the interior design student make a difference project

October 26 - 27, 2007

Can interior design students use creativity to make daily existence better for human beings, other living things or the earth?

Student projects from appalachian state university

Instructor sponsors

Jeanne Mercer-Ballard
Tim Dolan

The Interior Design Educator's Council Social Justice Network presents the 2007 results of the Interior Design Student Make a Difference Project.

This project involved design students in identifying a real-life problem that could be made better through a design of some kind. They then created and installed a small, meaningful design solution, either temporary or permanent, and finally observed what happened when people encountered and used their environmental idea.

In the spirit that all efforts have worth, all student projects are provided here without priority or editing.

The IDEC Social Justice Network
www.idec.org/

The Interior Design Educators Council, Inc. (IDEC) is dedicated to:

- The advancement of Interior Design Education
- The advancement of Interior Design Research
- Fostering the exchange of information within the Interior Design Profession and related design disciplines.
- The improvement of educational standards, and
- The development of the Body of Knowledge relative to the quality of life and human performance in the interior environment.

Splash Guard

The existing drink machine and bottle opener

Our sign and shield

A demonstration of how the design worked

Designers
Sarah Allen and Alyssa Smith

Institution
Appalachian State University

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Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

Customers at the Mast General Store shop there to enjoy the nostalgia of an old country store. They often enjoy a cold soda out of a glass bottle. When the customer removes the cap with the bottle opener on the machine it spews on them.

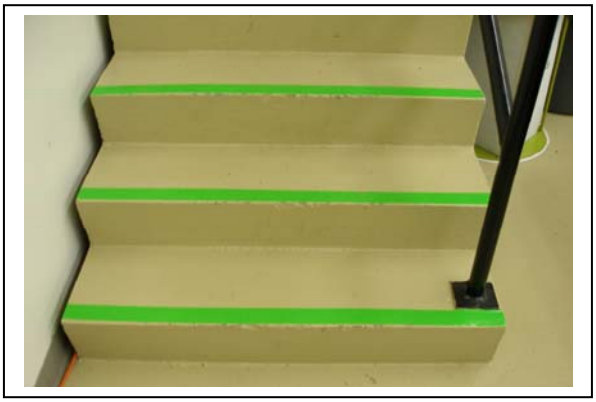
The solution

In efforts to prevent the customer from getting splattered with the soda, we designed a shield to block the spray. The shield was constructed in a dome-shape using a clear plastic. We cut the plastic to fit on the machine and allowed space for the bottle to be opened. We also added a sign to caution the customers about the potential problem.

The solution's impact on its users

When our design was first installed the customers were suspicious as to what it was, and how it would work. Each of the customers had a different reaction to our design. Some were pleased with the results while others acted as if it was nothing out of the ordinary. After observing several customers use the product we concluded that it was a successful design. It blocked the spray from splashing onto the customer. The workers at the store were also pleased to see the design succeed because it cut down on the time they had to spend cleaning up the mess. While the design worked well, if it were a permanent instillation it would have to be cleaned on a regular basis either once or twice a day to prevent the build-up of sticky soda. All in all the customers responded the way we had expected them to, a few thought it wasn't necessary, however most enjoyed the results and appreciated our efforts. The design proved to be a helpful solution that resulted in leaving customers satisfied with their soda in a glass bottle, and their entire trip to the Mast General Store.

“Watch Your Step!”: Make A Difference, 2007



This photo illustrates the lime strips of duct tape applied to the edges of each step.

The caution sign preceding the stairway.

An example of a student recognizing that there is now a distinct separation between each step as they descend.

Designers:
Diane Carim and Meghan Leverett

Institution:
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by:
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem:

Upon entering Studio 49 in Kerr Scott Hall, there are six steps going down that are the same color as the floor. It is very difficult to see where the first step starts and where the last step ends.

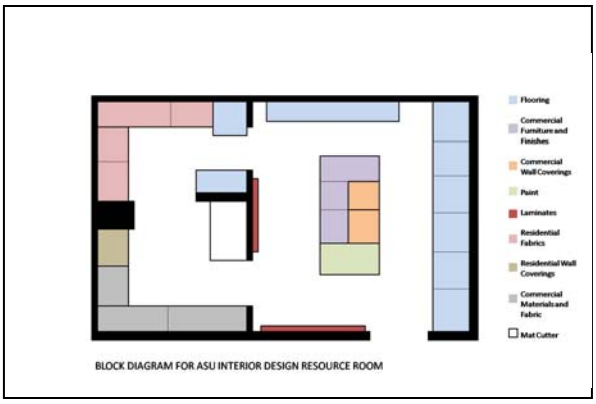
The solution

In order to ameliorate circulation in and out of the studio, bright strips of lime duct tape will be applied to the edge of each step. This will be observed to see if people’s behaviors have changed.

