Experience

Brandtrust
Chicago, IL   (October 2010)

Ethnographer
did primary research in multiple cities followed by live analysis and synthesis with representatives of client company.

One-to-One Learning Center
Chicago, IL   (June 2007 - present)

ACT Math Teacher/Tutor
Teach and tutor high school students in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus at several high schools in Chicago

University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, IL   (August 2oo8 - May 2009)

Adjunct Assistant Professor
Teaching fundamentals of industrial design h foundation course. Introduce concepts such as perspective, orthographics, and form relationships.

RGB Lights
Chicago, IL   (May - November 2008)

Design Consultant
Refined and created 3D models of small snap-fit components for flexible LED light grid. Sourced production of rapid prototype for large scale production.

Elkay Manufacturing
Broadview, IL   (Summer 2007, Winter 2008)

Design Intern
Designed sinks and faucets for R&D Design team. Did data analysis and presentation of info from research data. Scallop sink design was produced and exhibited in national Kitchen and Bath Industry Show.

Better Existence with HIV (BEHIV)
Chicago, IL   (August 2005 - August 2006)

Counseling and Data Coordinator
Conducted HIV counseling and testing. Facilitated discussions at schools, community centers and organizations about HIV risks and prevention. Coordinated agency data collection.

Education

University of Illinois, Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

MFA Industrial Design and Research
Class of 2009

Stanford University
Stanford, California

BS Interdisciplinary: Sociology and Mechanical Engineering
Class of 2004

Stanford In Florence, Italy
Fall 2002

Software

Solidworks	Photoshop
SketchUp	Illustrator
Rhino	InDesign
Maya	MS Office

Awards/ Memberships

Industrial Design Society of America

Volunteer IDSA International Design Conference (Fall 2007)

Volunteer Designing User Experience Conference (Fall 2007)

Chicago Womens Rugby Team
Most Valuable Player 2006, 2008, 2009

Stanford University Dean's List (2003)

Leslie Johnson

708-334-4897

leslierj@gmail.com

1217 E. 52nd St.
Chicago IL
60615

Fabricated and constructed the lighting for Raaf Inc. public art installation at McCormick Place Convention Center.

Taught an industrial design foundation course at UIC

Currently teach high school math

Freelanced for Heffernin and Morgan producing 3D models and illustrations of their events

THE FINE ART OF EVENT DESIGN

RGBLights

Freelanced for RGB Lights designing a flexible LED grid

27yrs

Joined Chicago Womens' rugby team in 2004

23yr

Began MFA at UIC in 2006

ELKAY

First internship. designed a sink that was in the 2007 Kitchen and Bath show

Spoke on African American student speaker panel

Played rugby all four years

1906 STANFORD RUGBY

CHICAGO WOMEN'S RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

21yr

B.S. in Science, Technology and Society with Mechanical Engineering Concentration

