Throughout his 42 year career and while President of NELSON, design excellence and quality have always been in the forefront of his leadership. John’s body of work is uniquely diverse. The breadth of his experience spans all types of projects, including corporate and executive offices, call centers, trading rooms, conference centers, educational facilities, hospitals, restaurants, retail space, branch banks, and showrooms. His achievements also include a strong portfolio in product design for manufacturers in the commercial industry.

Matthew Plumstead designs smartly focused, modern furniture and products for the home and office. He believes that good design is predicated, in part, on being attuned to evolving trends and behaviors. Through the processes of data collection and research, rigorous form making, materials exploration, and prototyping, Matthew has designed products that are desirable and seemingly inevitable.

Matthew graduated with an M.F.A. in design from Cranbrook Academy of Art, where he was a Knoll scholar. His work has been seen in numerous publications and has won awards including a Red Dot Design Award, and an ICFF Editor’s Award.

Matthew currently practices industrial design at his studio, McCarty Quinn, in Saint Paul, Minnesota.
Jess Sorel's career has spanned nearly twenty years in the contract furniture industry. His time as a designer and design director at Metro Furniture, along with a number of projects in recent years, has resulted in a portfolio that demonstrates his passion for questioning the status quo.

Jess has an intense curiosity about the context in which objects are made and used. His primary focus is on understanding and interpreting the world around him – with an eye on where culture and technology are heading and how it impacts the way we live, work and play.

Based in Oakland, CA, Jess holds numerous design and utility patents. His work has been featured in major domestic and international design publications.

Bill Raftery started his new design firm, Raftery Design, Inc. Since then, his body of work has come to include Executive, Manager and Ergonomic Task Seating designs for companies such as TUOHY, Councill, Novikoff, HBF, Superior, Paoli, JOCFO, Taylor and HAG.

Between Design and Utility Patents Bill has well over 40 total. Other honors include the NeoCon / Best of Show Awards in 1991, 1993 and 1995 and two ADEX Awards. Other products developed by Raftery Design, Inc. are the Quest Underwater Writing Boards for Innovative Scuba Concepts and the Wedgie Air Chair, which was patented in 1996.
CLOCKWORK:
CHRISTIAN ARNOLD & NEIL SOMMERS
KAESI COLLECTION
Clockwork was founded by Christian Arnold and Neil Sommers in 2004 as a design studio concentrating on architecture, interior design, branding and industrial design. The two partners have a working relationship that extends back 13 years where they met at a small architectural studio. The two entrepreneurs then formed a photography studio and solidified their desire for capturing and sharing beautiful compositions with the masses. Each of Clockwork’s designers bring unique talents, ranging from fine art painting and sculpting to welding and carpentry. This diverse point of view yields unexpected approaches and innovative solutions that directly support their client’s business goals. A reputation of precision and passion has allowed the studio to create designs for hundreds of clients including General Electric, Barkley, American Apparel, Executive Beechcraft, Garmin, Houlihan’s Restaurant, The Cordish Company, and TUOHY. Their design work has been recognized by prestigious organizations including the Society of Environmental Graphic Design (SEGD), The International Interior Design Association (IIDA), and the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and has been published in Interior Design, Architectural Record, I.D., World Architecture, Contract and Inc.

TIM DEFIEBRE
BRYANT PARK
Tim deFiebre joined Brickel Associates after working at their frame facility in Long Island City, NY, where Ward Bennett’s chairs were produced. He then became a design assistant and model maker for Ward Bennett and subsequently became the Director of Design for the furniture division, responsible for all furniture development. He later joined the ICF Group in New York as Vice President of Design. After creating several award winning designs he then worked and consulted for Geiger Brickel in Atlanta creating updates of his earlier Brickel work and a number of new table and seating designs. In 2004 Mr. deFiebre introduced two major product lines for Harter based in Middlebury, Indiana. Also in 2004 he curated and updated The Ward Bennett Business Classics Collection for Geiger.