The solution’s impact on its users

With the implementation of a caution sign as you enter the studio and lime duct tape on the edges of each step, we believe that the problem of not being able to differentiate between the floor and the stairs was resolved. Most who entered the studio showed appreciation for the duct tape on the steps, but were not as affected by the caution sign. The duct tape could probably stand on its own as a great solution. Several students who entered the studio while we were observing actually noted how the brightness of the lime was incredibly effective in determining where one step ended and the other began. We chose lime duct tape because of the existing lime Interior Design logo on the adjacent wall. Many students were actually interested in seeing if the tape glowed in the dark, which proved to us that they were paying attention and that it was easily noticeable. After testing the glow-in-the-dark idea, the tape did indeed prove to “glow” allowing easier, and safer, access to the steps in the dark. This fact only enhanced our decision of applying duct tape to the edges of each step and really took the entire idea to the next level. In the future, if product is purchased for this specific task, it would be a wise choice to include a “glow-in-the-dark” option.

Interior Design Resource Room: Signage Plan



Resource Room organizational chart.

Directional signs after installation.

Design Students using the improved resource room.

Designers
Ariel Cohn Helen McDonald

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

As Interior Design Students we are always in a hurry trying to get our projects perfect. Our team found that organization is key to the success of a project. The interior design resource room can be very unorganized and confusing.

The solution

We decided to create directional signs for the two resource rooms. White signs hang over the area they describe (Carpet, Wood Flooring, Commercial Furniture & Finishes, etc.) There are also two black signs at the entrances of the second room to show what is in that area.

The solution's impact on its users

We set the signs up on a busy Thursday night when many students would be in the nearby studio working on projects. After observing some students using the resource room we noticed a few things. Students quickly went into the room for an item and found samples. Rather than searching for more than five minutes to find where it was even located.

After poling some users we were able to find out that the signs were quiet a success. Although seniors have used the resource room for years, they still found it helpful to have signs pointing them in the right direction. Students found they were less stressed trying to figure out what they needed, because it was right there in front of them, rather than having to search for materials. Newer students to the program found the signs to be a major help. Instead of feeling overwhelmed, they were able to easily distinguish the different areas (such as commercial and residential). We found that this make a difference project was a definite success.

Make A Difference: Mission to Save Kraut Creek!

Designers
Christine Collins, Meg McGee, Katie Moose, Caite O'Bryant, Sarah Peterson, Ben Thornton

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Tim Dolan

Example of erosion along bank of Kraut Creek. (Note: bottom rock layer is 2.2 million years old)

One of three constructed systems for erosion control.

System catching sediment and debris near major water run-off.

The problem

Water run-off from campus is emptied into Kraut Creek, causing too much sediment to be carried off which leads to extreme erosion on the banks. It is a designated trout creek, but trout aren't able to live in its current condition with excess sediment, oil and other debris.

The solution

We constructed three erosion control systems from wood and aluminum wire screening. They were pushed into the soil in the creek in three different areas to help hold back and filter sediment and large pieces of debris. The constructed systems will help slow down the water when the run-off rushes in. The combination of slow and fast water helps stabilize the effects the water run-off has on erosion.

The solution's impact on its users

After talking to some observers about our erosion control systems, it seems that most people aren't informed of the issues which trouble Kraut Creek. Observers agreed that after our systems had been in place for about two hours you could already see some difference. Debris was collecting in the systems as the water flowed around them and filtered through. From the construction which started on campus the morning of installation, the water color had already changed significantly in two to three hours. A design change was made when we were installing the first system because we had trouble getting it in the ground far enough so that the screening was catching sediment and debris. For the other two systems we added more of the screening to the bottom for better filtration. Signs informing people of the erosion control systems and problems with Kraut Creek were also placed nearby the three sites of installation. The goal is that even if our systems make only a small immediate impact that it will raise awareness of the problem and bring it to the attention of ASU officials. Later cooperation with ASU and financial supporters could lead to a major rehabilitation of Kraut Creek. For now we need to make little steps towards progress and spread the word. All observers whom we talked to seemed impressed and inspired. Overall we were successful.

