

Get to know one of the 2019 NEWH ICONs of Industry

CURTIS BREEDLOVE grew up in rural Minnesota with a freedom to roam that inspired him to seek out travel and adventure as a young man, including a European motorcycle odyssey and art school in Holbæk, Denmark. It was a spin of the globe by a Danish friend that led him, entirely by land, to Afghanistan, a journey on which he would meet his future wife and make his first textile purchase in Mashhad, Iran. Curtis displayed a



CURTIS BREEDLOVE

President of P/Kaufmann Contract

budding entrepreneurial talent by financing subsequent trips through North Africa and South America by trading and selling local artwork and rugs. His curiosity about other cultures, facility for languages and interest in art and how things are made were nurtured early on by his Danish mother and architect/builder father and continue to ignite his wanderlust. This unique perspective guides Curtis' vision for what a guest should expect in a hospitality environment: "Travel is first and foremost an enlightening experience. The places one rests one's head should recharge and rejuvenate while being one's sanctuary away from home."

With degrees in international business, marketing and economics, and a wealth of life experience under his belt, Curtis landed in New York City in the late 1970's. He translated his informal textile and business experience into a fabric sales position with United Merchants, where he was trained in all aspects of the industry, from design to product development and manufacturing. Curtis joined the P/Kaufmann group of companies in 1991 and has served for more than 25 years as the President of P/Kaufmann Contract. Under his leadership, the company grew from a team of five to become a global hospitality powerhouse with offices in New York, China and India, and sales partners in key markets worldwide. Curtis has expanded his division's product range from its modest beginnings in heat transfer printing to a wide offering of prints, wovens, finished product, roller shades and IMO collections.

Curtis' passion for fabric and interiors is informed by a healthy obsession with every detail of the business, from design, delivery and installation, to building strong and lasting relationships with customers and suppliers. He is active in promoting socially and environmentally responsible business practices in his own company and all along the hospitality supply chain. Recognized as an accessible, collaborative leader committed to an honorable corporate culture, Curtis was inspired by P/Kaufmann, Inc. founder Peter Kaufmann, whose philosophy he continues to embrace: "Success, but not at any price."



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Each year NEWH gives out its most prestigious award, the **ICON of Industry**. The award celebrates the leaders of the manufacturing side of hospitality, those who have uniquely impacted the industry through their innovative work, consistently dedicated their time and efforts to community or industry outreach through education and/or corporate giving, and been doing business in hospitality for more than 30 years. In addition, a \$7,500 annual scholarship is awarded to an exemplary student in the recipient's honor. The scholarship recipient's travel and lodging to the award gala is paid by NEWH, Inc.