

Josh Sowden

Product Designer

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About Me:

I'm a product designer with a BFA in Industrial Design from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). I specialize in the research, design, and development of ergonomic and inclusive accessories and home goods. I have a range of experience designing and prototyping with all kinds of materials and objects. I believe that the creation of a more inclusive and socially sustainable products presents an important opportunity for the design industry.

Education:

Rhode Island School of Design | Providence, RI | 2020-2024

Bachelors of Fine Arts, Industrial Design, Full Honors

RISD Pre-College | Providence, RI | 2019

Furniture Design

Related Coursework:

Introduction to Soft-Goods Design | Industrial Design Department 2023

Explored pattern-making and industrial sewing techniques. Designed and constructed various bags styles. Developed a final project concept for a cross body camera bag. Created mock ups, a series of final production prototypes, and a design presentation for group critique.

Design For Production | Furniture Design Department

Learned methods of industrial production. Learn to communicate with manufacturers and vendors. Developed a final lighting concept. Designed and constructed working lamp prototypes and a research presentation for group critique.

Design For Impact | Industrial Design Department

Developed industry research strategies. Developed networking techniques. Interviewed designers within the industry. Created a final project proposal for Coach. Designed, constructed, and tested a series of leather and non-leather handbag prototypes. Presented research and prototypes for group critique.

Skills:

Design: Rapid Prototyping, Production Ceramics, Handbag Design, Pattern-making, Home-ware Design, Furniture Design, Lighting Design

Fabrication: Metal & Wood-working, Leather & Fabric Sewing, Slip Casting, 3D Printing

Digital: Rhino, Solidworks, Fusion 360, Autodesk Inventor, Illustrator, Photoshop, Lightroom, InDesign

Related Work Experience:

Freelance Photographer | 2016-Present

Shot commercial and fine art commissions. Developed E6, C41, and B&W film. Film scanning and dust removal. Color correction and editing. Darkroom printing.

Photography Lab Technician | Nice Film Club | Brooklyn, NY | 2024-Present

Develop film using noritsu color & black and white processors, chemical management, film scanning, color correction and editing, inventory and shop management, customer service, customer retention, Instructed customers on film/digital photo practices.

Photography Technician | RISD Photography Department | Providence, RI | 2022-2024

Assisted in the daily operations of major and non-major darkroom facilities. Managed student equipment checkouts and returns. Instructed students on film/digital photo practices. Camera repair. E6, C41, & B&W film processing and chemical management.

Museum Greeter | Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library | Wilmington, DE | 2022-2023

Assisted the Visitor Associate team with museum operations, and safety procedures. Researched museum history. Learned basic curation and conservation techniques. Regulated the "flow" of traffic within the museum. Crisis management. Public speaking.

Publications:

Sunshine Baby (Poem) Rhode Island School of Design | RISD V.1 | 2021

The Other Side Of The Fence (Book) Rhode Island School of Design | 2022

A Pattern As It Falls (Zine) Rhode Island School of Design | 2023