

Design Studio to Resume Trading on Singapore Exchange; Embarks on Plans for Entry into China

- Share trading resumes at 9 am on 31 January 2011
- Set up a wholly owned subsidiary in Huizhou China to commence manufacturing operations marking Design Studio's first foray into the China market
- The Group's first state-of-the-art manufacturing facility located in Huizhou, Guangzhou and will be operational by 2nd Half 2011

Singapore, 28 January 2011 – Design Studio Furniture Manufacturer Ltd (“Design Studio” or the “Group”), a leading premier furniture manufacturer, product and interior fitting-out specialist listed on Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (“SGX-ST”), announced today that the company shares will resume trading on the SGX-ST at 9 am on 31 January 2011.

Design Studio's shares had been suspended from trading since 27th August 2010 when its public free float fell below 10% following acceptances of a mandatory cash offer made by Depa Interiors LLC.

Depa Interiors LLC has appointed CIMB Bank Berhad, Singapore Branch (“CIMB”) as the financial adviser to a compliance placement carried out by Depa in order to procure a total of 194 shareholders with a placement of an aggregate of 1,976,000 shares. The compliance placement was completed today and pursuant this completion, 527 shareholders who are members of the

public will hold 26,530,455 shares of the Company representing approximately 10.4% of its existing issued share capital.

Mr Bernard Lim, CEO of Design Studio Group comments, “It has always been Depa’s and Design Studio’s intention to remain public listed. This marks an exciting time forward for the Company as it resumes its public platform and also embarks on expansion plans for Asia, particularly its first foray into China.”

Design Studio has set up a China wholly owned subsidiary and has received official license to develop and operate a 386,000 sq ft manufacturing facility in Huizhou, Guangzhou Province, China named “Design Studio (Huizhou) Home Furnishing Co., Ltd. It expects to be operational by 2nd half 2011.

Mr Lim elaborates, “China’s rising urbanization and strong economic growth has translated into increasing consumerism and demand for housing and lifestyles choices, which will continue to open up promising developments across all sectors in China.

Being close to the market and understanding its expectations has always been an important operating philosophy for Design Studio. We are therefore confident that the physical establishment of a local presence in China will further strengthen our business models. In addition to our established relationship with

world renowned Depa Group, this will put us in a strong position to meet the demands for interior contracting services across the hospitality, commercial and retail segments in China.”

Set up with an aggregate investment amount of Renminbi 75,000,000 which will be funded from internal resources, the China manufacturing facility will be equipped with state-of-the-art computerized machinery & production lines from Europe.

Continuing, Mr Lim said: “We see potential in approaching the Chinese market through phases using a retail business model, supported by one-stop interior furnishing showrooms in key cities such as Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin and Nanjing which will offer a complete range of furniture & furnishing products for discerning mid/high income home owners across these major cities to select from.”

“We remain optimistic on our business prospects. With our current order book on hand and past track record, we are fundamentally strong to steadily develop the China potential with mainland local networks and alliances”, he adds.

Design Studio is based in Singapore and active principally in Southeast Asia, Middle East and USA markets with an impressive portfolio of residential, commercial and hospitality projects. They include Reflections at Keppel Bay, The Marq at Paterson, Scotts Square and Centennia Suites in Singapore, The Beacon and The Platinum in New York, Trump International Hotel Tower in Las Vegas as well as the iconic Burj Khalifa in Dubai and Rihan Heights in Abu Dhabi.

In 2008, Depa and Design Studio launched their joint venture company DDS Asia Holdings Pte Ltd focusing on the growing hospitality, commercial and gaming sectors across South East Asia. To-date, DDS Singapore had completed ID scope of works in Singapore's two integrated resorts, Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World at Sentosa as well as other prominent hotels and service apartments projects.

DDS Malaysia was also recently awarded the ID contract to fit-out hotel guest rooms as well as other public areas in Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The project is expected to complete in FY2012.

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About Design Studio Furniture Manufacturer Ltd

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Design Studio has three complementary and versatile core businesses namely the supply and installation of manufactured furniture to private residential developments, the provision of interior fit-out services to hospitality and commercial projects and the distribution of renowned imported products in Singapore and export of two premium in-house brands of products to overseas markets.

In addition, Design Studio has a core competitive advantage as a specialist in the area of paneling and thermoformed products. It is able to provide its clients with key advice from planning to the execution stages of each project on designs, material usages and costs. Design Studio has completed projects for residential and commercial developments in various countries around the world. With high-end luxury residential and hospitality projects for Scotts Square, Hilltop @ Cairnhill, Reflections at Keppel Bay, Rihan Heights, Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World at Sentosa Integrated Resorts under its belt, Design Studio has created a niche in the premiere segment of this industry.

Design Studio has won Singapore Prestige Brand Award – establish brand category in 2008.

For more information, please refer to the corporate website:
www.designstudio.com.sg