interesting corporate projects. The headquarters of Polish firms and the main representative offices of international corporations are located here. Designing, especially corporate interiors, is a very dynamic process. Lease agreements are signed for short periods of time. As a result, periodically there is the need for redesigning or building totally new office space. The consumer market still has lots of catching up to do in Poland compared to Western Europe. This provides opportunities in Poland to gain new experience and to work simultaneously on multiple projects. Of course, in Poland construction budgets are smaller than in other well-known European cities. However, this is not the most important thing."

Stopa is a Polish-born designer who did interior design in the U.S. market for clients like The Custom Shop.

Back in Poland Stopa set up Massive Design, a corporate interior planning and design firm with now over 6 million square feet of space planning in the company's portfolio.

Chartis

Insurance company changes name

AIG Europe S.A. has changed its name to Chartis Europe S.A. Under the new name the company will continue in personal and property insurance and will honor contracts it entered into as AIG Europe S.A. The company's court register number (KRS) and tax identification number (NIP) remain unchanged.

The change of name reflects the next step in AIG's structural realignment to spin off its property/casualty insurance business.

The name "Chartis" is derived from the ancient Greek word for "map." The company sells insurance against worker injuries, storm damage and civil liability.

ProLogis

Logistics markets feel the wrench of economic decline

During the first half of 2009, leasing market fundamentals continued to weaken throughout Europe, with the pan-European market occupancy rate slipping to 86% in the second quarter of 2009, from 87% in the previous quarter and 89% a year ago, said provider of logistics space ProLogis in its newest report on industrial property markets in Europe.

"Europe's logistics property markets are feeling the weight of both a severe economic downturn and a lingering credit crunch," commented Len Sahling, first vice president of the ProLogis Research Group. "The European economies are starting to emerge from several quarters of negative GDP growth, and the logistics property leasing markets will follow suit, albeit with a lag. Meaningful GDP growth combined with obsolescence and no new supply will eventually pull Europe's logistics property leasing markets out of their slump."

Other key findings of the report, entitled "Looking for the Rainbow," indicated that new deliveries to the Continental European markets have remained relatively stable throughout the current steep recession, largely because of the sizable overhang of construction projects begun last year before the credit crisis erupted. All across Europe, new starts have tapered off in recent months and are now limited almost exclusively to build-to-suit projects. As a result, construction pipelines have begun to shrink, suggesting that deliveries will soon begin to taper off. Yet investors have developed a renewed appreciation for market risk and are now making sharper distinctions between countries in Europe regarding economic, currency and property market risks. There is a renewed market focus on prime properties in Europe, where the leases have strong covenants and lease terms of five years or more.

The report is based on market statistics and data compiled from a variety of sources, including ProLogis market officers, brokerage companies and market research groups. The information covers distribution property markets in the U.K. as well as northern, southern and central Europe through the first half of 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSIVE DESIGN