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Dear %%IMIS||NAME||FIRST\_NAME%%,

- ❖ [Introduction](#)
- ❖ [Lloy Hack Memorial Essay...](#)
- ❖ [IIDA Student Sustainable...](#)
- ❖ [Student Feedback Survey](#)
- ❖ [Life After Graduation?](#)
- ❖ [It's in the Mail: NeoCon...](#)
- ❖ [Student News](#)

The end of the school year is almost here! This issue of *Custom* is full of helpful graduation tips, membership renewal information, as well as Campus Center updates.

We are also happy to announce the winner of this year's [IIDA Foundation Lloy Hack Memorial Essay](#) Scholarship. Be sure to read the entire article as we reveal to our Student Members exclusively, **the dates for next year's IIDA Student Mentoring Week**. We are also announcing the grand prize winner of our [Student Sustainable Design Competition](#).

Finally, we will include information regarding NeoCon 2008, NeoCon East and NeoCon Xpress.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! Don't forget to check-in with us via our [student blog](#). We love to read your comments and blog post submissions!

Sincerely,  
Christa Koskosky

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### IIDA Foundation Lloy Hack Memorial Essay Winner



Congratulations to **Bailey Edwards, Student IIDA**, of Louisiana State University! Edwards is this year's recipient of the Lloy Hack Memorial Essay Scholarship. Julie Schroeder of Gensler in Houston, Tex. was Edwards' mentor for the 6th Annual IIDA Student Mentoring Week, which took place February 4-8th. Describing her IIDA Mentoring Week experience Edward said, "The mentoring experience was a renewal of my design appreciation. My day ended with me feeling very encouraged, full of design knowledge, and the feeling that I am working for something greater than I could have ever expected."

Edwards and Gensler were both awarded \$1000 from the [Lloy Hack Memorial Fund](#) To learn more about how the IIDA Foundation supports you, [click here](#).

**Next year's 7th Annual Student Day will be held the week of February 6th through the 10th. Applications will be available online in November.**

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### **Student Sustainable Design Winners 2008**

IIDA is proud to announce the winners of our Student Sustainable Design Competition, which was sponsored by [The Mohawk Group](#).

**Meghan Woodcock** of the Savannah College of Art and Design was awarded the Best of Competition award for her project which focused on transportable classroom environments for disaster relief. Meghan will receive \$1000 and a complimentary IIDA Student membership for the 2008-2009 school year. View an image of Meghan's work below.



Congratulations to Award of Excellence winner **Byounghwa Choi** from the University of Bridgeport for the design "Smart Apartment" and **Diana Rodriguez, Student IIDA**, who received an Honorable Mention for her design "The Hub." Byounghwa will receive \$500 and a complimentary membership and Diana will receive \$250 and a student membership, as well. [Click here for all project images](#).

This year's competition was judged by Vice President at [Gensler](#) **Anita Barnett, FIIDA** and Associate Partner at [Gary Lee Partners](#), **Steve McCollom, IIDA, AIA**. Both Anita and Steve commented on the quality of work received for this year's competition and the innovative ways students are incorporating sustainable tactics into their work.

Thank you for your submissions!

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### **Student Feedback Survey**

Have a minute? Take the time to give us your feedback and insights into your student membership experience. Your responses will continue to allow us to provide you with valuable resources and programming. Thank you in advance for your time. [Click here to start the one minute survey](#).

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## Post-Graduation Help

Yes, believe it or not, there is life after graduation. It will obviously be difficult to leave the place you have come to know as home for the past several years, but the time has come for you to don your cap and gown and receive that diploma you have worked so hard to earn. So now what? How do you put that paper to work? IIDA has several resources that will help you answer those questions and ease the post-graduation blues.



### Getting the Job

[The IIDA Career Center](#) is being updated constantly. We have job posts from a bevy of firms including large and small, and national and international. This is an exclusive benefit that we extend to our IIDA Members. Not only can you search open positions, but you can also have employers contact you by posting your resume.

#### **Not sure how to make your cover letter, resume or portfolio stand out?**

For cover letters you should first research the company to which you are applying. Address their firm's needs in your cover letter, highlighting how you would have approached a particular project or how your skills and knowledge from college will continue to aide them in producing superior work for their clients.

#### **As interior designers, your portfolio will speak volumes about your capabilities, but do not forget the importance of maintaining your professionalism.**

While you may have more liberties when it comes to the design of your resume, some aspects should remain professional. **For instance, change your email address to your first and last name, or first initial and last name.** If you have a playful email name, do not continue to use something that may lead your potential employer to believe you are immature or naive. Google, Yahoo and Hotmail are free to use. You may want to create a separate account for job inquiries only.

