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It's hard to believe that I'm writing the "spring" Exhibits NEWSline when there is 54 inches of snow outside my office window. Hopefully spring will be here sooner than later. I'm ready for sunshine and Los Angeles beaches!

So, what's new in the world of exhibitions? Paul Orselli sent this in. *I just visited Dia:Beacon, in Beacon, NY, with my youngest son Philip and some friends. Dia:Beacon is located sixty miles north of New York City, set on thirty-one acres of the banks of the Hudson River in a 240,000 sf former Nabisco factory. The historic building,*

finished in 1929 and designed by Louis N. Wirshing, Jr., is built entirely of steel, concrete, and glass. The refurbished structure provides an incredible space for displaying the artworks, many of which are very large. Dia:Beacon's huge open interiors and natural lighting definitely add to the experience in a positive way. This is especially the case for the large metal works of John Chamberlain (Chamberlain's "Privet," the title of a free-standing structure which seemed about thirty feet long, was one of our favorites) or the grid-based wall drawings of Sol LeWitt. There are also many interesting installations that seem specific to the Dia:Beacon space.



Metal sculpture entitled "Privet" by John Chamberlain ©Paul Orselli.

As background, the Dia:Beacon, a branch of the nonprofit institution, Dia Art Foundation, is home to an astounding collection of modern art from 1960 to the present, including works by Andy Warhol, Robert Irwin (whose creative edge went into the renovation of the building), and Richard Serra, among others. Each artist's work is displayed in a dedicated gallery, or set of galleries, and in many cases, these presentations were, and continue to be, created in collaboration with the artists themselves.

If you're ever near New York City, Dia:Beacon is well worth a special trip!



Interior of Dia:Beacon gallery space ©Paul Orselli.

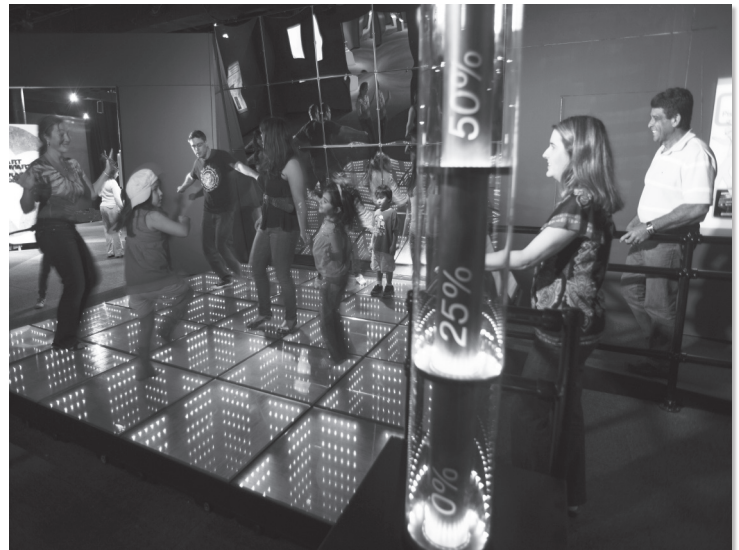
If you are in Miami sometime soon, be sure to visit the Miami Science Museum, which has installed the *Energy Dance Floor*, the first of its kind in the United States. The 144sf floor captures energy from visitors' dancing and converts it to electricity, which is used to power lighting effects and music. Visitors can select from a range of music genres to see what groove results in the most juice—or dock their own iPod and DJ the space for themselves and their friends.

The space also includes a smaller dance floor in view of a thermal camera. As they boogie, visitors can see on-screen energy escaping their bodies in the form of heat.

These are just two of a number of prototypes under development for the Miami Science Museum's new building in downtown Miami, opening 2014.

Recently, my family and I visited the Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York City to see the ***Design USA Contemporary Innovation*** exhibition. As expected, I was in heaven looking at all the amazing objects, oddities, and descriptions of installations that were organized into the following categories: Lifetime Achievement, Craft, Experience, Technology, Materials, Method, and Design Mind. The space was elegantly designed in its own right, industrial and clean. The exhibition design, however, left a lot to be desired. It was pretty much a cookie-cutter layout that at times seemed to look more like an Apple® store with all the iPads, than an exhibition. The text, however, was refreshing—short and to the point.

The Cooper-Hewitt also offered a tour of the exhibition via an Apple® iPod Touch. Visitors of all ages, including my six-year-old, were provided, for free, an iPod Touch and headsets (but you had to surrender your driver's license to take get one). As you toured the exhibition, you could touch the corresponding exhibit number on the iPod Touch to get more



Dancing the day away. Hey, shouldn't Sean Duran be working? ©Miami Science Museum.



Grooving to tunes and seeing how much heat is escaping ©Miami Science Museum.

information about that design. I found this to be informative when the iPod Touch program actually provided an interview of the designer. I didn't really like it when they just showed more photos, but my six-year-old did. The aspect I liked the most, however, was the ability to post comments about each exhibit via the iPod Touch. At the end of the exhibition, you could view others' comments on the bank of iPads that lined the hallway.

To read details about the exhibition, you can check it out on line at <http://exhibitions.cooperhewitt.org/Design-USA/category/intro/>.

See you at AAM! ✨