

Matt Cowen

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OBJECTIVE Full-time position within the consumer product industry where I can leverage my industrial design and user-research experience to develop compelling, user-centered products and services.

EXPERIENCE DESIGNKITCHEN, Chicago, IL (October 2008 - current)

User Experience Designer

- develop optimal web experiences for a variety of users and stakeholders
- write research protocols and conduct interviews and workshops to uncover user needs, expectations and opportunities
- recommend strategies and tactics based on learnings from primary research, market analysis and stakeholder objectives
- conceive new content, categorizations and functionality to deliver optimal experiences
- present strategy and UX documents to clients for approval and buy-in
- document interactions and content hierarchy via wireframes and user flows to communicate the user experience to internal teams and stakeholders
- work collaboratively with visual designers and front/back-end developers to ensure all deliverables are user-centered and aligned with strategy

IIT INSTITUTE OF DESIGN, Chicago, IL (June 2008 - October 2008)

Design Researcher, New Options Initiative

- collaborated with ID faculty, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (Battle Creek, MI) and Matter (Atlanta, GA) to conceive viable work-based alternatives to traditional educational programs for out-of-school and at-risk youth
- wrote research protocols and interviewed out-of-school youth and business leaders to uncover their point of view on how high school education translates into successful employment
- transformed vast sets of qualitative data into clear frameworks that aided in concept generation
- modeled existing initiatives for objective comparison and informed concept generation
- prototyped and tested solutions in situ

SQUARE 1 PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, Chicago, IL (October 2003 - July 2007)

Senior Industrial Designer

- developed products for the home, office, electronics and sporting-goods categories
- generated design concepts through sketches, renderings, models and CAD
- presented design concepts to clients and refined accordingly based on feedback
- created CAD data for prototype and manufacturing release
- trained and managed junior designers and interns

FIREBELLY DESIGN COMPANY, Chicago, IL (September 2003 - March 2004)

Graphic Design Intern

KALEIDOSCOPE IMAGING, Chicago, IL (May 2002 - July 2003)

Freelance Industrial Designer (May 2003 - July 2003)

Industrial Design Intern (May 2002 - August 2002)

EDUCATION IIT INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

Master of Design Methods (May 2008)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Industrial Design (May 2003)

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF FINE ART, SCOTLAND

visiting product design student (August 2002 - January 2003)

TECHNICAL SKILLS SolidWorks // Adobe Illustrator/InDesign/Photoshop // Microsoft Visio // Microsoft Office

AWARDS **Notable Entry** 2006 Light Objects Sustainable Design Competition

Winner of the Design Excellence Award 2004 Chicago Sustainable Design Challenge