

Student Work

550 Table (2012)
By Chris Richard



Richard's 550 Table was designed for people who need a little more surface from time to time. Made from black walnut with a Baltic birch plywood core, the table expands from 1.2 to 2.3 m, and has two drawers for magazines and four drawers for remotes or coasters.
Photos Chris Richard



Boom (2012)
By Andrea Brown



Boom explores how furniture designed for seniors can be both functionally and psychologically supportive. By incorporating smoother edges, warmer colours and familiar curves, Brown's suite of home furniture offers functional benefits to an ageing population while being sensitive to their individual identities and emotional well-being. This is important because most design for the elderly is impersonal and medical-looking, and lacks a sense of empathy for the intended user or the user's family.
Photo Hawley Braswell

Acti-Prop Blocks and Stools (2012)
By Sarah von der Luft



Sarah von der Luft's project fosters a critical voice while staying true to the objectives of function and form. Her Acti-Prop Blocks and Stools invite people to play with abstract images, inspiring them to think abstractly and critically. In constant flux, no single perspective stays dominant, allowing for assertion without intimidation. The blocks function as seats, tables, writing surfaces, storage units and soapboxes, inviting interaction and collaboration.
Photos Sarah von der Luft

Canopy Dinnerware (2012)
By Claudia Meyer



Meyer's Canopy Dinnerware set was conceptually inspired by the multi-ethnic, composite culture of Malaysia. Formally, the set recalls the structure of a tropical leaf, the fractured geography of the country and the diversity of its terrain. The design is a reinterpretation of the botanical and geologic beauty of the country that captures a sense of growth and vitality. The work emerged from a project to create a five-piece dinnerware set that was specifically designed for a chosen country or culture and its cuisine.
Photo Lucia DeRespinis

Folded Felt Table (2011)
By Li-Rong Liao



Liao's Folded Felt Table is a result of her thesis experiments with different folding profiles to find a balance between structure and aesthetics. Using mathematical formulas, Liao is able to apply the folding concept in a large range of design aspects including furniture, fashion and medical devices. The table is folded from a single sheet of cardboard with a laminated layer of felt.
Photo I-Chao Wang

Desk 117 (2012)
By David Hsu



Hsu's Desk 117 combines minimalist style with a space-age aesthetic. The desk is designed with cable management in mind and includes an internal power strip that provides electricity for devices while providing lighting and cable-management functions. In addition to a large access panel in the rear, there are multiple trap doors for monitor cables, speaker cables, etc. Hsu designed the desk with a large work surface area for people who need to spread out papers and reference materials. The desk's secondary surface is deep enough to hold a 69-cm monitor or computer with stereo speakers on the side.
Photo Hawley Braswell

Reflexion Chair (2012)
By Arnold Chu



Chu designed his Reflexion Chair of two-way mirrors in the silhouette of a diamond. He embedded LCD panels as 'digital upholstery' providing millions of ever changing colours and dynamic patterns. Chu believes the embedding of technology will be the future of furniture design.
Photos Armando Rafael Photography

Pratt Institute



Students working on their chair design prototypes in the department's fabrication shop. In the foreground is a student working with a metal-bending tool to create the base of a chair.
Photo Bob Handelman



Students and faculty gathered outside of the Juliana Curran Terian Design Center, home to Pratt's programmes in industrial, interior, communications and fashion design.
Photo Josh Gerritsen



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Course
Industrial Design

School
Pratt Institute

Introduction

'We expect students to come to Pratt ready to work hard and to share their knowledge'

Steve Diskin, chair of the master's programme Industrial Design



When was the school founded, and has it changed much over the years?
Pratt Institute was founded in 1887 by industrialist Charles Pratt. It began as a trade school and, though there is still a legacy focus on providing students with hands-on expertise, the approach emphasises a much

broader curriculum, thinking and creative self-expression.

What is studying at this school all about?

For Pratt, industrial design is about the translation of ideas into form – with all the implications that the notion of translation brings with it. In the first year, there are ID Tech studio, 3D abstraction and colour and drawing classes that provide a vocabulary of form and understanding of process in a direct experience of translation from eye to hand and from concept to an evolved final design. Advanced studio classes and thesis, taught by highly experienced professors, refine the language, intent and consequences of design. Finally, expert input from guest speakers, competitions, sponsored projects and field trips connect the internal academic machinery of the department to the design needs and perceptions of the outside world.

What kind of teaching method is applied?

The pedagogy for Pratt's master's programme relies on 'conversation', i.e. more dialogue than critique, so that by the time students get to their final project thesis they realise that dialogue is better than proscription.

Why should students choose this particular school?

Pratt master's degree programme in industrial design is consistently ranked among the top 10 in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report* and *DesignIntelligence*. The programme, with grounding in traditional design skills, conceptualisation, research and design processes in the context of global issues, prepares our graduates to become leaders who question, explore and expand the relevance and passion of this discipline.

What is expected from the students?

We expect students to come to Pratt ready to work hard, to share their knowledge collaboratively, and to prepare themselves for a field where the designer must be able to provide innovative professional design solutions.

What is the most important thing for students to learn during this course?

A strong legacy feature of the course is that it welcomes students without a bachelor's degree in industrial design. These 'career changers' not only come from related fields of architecture and interior design, but also from fine art, biology, economics, neuroscience, engineering and music, among others. As such, we have an amazingly diverse group of students who are encouraged to exploit and share their previous academic pursuits and interests in their studies and become 'world citizens'.

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Masterclass

Product Design

Guide to the
World's Leading
Graduate Schools

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Aimed at current bachelor's degree students, recent graduates and professionals looking for a specialisation, *Masterclass: Product Design* provides an in-depth overview of 30 leading graduate schools from all over the world that offer a master's degree in product design.

The featured schools are selected based on a list of criteria including the quality of the graduation work, the employability and success of former students, the list of lecturers, and their reputation in the design industry. Each school is featured extensively over 10 pages containing useful information, such as programme description, application details and requirements, student demographics, mentor and alumni lists, tuition and scholarship details, and full contact details. The articles give a real insight into life at each of the schools and in the global locations – each school profile opens with an introduction by the dean, followed by examples of recent student work, an interview with a successful alumnus, information about the school's location regarding housing, transportation and the cultural scene from a student's perspective, and more.

A world map indicating the demographic spread of included schools, a summary table and a notebook section with space for research notes, complete this guide to help potential students choose the school that will suit them best.

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