KRISTEN THOMSON

www | kvthomson.com
@ | kristen@kvthomson.com
# | 1.647.702.6099

ABOUT

I am a recent graduate of the Industrial Design program at OCAD University in Toronto, Canada. After starting my university education in Electrical Engineering, I transferred to OCAD's Industrial Design program, where I could apply my engineering-based skills to design-based projects with more tangible outcomes. I am an adaptable problem-solver who works well in both group and self-directed projects.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Design (Industrial) from OCAD University. Graduated in June 2017.
- The cocoon (my industrial design thesis project) is a soft-goods product designed to help improve a hospital patient's experience. Focusing on issues of excessive noise, visual privacy, personal space and theft of personal items, the cocoon is used on a patient's bed or is hung behind a chair on an IV pole.
- The cocoon was awarded a "Designlines Loves" award during the Toronto Design Offsite Festival by the editors of Azure Magazine.

Previously studied **Electrical Engineering & Society** at McMaster University from 2009-2012.

EXPERIENCE + AWARDS

Good Thing | Toronto
Design Intern | Summer 2017
- Assisted with the development of 5 upcoming consumer housewares products, including lighting, furniture and kitchen accessories. Primarily responsible for the creation of product models and technical drawings.

OCAD University | Toronto
ID Thesis Show Organizer | January - May 2017
- Lead organizer for the industrial design sections of both OFF COURSE & GradEx exhibits.
    OFF COURSE: a mid-year exhibit of in-progress thesis work from 17 graphic and industrial design students.
    GradEx: OCAD's end-of-year show, exhibiting work from all graduating students, including 70 industrial design students.
- Responsible for organizing the planning, fabrication, and execution of the exhibit.
- Challenges included creating a cohesive theme and sense of organization amongst vastly different projects, allocating appropriate space for projects, and ensuring that all visitors could engage with and understand the projects.

Indigo Books & Music | Toronto
Visual Merchandiser & Customer Experience Representative | 2012 - 2016
- Worked at both large and small-format Indigo stores, gaining insights into the differences in customer behaviours and store needs across locations.
- Responsible for the creation and organization of product displays. Drove employee training on Indigo merchandising standards, including product presentation, executing corporate changeover packages, and backroom receiving and storage procedures. Worked with customers to provide recommendations across books, gifts, and electronic products.

Innovative Designs for Accessibility Competition
Top 8 finalist | May 2016
- **Project:** Google Speech - an app that resolves presentation anxiety by allowing presenters to practice public speeches from a simulated presentation viewpoint using a Google Cardboard VR headset.
- Google Speech is the result of a group assignment with 2 classmates and was completed over a 4-month period. The IDeA competition is an annual province-wide competition for Ontario university students and culminates with a Top 8 presentation at the OCE Discovery conference.

Swave Studios | Toronto
Industrial Design Intern | Fall 2015
- Assisted with the research and product development phases of studio projects. Primarily responsible for the discovery phase research, sketch brainstorming, and interaction mapping of a digital business development product.

OCADU Design Competition
First Place & Students Choice Award | November 2014
- **Project:** Blue Chairs - a social interaction project with the aim of engaging Torontonians with their city and neighbours. Sets of two facing chairs would be permanently installed in urban areas such as parks, art galleries, or shopping areas. Torontonians are then invited to take a seat and connect with each other.
- Blue Chairs is the result of a weekend design competition and was completed with 3 classmates during our sophomore year at OCAD. We competed against teams from all years and programs, and winners were selected by OCAD faculty and city leaders.

SKILLS

ANALOG
Sketching
Prototyping & modelmaking
    with wood, metal & plastic
Slipcast ceramics
    & mouldmaking

DIGITAL
Adobe Illustrator,
    Photoshop & InDesign
Basic Rhino
    & Autodesk Inventor
Mac & Windows OS

INTERESTS

Reading
Woodworking
Ceramics
Digital Photography
Rock Climbing
Singing with
    Choir!Choir!Choir!