Interior Design Students Win Two of Three Awards in East Region for 2012 IDEC Competition

For the second consecutive year, students from NJIT’s Interior Design program won two of the three awards in the Annual Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) Student Design Competition in the East Region competing against schools from Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Washington, DC as well as Eastern Canada. In this year’s theme, AIDS in South Africa, students were asked to identify the problems associated with the “Lost Generation” (the children who have lost one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS and are now left on their own) and propose a local design response that would help the community in some way, while still representing their culture and heritage.

The winning projects created by teams of students from the third year class included “Africa’s Playtime” designed by Mary O’Haire and Nicole Zampolin which used recycled local materials to create playground equipment and spaces in which children may play. The other winning NJIT entry, “Zulu Cultural Center” was a site-specific proposal designed by Peter Fritzky, Tatiana Duarte, and Nora Hamadé.

The intense two-week design project was accomplished at the start of the spring semester. The NJIT IDEC Faculty Advisor is David Brothers who coordinated the teams and worked with Lorenzina Laera, Linda Laucerica, and Glenn Goldman in providing guidance along the way.

Princeton Review Names NJIT as a Top Undergraduate Program to Study Video Game Design

Princeton Review has cited NJIT as one of the top undergraduate institutions for students to “study video game design” in 2012. Students interested in game design have two different paths of study at NJIT: Digital Design or Information Technology. If one is interested in the development, structure, programming and production of games, a student can matriculate in the College of Computing Sciences and major in Information Technology. But if a student is interested in game design, art, character modeling/development, aesthetics and the visual look and feel of the game, and/or related areas, then those areas of study are pursued in the School of Art + Design’s Digital Design program. Regardless of a student’s major, there is ample opportunity to take courses in either program. Digital Design students take courses in programming from IT, and students from the College of Computing Sciences take design and graphics courses at the College of Architecture and Design. Additional collaboration occurs throughout the year in extracurricular activities, including the Global Game Jam hosted annually in the School of Art + Design.

Winners of 2012 Dean’s Design Competition for High School Students Selected

The second annual design competition for New Jersey high school students concluded with the announcement of the winners at a ceremony held on March 21st in the College of Architecture and Design Gallery. Seventy-five different students submitted proposals for the design of an avant-garde puppet theater. The jury, chaired by Dean Urs Gauchat, selected three winners: Jordan Sabourin of Montclair High School (1st Place); Tyler Angert of Northern Valley Regional High School in Old Tappan (2nd Place); and Dana Florczak of Tenafly High School (3rd Place).
Goldman Publishes Article about Digital Media


Education Department Editors Gitta Domik (University of Paderborn, Germany) and Scott Owen (Georgia State University, USA) have the charge from CG&A to publish articles that explore “novel ways to disseminate computer graphics know-how.” Goldman’s article looks at the application of John Dewey’s and Jean Piaget’s experiential “educative experiences” and how the 1930’s principles of constructivist education widely adapted in K-12 education can be, and are, used to teach computer graphic principles in the context of architecture and interior design. The invited article is an outgrowth and extension of work and ideas presented by Goldman at Eurographics 2009 in Munich, Germany.

Brothers Presents at Arts in Healthcare Conference

Coordinator of the Interior Design program, Assistant Professor David Brothers participated in the Society for the Arts in Healthcare Annual Conference in Detroit, Michigan, held on May 4-5, 2012. His poster, “Musician Chairs: An Ergonomic Design Perspective for Improved Health & Performance” exhibits the current in-progress research that builds upon the ongoing the study and design of instrument-specific furniture for professional musicians. The sponsoring organization “is dedicated to advancing arts as integral to healthcare by demonstrating the valuable roles the arts can play in enhancing the healing process [and] by encouraging and supporting research and investigation into the beneficial effects.” Brothers was also named a finalist in the International 2012 SparkAwards program celebrating design excellence and innovation for his chair designs.

Gosser Exhibits at Paterson Art Walk

Matthew Gosser, Curator of the College of Architecture and Design Gallery and adjunct faculty member of the School of Art + Design was one of more than 200 artists exhibiting work in the fourth annual Paterson Art Walk, a one-day collaborative exhibition of artists and curators who transformed the center of historic Paterson into a showcase of site-specific and uniquely designed art installations and galleries.

Zaitseva serves as Animation Director and Animator/Illustrator for Three Candles

Adjunct faculty member Polina Zaitseva served as the Animation Director as well as Animator/Illustrator for the documentary film, Three Candles, narrated by Olympia Dukakis. The film depicts the story of Greek women exiled into concentration camps during the Greek Civil War that took place from 1946 to 1949. The film, written and directed by Sophia Antonini and Stavroula Toska, is an independent production of Orama Pictures.

