

Ayako Takase // she/they m: 401-497-4818 e: atakase@risd.edu

CURRENT  
PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICES

**2018-current /Rhode Island School of Design // associate professor in Industrial Design**

Assistant professor (2018-2021) & Associate professor (2021-current) in the Industrial Design Department with focus in hands-on learning. Teaching wide range of courses in both undergraduate and graduate programs including Junior Special Topics Studio (Prototyping Form), Senior Advanced Studios (Furniture for Production, Table Top Design, Material Experimental Design, Design research & exploration at Work), Graduate II, Graduate Thesis Making and Wood II.

**2020-current /Rhode Island School of Design // graduate program director**

Graduate program director of the Industrial Design Department in charge of developing and fostering MID program and students as well as serving the graduate education at RISD as a whole.

**2017-2019 /Rhode Island School of Design // faculty coordinator in Industrial Design**

Faculty coordinator in the Industrial Design Department to assist the head of the department in various administrative tasks with 2 course (2TU) teaching release

**2001-current /OBSERVATORY // co-founder & design director**

Co-founder and director of an award winning multidisciplinary design consultancy with a focus on industrial and furniture design. Responsible for all aspects of studio operations including business & employee management, client development, project management, and design direction & creation of project deliverables. Clients range widely from global corporations to small start-ups, including, Herman Miller, Proctor & Gamble, Gillette, Google, Keilhauer, Samsonite, Skip Hop, and Tradeworks of Japan. Current projects include future desking solutions for Google R+D.

**2019-2020 /DePaul University Ex-Futures Lab // collaborator/contributor**

On going research project collaborator invited by the Design Lab with a mission to create provocative ideas and objects that unsettle thinking about the future, present, and past by fostering uncertainty, curiosity, and collaboration to explore 'Future of attachment'

ADDITIONAL KEY  
EXPERIENCES

**2019-current /DTPOC PVD // co-organizer/activist/designer**

Co-organizer of the first annual Dyke and Trans People of Color March in Providence focusing on supporting and lifting under-represented community members of color during Pride week.

**2018-2020 /Wangari Maathai Community School // board of trustee**

Board of trustee of a new K-8 public charter school opening in Providence for the 2020-2021 school year. Utilizing Providence, with its rich natural, cultural, historical and creative resources, we intend to offer hands on and project base teaching fostering diversity, interdependence, exploration and responsibility in students and community.

**2017-2018 /Montessori Community School of RI // board member**

Board member of the Montessori School based in Providence. School's mission includes cultivating community centric and socio-economic diversity. Currently serving as a treasurer.

**2010-16 /Rhode Island School of Design // adjunct faculty in Industrial Design**

A critic for a wide range of studios taught for Industrial Design department at RISD including: Metal I, Sophomore Design Principals, Junior Special Topics, and Graduate II. A guest lecturer for various studios including Sophomore Design Principals on Sustainable Design Practice, and an advisor to various ISP/CSP and Graduate Thesis students

**1999-2001 /Birsell + Seck (formally Olive 1:1) // industrial designer**

Lead Industrial Designer of an internationally renowned design firm lead by Ayse Birsell. Clients and projects include Resolve Office System for Herman Miller, Herman Miller Red, Oscar Sink for Merati, Italy, and Tulip Bathroom-ware for Decorum, Turkey.

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## EDUCATION

**1999 /BFA in Industrial Design // Rhode Island School of Design**

## EXHIBITIONS LECTURES & JUROR

2022 /FRAUHAUS & Wentworth School of Architecture and Design // Event Speaker  
2022 /L A M P 2022 International Lighting Design Competition // Judge  
2022 /International Design Conference (IDC) // “Urgent Call for Intersectionality in Design”  
2021 /Attending [To] Futures Conference // “Matriarchal Design Futures”  
2021 /AICAD Symposium // “What does a matriarchal, anti-exceptional design future look like?”  
2021 /RISD Faculty Exhibition & Forum // OK Bucket & Zokin Rags  
2021 /DePaul University, School of Design Capstone Class // Guest Lecturer  
2021 / College Art Association (CAA) Design Incubation Affiliated Society meeting | Connecting Scholars, Building Community, Design Research Network(ing) // Forum Panelist  
2020-21 /Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) IDEA // Juror  
2019 /RISD ID Triennial Exhibition // OK Bucket & Zokin Rags  
2019 /Herman Miller presents-Furnishing Utopia 4.0 Drawing Upon Frameworks // Tessellated Dome  
2019 /Brown University, The Entrepreneurial Process Guest Lecturer (spring & fall)  
2019/ Parsons, Product Design, Design Studio 4 Guest Lecturer  
2018 /NeoCon //Ubi Work Tools for Herman Miller  
2018 /DWR presents - Furnishing Utopia 3.0 Hands to Work // OK Bucket & Zokin Rags  
2018 /RISD Faculty Exhibition & Forum // Ubi Work Tools & Doko  
2018 /International Builders’ Show // Dialogue Layered Glass for ODL  
2017 /NeoCon // Layout Studio for Herman Miller, Ubi Work Tools for Herman Miller  
2016 /Healthcare Design Expo // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 /NeoCon // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 /NeoCon // Layout Studio for Herman Miller, Ubi Work Tools for Herman Miller  
2013 /International Housewares Show // Troika for Teroforma  
2013 /RISD ID Triennial Show // Airia Desk, Bow Light  
2012 /Anchor Gallery ‘Vicinity’ // Blink Mirror, Airia Desk, Ekke & Avva Votive Stacker  
2012 /NeoCon // Cleo Marker Boards for Skyline Design  
2011 /NY NOW // EKKE & AVVA Votive Stacker and Sniffer for Teroforma  
2011 /International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) // Blink Mirror Collection for Skyline Design  
2008 /The Noguchi Museum, ‘Discovering the Japanese Modern’ // Panelist Lecture+Discussion  
2008 /International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) // Airia Desk and Credenza, Lifework Portfolio for Herman Miller  
2008 /Design Within Reach, M+D+F Show // i/o Organizer  
2004 /NeoCon // Kotatsu Work Table for Herman Miller  
2003 /Core77, ‘Hytrell Design Charette’ // Design Charette

