

Concept competition open to Canadian retailers

Opening a retail store takes time, hard work and a fair amount of imagination. In the end, if the store is well designed, most customers won't even notice how seamlessly business is conducted. Well, it's time retail store designers got some recognition, and some cash. Cadillac Fairview Corp., one of North America's largest investors, owners and managers of commercial real estate, said it is accepting entries for the 2009 ARC

(Achievement in New Retail Concepts) Awards. "Winning the 2008 ARC Award helped our business. The awareness and exposure we received was excellent," said Gumdrops founder Shanda Jerrett, pictured. "A lot of hard work went into creating the retail concept, and because of the award, more Canadians are visiting us to see it." The competition is open to retailers with stores in Canada who have

launched a significant and innovative new concept between April 1, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2008. Four finalists will be invited to the Windsor Arms in Toronto for a gala event on May 13. The winning team will go home \$50,000 richer, and with a bronze statue by artist Hilary Clark Cole valued at \$5,000. As well, an

individual whose career has inspired the retail industry with vision and innovation in store concepts will be honoured at the gala, and a \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to a Ryerson graduate. Past winners include lululemon athletica, Vancouver's Salt Tasting Room and Lettuce Eatery. Entry forms are available at www.cadillacfairview.com. The deadline for submission is March 6, 2009.

Anna Miller, Financial Post