Wells Directs U.S. Drag at Rutgers-Newark

Adjunct faculty member Louis Wells (who teaches Acting Fundamentals for Animators in the School of Art + Design) directed U.S. Drag about two young women in Manhattan who seek love and happiness, but settle for rent money. The play was presented in April at the Bradley Hall Theatre on the Newark campus of Rutgers University. Promotional posters (including the one illustrated) were created by Digital Design student Thanh Nguyen, and sets were designed by Interior Design student Mary Elizabeth O’Haire.
Digital Design Program Establishes SIGGRAPH Student Chapter

Students in the Digital Design program have created a Student Chapter of SIGGRAPH (the Special Interest Group in Graphics of the Association of Computing Machinery). The student leaders for the NJIT SIGGRAPH Chapter are Rachel Corres, President; Chris Narine, Vice President; Danielle Esmaya, Secretary; and HeeTae Bae, Treasurer. All officers are currently third year Digital Design students. Coordinator of the Digital Design program, University Lecturer Augustus Wendell serves as the faculty advisor assisted by Assistant Professor Andrzej Zarzycki.

Industrial Designers Society of America Student Chapter Started in the School of Art + Design

Students from the Industrial Design program have established a chapter of IDSA (Industrial Designers Society of America), with advisor Assistant Professor Brooks Atwood. The leadership council is comprised of third year students Jeff Groves, Chair; Kristen Cianella, Vice Chair; Jabeen Ali, Secretary; Brian Hsieh, Treasurer; Samantha Schulz, Events Coordinator; and Joe Beyrouyeh, Liaison Officer. Most recently, the group attended the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Library and Museum Archives Open House which included stacks tours, collection highlights, mini-sessions on electronic resources, and other topics.

Interior Design Students Volunteer to Help Mahwah, NJ Family in Dream Room Makeover

Ten students from NJIT spent a Saturday in March designing, building, and helping a family in need in northern New Jersey. For the second time this academic year, they participated in the Dream Room Makeover program that helps families with children who have life-challenging illnesses or disabilities. The students joined more than 300 volunteers to work for Mary, a child born with neurofibromatosis. They didn’t just make over one room but worked on the entire house. Led by NJIT ASID Chapter President Nora Hamadé, the students painted the family room and upstairs hallway, embellished Mary’s headboard with rhinestones/play jewels, constructed and painted a dry-erase board table for the basement play area, assembled furniture, refurnished tables by sanding and staining them, framed the girl’s artwork, and designed and determined the optimal plan for the family room.
NJIT Students Present Sustainable Designs at Second Annual New York City Earth Day Education Fair

Four students from the School of Art + Design along with six from the School of Architecture participated in the 2012 Earth Day Education Fair at 7 World Trade Center in New York City on April 20.

Sponsored by Tishman Construction (an AECOM Company) in conjunction with Silverstein Properties, the second annual event featured environmental sustainability experts, students, and manufacturers who provided information on sustainable design to the public. The NJIT students exhibited alongside local representatives from a diverse group of exhibitors that included Whole Foods Market, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Mercedes Benz/Smart, Sprint, and Steelcase.

Coordinated by Assistant Professor of Architecture Matt Burgermaster and accompanied by the Director of the School of Art + Design Glenn Goldman, the students displayed work that ranged from a hydroponic urban agriculture building featuring high-performance precast concrete to playground equipment designed with recycled and repurposed materials to product design that included solar power-collecting umbrellas and toys. The participating Art + Design exhibitors were fourth year Industrial Design students Sara Jane Rin (Jersey City, NJ) and Alex Nizzardo (New Providence, NJ), and third year Interior Design students Nicole Zampolin (River Vale, NJ) and Mary Elizabeth O’Haire (Little Falls, NJ).

Applications Rise to School of Art + Design

Freshman applications to the School of Art + Design rose by more than 40% for matriculation in Fall 2012.

Andrzej Zarzycki Presents at 100th Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

Assistant Professor of Architecture and Digital Design Andrzej Zarzycki presented “Parametric BIM as a Generative Design Tool” at the 100th Annual Meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture in Boston, Massachusetts on March 3, 2012. The conference theme, Digital Aptitudes, was selected to investigate “the profound impact of digital technologies’ computational and communication capacities on architecture.” Zarzycki’s paper was presented in a session titled “Theoretical Implications of BIM: Performance and Interpretation.”

Seventh Annual Design Showcase Features Work by Art + Design and Architecture Students

The College of Architecture and Design held its Seventh Annual Design Showcase in April. The event included a display of alumni and invited student work with awards to the top student exhibit in each program. The sponsored affair, attended by approximately 300 people, started with a lecture by Preston Scott Cohen, Chair of the Architecture Department at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design which was then followed by a reception, trade show, and awards presentations. Winners from the School of Art + Design, selected by an independent jury, were Thanh Nguyen (Digital Design), Nora Hamadé (Interior Design), and Kristen Ciandella (Industrial Design).

Art + Design to Require Portfolios for Admission to All Programs for Matriculation Starting in Fall 2013

Any student expecting to matriculate in Fall 2013 or later must submit a portfolio of creative work as part of the application process. All students attending high school in 2012-2013 are included in this group.
Gosser Curates Exhibit at Jewish Museum of NJ

The exhibit “Claire Wagner Kosterlitz: A Bauhaus Artist in America” appeared at the Jewish Museum of New Jersey in Newark from January 15 through March 25, 2012. The exhibition of paintings from the artist’s diverse work was curated by NJIT adjunct faculty member and CoAD Gallery Curator Matt Gosser. Following the exhibition in Newark, it traveled to the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University in New York where it will be on display until July 15.