LAWRENCE WILLS
BAY FORMS
Lawrence Wills is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and holds a master’s degree in Architecture from Harvard University. He has been a Design Principal at Mancini•Duffy/TSC for over 25 years. Lawrence created the successful OIC® (Office in Context) product line for the Herman Miller Group, and has designed and managed a large number of corporate offices for clients such as Microsoft, General Electric, and The Home Depot. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and is past President of the New York Chapter of the AIA. Lawrence was honored with the AIA New York Honor Award for his work on the world headquarters of General Electric in Schenectady, New York. In 2004, Lawrence Wills was awarded the title of “ Laureate” by the International Interior Design Association for his significant contributions to the field. Lawrence is the author of “Office in Context,” which has been translated into Japanese and Chinese, and is currently working on a new book, “The Science of Architecture.”

ALAN DANDRON
GENEVA COLLECTION
Alan Dandron is a Design Principal with Mancini•Duffy/TSC. Over the past twenty-five years, Alan has designed millions of square feet of space for his clients, and he has significant experience in the programming, planning, and design of large-scale corporate projects. As a leader in the firm’s workplace strategy consultancy, Alan holds particular expertise in developing planning concepts based on the strategic intent of the user. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial & Interior Design from the University of Michigan’s School of Art, and is past President of the New York Chapter of the IDA which, during his leadership, was voted Large Chapter of the Year at the 2011 IDA Annual Meeting. In addition, Alan has designed award-winning casegoods lines for HALCON and TUOHY.

LAURA KIRAR
ARCELLE COLLECTION
Laura Kirar is the founder and creative director of Laura Kirar Design. Under her direction the teams in New York and Miami work in tandem to create elegant, innovative interiors and product for the home with timeless sensibility. Laura has shaped the design of an array of interesting projects - from high-end residences to award-winning commercial interiors of restaurants, showrooms and hotels. A designer with the soul of an artist, Laura completed her degree in sculpture and interior architecture at the prestigious School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her passion for artistic exploration in numerous mediums has continued to infuse her work with originality and thoughtful attention to detail.

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Andrew Gower is an award-winning Industrial Designer. His wide variety of work has appeared in several publications and he has received numerous awards for product design. Andrew started his career at the architectural firm DMSAS, and continued to practice architecture when he opened and ran a production furniture company in Baltimore, MD. The early years of his career were invaluable in gaining the knowledge to venture out professionally as an industrial designer. He attended the University of Colorado and the Corcoran School of Art in Washington DC. Currently Andrew resides in Ashland, OR where he works independently on his new company Zoose Design, LLC.

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ANDREW GOWER
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DAVID ALLAN PESSO  
ATHENEUM COLLECTION

David Pesso has a degree in industrial design from Rochester Institute of Technology and was initially influenced by the work of Wendell Castle (known as the "originator of art furniture"). Later, as a designer at Vinick Associates, he focused on interior design, retail storefront design, architectural millwork and signage. He served as a partner at Advent Studio, where he was able to concentrate on design and development for the contract furniture industry.

Pesso founded New Studio in 1989 as an industrial design consulting firm specializing in product design & development, architectural millwork, exhibit design, and brand development. His work has garnered recognition throughout the design world. He holds licenses for more than 300+ furniture designs, and has been awarded 18 design patents.

MARY LITTLE & PETER WHEELER  
VITA COLLECTION

Mary Little, throughout her 25 year career, has created beautifully crafted, tactile furniture and products intended to be so seductive they are irresistible and often described as haute couture because of their original forms and inventive construction techniques. She has exhibited her work extensively with solo gallery shows in London, Cologne and Palo Alto. She has also been part of group exhibitions at the Museum of Art & Design (New York), British Crafts Council, (London) and Übersee-Museum (Bremen). Her work is included in the permanent collections at the Victoria & Albert, Vitra Design Museum and Musée Des Arts Décoratifs. A graduate of the Royal College of Art in London, she has taught in the US, Netherlands and Britain.

Peter Wheeler’s work spans highly sculptural one of a kind pieces to high volume systemized products. His comfort in this range of work is rooted in a maker’s sensibilities, an affinity with materials and processes, and a perfectionist’s eye for detail. Wheeler has consulted for and licensed designs to companies such as Thrislington and Vitsoe, (UK); Ikon, Runt Mобles and Perobell (Spain) and Brayton International. His work is in permanent collections of the Museo de las Artes Decorativas (Spain) and Thonet Museum (Germany). He has received numerous awards from IBD, Design Council, UK and Chicago Athenaeum. He has taught at the Glasgow School of Art, California College of the Arts and his alma mater, The Royal College of Art.