Furniture by Industrial Design Student Gretchen Von Koenig Selected as a “Best in Show” at ICFF 2014

Design Milk, a popular online magazine dedicated to modern design, selected a rubber ottoman designed by third year industrial design student, Gretchen Von Koenig, as one of the Best at the 2014 International Contemporary Furniture Fair. “Akron Otto,” an ottoman produced from 204 recycled bicycle tire tubes, utilizes a flower-like module that is repeated throughout the piece and was created as homage to her home town of Akron, Ohio considered the twentieth century “Rubber Capital of the World.” Von Koenig’s work was one of only two student-produced projects selected among the approximately fifty professional pieces for this accolade.

Interior Design Student Work Shown at NeoCON in Chicago for Third Consecutive Year

Five students from NJIT’s Interior Design program had work exhibited as part of the Student Project Display at NeoCON 2014, “North America’s largest design exposition and conference for commercial interiors.” NJIT was one of only 22 schools represented in the display hosted in Chicago’s Merchandise Mart from June 9 through June 11. Exhibiting work created in the second-year design studio taught by Glenn Goldman were Chelsea Chamra, Angelica McKenzie, and Maria Romo (work shown above). Hsin Ting Hsieh exhibited third-year work created in Lorenzina Laera’s studio, and Nora Gharib displayed work created in the fourth-year studio taught by David Brothers.

Animations by Digital Design Students Selected and Screened at MetroCAF for NYC SIGGRAPH

Two students from the Digital Design program had animations selected for MetroCAF 2014 held Friday September 19. “MetroCAF is the annual New York City Metropolitan Area College Computer Animation Festival organized by the New York City ACM SIGGRAPH Professional Chapter.” The competitive selection process is open to students attending any school within a 160-mile radius of Times Square in New York City, an area that includes schools from Philadelphia, New Haven, Providence, Newark, and New York. Screened at the festival were Stephanie Jordan’s motion graphics animation, “Obama’s Acceptance Speech” created in a second-year class taught by Augustus Wendell; and “Oysters,” an environmental education animation created by Dan Acosta in a fourth-year studio taught by Andrzej Zarzycki.

Key Holder Created by Two Industrial Design Students Selected for Exhibit at NYCxDesign 2014

The iconic 1950’s phrase “Honey I’m Home” was the inspiration for a honeycomb key holder created by second year Industrial Design students, Luz Cabrera and Malorie Pangilinan. The FAB Design competition entry was selected for exhibit at New York City’s official citywide celebration of Design in May 2014 and subsequently picked up by more than a dozen design blogs including DesignTAXI, Style of Sound, Gizmodiva, Wicked Clothes, Béhance, Blenderss, TrendHunter, and more. The key holder is designed in the shape of a large honeycomb with matching key chains that fit into the hexagonal cells.
Architectural Photographs by Glenn Goldman Receive National and International Recognition

Director of the School of Art + Design, Professor Glenn Goldman, received a “special commendation” and was awarded Honorable Mention for his photograph “Iowa” illustrating a variety of scales in a roadside farm view. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced and exhibited the winners of the 2014 National Architecture Photography Competition on June 26 at the annual convention in Chicago. Of the approximately 1,200 photographs submitted, 14 were selected and cited by the judges for award. According to the judges, all of the selected photos illustrate how the “camera lens offers disguises in scale” and can make “things that initially appear to be quite small explode into mega-scale, and shrink massive objects down to minutia.” Submitted photographs were required to have an architectural theme or contain some element from the constructed environment.

"Structure and Beauty," an interior photograph of the chapel at Dublin Castle taken by Goldman, received Honorable Mention in the 2014 International Photography Awards (IPA) program. The photo, which had previously won “Best Overall Photo” in the regional 2013 AIA West Jersey Annual Architectural Photography Competition and published on the cover of the organization’s 2014 calendar, was selected in the non-professional category for Historical Architecture. The IPA program is described as “one of the most ambitious and comprehensive competitions in the photography world today.”