Time Log:

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Time Spent	2:30pm to 4:00pm	5:00pm to 6:00pm	1:00pm to 6:30pm	9:30am to 3:30pm
Total Time: 14 hrs	1.5 hrs	1 hr	5.5 hrs	6 hrs

Time	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
9:30AM				Installation	
1PM			Trip to Lowes	Spreading Awareness	
2:30-4PM	Brainstorming		Construction	Paperwork	
5-6PM		Group Project Finalization	Construction		
Total Hours	1.5 hours	1 hour	5.5 hours	6 hours	
14 hours spent					

Women's Restroom Storage Design

Photo 1: Women's restroom, pre-installation.

Photo 2: Constructed wooden table with sufficient space for the storage of temporary objects carried in by students and faculty.

Photo 3: Women's restroom, post installation.

Designers:
Natalie Flinchum and Pilar Greene

Institution:
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by:
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem:

In the Appalachian State University technology building, the 1st floor women's restroom does not provide adequate structures to leave personal belongings (i.e.: coats, book bags, portfolios, etc) for those who need it while visiting the restroom. There are hooks provided on the stall doors, but not enough proficient space to move in and out of the stall with several bulky items. Many are left to leave their items in the conference area just outside the restroom, or on the dirty floor inside the restroom.

The solution

A table constructed of scrap wood was designed to help the users of the women's restroom to sit their belongings on a clean sturdy surface, all the while keeping their items safe and near while visiting the restroom stalls. It is also small enough to where it is not obtrusive to the space needed for someone to enter into their locker or to move around the restroom freely.

The solution's impact on its users

Users approached the table as a useful place to temporarily maintain their belongings. It successfully solved the problem of keeping objects off of the floor and nearby without the hassle of bringing everything into the stalls. We expected the table to have a positive outcome for its users, and fortunately we have achieved this through the simple task of providing a table within the restroom. The reactions surveyed helped us successfully achieve our purpose in design. It takes very little to make a difference and to give a helping hand on making every day tasks easier.

Make A Difference: Down to the Last Drop

Side view of the shampoo holder.

Front view of the shampoo holder hanging on shower head.

Using the shampoo.

Designer:
Megan Harvey

Institution:
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by:
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard
Appalachian State University

The problem:

I was always collecting shampoo bottles with only a few squeezes of shampoo in each. It was time consuming to have to turn a bottle over and wait for the small amount to come out. Setting it upside down on the tub would always result in it falling on my foot. After talking to some of my peers I realized this was an annoyance to all of us.

The solution

To solve this problem I had to design something that would hold the bottle upside down and get the shampoo to the top of the bottle, ready for the user. It had to be at a convenient height and out of the way, but also sturdy while being used. I designed a shampoo holder from a wire coat hanger, which wraps around the bottle and hangs from the shower head.

The solution's impact on its users

This solution was a success. I put one in each shower in my house and handed out a few to friends. I had plenty of almost empty shampoo bottles for each holder. I was very happy with the results, when I used this design it was very sturdy and didn't get in the way of my shower at all. It was a lot faster than having to shake the bottle up and wait for the last of the shampoo to fall. A friend that used it said "I was really surprised at how well the bottle actually stayed in place. It made my morning a lot faster and every minute helps in the morning." Another user, my sixteen year old brother, said "I think there was someone holding my shampoo upside down in the shower this morning." Apparently it didn't get in his way at all. One user said, "The shampoo didn't even make that noise you never want to hear when I squeezed it." Although it wasn't the most aesthetically pleasing design, it did the job it needed to do and made a lot more room from all those almost empty bottles piling up in the shower.

The APPCard Catcher

This is a photo of the current card swipe machine. Students drive through here daily to access the parking deck.

This is a photo of our solution, the APPcard catcher, placed onto the current swipe machine. As you can see, the design is simple enough to blend in with the current machine.

This is an example of the APPcard catcher in action!

Designers:
Bridget Kientzel and Katherine Grace Tate

Institution:
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by:
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem:

The Appalachian State Parking Deck is accessed by swipe cards. Each morning, many students drop their card due to clumsiness or running late. When this happens, students hold up the daily traffic while others wait for them to open the door and reach for their card in the tight quarters. Since the two of us have both personally dropped our cards and have experienced the embarrassment while we hold up traffic, we wanted to design a solution to avoid the situation.

