



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  
stephen f. austin state university

**Instructor sponsor**  
Sally Ann Swearingen

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/](http://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.



# Source Room Organization

Designers

**Jessi Stone and Halea Gage**

Institution

**Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Human Sciences  
Interior Design**

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**Sally Ann Swearingen**



Before our installation: trash and good matboard overflowing a tiny trashcan, used blades and random supplies littered the mat cutting area.



## The problem

The source library at the interior design department of SFASU had a lack of organization, storage and waste management. Some of the main areas that need attention for the welfare of all the students are the trash receptacle, lack of recycling and an unorganized mat cutting area.

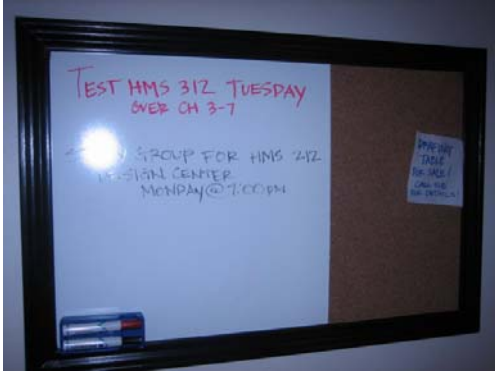
## The solution

We replaced the trash can with one that was larger for bulky items that often accumulate on the source room floor. We added a recycling bin for paper waste that will be picked up by SFASU's recycling department, as well as a bin for matboard scraps to be reused. We also created an organizer for matboard blades, miscellaneous pens, scissors and other supplies that might be left lying around.

## The solution's impact on its users

User reaction to our installation was very favorable. Since so much paper gets thrown away in the resource room, everyone who saw what we had done wondered why no one had thought of recycling paper waste before. A larger trash can will no longer be overflowing with trash. Since so much excess matboard gets left lying around, a bin for reusing scraps will benefit all students by keeping it organized. A box with a slit in the top of it keeps old blades out of the way where they cannot harm anyone. A shelving unit keeps miscellaneous supplies in one general location where they can be easily found. Our installation definitely solved the problems of unorganization, lack of storage and inadequate waste management. We are pleased that everyone had the good reaction to our project that we expected. We learned that for design to make an impact, it does not have to be drastic. Just a few thoughtful touches here and there can make a big difference.

# Designers make a difference!



Designers  
**Michelle Nicholes**  
**Tami Cuthbertson**  
**Shelby Clarke**

Institution  
**Stephen F. Austin State University**

Sponsored by  
**Sally Ann Swearingen**

## The problem

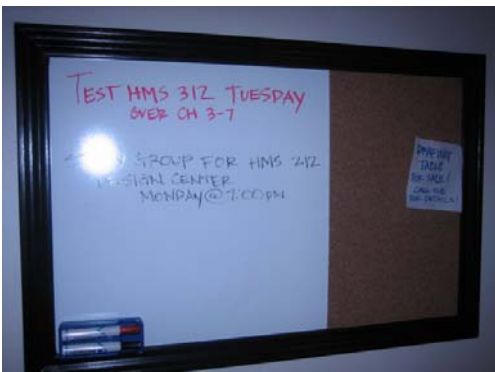
Although college life is very fun and exciting, semesters can get downright stressful for both the professors and the students. Often times, schedules are changed and test dates are moved, which can be frustrating and confusing for a college student.

## The solution

The designers contemplated the problem, and found that a wet erase board would be a great idea for posting rescheduled test dates. The wet erase board that the designers created incorporated a layer of cork on which meeting reminders and organization flyers could be posted. The designers chose a wet erase board and nice molding so that the schedule would maintain a neat and clean appearance.

## The solution's impact on its users

The erase board impacted the students in a good way. The students felt more organized and better prepared for their tests. In the future, less make up exams will be taken and organization meeting attendance will rise. In conclusion, the scheduler is not only an efficient way to keep students organized, it is helpful for the professor!



# Only Feet Belong on the Restroom Floor



Books must be placed on restroom floor due to lack of shelving unit.