STS
Program in Science, Technology, and Society

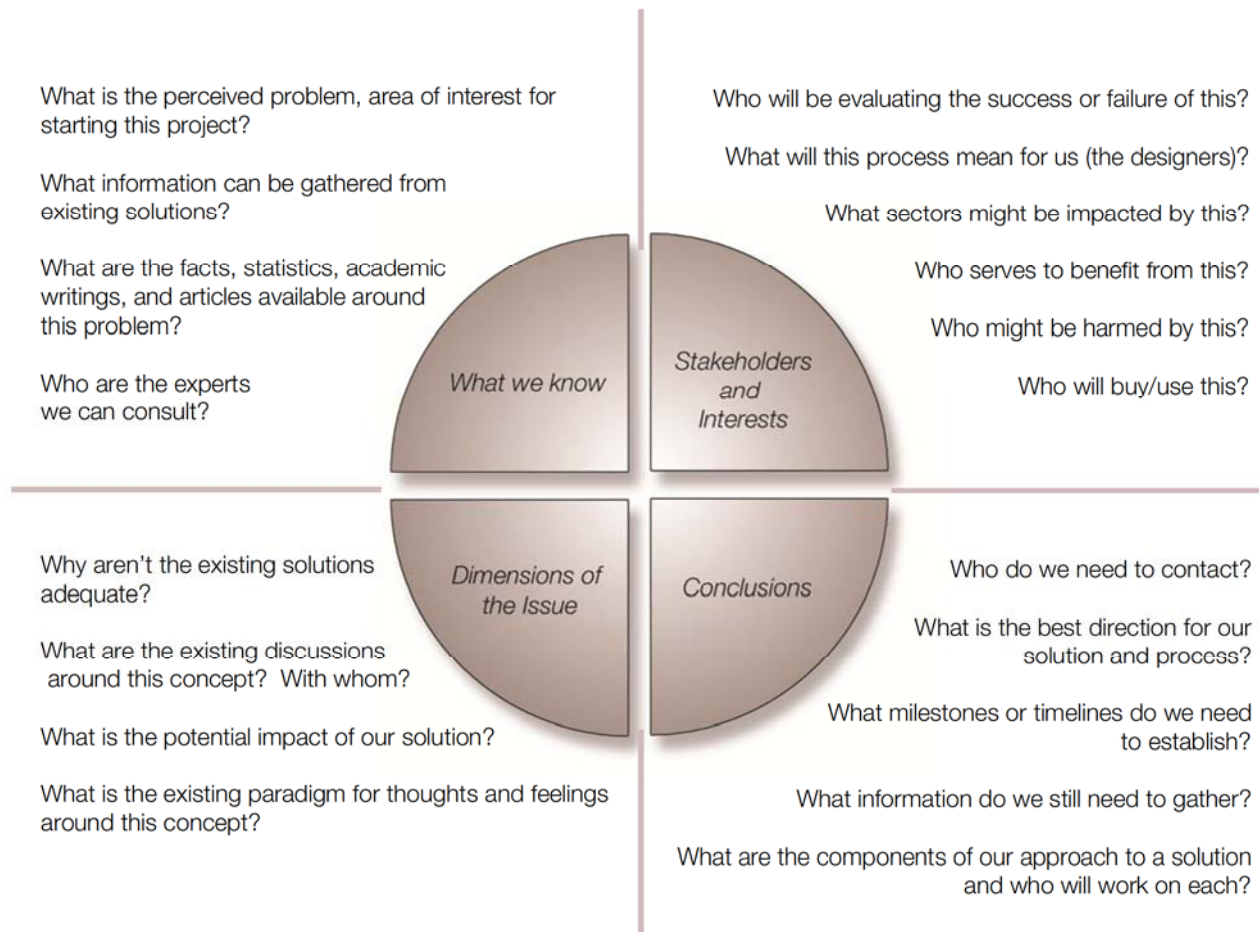STANFORD MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

17y

WORK PLAN BUILD DREAM
PROVIDENCE ST. MEL SCHOOL

$\int_a^b f(x)\,dx$

Ran track and was captain of the Math Team in high school

Loved legos when i was young

5yrs

Drew all the time

Critical Analysis Grid*

This grid is used as a guide through the research process. It ensures a thorough identification of the problem to be addressed and analysis of avenues for solving it.

What is the perceived problem, area of interest for starting this project?

What information can be gathered from existing solutions?

What are the facts, statistics, academic writings, and articles available around this problem?

Who are the experts we can consult?

What we know

Stakeholders and Interests

Who will be evaluating the success or failure of this?

What will this process mean for us (the designers)?

What sectors might be impacted by this?

Who serves to benefit from this?

Who might be harmed by this?

Who will buy/use this?

Why aren't the existing solutions adequate?

What are the existing discussions around this concept? With whom?

What is the potential impact of our solution?

What is the existing paradigm for thoughts and feelings around this concept?

Dimensions of the Issue

Conclusions

Who do we need to contact?

What is the best direction for our solution and process?

What milestones or timelines do we need to establish?

What information do we still need to gather?

What are the components of our approach to a solution and who will work on each?

Learning Curve

Semi-private reading space made to collapse and store OR fit easily into the structure of the classroom

PROBLEM

One of the greatest challenges for children in 3rd grade public schools is learning to read accurately and proficiently. There has been much change to school curriculums to address this issue but almost no change to school infrastructure (architecture, class furniture, classroom arrangement). The environment in which school learning takes place can be a setting for exploring opportunities to address this problem.