“A Special Kind of Magic” Selected for Screening at International Film Festival in New York City

After being screened at the Garden State Film Festival, “A Special Kind of Magic” was named an official selection of the International Film Festival in New York. Cinematography was by Industrial Design student Lea Burlew, and the piece was co-authored and co-directed by Digital Design Student Rebecca Jean Cortes along with Rodney Reyes from Theatre Arts & Technology.

Sasha Corchado Named to U.S. Women’s National Naginata Team for 2015 World Championships

For the second time, Sasha Corchado, academic advisor for the School of Art+Design, has been selected to represent the United States at the 2015 World Naginata Championship. Ms. Corchado will be competing as part of the U.S. Naginata Federation women’s team in the Women’s Individual Shiai (sparring) event in Montreal, Canada. Held every four years, Ms. Corchado also competed in the 2011 World Naginata Championship in Japan at which she won the silver medal in the Women’s Team Shiai event.

Earlier this summer, Ms. Corchado competed in the United States Naginata Federation 15th Annual Championship Tournament in Bryn Mawr, PA. She placed 3rd in the women’s individual competition, and was captain of the Greater New York Naginata Federation (GNYNF) Women’s Team, leading them to an unprecedented 5th consecutive victory. Ms. Corchado has been a member of the GNYNF women’s team since its competitive debut, at which the team won its first of these consecutive championships. In addition to Naginata, Ms. Corchado trains in Takamura ha Shindo Yoshin Ryu, Toda ha Buko Ryu, and Iaido.

David Brothers Wins Teaching Award

David Brothers, Coordinator of the Interior Design program, has been awarded the NJIT 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award for Instruction by a University Lecturer. In addition to the high regard students have for him and his pedagogical skills, Brothers has had an enormous impact on the program, taking a lead role in the preparation for the successful CIDA accreditation visit last year, and in the establishment of the Materials Library. Brothers teaches a variety of courses including Building and Interior Systems (e.g. lighting, acoustics, HVAC), Furniture Design, and multiple levels of Design Studio.
Interior Design Students Provide Expertise to Advocates for Children of New Jersey

Interior Design students Sandy Antoniou, Amy Chaill, Kasia Cyrulik, Sean Liao, Mie Shimobayashi, and Jennifer Silva worked with David Brothers, Coordinator of the Interior Design program, and volunteered their time to develop proposals for the renovation of the offices for the Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ) in Newark, NJ. The students measured and created base drawings of the existing space, accounted for and documented all existing furniture, interviewed employees of ACNJ, and developed multiple design options for the office space. The thirty-six page report summarizing the proposals and research inspired the organization to rethink immediate and long-term use of the space and allows flexibility for ACNJ to renovate all or part of the office at their discretion.

Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey and School of Art + Design Sponsor Art Competition

Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey (BCBSNJ) in collaboration with the School of Art + Design has established an art/design competition soliciting original artwork for their newly renovated headquarters in Newark, NJ, that best communicates what it means to the entrant and community to live one’s life as a “Journey to Health.” The organization will award up to four $1,000 awards to winning entries which are due October 30. All entrants must be students enrolled in NJIT’s College of Architecture and Design.

Brandon Simms Wins Third Art + Design Medal

Brandon Simms, a Digital Design major from Teaneck, NJ, was awarded the A+D Medal at Commencement, the highest award the School offers, representing excellence in design and academic achievement. Simms has had work exhibited three times at SIGGRAPH and was lead artist for “Blasteroids,” a game produced at the Global Game Jam in 2012.

Industrial Design Students Exhibit Work at International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York

The School of Art + Design participated in the 26th Annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) at Javits Center in New York City, May 17-20, 2014, with a curated selection of student work produced in the undergraduate Industrial Design program.

NJIT returned to ICFF for the fourth time in five years to join more than 600 exhibitors from 38 different countries exhibiting work seen by approximately 30,000 trade-specific attendees that included furniture and product designers and manufacturers, interior designers, architects, retailers, facility managers, store designers, visual merchandisers, and more.

