

Christian R. Braun

Product Design Engineer

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christianbraundesign.com 🌐

My passion is uncovering hidden field research insights to develop products that are a delight to use.

EDUCATION

BS, Manufacturing and Design Engineering Northwestern University | Evanston, IL

09/2017 - 06/2020

Summa Cum Laude

Relevant Coursework

- Human-Centered Product Design
- Mechanics of Materials
- Biomechanics
- Computer-Aided Manufacturing

WORK EXPERIENCE

Product Development Engineering Intern Steelcase Inc.

05/2020 - Present

Grand Rapids, MI

Achievements

- Led collaboration with design, sales, specials, and manufacturing departments to develop a new integral door pull that better aligns with market trends while reducing cost by 20 percent and lead time by 2 weeks
- Leveraged parametric CAD modeling to simplify product data management, reducing part numbers by over 97 percent
- Led meetings with manufacturing partners to review assembly drawings, assess production feasibility, and make cost-minimizing design alterations
- Communicated research insights, design iterations, and production plans to a diverse audience in various media including paper sketches and slideshows

Reference: Brad Youngs, PE - Product Engineering Manager - byoungs@steelcase.com

Mechanical Engineering Intern Marmon Foodservice Technologies

06/2019 - 06/2020

Carol Stream, IL

Achievements

- Identified market trends, user experience difficulties, and innovation opportunities through immersive field research in grocery stores and QSR kitchens
- Researched existing intellectual property, identified market whitespaces, and designed new QSR kitchen equipment included in 6 provisional patents
- Analyzed over 300,000 data points from performance testing to determine the best supplier of internal heating components
- Designed and developed rapid responses to COVID-19 for customer-facing bulk product dispensers while working remotely with sales and engineering teams
- Communicated design concepts internally and to the top food & beverage corporations in the country through high fidelity sketch overlays

Reference: Chris Lyons - President, Trade Fixtures - clyons@tradefixtures.com

Design Intern Northwestern University Segal Design Institute

06/2018 - 10/2018

Evanston, IL

Achievements

- Created CAD drawings, developed production plans, and navigated supply chain backorders to produce a user ready, solid wood safety bed in 10 weeks
- Analyzed reports from previous incomplete projects to create and execute research and development plans, working on up to 5 projects simultaneously
- Conducted ethnographic research, explored academic journals, and contacted field experts to understand stakeholder wants and needs
- Synthesized and revised design concepts by leading group brainstorming sessions, creating low-fidelity mockups, and performing rapid validation

Reference: David Gatchell, PhD - Professor and Program Manager - d-gatchell@northwestern.edu

SKILLS

Advanced Solid, Surface, and Hybrid modeling

Intermediate Sheet Metal modeling

Intermediate GD&T

Basic FEA and Intermediate Stress Analysis

Advanced Ethnographic Field Research

Advanced Design Sketching and Rendering

Intermediate Patent Research

Advanced Rapid Prototyping and Machining

SOFTWARE

Creo/ProE, SolidWorks, NX, Inventor

Computer Aided Design

Arduino IDE, Java, C++

Coding

Excel, Minitab, MATLAB

Experimental and Research Data Analysis

Photoshop, Illustrator, Keyshot

Graphic Design

Windchill

Product Data Management

ACHIEVEMENTS

Summa cum Laude (06/2020)

Awarded to students graduating in the top 5% of their class in the McCormick School of Engineering.

Lake Forest High School Applied Technology Department Award (05/2017)

Awarded once per year to one senior who has done outstanding work in the Applied Technology department.

ASK ME ABOUT

Northwestern Club Rugby (President)

My Eagle Scout Project

Volunteering at Camp Hope Illinois

Woodworking

Rock Climbing

Backcountry Hiking & Camping