

natalie wilkins

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profile

Passionate about design that is creative and interesting but also marketable and practical in manufacture. Experienced in taking designs from concept through technical, manufacturing and retail stages. Enjoys exploring material properties to create a more functional and aesthetically-pleasing design. Offers creative design, marketing and customer service skills to any potential employer.

relevant experience

- **2008-2009 United Designers, Furniture Designer**

United Designers is a leading interior design consultancy that specialises in top-end hotel and restaurant design. As sole furniture designer, Natalie was responsible for the design and technical specification of all bespoke furniture items, working on projects such as:

- Mandarin Oriental, Dubai
- Hilton, Amsterdam
- Marriott Hotel, London
- Park Hyatt, Portugal
- W Hotel, Athens
- Studio Urquiola Hotel, Barcelona

Responsibilities included:

- Designing and visualising all bespoke furniture items.
- Drawing construction-level issue sheets of all bespoke furniture using AutoCAD.
- Choosing and sourcing all materials for bespoke furniture.
- Outsourcing and managing the manufacture of bespoke furniture.
- Liaising with the FF&E team to source and specify furniture, lighting, fittings and materials.
- Compiling interior schemes, alongside material and furniture proposals.
- Creating FF&E issue documents in Excel.
- The design and implementation of an in-house furniture range, currently displayed in the windows of the United Designers office.

- **2007 Tom Dixon, Design Intern**

Full-time internship that involved assisting both the product and interior design teams. Worked on product development for the Tom Dixon and Artek ranges, and exhibition designs for the Milan Salone and New York ICFE exhibitions. Interior design experience includes furniture sourcing and material selection for Shoreditch House in London, and space planning of 100% Design 2007.

- **2006 Hiroshi Tsunoda Design Studio, Design Intern**

Full-time internship based in Barcelona, working for the sister companies HTDS and DesignCode. A key member of the 5-strong design team, working on the development and manufacture of objects and lighting for their Spring 2007 catalogue.

- **2003-2005 Ocean Horizons, Design Consultant and Sales Assistant**

Consultant to the buying team, producing new furniture designs for their range, some of which were prototyped with plans to manufacture. Sales work consisted of payroll activities, cashing up, advising customers and in-store sales.

- **2003 Harkati Lighting Design, Design Assistant**

Full-time position with experience in both design and business roles. Work involved assisting a new design range, communicating with suppliers, manufacturers and clients and manning a stand at the 100% Design exhibition.

- 2006 The Pier, Sales Assistant
- 2005 The Futon Company, Sales Assistant

qualifications

- **2004-2008 BA(Hons) 2:1 in Furniture & Product Design, Nottingham Trent University**

- Projects include ceramic lighting, multi-use living room furniture, and a bathroom project for Jacuzzi UK
- Dissertation title: "Does the British furniture design identity need redefining?"

- **1996-2003 Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls**

- A Levels: Design & Technology (A), Physics (A), Spanish (A)
- GCSEs: 9A* and 1A

key skills

- Computer skills: Microsoft Office XP, 3DstudioMax, V-Ray photorealistic rendering, Solidworks, AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign) and basic web design using Dreamweaver.
- Sketching and rendering skills using a variety of media: pencil, fineliner pen, Tria Pantone markers, oil and chalk pastels.
- Confident workshop skills and constructional knowledge comprising many materials: wood, metal, upholstery, plastics, natural stone, ceramics, MDF, FDM rapid prototyping and electrical components for lighting.
- Research and sourcing skills, including extensive knowledge of current products and the ability to compile interior schemes.
- Effective communication skills, including presenting to small and large groups, and selling design concepts to clients.
- Strong teamwork, time management and organisational skills, reflected by the level of responsibility bestowed by the position at United Designers.
- Customer service skills including advising customers, taking orders and dealing with complaints.

achievements

- Organising and exhibiting in the graduate exhibition "37 degrees" (at Nottingham Trent University & Free Range, London) June/July 2008
- Short-listed for the Jacuzzi project award, 2006
- Audi Young Designer 2003 Centre Round Participant
- Royal Academy of Engineering "A Year in Industry" award for innovative design, 2001
- Arkwright Scholarship for Design and Technology, 2001

interests

- A gap year spent in Mexico and South America contributed to Spanish language skills at an advanced level, and a keen interest in Hispanic culture and Argentinean Tango dancing.
- Holds a full British driving licence.
- Maintains design knowledge through magazine subscriptions to Wallpaper and Design Week, and by visiting exhibitions such as 100% Design and Milan Salone.