The exhibit was organized and mounted by José Alcala, Senior University Lecturer and Coordinator of the Industrial Design program in the School of Art + Design. Alcala was assisted by fourth-year student, Martin Flores, the president of the NJIT student chapter of the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), along with other student members of IDSA.

Nine third- and fourth-year students in the Bachelor of Science program displayed work. The curated exhibits included “Wine Holders” by Chien Hua Huang; “Cicle” – a luminaire designed by Diana Vivanco; “Bloomus Bowls” – a group of nested metal containers by Chris Inserra; “Copper Planters” by Katie Goswick; “Concrete Coat Rack” by Josh Sanders; “Akron Otto” – an ottoman made from recycled tires as homage to Akron, Ohio known, in part, for its affiliation with the rubber industry, by Gretchen Von Koenig; “Red Solo Cup Chair” (made from recycled and shredded red Solo cups) by Roxanna Munoz; “Charlatan Side Table” by Stefanie Collantes; and an ergonomic stool by Dane Hagen.

A+D Student Selected for Restaurant Impossible

Tom Bury, 2002 graduate from NJIT’s School of Architecture and Project Manager for Food Network’s Restaurant Impossible, has selected Interior Design student Angelica McKenzie to be part of an upcoming project in Seattle.
Steve Zdepski, an accomplished musician who has studied piano, organ, accordion, and harpsichord, is teaching Foundations of Sound and Music for Digital Design. Professor Zdepski is an original member of the School of Architecture faculty at NJIT. He received his post-professional Master in Architecture II degree from the University of Pennsylvania where he studied under Louis I. Kahn and was a Penn Graduate School of Fine Arts Scholar. He was awarded the Bachelor of Architecture degree, cum laude, from Syracuse University. Zdepski is a co-recipient of two Progressive Architecture Awards (1983 and 1991) and a co-recipient of an Honorable Mention in the 1989 AIA Educational Honors program. He is a past president of the Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA) and is co-founder of the Imaging Laboratory at NJIT. His professional work has appeared on the cover of Fine Homebuilding, and has been published in numerous international, national, and regional publications. His writings and work have appeared in myriad journals and magazines including Architectural Record, Computer Graphics World, IEEE Society Press, Interiors, The Village Voice, Progressive Architecture, New Jersey Monthly, the New York Times, and T.H.E. Journal. While teaching in Digital Design, he continues as a studio critic in the School of Architecture’s comprehensive studios for fifth-year students.

Kathleen L. Sowle is a graduate of Pratt Institute where she received the degrees of Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Science in Architecture and is currently teaching the residential design studio for third-year Interior Design. Prior to this teaching appointment, she taught in the first year of the Architecture program at NJIT and at Pratt. She is principal of contentext design/build and has completed numerous interior residential projects in New York City. Sowle previously worked for Justin Georges Architect, PC and JDN Building Design in New York and has served as Project Manager for Operations for Phoenix Houses of New York, Inc.

Ana Peñalba holds double Masters Degrees in Architecture and Environmental Studies from the Polytechnic School of Madrid (ETSAM). In 2005, she co-founded the Architecture Collective Leon11. Since 2012, she has worked as a multidisciplinary independent designer looking at various scales while exploring the overlap of architecture and socio-cultural territories. She has worked as a designer with Thomas Leeser and Dominique Perrault, and collaborated with other architects including Andres Perea, Andres Jaque and Izaskun Chinchilla. She also works as a researcher at Terreform under the direction of Michael Sorkin, is a design member of Awindow, and collaborates on other trans-disciplinary projects focused on the performance of architecture in public spaces. She has been recently selected as one of twenty emergent young Spanish architects in the contest Arquia/Proxima 2014 “OUT”.