The solution

Using a paint tray and duct tape, we designed an APPcard catcher. We placed the tray directly under the swipe machine which allowed users to easily pick up their fallen cards. The features of the tray effectively solved the problem in a nonobtrusive way.

The solution's impact on its users

We were thrilled at the impact the APPCard Catcher had on the parking deck users. First, we tested the solution ourselves and found that the tray was durable enough to catch the cards and it did not interfere with the driver. Then, we installed it at 9AM on Friday and stood near the swipe machine to observe and poll the students who used it. At first we were worried that people would not relate to the problems we saw with the swipe machine but we received a lot of great feedback. Talking to them, we found out that the issue has affected more than we initially assumed and that the idea of the card catcher was a desired feature. Every student told us that our design was extremely helpful and one even came up to us after parking her car and said "that made me smile". We were afraid that our solution would be viewed as unnecessary but after that comment, we both realized that design, no matter how small the solution seems, can really impact people's lives.

Snack Opener

Brad Sirmons uses the snack opener on the vending machine at the Village Laundry Mat to slice open his bag of chips.

The snack opener is attached to a vending machine with instructions for easy access to a snack.

Designers
Courtney Morris

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

When using a vending machine, I realize that some people have trouble opening their bag of chips or candy. Sometimes the bag simply will not open; other times the bag can rip completely apart causing the bag to spill the snack everywhere.

The solution

I created a snack opener for vending machines to allow easy access to people's snacks. I bought a wrapping paper cutter, orange hemp string, magnets, and white card stock. I drilled a hole in the corner of the wrapping paper cutter, braided the hemp string through the hole, and connected the string to the cutter. On the cutter read, "Hold here" and on the other end of the string was a magnet clip connecting instructions on how to use the device.

The solution's impact on its users

I placed the snack opener in two separate locations on a Saturday afternoon and evening. One vending machine that I placed the snack opener on was at the Village Laundry Mat; the other location was on the vending machine at the Fairfield Inn & Suites. I placed the magnetized instructions and snack opener below the coin return.

While waiting for my laundry to wash and dry at the Village Laundry, I observed six people approach the vending machine. Five of the six people I observed were in their twenties, the sixth man being in his fifties. Brad Sirmons' initial response was laughter. When I asked him what he thought about the opener after using it, he said "Pretty cool". Later an older man, Bill Chavis, used the bag opener. His response was, "Clever idea. This invention is really idealistic for people with arthritis who really have a time opening bags."

After leaving the laundry mat I drove over to the Fairfield Inn and Suites for further observation. Three different people walked over to the vending machine while I was sitting there. All three of them were of an older age group. Each of them had positive comments to say about the device that were similar to Bill Chavis' response at the Laundry Mat.

After observing nine people from both locations, I realize that the older users were more inclined to use the snack opener compared to the younger group of people.

Make A Difference: Studio Recycling Center

Picture 1: Existing recycling bins and location in the senior studio of the ASU design department.

Picture 2: New recycling tower in the senior studio of the ASU design department.

Picture 3: New recycling tower being utilized.

Designers
Ash Moss and Alexandra Koury

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

The senior studio of our design department at Appalachian State University has two recycling bins that are not adequately positioned or indicated where people can easily access them.

The solution

Our team designed and constructed a tower structure that incases the two recycling bins in the studio. The tower is painted white with bright green accents to make it more visible in the room. Two holes are clearly labeled for “cans” and “bottles” on the front of the tower. We positioned the tower in a place where it would be more easily accessed and noticed than the previous location of the recycling bins.

The solution’s impact on its users

Our team conducted a survey of the students who frequently use the studio. The survey consisted of three questions with a yes or no response. The survey results are below:

Number of students surveyed: 15

Question 1: Did you know recycling was available in the studio?

Answered Yes: 13
Answered No: 2

Question 2: Is the recycling more noticeable now?

Answered Yes: 10
Answered No: 5

Question 3: Are you more likely to recycle now?

Answered Yes: 12
Answered No: 3

Based on the results from the survey our team discovered the new recycling tower design had a positive influence on students in the studio. Students are now more likely to recycle used cans and bottles. Our team believes we have made a difference in the senior studio of Appalachian State University’s design department through our design of the new recycling tower.