Kosterlitz studied under Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky at the Bauhaus, but fled Germany to escape Nazi persecution and settled in New Jersey where she and her husband lived until 1974; at which time they moved to Baden, Switzerland.

Inaugural Presentation of Think Pieces at the College of Architecture and Design Features Faculty Work

Five faculty members from the College of Architecture and Design each made short presentations about current work and passions in the inaugural presentation of Think Pieces on February 22. Presenters included University Lecturer and Coordinator of the Industrial Design program José Alcala, Assistant Professor of Digital Design Taro Narahara, Assistant Professor of Architecture and Digital Design Andrzej Zarzycki, Director of the Master of Infrastructure Planning program Associate Professor of Architecture Georgeen Theodore, and Associate Professor of Architecture and Director of NJIT’s Solar Decathlon entries Richard Garber. The well-attended program, which concluded with a reception in honor of the participants, attracted students, faculty, professionals, and prospective students and their parents.

Samuel J. Armijos ’85 Brings Expertise of Fabric Structures to Digital and Interior Design Students

Architect, alumnus, author, and expert in fabric structures Sam Armijos, introduced structural principles and visually compelling examples of fabric architecture and its use in both large and small-scale applications – both inside and outside a building. Armijos, Vice President at FabriTec Structures, introduced the applications within the context of the required class, Introduction to Structural Systems, taught by University Lecturer Tom Ogorzalek. The lecture and demonstration provided the simultaneous benefits of exposing Interior Design students to the design options available by incorporating fabric structures within their projects, and, at the same time, providing an introduction to the structural principles and dynamic characteristics needed by Digital Design students to accurately visualize, model, and simulate the behavior of fabric structures within virtual environments.

Founder and CEO of Butterkiss, Bradley Chun, Presents at Digital Design Industry Speak Seminar Series

Branch, founder and CEO of Butterkiss Company, a consulting firm specializing in the development of early stage start-up companies, spoke to a lecture hall packed with Digital and Industrial Design students about digital entrepreneurship. Mr. Chun’s focus is on liquidity strategies which include crowd funding and micro-financing, as well as web technology and business process management. The audience listened intently as they were given information about 21st century funding sources for innovative products that they create.

Zarzycki Talks About Abandoned “T” Tunnels in Boston

Sapir Ng and Assistant Professor Andrzej Zarzycki presented their competition-winning proposal to use abandoned subway tunnels in Boston as a theater to a group of students at Suffolk University in April.
Autodesk Provides Building Information Modeling Seminars and Tutorials to Interior Design Students

Glenn Katz, Autodesk Solutions Specialist and Lecturer from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University, spent a week at the College of Architecture and Design in March providing students with group seminars and tutorials in the use of Building Information Modeling and associated analytical software. Separate sessions for the second and third year classes of Interior Design focused on a variety of tips and techniques in the use of Revit and concentrated on the creative use of modeling tools as well as the modeling and representation of complex forms and geometry (including the representation of draperies in a building information model) and the optimization of models for efficient visualization.

Philips Lighting Hosts Interior Design Students

For the second consecutive year, Philips Lighting hosted twenty Interior Design students and two faculty members as the company provided seminars and hands-on exercises at their Somerset, New Jersey headquarters. The instruction was provided by Dan Blitzer, principal of The Practical Lighting Workshop LLC and principal faculty at the Philips Lighting Application Center. The students in the Building and Interior Systems class of Assistant Professor David Brothers were able to perform measurement and visual experiments dealing with color temperature, light level, and the lamp types. Detailed study of new generation LED lamps included discussion of lamp construction, heat management, lighting controls, and luminaire design for LED lighting. Philips Lighting is part of Netherlands-based Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.

Kikkerland Sponsors Industrial Design Studio

The students in the second year Industrial Design studio taught by adjunct faculty member Ran Lerner were given a challenge: to design something useful, whimsical, and for children. Sponsored by Kikkerland Design, Inc., students created a variety of playful objects that ranged from shower accessories, to cartoon-like character inspired childproof hardware, to teething and gardening toys.

Haute Couture Furniture As Fashion Display

Using the fashion industry as a model for product design, students in the third year Industrial Design studio taught by Assistant Professor Brooks Atwood created an ensemble of limited edition objects, products, and/or furniture in three different sizes or scales. Small objects (e.g. clock or other tabletop object), medium sized objects (e.g. stool or coffee table), and large objects (e.g. table and/or chair) blended together in a visually coherent manner fabricated with similar techniques, materials, and equipment. The studio followed its participation in the Mercedes Benz Fashion Week 2012 in New York City with a display of their objects in the NJIT Student Center.

“Hot-rod clock” by Jeff Groves