Christopher Parrish is teaching Methods and Materials to students in the Interior Design program. Parrish is NCIDQ-certified and has a BFA from Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. He has worked for Callison Architecture, Barteluce Architects & Associates, Ageloff & Associates, and Harris Smith Design – all in New York City. His projects include retail installations for Rolex, San Giorgio, Tudor, Harry Winston, Piaget, Marc Jacobs, Burberry, and more at various locations including Wynn Resorts in Las Vegas and Macau. Additional commercial and residential work is located in the New York and New Jersey metropolitan areas.

Efe Kutuk Lectures in Turkey

Efecem Kutuk, adjunct in Industrial Design and Studio Critic for Collaborative Design Studio, presented two invited lectures in Ankara, Turkey, during the past summer. “Pop Culture of New York City” was presented at Bilkent University’s Interior Architecture and Environmental Design program, and “Furniture Design Fundamentals” was presented at Cankaya University’s Interior Architecture program.
Goldman and Zarzycki Publish Chapter in New Book about Building Information Modeling


Taro Narahara Presents at SIGGRAPH

Assistant Professor of Digital Design Taro Narahara presented “Exploring Board-Game Design Using Digital Technologies” at SIGGRAPH in Vancouver in August. He discussed the results of a case study to show how current technologies such as sensors and microcontrollers, 3D-printing and laser cutting, and digital prototyping, can be used in the development of physical board games by altering various game structures.

More than Forty Art + Design Students Have Work Selected for Exhibit at SIGGRAPH in Vancouver

Student work produced in NJIT’s School of Art + Design were exhibited for the third consecutive year at the curated Student Work Exhibit at SIGGRAPH, the Association of Computing Machinery’s (ACM) conference on computer graphics and interactive techniques in Vancouver, British Columbia, from August 10 through 14. NJIT was one of 19 schools included in the international exhibit and had the only Industrial and Interior Design work shown.

All disciplines in the School of Art + Design were represented. Foundation Year work was created by Troy Benjamin, Niti Dattani, Henry Drago, Kimberly Hastings, Pamela Jablonski, Taylor Kline, Robert Lockatell, Malorie Pangilinan, Nahin Shah, Amar Sohan, Nathaniel Soto and Dakshita Supawala. Industrial Design work was produced by Martin Flores and Natalia Szabla. Interior Design works selected were from Cindy Caldas, Chelsea Chamra, Amanda DeWitte, Alyssa Diaz, Brendan Horman, James Lischick, Angelica McKenzie, Stephanie Marczak, Merrit Morcos, Stephanie Rodrigues, Jaimie Rodriguez, Maria Romo and Mie Shimobayashi. Digital Design projects were created by Dan Acosta, Kwasi Amankona, Angela Ang, Jeremy Borghi, Paige Crosby, Amos Dudley, Brian Gunning, Kimberly Hastings, Mateusz Mrowiec, Thanh Nguyen, Elvin Padilla, Gillian Rizza, Mark Sanna, Mark Santiago, Brandon Simms and Shiao Alice Sung. The student work was created in a variety of courses and studios taught by various faculty that included José Alcala, David Brothers, Glenn Goldman, Brent Kloks, Andrew Mailloux, Sergio Mannino, Taro Narahara, Jessica Ross, Augustus Wendell and Andrzej Zarzycki.

Andrzej Zarzycki and Martina Decker Offer Workshop at the CAADRIA 2014 Conference in Kyoto

Professors Andrzej Zarzycki and Martina Decker conducted a two-day workshop, “Adaptive Designs Powered with Programmable Matter,” at the CAADRIA 2014 Conference in Kyoto, Japan. The workshop discussed an integration of microcontroller-based physical computing with emergent material technologies and looked at various ways in which performative materials can respond in an environment that is controlled with a digital interface.