**Clean up your Facebook account!** When you receive a class research project what is the first resource you turn to? The Internet. More and more employers

are looking you up on Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites. Your first impression may very well be a virtual one. For an alternative to Facebook and MySpace, look into [LinkedIn](#) which is especially designed for professional, social networking.

Worried about your portfolio? Take advantage of your IIDA Chapter or City Center. [You can find a list of contacts here.](#) Take the opportunity to set up a time to meet with an IIDA professional who can point you in the right direction, or [email me](#) to help facilitate that discussion. **Did you participate in the Student Mentoring Week? Your mentor can also review your portfolio and may be someone you already feel comfortable with.**

### **Some things to do before leaving campus:**

1. Confirm with professors, counselors, and past employers that you can use them as references. Even if they say yes, be sure to remind them of any possible emails or phone calls they can receive from your future employer. Once you get the job, be sure to stay in contact with them. You may never know when you need to call on them again, so always err on the side of being polite.
2. Upload projects and images off of your campus computer and onto a jump drive. Many universities and colleges now have bengal space, which allows you to access your work from any campus computer. Your work is obviously vital to your future employment, so be sure you take the time to save it to a place that is readily accessible.
3. Purchase any software you may need now. As you already know, students get hefty discounts from Adobe and other software giants. This is an investment that will continue to pay off.

### **How IIDA Supports You**

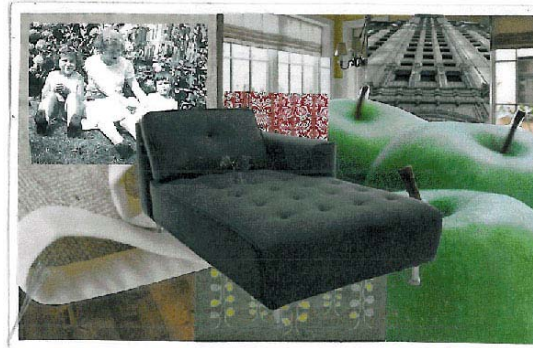
At IIDA we know how stressful finding a first job can be. I have already mentioned the Career Center, **but did you know you can continue your Student membership for one year after graduation?** Your post-graduation Student membership will continue to give you access to the benefits you are already receiving while you complete your job search. Additionally, if you are ready to upgrade, **you can become an [Associate Member](#) for half off! A current savings of \$127!**

Finally, when it comes time for you to take (and pass!) the NCIDQ exam, you also have an [opportunity for tuition reimbursement](#) through our [IIDA Foundation](#).

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### **It's in the Mail: NeoCon Postcard Exhibit**

What is the profession of interior design going to look like 10 to 15 years down the road? What will your clients expect from you? How will it differ from what they want now? IIDA wants to know your thoughts on any of these questions, and you have an opportunity to respond through our NeoCon Postcard Exhibit. If you are an active Student Member you should have already received a hard copy of the postcard in the mail, however, we are accepting electronic copies via email. [Click here for additional information.](#) Write your thoughts and design the front of the postcard with a collage, picture or drawing **before Friday, May 16th. A drawing of submissions will be held, and the winner will receive a free student membership for the 2008-2009 school year.** Need inspiration? View the submission below and [click here for more.](#)



Postcard submitted by Heather Steudel, Student IIDA, University of Alabama

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### NeoCon 2008, June 9-11th

For those of you who are able to make it to Chicago for NeoCon 2008, don't forget that the IIDA Student Day will be held Wednesday, June 11th from 2-3 p.m. in our new office space located on the fifth floor in suite 567. Head designer of our new LEED Gold office, **Ken Wilson, IIDA, AIA, LEED AP**, of [Envision Design](#) will take students through a guided tour giving them an inside look at the specific choices that were made for our new space.

Are you unable to come to Chicago? Don't worry, we will come to you! Look for us at [NeoCon Xpress](#), October 2-3 in Los Angeles and at [NeoCon East](#), October 29-30 in Baltimore.

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### IIDA Student News

[Click here](#) to read about the [Illinois State University's](#) student group, GreenFluence. GreenFluence is a merging of several majors on campus, including interior design. Students recently invited One Main Development president Mike Royse to come to a meeting. Royse spoke to students about development around their campus, and what his company is doing to go beyond LEED certification. [Go to our blog](#) to read more and view pictures of this successful student event!

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## IIDA THE FUTURE OF DESIGN

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