



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 the
florida state university

Instructor sponsor
Jill Pable

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/

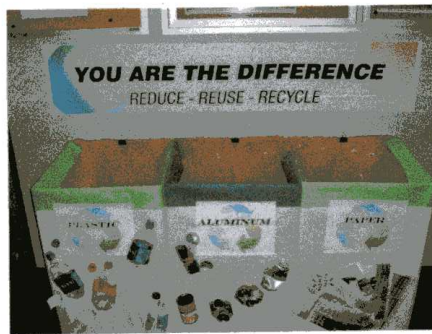
The Interior Design Educators Council, Inc. (IDEC)
is dedicated to:

- 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.





Creating boxes for Recycling Project



Implemented design in central lobby



Students coming from class, recycling into designated boxes.

The Make a Difference Project: Bringing Recycling to the Florida State Interior Design Department

Designers:
Michelle VanderDoes, Ashley McGrew and Rosie Koenig

Institution:
Florida State University, the Department of Interior Design

Sponsored by:
Dr. Jill Pable

The Problem:

The interior design department is very environmentally conscious as we encourage green design and specify sustainable products. Unfortunately, there is no means of recycling in our building or anywhere close enough that students can recycle their bottles and cans. Therefore, each day many recyclable materials are thrown away into a trash can where they will continue on to a landfill.

The Solution:

We created a recycling center to be utilized within the department and scheduled the recyclables to be picked up. We then created a series of banners announcing that there is “now recycling” in our department. The recycling center consisted of large sized boxes that were decorated with actual recyclable materials to attract the attention of students passing by. They were placed in the most central location in front of the main office. We also placed lids over the trashcans in classrooms to make it more difficult for students to just waste their “trash” and then drew attention to the signs for recycling.

The Solution's impact on its users:

We found that given the opportunity students were more than willing to hold on to their bottles and cans a few more steps and toss them into the recyclable bins that were still along their directed path out of the building. We were happy to report that the students had a very positive reaction to the project, gathering around it and discussing what a great idea they were. By the end of the first day the project was implemented, the box for plastic bottles was nearly half full and both of the other boxes had been utilized. There were also no potentially recyclable materials in the wastebaskets. We found that this project, as simple as it was, made a large impact on the students of the department.