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Born by Fire: Cincinnati-Area Merger Mends Custom Woodwork with Cutting Edge Kitchen Design

CINCINNATI, OH, January 25, 2008:

When owner Kimball Derrick experienced a devastating fire in his 20,000 square-foot manufacturing facility at K.D. and Steele Cabinetry (KDSC) in May of 2007, he never dreamed it would result in a merger with one of Cincinnati's largest and most well respected millwork companies. Derrick recalls, "As news of the fire spread, I picked up the phone to hear Dan Hueber, president of Innerwood & Company ask, 'Is there anything I can do to help?' He meant it. He generously offered space, lent equipment, and welcomed us as guest tenants in his new state-of-the-art facility. Within six weeks, we were back making cabinets. It was truly amazing."

The relationship between Innerwood and KDSC didn't begin with thoughts of a merger. Dan Hueber notes, "I just knew there was a fellow woodworker, someone whose work I respected, who'd had a big loss. And because our new facility in Milford had additional space set aside for expansion, I had room to spare." As the relationship progressed, the two men found they shared more than space, and discovered a natural synergy between the companies.

Kimball Derrick notes, "As we began to work side-by-side, we found we shared the same values in quality, craftsmanship and customer service. It wasn't long before we discovered that our products dovetailed as well."

Innerwood & Company, established in 1990, designs and fabricates custom cabinetry and architectural woodwork for high-end residential and commercial customers as well as for builders, architects and interior designers. Company products range from custom cabinets, mantels, wall paneling and range hoods to curved moldings and architectural details. Innerwood and its associated companies now employ over 70 woodworking professionals in the greater Cincinnati-area. K.D. and Steele Cabinetry began in the 1980s as a small cabinet shop and grew to specialize in kitchen and bath design with an emphasis on finely crafted custom cabinetry. Their Cincinnati-area showroom, The Kitchen Design Studio, was opened in 2001 to display a full range of custom and semi-custom cabinetry as well as countertops, appliances and other kitchen and bath products.

"Just about the only aspect of interior cabinetry and millwork that Innerwood didn't already handle was kitchens and baths," said Hueber. "Suddenly, we were associated with one of the finest kitchen and bath design studios in the region. Further, KDSC had retail experience with a beautiful, high profile showroom. We began looking at the advantages of working together as one company and it just made sense for us both."

Derrick and Hueber note that the merger provides a more solidified base for all of their clients. "We're merging assets and a great talent pool," says Derrick. "All the design professionals and quality craftsmen that customers are familiar with will remain, and the staff from both companies are as excited about this merger as we are. It's just a natural progression for both companies and one that allows us to offer even greater freedom within the creative process." Hueber adds, "Now our collective customers can find every facet of cabinetry and interior millwork they could possibly need - - under one roof."

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For additional information on Innerwood & Company products/services or on this release, contact Dan Hueber at 513-831-5990 or visit www.Innerwood.com. For additional information on The Kitchen Design Studio products/services or on this release, contact Derrick Kimball at 513-791-1113.

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