The Personal Hanging System

This is the note card-sized sign that explains what the hanging system is and how it can benefit the user.

This is what the cafeteria looks like on a regular day; book bags as cafeteria trays!

This shows how the hanging system utilizes space and protects personal belongings.

Designers
Joanna Nethery and Ashley Alden

Institution
Appalachian State University, Interior Design

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

Public settings are problem areas when it comes to temporary storage for personal belongings. During the research process, we discovered that the cafeteria was the largest problem area. The tables are packed with book bags, purses, umbrellas, and other personal belongings to avoid the dirty floors.

The solution

We designed a clamp-like device that attaches to any size Horizontal surface up to 1.5 inches thick. The Personal Hanging System consists of a small C-clamp with a carabineer attached to the bottom to hang whatever you desire. We also made a note card-sized sign to inform the public about what the device is and how to use it. Lastly, we attached felt protectors to the C-clamp on the areas that come in contact with the horizontal surface.

The solution's impact on its users

We installed the device at 7:00 P.M. in the cafeteria on campus because this is when the dinner rush happens. Essentially, any time would have been ideal because the cafeteria is always packed with hungry college students. We decided to install two hanging systems on opposite sides of the cafeteria to better observe the users.

After installation, we sat back and observed students interact with the system. Many students seemed interested, reading the sign, but not interacting with it. After about fifteen minutes, a group of students sat down, read the sign, chuckled, then hung a bag on it. They seemed to enjoy the extra space on the table. They also examined the system, trying to figure out what it was and how it was made. We asked the students what they thought of the device and one said, "I would have never thought of this, but what a great idea!" "I didn't realize the storage issue was a problem until it was fixed." They even asked us how we made the hanging system so they could create hangers for themselves.

The sign was absolutely necessary for the users to understand the hanging system. Without it, the interactions would have been unsuccessful unless an oral explanation was given. We were pleased with the way our design solution impacted the students who interacted with the Personal Hanging System.

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Table Solution to lobby

First floor lobby in the Katherine Harper Hall.

The table offers a resting place for different forms of media.

The table close-up

Designers
Corey Pitz and Tamara McCandies

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

During the renovation of the main lobby, the TV area is void of a table, noticing that newspapers and other reading materials needed a place to rest. Otherwise it looked as though trash was being left behind. Students do not have a place to sit down books or other materials.

The solution

We created a table that provided a resting place for books and other supplies of students. There was also a shelf installed that provided places for magazines, newspapers and other reading materials.

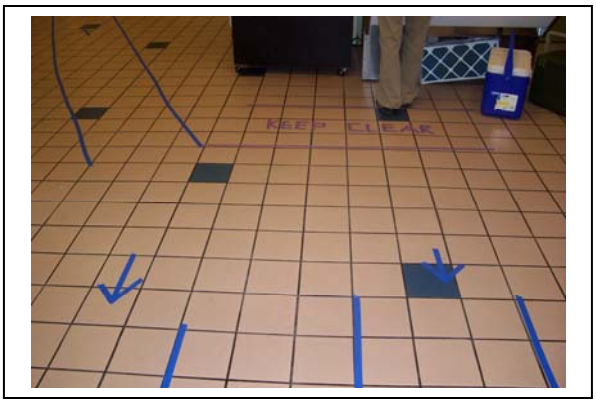
The solution's impact on its users

We assembled the table Sunday night and set it out Monday during heavy traffic hours in the lobby. We knew during this time that there were going to be many students waiting before classes and would utilize the table.

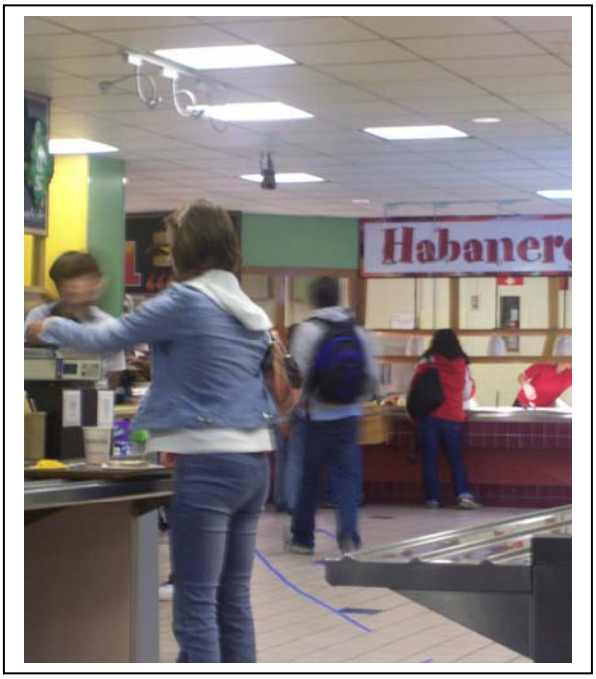
After setting up the table we observed from across the lobby. We noticed many people picked up magazines and newspapers, and then returned them to the table.

