

**LESLIE FONTANA**

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Providence, Rhode Island  
401 • 932 • 4828

# about me...

As a designer and educator, I am passionate about helping others succeed and have maintained a professional design practice as both a consultant and practitioner for over 30 years. I have expertise in leadership, team building, coaching, project management, and product development. As a creative problem-solver with strong organizational skills, I work across disciplines facilitating communication and collaboration. I have designed innovative and award-winning products and have been honored for my academic achievements.



# experience

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN**

Department of Industrial Design  
Providence, Rhode Island

1995 - Present

Professor

2016 - Present

Head of Department

2006 - 2010

Coordinator of Academic Advising

2013 - 2015

- Consistently change, re-imagine and develop world-class curricula
- Design courses that encourage innovative and progressive outcomes
- Improve systems and workflow through road maps for communication and strategy
- Proven track record of managing multiple projects in parallel while meeting deadlines
- Participate on and chair multidisciplinary committees at both RISD and Brown University where decisions are made and results are realized
- Managed department budget and facilities planning

**ACG INTERNATIONAL ART EDUCATION**

Master Class

Summer 2018

Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, China

- Lectured and ran workshops in 3 cities on human-centered design, product development, and design innovation
- Coordinated and worked successfully with teams in Asia

**les&more**

Design Consultant

1995 - Present

Providence, Rhode Island

- Provide guidance and design services to entrepreneurs and startups
  - Work both strategically and tactically with various stakeholders
  - Offer manufacturing knowledge
  - Create documents for manufacturing and production
- Create and recreate action plans to meet deadlines and expectations
- Collaborate with in-house designers and managers to create innovative products and reality-based solutions
  - Create prototypes

**SAFETY 1st**

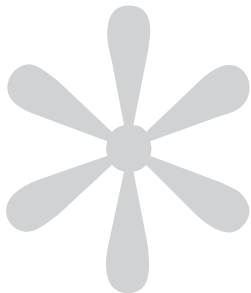
Juvenile Products

1994 - 1995

Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Product Manager, Disney

- Created numerous licensed products for Disney
- Coordinated with tooling and production vendors in Asia
  - Created or sourced all soft goods fabric patterns
- Created spec-packs and cut and sew patterns for all soft goods products
  - Worked directly with VP of Product Design
- Attended JPMA (Juvenile Products Manufacturing Association) trade show



# experience cont.



## **HASBRO**

Playskool Division  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island  
Senior Product Designer

1992 - 1994

- Co-created award-winning Playskool 1-2-3 High Chair
- Worked directly with creators of Barney to create the Barney Stroller
  - Communicated with manufacturers in Asia
- Created CAD packages for plastic and metal part design
  - Created spec-packs for soft products
- Worked with fabric manufacturer and designed fabrics for furniture line
  - Attended trend conferences, focus groups, and trade shows

## **GRACO CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS**

Juvenile Products  
Elverson, Pennsylvania  
Product Designer

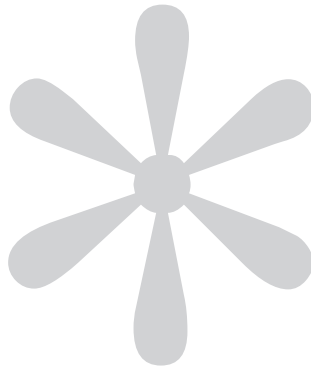
1991 - 1992

- Brought fresh perspective to outdated product line
- Worked closely with safety engineers on new product development
- Designed according to on-site manufacturing facility

## **BRESSLERGROUP**

Medical and Consumer Products  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Junior Designer

1989 - 1991



# awards

## **THE MIT HACKING MEDICINE PRIZE**

Yale Healthcare Hackathon  
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

