**Highlights from Interior Design**

**Bellarmine Show House**

Thousand see students’ work

Each year, Interior Design Institute (IDI) students have an opportunity to participate in a Bellarmine Show House. Recently, IDI received the assignment of a full bath in The Elmwood, an historic home in the heart of St. Matthews.

**Great networking opportunity**

More than 20 design companies and students Janie Baker, Mercedes Kem, Ruth Koehler, Rhonda Rhenferd, and Amanda Biechner participated. Supervised by Interior Design Chair, Terri Malthouse George, students used their talents to create a warm and inviting bathroom while retaining the historic nature of the space. Shuttered windows, a pedestal sink, and lavish drape-like shower curtains were some of the design effects the group achieved. Thousands of visitors pay to tour the show house and view the work of the artists involved in the project. Proceeds from the event support a scholarship fund for deserving post-secondary students. Students gain valuable hands-on experience, sharpen their skills, and contribute to the community at the same time. Student Rhonda Rhenferd said, “All design students should experience a Show House project to get their feet wet.”

**Abby Thonen** earned her associate degree in Interior Design from Louisville Technical Institute, September, 2004. She chose LTI because she thought it would be “a great investment” for her future. Abby made an excellent decision. She found that the Interior Design program at LTI was “very focused” specialized program” through which she could make rapid progress toward her career goals.

Abby has a deep interest and a lot of talent in the visual arts. She thought that Interior Design would allow her to use her “artistic abilities and creativity” in a positive way in her career. Abby’s talents, the skills she learned as a student at LTI, her ability to apply those skills creatively and a strong relationship with the college’s Graduate Employment Services Director, Barbara Moore, helped her obtain her current position with Munson Business Interiors as an Interior Design and Account Executive. Currently, Abby uses her CADD skills to select finishes for products as she sells office furniture. Abby is excited to be employed by one of the top fifty fastest growing companies in the Louisville area, Munson Business Interiors.

Abby’s instructors

Abby Thonen credits her instructors and their current knowledge of the field as a factor in her success. Her faculty advisor, Kathy Hagan, supervised the students’ work. LTI faculty and staff pitched in by donating furniture items, computer components, and cash as well as donating time and targeting the position at Munson Business Interiors.

**Good advice for students**

Abby challenges current LTI students to “get out there and work in the field (or intern) and absorb as much information as you can.” She also suggests that students should “always be open to learning more” as such an attitude toward learning will “help you succeed professionally and personally.”

Congratulations, Abby, and best wishes for your continued success.

**Students just CAN it!**

Carla Wallace, Interior Design instructor, believes that combining service to the community and real life experiences improves the skills of Louisville Technical Institute students. One combination of opportunities is the “Can”struction Competition, sponsored by Kentucky Harvest.

Seeking donations of dollars and canned goods, Interior Design students obtained more than $2,000 in cash and canned goods. Instructors helped students measure the cans and record label colors. Students submitted design ideas, selecting a winning design as well as the one they preferred, and then determined what the lobby project was.

**Credits to the students’ work**

Left, Tina Lair takes a break. Right, the finished room held no furniture. His brothers’ room and a roof over his head, but his life was a struggle for him to get a new life. Cedric, for example, had a room and a roof over his head, but his room lacked any furniture items, computer components, and cash as well as designers, students benefited by putting their design skills to work on a real world project with budgets, deadlines and mistakes. Interior Design Chairperson Terri George, and Amanda Biechner participated. Supervised by Interior Design Chair, Terri Malthouse George, students used their talents to create a warm and inviting bathroom while retaining the historic nature of the space. Shuttered windows, a pedestal sink, and lavish drape-like shower curtains were some of the design effects the group achieved. Thousands of visitors pay to tour the show house and view the work of the artists involved in the project. Proceeds from the event support a scholarship fund for deserving post-secondary students. Students gain valuable hands-on experience, sharpen their skills, and contribute to the community at the same time. Student Rhonda Rhenferd said, “All design students should experience a Show House project to get their feet wet.”

*“We were able to help out a truly needy young man and his family, we all took the time that we normally spend in our normal routines and apply them in a real home setting. As a group, we gained the experience of a real life family. We all brought different skills to the job and our group functioned as a whole. We learned how to work as a team, and the joy and happiness we get from doing hard work makes our every day work so much more worthwhile.”*

**Strobotic**

**Getting involved and build your resumé**

Students representing Graphic Arts, Interior Design, CADD and Computer/Mechanical Engineering have paid dues as Skills USA members and postsecondary competitors. Along with developing employability, leadership and technical skills, students enjoy fundraising activities during the academic year. Skills USA students will assist LTI instructors with the regional competition in February for local high school students while they prepare for their collegiate regional competitions and the opportunity to compete at the state and national level.

Other active student organizations at LTI include Advertising Federation of Louisville, the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), the International Interior Design Association (IIDA), the American Design Drafting Association (ADD) and the newest student organization, the Student Association (SA) with student organizer Rhonda Hrench and staff advisor Kathy Hagan.

These organizations provide great opportunities for students to practice leadership skills, compete in technical skill competitions, experience the rewards of providing service to others, and network with professionals in their various fields. Students find many ways to grow and display their talents at Louisville Technical Institute.

**Tis the season**

Interior Design students recently participated in the Festival of Trees & Lights event sponsored by the City of Louisville. Using their talents and creativity, they decorated beautiful trees and wreaths that were auctioned to benefit local charitable organizations. Here are a few of the beautiful items students created:

* Sandra Buck; back is Tina Lair, created the purple and teal wreath.
* Janie Baker and Mary Lyle, Shanna Portman, Ashley Bearden, Sandra Buck, left is Tina Lair's nature tree.
* Janie Baker and Kimberly Garrison's crepe paper tree.
* Dani Baker and Misty Potter. On the table, front is blue myrtle tree by Sandra Buck, back is Tina Lair's nature tree.

**Teaming up to make a difference**

Project Women assists unaccompanied or unemployed women with housing while they return to school to become more self-sufficient. Interior Design students in the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and/or the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) chose Project Women to benefit from their design skills. Cedric’s family had been providing housing through Project Women, but they had very little with which to begin a new life. Cedric, for example, had a room and a roof over his head, but his room lacked any furniture items, computer components, and cash as well as designers, students benefited by putting their design skills to work on a real world project with budgets, deadlines and mistakes. Interior Design Chairperson Terri George, and Amanda Biechner participated. Supervised by Interior Design Chair, Terri Malthouse George, students used their talents to create a warm and inviting bathroom while retaining the historic nature of the space. Shuttered windows, a pedestal sink, and lavish drape-like shower curtains were some of the design effects the group achieved. Thousands of visitors pay to tour the show house and view the work of the artists involved in the project. Proceeds from the event support a scholarship fund for deserving post-secondary students. Students gain valuable hands-on experience, sharpen their skills, and contribute to the community at the same time. Student Rhonda Rhenferd said, “All design students should experience a Show House project to get their feet wet.”

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**JAXSON ENGLISH** Louisville Design Studio