## Parents, teachers, students, furniture

Parents and teachers were interviewed to find perceived barriers and issues around reading. Furniture experts were asked about requirements for modular classroom furniture. Existing classroom furniture was measured and studied. Students were observed in class.

Sketching and Modeling
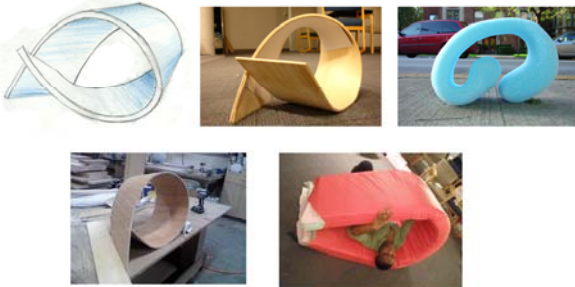
Many iterations of sketches and models were done in foam and wood. Models were made in 1/6, 1/4, 1/2 and full scales.

Structure and Function

1" foam
2" foam spine
½ " foam
Vinyl exterior
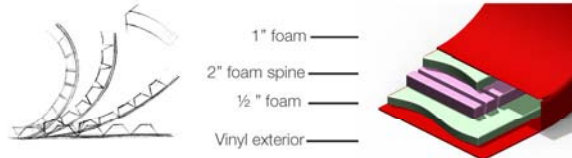
Final concept is soft, rolling up into private space and unrolling to allow for easy storage and integration into the classroom. Materials are accessible, sterilized, and inexpensive.

3D Models in Classroom
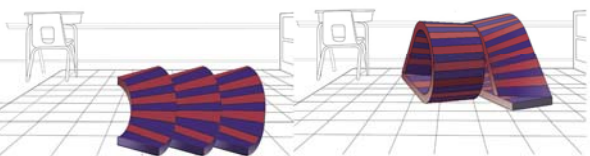
The Learning Curve unrolls to act as a flat mat in the reading space of the classroom thereby making it easy to store. They can also interact with one another for partner learning.

Problem

Secondary Research

Primary Research

Analysis & Synthesis

Prototyping

Testing

Product Details

Final Concept in Use

Reading in Schools

School	Percent Capacity	Community Area
Addams School	127.30%	East Side
Albany Park Academy	82.86%	North Park
Anderson Academy	92.43%	Chicago Lawn

A Chicago Public School enrollment study found that schools in almost every neighborhood are above the at-capacity student enrollment amount of 80%. Addams School, for example, on the East Side of Chicago is at 127.3%*.

* Neighborhood Capital Budget Group, "Chicago Public School Enrollment: 2006 Report" p.12

CPS

Infrastructure study

100 yr old schools and newer schools are very similar inside and out. Little has changed to meet evolving student needs.

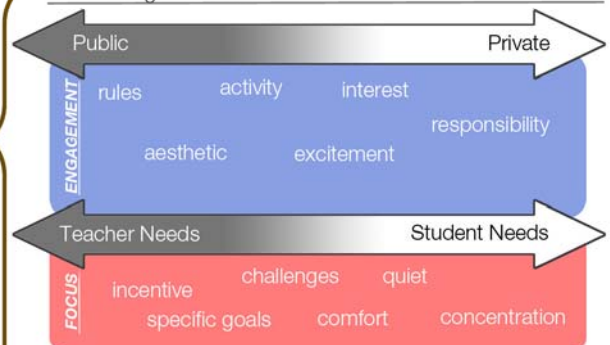## Furniture as environment solutions

Pantower, Vernon Panton

Bubble Chair, Eero Aarnio

Playplace, McDonalds in Chicago

There are many examples of how furniture can function as an adapted environment in the absence of an adequate architectural environment.

Contributing factors and needs

Public → Private

ENGAGEMENT
rules — activity — interest
responsibility
aesthetic — excitement

Teacher Needs → Student Needs

FOCUS
incentive — challenges — quiet
specific goals — comfort — concentration

The primary and secondary research dictated developing the reading space with a balance of private and public as well as consideration to the student and teacher needs of the space.

User and classroom testing

User sits in space and works.

Full scale prototype in classroom.

Learning Curve

The Learning Curve creates private reading space that gives the user privacy, is modular, and allows for teacher supervision.