Digital Design Students Studying Music Attend Dress Rehearsal at New York Metropolitan Opera

With a grant from the Metropolitan Opera Guild, students and guests from Professor Stephen Zdepski’s course “Foundations in Sound and Music” attended the New York Metropolitan Opera’s final dress rehearsal of Amadeus Mozart’s opera Le Nozze di Figaro. The new production directed by James Levine is set in an 18th century manor house in Seville during the 1930’s, with contemporary stage design.
Two Papers Presented at Northumbria University

Martina Decker and Andrzej Zarzycki presented two papers at the eCAADe 2014 Conference: Fusion: Data Integration at its Best at Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK. The conference focused on the integration of digital technologies into design. Decker and Zarzycki’s paper “Designing Resilient Buildings with Emergent Materials” discussed an integration of smart materials with microcontroller (Arduino) technologies. Zarzycki’s paper “Teaching and Designing for Augmented Reality” discussed the applications of augmented reality in design and education, showcasing NJIT student projects.

Art + Design Student Work Featured on Synergis Blog

A variety of Art + Design student projects created with Autodesk software (Maya, 3DS Max, and Revit) were featured on the Synergis website during the summer. The Autodesk educational representative showed twenty-four different images created in Interior Design, Digital Design, and in Collaborative Design Studios. Interior Design work was by: Amy Cahill, Cindy Caldas, Samantha Cato, Chelsea Chamra, Katarzyna Cyrulik, Alyssa Diaz, James Lischick, Angelica McKenzie, Maria Romo, and Stephanie Rodrigues. Digital Design work was by Kwasi Amankona, Angela Ang, Jeremy Borghi, Mateusz Mrowiec, Thanh Nguyen, Brandon Simms, and Shiao Alice Sung. Collaborative Design Studio projects were by three multidisciplinary, three-person teams: (1) Amanda Bibik, Nora Garib, and Hsin Ting Hsieh; (2) Susan Aboelela, Dan Acosta, and Kellen Naranjo; and (3) Kwasi Amankona, Brendan Hornman, and Daton Kim.

Five A+D Interior Designers at Gensler in Summer 2014

The School of Art + Design’s Interior Design program was well-represented during the summer of 2014 at Gensler’s Morristown, NJ offices. Former students Anita Graham and Nora Hamadé are employed full-time, while summer internships were filled by undergraduate Katarzyna Cyrulik and alumni (now graduate students in architecture) Adam Raiffe and Banafsheh Soltani.

Digital Design Represented at SIGGRAPH 2014

Representation of the Digital Design program has grown to include alumni, students, and faculty at the annual SIGGRAPH conference for computer graphics and interactive techniques. Held from August 10 through 14 in Vancouver, British Columbia, the conference attracted almost fifteen thousand registrants to see exhibits in emerging technology, digital art, technical papers and courses, and the annual computer animation festival. NJIT participation was varied. Prof. Taro Narahara had a studio presentation about gaming. SIGGRAPH 2015 Courses Chair Prof. Glenn Goldman served on the unified jury for general submissions and chaired a session, “Crowded, Furry, and in a Hurry.” Current student Mark Sanna and graduate AJ Polanco Jr. were selected to serve on the competitive Student Volunteer Program. Alumnae Rachel Corres and Danielle Esmaya both served on the animation festival subcommittee, with Corres chairing the “Daytime Selects” sessions.

Gosser Exhibits Work in Paterson and Newark

Artist, NJIT alumnus, and College of Architecture and Design Gallery Curator Matt Gosser is exhibiting work in two locations during the annual Newark Arts Festival, Open Doors 2014. Gosser curated and contributed to “The Big Show,” an exhibit of twenty extra-large pieces on the fourth floor of the Art Factory in Paterson as part of the “Building Bridges” event. He also has a new installation in “Prologue-Epilogue” at the Gateway Center in Newark.

Interior Design Students Assist School of Management

Fourth year Interior Design students Cindy Caldas and Tatiana Garay, under the guidance of Program Coordinator and Senior University Lecturer David Brothers, worked with NJIT School of Management administrators to help envision a fresh, contemporary appearance for two spaces that represent the face of the school – a study lounge and reception area. Improvements are ongoing.