2015

## **JOHN R. FRAZIER AWARD**

Rhode Island School of Design  
Excellence in Teaching

2008

## **BEST IN SHOW**

Juvenile Products Manufacturing Association Award  
Playskool 1-2-3 High Chair

1993

## **CPSC AWARD**

Consumer Products Safety Commission  
Playskool 1-2-3 High Chair

1993

# education



## **CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Bachelor of Fine Arts - Drawing + Sculpture

## **UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Bachelor of Science - Industrial Design

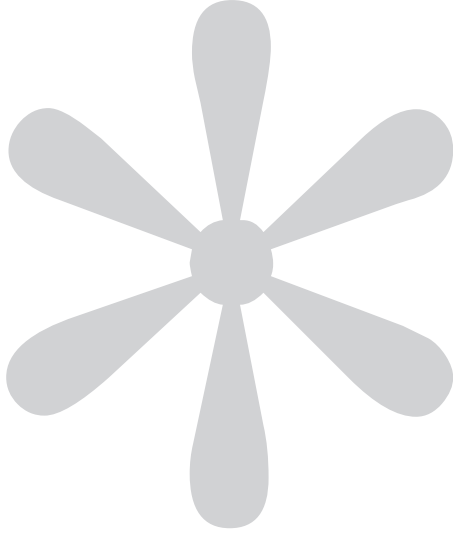
## **DOMUS ACADEMY**

Milan, Italy  
Graduate Courses

# projects

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE  
**Fashion Institute of Technology**  
Toy Program

PRESENTER  
Designing for Inclusive Learning Experiences Conference  
**University of Florence, Italy**



PANELIST  
Better World by Design  
**Brown University**

PRESENTER  
Rhode Island Healthcare Showcase  
Warren Alpert Medical School  
**Brown University**

WORKSHOP  
Design+Health  
**Brown University**

PANELIST  
Disruptive Demographics  
**MIT Age Lab**

VOLUNTEER  
**CASEY FARM**  
Saunderstown, Rhode Island

WORKSHOP  
**RISDICE Executive Education**  
Wellington Financial

PANELIST  
Material Innovation  
**Anthem NY**

# clients

**MIXED MEDIA GROUP**  
New York, New York

**FISHER-PRICE**  
New York, New York

**MATTEL**  
El Segundo, California

**HASBRO**  
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

**PLAYSKOOL**  
Pawtucket Rhode Island

**SAFETY 1st**  
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

**TYCO TOYS**  
New York, New York

**TOY BIZ, INC.**  
New York, New York

**CARRY FREE**  
Providence, Rhode Island

**L'OREAL**  
New York, New York

**UNILEVER/DOVE**  
Englewood, New Jersey

**AEOLUS MEDICAL**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**VIDEOLOGY**  
Lincoln, Rhode Island

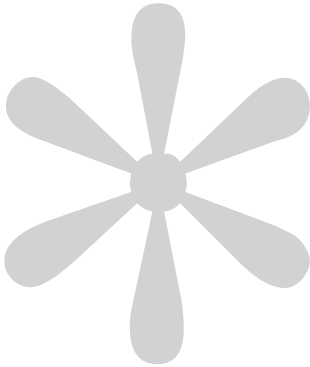
**GOLDEN BOOKS**  
New York, New York

**SASSY BABY PRODUCTS**  
Kentwood, Michigan

**FOOD INNOVATION NEXUS**  
Providence, Rhode Island

# courses

SENIOR STUDIO  
DESIGN FOR AN AGING POPULATION  
SOFT GOODS  
DESIGN PRINCIPLES  
MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES  
THE ART OF WRITING WITH A.T. CROSS  
RECYCLING AND REUSING  
HISTORY OF ID  
CAD  
PRODUCT DESIGN 101  
INTRO TO ID  
PRESENTATION I AND II  
TABLE TOP  
HOUSEWARES  
L'OREAL - SPONSORED PROJECT  
UNILEVER - SPONSORED PROJECT  
LG - SPONSORED PROJECT  
MARKETING



# references

**MARK ZELLER**

Retired, SVP Global Creative, Fisher-Price  
917 • 868 • 7557

**SARAH CAGGIANO**

Executive Director, Continuing Education at Rhode Island School of Design  
401 • 952 • 8374

**STEVE LANE**

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