While removing the table some students were upset that it was leaving. When asked they said that there should be a permanent installation of a table there. Overall our design solution was very successful!

Circulation Definition



Lines taped for checkout procedures



Students following taped lines to better the circulation patter for checking out

Designers
Molly Robbins & Stacey Seagle

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

The close proximity of vendors in the food court led to chaotic line hopping and unclear paths of travel, at times prohibiting students from getting food quickly.

The solution

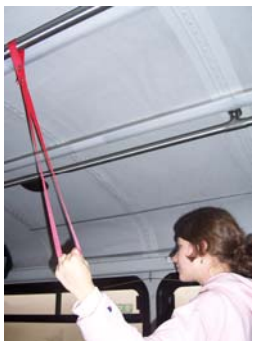
By taping clear paths on the floor, students now enter and receive their food, then proceed to the checkout without inhibiting those filtering through to the vendors. The areas needing to stay clear were also distinguished, making it easier for the employees to circulate.

The solution's impact on its users

In some cases, students noticed the paths, but failed to obey them because of the ways they were accustomed to circulating in the food court. Other students followed the paths, maybe because of unfamiliarity, or they understood why the lines needed to be there. It did not totally solve the problem, but if boundaries were implemented as well as the lines, we believe it would work even better. Designs impact on making everyday life more organized can be drastic, sometimes with even the most simple of solutions.

Universal AppalCart Handle

Installation of Universal AppalCart Handle



Utilization of Universal AppalCart Handle

Designers
Stefanie Tallent and Rebecca Reavis

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

In Boone, NC, AppalCart is a public transportation bus system that is used by the students of Appalachian State University and the general public. Although strap handles are provided for stability when users are standing because of a lack of seats, the problem is that a user who is shorter than average is unable to reach the handles.

The solution

The solution to this problem is to provide a strap handle that is significantly longer than those that are currently installed, allowing a shorter user to hold a strap comfortably when forced to stand. The strap is constructed of red vinyl material for strength, and for creativity; the bright color will attract attention. It is also creative because it can easily be moved to a different location on the bus to accommodate the needs of a short user.

The solution's impact on its users

When the handle was first placed on the bus, it seemed that its potential users did not acknowledge it. However, as the bus began to become crowded, its existence became more apparent. Although many of the users utilized the longer handles that are currently in place, there was one young girl who noticed that our handle was more comfortable for her to reach because of her short stature, so she used it instead. It was apparent that she was more comfortable using our longer handle than those provided, translating as a very positive reaction to our creation. The fact that a user who was shorter than average preferred our strap signifies that our solution to the problem was successful. The user's positive reaction was the success that we expected; however, we had intended for the users to move the handles as needed. The only issue that we would correct if AppalCart decided to use our concept would be to decrease the size of the opening for the handle because its current opening could become a hazard. As Interior Design students, our professional responsibility will be to solve problems. Through participating in this project, we have learned that we can use the skills and knowledge to solve problems in almost any application. Not only can our creative design solutions make a difference in interiors, but they can also make a difference in the world.

Door Hazard Warning System in Kerr Scott Hall

Existing Stairwell With No Signage: Door swings directly into stairwell. Pedestrians on both sides of the door are unaware of one another.

Close-Up of Door Hazard Warning System: Shown installed in the dangerous stairwell with red warning tape at door swing and three dimensional caution sign.

Door Hazard Warning System in Use: The signage alerts pedestrians on both sides of the doorway to proceed with caution when entering/exiting through the doorway.

Designers
Carlin Traugott-Campbell
Charlotte Smith

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

The Kerr Scott Building houses the Interior Design and Building Science programs on Appalachian State University's campus. Several doorways in this building open into stairways and tight hallways. These doorways are not up to code and open quickly, posing potential dangers to passing pedestrians.

