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Media note: Photo attached

## Porto Team Named “Best Interior Designer 2006”

**June 15, 2006 (Raleigh, NC)** – The design team at **Porto**, a fine home furnishings and accessories store in Raleigh’s North Hills, has been voted “Best Interior Designer” in Citysearch.com’s **Best Of Citysearch** annual polling. The team won in both Audience and Editorial categories.

Interior designers and **Porto** owners Emily Barrett, Michael Perry and Clark Hipolito received more votes than any other area designers after visitors to the website cast votes for their favorite businesses in categories including restaurants, nightlife, hotels, services and shopping. The polling began when Citysearch editors nominated area businesses. Visitors to the website could chose from those or nominate their own favorites for the Audience winner.

Citysearch’s editors chose the Editorial winner based on their knowledge of the city and its trends. According to Citysearch, “Editors and freelance writers diligently scope out the best restaurants, bars, shops, spas and hotels across the country and use their studied expertise in making their selections. Neither advertising nor the total number of votes impacts the selection of an editorial winner.”

Citysearch’s overall user rating for Porto and its designers is also consistently noted as “highly recommended.”

**Porto**, which opened in North Hills in November 2004, offers its residential and commercial clients professional interior design services (fee applies) in addition to its extensive selection of European-inspired home furnishings, distinctive lighting, decorative accessories and original art. Besides its work for private residential clients, the Porto team has designed and furnished several charitable fundraising show houses, furnished the model unit for The Dawson condominiums in downtown Raleigh, and is currently designing a new and expanded interior for the Samuel Cole Salon in Celebration at Six Forks shopping center in Raleigh.

“We are thrilled to receive these awards,” Barrett said. “It shows that we have made an impression on the community in a short amount of time. As our projects grow larger and broader scope, I think the public will be pleasantly surprised at the caliber of design work that they find from Porto.”

Porto is located at 4151 Main at North Hills Street, Raleigh (919-341-2763). Its regular business hours are: Monday through Thursday from 10 am until 7 pm; Friday and Saturday from 10 am until 8 pm; and Sunday from 1 pm until 6 pm. Its collection and information on its design services can be found on the web at [portohome.com](http://portohome.com).

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