

Beyond Design 101

A local class gets a real-world challenge BY CAROLINE TIGER

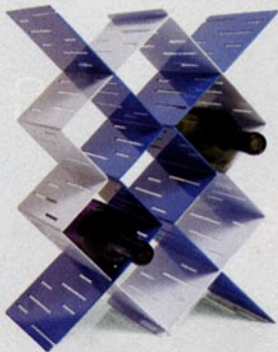
The phrase “design school” doesn’t inspire thoughts of marketplace realities and practical production issues, but Josh Owen, the internationally renowned Philly designer and associate professor at Philadelphia University, wants to change all that. For three years, he’s been presenting his industrial design students with a resource and a challenge—develop a product that local metal-fabrication company Amuneal can make and Foster’s Urban Homeware can sell.

Last fall, Owen entered the results in the Design School competition at the ICFF, the big-deal New York trade show where designers like Philippe Starck go to rub elbows with manufacturers like Alessi. Phila U won one of the six coveted spots that usually go to status schools like Parsons and RISD. “If we can set up a manufacturer with a kid,” says Owen, “that would close the circle.” Ken Foster wouldn’t be surprised. For 12 years, he’s scoured the world for smart new designs to sell in his store, and even he was impressed. “There’ve been *two* great wine racks,” he marvels. “I thought I’d never see another original wine rack.” Here, a look at the entries:



Bone leash holder and bag dispenser
by Kaitlin Summa, 21

The iconic shape telegraphs the purpose—storage for leashes and baggies.



Entwinerack by Dominick Bizzarri, 22

A bent-metal wine rack made from interlocking modules—add more as needed.



REMOTE by Gary Bugno, 21

A sturdy pop-art-inspired storage device that ensures remotes won’t go missing again.



eLounge by Rocco Avallone, 21

Handheld devices chill as they charge in a muted rainbow of metal cribs.



Checker umbrella stand
by Christina Weiss, 20

Reinterpreting the umbrella stand as an objet d’art, the Checker just might spark a new hobby: umbrella-arranging.



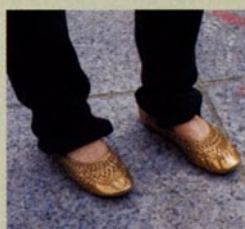
Magazine pedestal
by Kyle Cittadino, 21

Graceful form meets function in a customizable piece that doubles as storage and decoration.

On the Street Metal Peds

Ballet-ish flats offer freedom from the stress and strain of stacked heels and wedges, and in metallic leather and satin—whether gold or silver or bronze—they still let trendy feet steal the spotlight.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIN FITZGERALD



ADDITIONAL SCOUTING BY HOLLY LUU AND JIHAN THOMPSON