The solution

We created a warning system to alert pedestrians of the dangerous doorways. This system consisted of appropriate signage to provide an advance warning to pedestrians on either side of the door. A three dimensional 'CAUTION Door Swings Directly Into Stairwell' sign, which protrudes four inches from the wall, was installed beside the door to warn pedestrians entering the stairway. An identical three dimensional warning sign was installed in the interior of the stairwell to warn pedestrians of the door swinging open and of pedestrians entering the space.

The solution's impact on its users

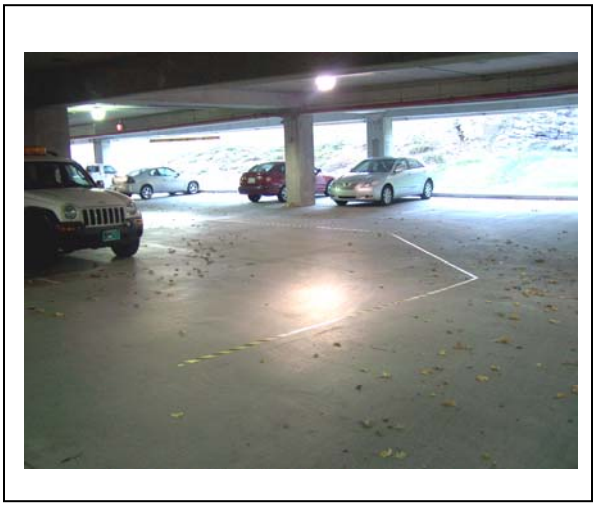
The dangerous doorway problem was solved with our warning system. Users proceeded more slowly and cautiously through the doorways. The doorway no longer poses any dangers.

After installing our warning system, we observed our cautionary techniques in action. Most people reacted to the signage on the walls as they passed through the doorway and avoided the door span marked on the floor. One student passing through said, "Seeing the red tape and the signs really helps slow you down and avoid hitting other people with the door." Our warning system design received a positive reaction from building users and will reduce the risk of injury.

Smart design can improve everyday life. Although this design was simplistic it was effective due to strong visual graphics. The impact of our warning system design will affect everyone in the Kerr Scott building.

Parking Deck Lane Delineation

ASU Parking Deck with unmarked L-turn



L-turn marked with striped tape

Vehicle making turn with the striped tape and staying in their lane.

Designers:
Catherine Tucker and Brittany Mellow

Institution:
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by:
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem:

The traffic in the Appalachian State University parking deck is unsafe to both on-coming traffic and pedestrians. This problem is mainly due to insufficient road markings. People drive with excessive speed, drive on the wrong side, and swing unnecessarily wide through turns. The most dangerous locations in the parking deck are the L-turn curves with the vehicles swinging too wide and almost hitting oncoming vehicles or pedestrians**.**

The solution

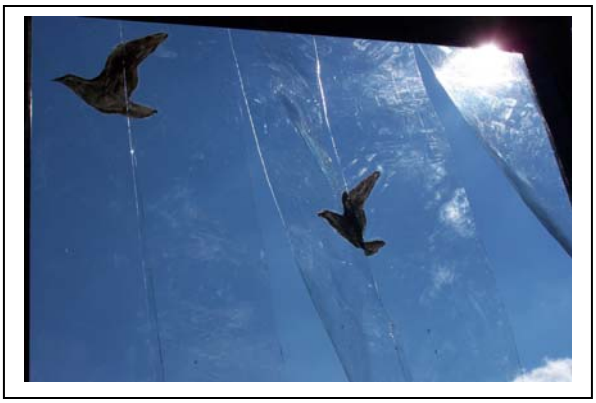
Our solution for the unsafe movement of vehicle traffic in the Appalachian State parking deck is give a visual to drivers through the L-turns and the ramped areas by using a yellow and black striped tape on the concrete. This will allow the drivers to comprehend the space needed to make the turns and stay in their lane so that they will not be endangering pedestrians or on-coming traffic that cannot be seen.