Designers

**Kelly McCorkle and Abbey Ragsdale**

Institution

**Stephen F. Austin State University**

Sponsored by

**Sally Ann Swearingen**

## The problem

The lack of a place to put belongings while using the restroom in the Human Sciences South building at SFASU has been a complaint among faculty and students. Many feel that the restroom floor is an unsanitary place to put books and bags.

## The solution

There was a need for a solution to house belongings without taking up much floor space. This shelving unit provides adequate space for books, bags, and other belongings. Due to minimum floor space, our solution utilizes the space above the trash receptacle. This recyclable unit is intended to be placed above a toilet, but works well in this application because it is placed over the trash can without compromising its use.

## The solution's impact on its users

We installed this solution early in the school week and observed it periodically throughout the days. It was used by some, but there were a few that were unsure if the shelves were provided for their use. A design solution to this would have been to post a sign letting people know the shelves were for them.

Those that used the shelves commented, "They are very practical because I needed a shelf for my notebook. You can't hang a book on the back of the stall door." A faculty member stated, "That is a great idea, we have needed something like that for a long time."

We observed that after installation, the shelves were used and appreciated. Perhaps in the future the school can invest in a more permanent solution for the men's and women's restrooms.

We found that an idea and a little time spent can make a difference in people's everyday lives.



Inexpensive shelving unit that can be found at garage sales or resale shops.



Shelving unit in use.

# The Plotter Paper Recycle Center



Designers  
**April Johnson and Staci Green**

Institution  
**Stephen F. Austin State University**

Sponsored by  
**Sally Ann Swearingen**

## The Problem

The Human Sciences building at Stephen F. Austin has only one small recycle bin for all the wasted and used paper. This bin fills up quickly due to the large sized paper from the plotter, and leaves no room for other recyclable paper.

## The solution

We placed two large bins next to each plotter in the Human Sciences South building. We placed recycle logos and signage on each bin to ensure that only plotter paper was to be placed in them. This allowed for students to plot without having to work around the full rack of paper collected under the plotter.



## The solution's impact on its users

We installed a bin for the large plotter at 8:00am on Tuesday, which is when the plotters are used often, due to the number of studio classes. We waited until Thursday afternoon at 3pm to see the amount of paper placed in the bins and how much of a necessity they were.

After leaving the bin next to the plotters for 55 hours, it was used and filled with plotter paper at least halfway. The users were aware of the signage on the bin and were therefore able to keep the plotter area free from clutter. They were surprised at the new recycle implementation and were eager to take advantage of the new addition.

We learned that, as designers, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us. By noticing a small problem and taking action by using a small portion of our time, we can make a big impact on the convenience of our fellow peers, the neatness of our environment, and the sustainability of our world.



# Design Studio Storage Hooks



Just an example of the problem with bags sitting in the floor in the design studio

## Designers

Kyla Hammond and Tracy Keal

## Institution

Stephen F. Austin State University

Sponsored by

Mrs. Sally Ann Swearingen

## The problem

Within the interior design studios there is no place to properly store ones personal belongings (coats, backpacks, umbrellas); therefore potentially causing many tripping hazards in the middle of the floor.

## The solution

As a solution to our problem we have decided to implement hooks onto each drafting table in order for students to better access their personal items, and clearing the floor space.

## The solution's impact on its users

When we first installed our design, we only installed it into the side of one drafting table in order to see how, the design would hold up, and to get the reactions of the other students in the class. However, after installation, the reactions of other classmates were reasonably surprising. When we first came up with our initial idea, we had only intended to have the hooks used for, purses, tote bags, umbrellas, and other personal belongings, however, the student actually found more uses for the hook other than just for the use of personal belongings which actually helped promote the idea to fellow students. Class mates have commented that the hooks were a really good idea, in helping to keep the floor free of excess baggage, as well as, keeping the bags off the dirty floor. It was actually surprising how such a small idea and installation could get such a large response.



Here is a picture of our hook installed onto the side of a drafting table, which in this case is being used not only for personal belongings but also for the storage of drafting tools.