

DIANE ELSTON

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Nationality: British

I am a highly motivated individual with a strong interest in a wide area of design including research, problem solving, designing, prototyping, branding and marketing. I am always experimenting with new ideas and continually strive to learn more about all areas of the design process. I can confidently take on challenging work by relying on my exposure I have gained in industry.

Industry Related

JNDC ENGINEERING DESIGN CONSULTANCY (June 2008 – September 2009)

In June 2008 I took on an 8 week placement with JNDC, a small start up company through the Shell Step scheme. JNDC saw my 8 week placement as a success and offered a placement year to further enhance my skills.

Whilst at JNDC I was given my own projects to manage as a product designer from the beginning stages of talking to the clients and discussing their problems through to confirming the specifications and deliverables. I was responsible for designing and sourcing suppliers, fabricators and manufacturers in order to get to the prototype stage. The projects that I worked on played a role in helping JNDC to get on to the preferred suppliers list of a major aerospace company. One of these products got a patent due to it being the only product of its type on the market.

Another key role I had at JNDC was to assist with their branding and marketing to help develop their website, literature and identity. This was used and promoted the company successfully at the Aircraft Interiors EXPO in Hamburg which I attended. I participated in developing the quality manual, which led to ISO certification. Additionally, I was trained to use the company's financial system, producing purchase orders, invoices and delivery notes as well as assisting at the month end in reconciling the accounts.

As well as working on my own projects I had a lot of input on my colleague's projects at design review meetings. I also project managed and oversaw the work of the person taking my role when I returned to university. During my time at JNDC I became Regional Finalist in the Shell Step Awards and a Finalist in The London Knowledge Transfer Awards 2008 for The Entrepreneurial Sprit Award.

BLUE SKY Ltd. Product Design Consultant (January 2009 – March 2009): Whilst working at JNDC I was subcontracted to work for a company called Blue Sky Design. They developed a concept for a revolutionary form of aircraft seat, however, required product design input and assistance from me to transform their concept into a fully designed prototype. Over the three month contract, the initial concept was developed through to a detailed prototype, complete with engineering drawings as well as a full scale working prototype to present to the worlds leading airline operators. I worked alongside another member of staff from JNDC, and learnt a lot about representing JNDC whilst working at another company.

REMATERIALISE – ECO SMART MATERIALS (June 2008)

I worked as a research assistant gaining accurate information on materials to be added to an online library and a travelling exhibition of unique sustainable materials. My role involved sourcing and phoning up various suppliers to find out exact information on specific materials. I then had to translate this information in a clear and understandable form to be added to a database for other people to use. In this job I needed to work with a team in a very organised manner in order to accurately and efficiently get all the information needed in a set amount of time.

VARIOUS JOBS IN RETAIL AND HOSPITALITY (2000 – present)

I have had a wide range of part time jobs to help support myself whilst studying. These jobs have taught me to work well in a team with people of all ages and different backgrounds, as well as to motivate myself as an individual. I have had a lot of interaction with the general public and have helped them solve any problems or queries in a professional manner.

Education

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY (2006-2010): BA (Hons) Product & Furniture Design (including placement year)

-Expected Result 2:1

- Short listed for roundabout design set by Kingston Council
- Worked on fridge design project set by Industrial Design Consultancy (IDC)
- Short listed for trophy design set by Serco
- Highly commended for eating design project set by Coillte Panel Products

EXETER COLLEGE (2004 - 2005): Foundation Studies in Art & Design specialising in 3D Design

-Distinction

EAST DEVON COLLEGE (2002 - 2004): BTEC National Diploma Graphic Design

- Distinction
- A Level Photography B

TIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL (1997 – 2002)

-11 GCSE's all A – C

Software and Skills

Software: SolidWorks
Microsoft Office
Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe InDesign

Skills: Creative problem solving
Materials knowledge
Manufacturing systems / processes knowledge
Component model making
Research / sourcing

Interests

Different cultures really interest me and I was lucky enough to be able to have 6 months in Asia in which I was able to observe and experience different ways of living. Due to my degree I have a genuine passion for materials and building objects and so have recently achieved a certification in pottery. I also enjoy Scuba diving and have passed 2 qualifications, now I am part of Kingston University Sub Aqua Club where I hope to continue to improve my skills.

References

Available Upon Request