The solution's impact on its users

Before installing the striped tape to the concrete floor of the parking deck we observed how traffic moved within the space. Our observations showed that traffic was unsafe around the L-turns and on the ramps of the deck both to pedestrians and on-coming traffic. Once we installed the stripped tape we observed how traffic reacted to the tape. We noticed that traffic approached the markings with much more caution than before which is what we expected in the situation. The traffic also appeared to have a since of boundaries much like that of driving on the road. Before the tape was applied there was no sense of who was right or wrong in the situation of when there was difficulty passing each other or even a near bump up. The tape creates a center line and space that creates territories for the opposite moving traffic. If one driver crosses over their boundary into the on-coming lane they are obviously on the wrong side. During our observation the problem was solved with people appearing to be much more cautious and more responsible. While you will always have people that are not going to adhere to rules, regulations, or signage, it now gives the good drivers a since of direction and the ability to know they are right. The project allowed us to realize that design can be anywhere at any location. Design should impact people's lives in a positive way both atheistically and functionally. As designers we should take initiative to recognize situations that can be improved through design.

Wind Reduction System: Bus Shelter

Students waiting for the bus on a windy day.



Painted bird graphics on vinyl strips.

Vinyl curtain protecting students from weather conditions.

Designers
Leia Webb, Amy Kerley, Ashley Byrd

Institution
Appalachian State University

Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer-Ballard

The problem

Out of observation from personal experience, we realized students are subject to weather conditions while waiting for the bus. Students take to standing on the bench as well to protect their ankles from the draft underneath the shelter. Waiting in uncomfortable conditions is potentially destructive to student's health and their desire to go to class.

The solution

We created and installed a vinyl door system for the bus stands made with clear vinyl and painted on graphics. Attached at the top of the shelter opening, the separated curtain of vinyl offers protection from sideways rain, snow and chilly winds. The clarity of the vinyl offers high visibility for individuals waiting for the bus and the separated strips are conducive to easy access. The painted graphics are birds in flight in order to make this curtain aesthetically pleasing.

The solution's impact on its users

We installed the vinyl curtain at a bus stand adjacent to student dormitories, in hopes of observing results. It was windy and the bus shelter proved to be useful for students on this day. After hanging the curtain and installing the ankle strip on the bottom, we sat back with our cameras and waited for students.
After long observance, we concluded several things that could be altered with our design. The wind was strong and the strips were not weighted down, so they flapped into people as they stood inside. A stronger material may have helped or weights attached at the bottom would suffice as well. The chosen vinyl may have been to clear and a frosted or tinted alternative would serve as protection from the sun. The painted bird graphics were very nice but the lighter shade of gray paint would make them "pop" more due to the contrast of the dark, tinted panels.
Overall, the curtain proved to be a good idea and people said they would be more comfortable waiting for the unpredictable bus. With some alterations, our curtain design could help students and commuters alike.

Cigarette Exposure

Caption 1. Problem Scenario: Students are gathered around blocking traffic to the entrance of the building. The top right has students maneuvering around the crowd to get inside.

Caption 2. Signage and sculpture used to cover the outdoor ashtray and to direct to the new designated area.

Caption 3. Solution: Smoke designated area moved leaving path unblocked for students to pass. The cigarettes are disposed in the pot filled with sand on the bottom right.

Designers
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Institution
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Sponsored by
Jeanne Mercer Ballard

The problem

The front main entrance of Katherine Harper Hall has a cigarette designated area located on the left upon entering the building. This location disrupts flow of traffic and exposes cigarette smoke to students who enter and exit the building.

The solution

Because the narrow passage way was constantly being blocked, we decided to move the smoke area to the opposite side where it was much wider and students could enter without having to be directly exposed to smoke. We did this by covering the old outdoor ashtray with an art sculpture, and placing a pot filled with sand on the far end of the opposite side.

The solution's impact on its users

Many students have complained about having to breathe in the smoke when getting to class but couldn't do anything unless they wanted to walk further distance to avoid it. Now they can get into the building without having to hold their breath. In the beginning of observation the students reacted sort of confused as to exactly what was going on and why the designated area was being moved. After a while many just walked away while some respected the change like the man in caption 3. The result was exactly like we predicted because it kept the passage unblocked. The students coming from the adjacent walkway did not have a problem with the change because there is enough walk area to avoid the amount of exposure that was seen from the previous area. We learned how amazing one change could make such a remarkable impact on an everyday life. It doesn't matter what size or cost it would take to fix the problem, any thought out design can make an impact. Just taking the time to research, experiment, and observe can be the solution to not only for people but possibly the environment.