## AWARDS & GRANTS

2020 /Professional Development Fund, RISD // Greenhouse Cabinet  
2019 /Ex-Future Lab Visiting Design Collaborator Award // DePaul University Ex-Future Lab  
2019 /the Global Engagement for Curricular Development Grant Recipient// RISD  
2018 /Short listed for Dezeen Awards Homeware Design category // Furnishing Utopia  
2017 /New Faculty Grant Recipient// RISD  
2016 /Best of Year Award, Interior Design Magazine // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 /GOOD DESIGN Award, Chicago Athenaeum // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 /HiP Award, Interior Design Magazine // Doko for Keilhauer  
2013 /Global Innovation Award, Housewares Association // Troika Trivet for Teroforma  
2011 /Good Design Award, Japan Institute for Design Promotion // Lapel Pen for Tradeworks  
2011 /Good Design Award, Japan Institute for Design Promotion // Stick Pen for Tradeworks  
2008 /GOOD DESIGN Award, Chicago Athenaeum // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 /International Contemporary Furniture Fair, Editors’ Award for Body of Work // Lifework Portfolio, Airia Desk and Credenza for Herman Miller  
2000 /I.D. Magazine Design Award // Oscar Sink for Merati, Italy with Ayse Birsel  
1999 /Thomas Alva Edison Award, Rhode Island School of Design, ID // innovation

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## SELECTED PRESS

2019 Oct / NYTimes Style Magazine + Design Within Reach // Women who make DWR  
2019 May /Herman Miller Way of Living/ Phaidon Press// Airia Desk for Herman Miller  
2018 May /Metropolis, NYTimes, Wallpaper, Interior Design, Sight Unseen, Dezeen, Fast Company, Design Milk, Azure, Fast Comapny // Furnishing Utopia 3.0  
2017 May /Forbes JAPAN // RISD ID department class/pedigogy feature  
2016 July /Canadian Interiors // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 June /Interior Design // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 June /Contract Magazine // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 May /Metropolis // Doko for Keilhauer  
2016 April /The Business of Furniture // Doko for Keilhauer  
2009 September /The New York Times // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 October /Pasajes Diseno // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 October /Wallpaper // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 October /Vogue Living Australia // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 September /Men's Journal // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2008 June /Metropolis // Airia Desk & Credenza for Herman Miller  
2005 November /Wallpaper // Kotatsu Work Table for Herman Miller  
2004 September /Metropolitan Home // Kotatsu Work Table for Herman Miller  
2004 July /Metropolis // Kotatsu Work Table for Herman Miller  
2004 June /Interior Design // Kotatsu Work Table for Herman Miller  
+ numerous features on online design blogs/news outlets including Core77, NotCot, Design Milk, Oh Joy!, Apartment Therapy, Dezeen etc

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

2020 /US Utility Patent 10808438B2 // door assembly  
2017 /US Design Patent 845575 // bag caddy  
2016 /US Design Patent 832260 // usb hub  
2016 /US Utility Patent 9925679B2 // food slicer  
2013 /US Design Patent 739604 // razor handle  
2009 /US Design Patent 601893 // cosmetic bottle cap  
2009 /US Design Patent 600104 // office chair caster  
2008 /US Design Patent 578003 // cosmetic bottle and cap  
2008 /US Design Patent 578005 // cosmetic bottle and cap  
2008 /US Design Patent 602356 // cosmetic bottle cap  
2006 /US Design Patent 542675 // razor case  
2005 /US Design Patent 540685 // container for personal care product  
2005 /US Design Patent 530623, 515938, 517426 // cosmetic dispenser  
2003 /US Utility Patent 6662732B2 // desk top frame  
2000 /US Design Patent 450959 // desk top frame

## ONLINE PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE

<http://www.observatorydesign.com>  
<http://www.hermanmiller.com/designers/observatory.html>  
[http://www.keilhauer.com/company/designers\\_/61796/observatory.html](http://www.keilhauer.com/company/designers_/61796/observatory.html)  
[https://www.odl.com/doorglass\\_dialogue.htm](https://www.odl.com/doorglass_dialogue.htm)  
<https://forbesjapan.com/articles/detail/16355>  
<https://www.risd.edu/people/ayako-takase/>

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL MEDIA

instagram/@provprofessor // RISD ID snapshots. design stories, professional work  
instagram/@observatorydesign // Observatory studio account  
instagram/@dtpocpvd // DTPOC PVD organization account