



Website: [www.tileusa.com](http://www.tileusa.com) . Literature: [literature@tileusa.com](mailto:literature@tileusa.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **SHEILA A. MENZIES & JOSEPH A. TAYLOR- TCNA'S TILE PERSONS OF THE YEAR**

*Chicago, IL –4/07* Sheila A. Menzies and Joseph A. Taylor were awarded the Tile Council of North America's (TCNA) prestigious 2007 Tile Persons of the Year award during Coverings 2007 in Chicago, IL.

For nearly 20 years, Joseph (Joe) A. Taylor and Sheila A. Menzies have worked together to preserve the history of ceramic tile and educate individuals about its beauty through the Tile Heritage Foundation (THF). Founded in 1987 as a nonprofit charitable organization, the Foundation serves the need for an historical perspective regarding all ceramic surfacing materials, both past and present. In addition to aiding in the education of the general public about the rich and varied history of tile, the organization has become a major voice in the preservation of existing installations of rare and unusual ceramic surfaces, while enhancing the visibility of contemporary tile work, as well. A library and research facility is open to the public by appointment. The Archives, estimated at over 20,000 items, contain rare and current books, magazines, bulletins, catalogs and a vast assortment of photocopies, as well as slides, photographs, drawings, blueprints and old tile company records.

“Preserving and documenting our industry’s past is a noble quest, and a daunting task. Joe and Sheila have worked unceasingly to make us aware of our rich tile history and the contemporary artists creating magnificent tiles today. Through their discoveries and their educational efforts, we are all enriched,” remarked Eric Astrachan, Executive Director of TCNA.

A quote from Sheila found in *Ceramic Tile in 20th Century America* best describes their passion.”

*“From the earliest times, ceramic tiles have provided a wonderful way to embrace the earth’s enduring beauty. Tiles serve as imprints of the past and the present: they embody a significant part of our cultural art,”* Sheila Menzies with THF.

-more-

**TILE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

100 Clemson Research Boulevard . Anderson, South Carolina 29625 . Phone: 864-646-8453 . Fax: 864-646-2821



Testing Services: [testing@tileusa.com](mailto:testing@tileusa.com) . Literature Orders: [literature@tileusa.com](mailto:literature@tileusa.com)



Website: [www.tileusa.com](http://www.tileusa.com) . Literature: [literature@tileusa.com](mailto:literature@tileusa.com)

### **Sheila A. Menzies**

Sheila Menzies has had an affinity with tiles since childhood. Sheila is a craftswoman and mixed media artist with a background in stage-set design and theater costuming. She has traveled extensively in the United States, Great Britain, Portugal, Italy, and Mexico documenting historic and contemporary tile installations. Today, she is the primary designer of Tile Heritage publications and the coordinator of educational events including symposiums, regional exhibitions and tile making and mosaic workshops nationwide. In October 2003, the Tile Contractors Association of America distinguished her with the prestigious Carl V. Cesery Award, among the highest honors granted by American trade, industry and professional groups.

### **Joseph (Joe) A. Taylor**

Joe Taylor was initiated into the world of tiles when he worked as Director of Sales at McIntyre Tile Company in Healdsburg, California from 1973 to 1985. With Sheila Menzies, he co-founded the Tile Heritage Foundation in 1987 and serves as the Foundation's president. A frequent writer and lecturer on tile history, Mr. Taylor has focused much of his research on the evolution of tile manufacturing in California. Joe has been a principal contributor to *More About Malibu Potteries 1926-1932*, *Catalina Tile of the Magic Isle*, *The Arts and Crafts Movement in California: Living the Good Life*, *Batchelder Tilemaker* and *California Tile: The Golden Era 1910-1940*, published by Schiffer in 2004. He, too, was honored by the Tile Contractors Association of America, as a recipient of the Carl V. Cesery Award in October 2003.

### **Historical Treasures From THF**

Two years ago, THF presented historically significant tiles from Spain, Italy, and the United States in a 60-foot, two-sided display situated in the South lobby of the Orange County Convention Center. Last year, they organized a "History of Tile in Architecture" presentation that ran continuously on a big screen at the entrance to the exhibit hall. This year, they completed a presentation on tile in Chicago architecture.

###

Contact: Shannon Woodmansee, Director of Membership & Public Relations  
864-646-8453, Ext. 107

**TILE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

100 Clemson Research Boulevard . Anderson, South Carolina 29625 . Phone: 864-646-8453 . Fax: 864-646-2821



Testing Services: [testing@tileusa.com](mailto:testing@tileusa.com) . Literature Orders: [literature@tileusa.com](mailto:literature@tileusa.com)