

Adam Smith CV 2025

Academic Statement around Teaching at RISD

Starting in 1993, I have a 33-year history teaching at Rhode Island School of Design, Full Time Faculty since 1996. I was Department Head of Industrial Design from 2010 to 2013.

My teaching is linked to my research and design work. I enjoy teaching within many design related areas: hand sketching towards ideation; communications/information graphics 2D digital/analog; digital 3D modeling; hand and machined fabrication in metal wood and plastic; sustainable design focus along with physical application towards a greener product manufacturing and production; life cycle assessment; product photography; design related future forecasting; exploration of advanced manufacturing processes like casting, plastic mold design and cast metal; the practice of digital and hand fabrication around physical objects as well as UI/UX software development around exploring virtual user experiences.

I offer the ID department many teaching related areas that I can assist with. I have taught a range of students from freshman to grad. I have taught CAD, UI/UX, and analog making for several years, I also have a focus on teaching research methodologies towards formalizing design hypothesis. I often like to learn new things and challenge myself to teach new courses. Courses I teach can be either hands on material based, or they can be focused around conceptual or system based design thinking and methodologies.

Highlights from my “professional career” are listed below in chronological order, the following section after that lists “college service” that I have provide over the years to the Rhode Island School of Design.

Adam Smith – Professional Work History: 1985 to 2025

1985-1986 **Skok Systems**, Full time, Cambridge, MA

A Smith worked with software engineers creating software user interface for the first architectural drafting software, Skok Systems rev10. This include graphic interface along with developing user interface of the tablet interface used at the time. The site below documents the historical relevance of Skok Systems to the CAD industry.

<https://www.shapr3d.com/history-of-cad/miscellaneous-companies>

taken from the site: HP's facility in Boeblingen Germany began developing mechanical software. The first product, introduced in 1980, was an object-oriented two-dimension package called HP Design. It used parametric techniques that proved to be hard to use. Although they added a FEA package from a software firm in England and a NC package from another vendor Germany, HP Design was not widely used outside of HP itself. In late 1981, HP introduced a new product, HP Draft. This was a drafting package the company licensed from Skok Systems, a South African software firm. HP licensed the package for resale to mechanical users while Skok continued to sell it to AEC users. The HP development staff in Boeblingen, under the direction of Tillman Schad, worked from about 1981 to 1984 developing a new package specifically intended for mechanical drafting called ME Series 10.

1987-1988 **Internetwork** Scientific/Design consulting agency, Full time, Delmar, CA

Internetwork Director: Pason Stevenes, assigned A Smith as art director, consulting for **NASA** developing a booklet: **Global Change**. The publication was the first NASA sponsored

document that acknowledged global climate change and the use of chlorofluorocarbons and other chemicals that was opening up the ozone layer in the South Pole during the mid-1980's. At the time many people in Australia and New Zealand were experiencing skin cancer due to the lack of ozone. The publication was created in order to be presented to the Reagan administration, in order to help inform and substantiate the fight against the use of these toxic chemicals worldwide. Environmental issues of the time received little attention, until NASA stepped in wanting a publication with lots of visuals making it easier to absorb the scientific information. As the time "computer graphics" offered graphic technique that previous printing methods had difficulty achieving. The graphics that Smith produced for the project can be seen throughout the booklet. Another aspect of the project was learning and beta testing new software just released: *Photo Shop 87* and *Adobe Illustrator 87*.

*In 1979, Stevens founded the company InterNetwork Inc. (INI) 'to provide to provide communication services to organizations wanting to convey scientific information to broader, lay audiences using a variety of media'.^[11] In 1985, the Earth Science Systems Committee of [NASA](#) reached out to Stevens for help in engaging non-technical audiences, such as bureaucrats, politicians, and the general public, with the then nascent discipline of ESS. Stevens and his company INI prepared ESS material and a strategy to promote them. Some of the ESS topics Stevens/INI helped design and illustrate materials for included an introduction to ESS,^[12] [climate change](#),^[13] space missions for [oceanographic data](#),^[14] [El Nino](#),^[15] and the [ozone layer](#).^[16] The techniques used in these materials and promotional strategy were more often associated with corporate marketing.^[17] According to the historian of science Jenifer Barton, 'Payson Stevens's work helped transform ESS's products and various communication strategies into a science brand'.^[18] Similar arguments about the significance of Stevens's work for ESS also appear in an interview of the earth scientist [Berrien Moore III](#) (2011), and in the *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences* (2008).^{[19][20]}*

1989 - 2024 Adam Smith Design (ASD)

For over 34 years, Adam Smith Design has specialized in providing product development in many areas: sporting goods, medical applications, jewelry, lighting, sculptural insulations, small and large electronic devices/computers, bicycles and bicycle-related products, multi-tool and pocket knife design, UI/UX software development, and luxury brand products. ASD process provides a wide range of design services that include front end design strategy and research, sustainable design development, styling and functional development towards consumer products, 3D CAD design/engineering of products towards manufacturing off the shelf products, digital and traditional prototyping and fabricating, pre-press quality graphic design and packaging and product photography.

Listed are some of ASD's most noteworthy consulting projects:

Client: **Conservation Alliance/Lightolier** 1994 - Smith developed the world's first LED Exit sign design. The first LED Exit sign design uses 2% of the energy that older incandescent light bulbs offered at the time. The first clients installing the exit signs were the White House and US Pentagon in 1995, soon after it became a US national standard with new construction and the design is still being sold by Lightolier today. https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/H-1663/Warehouse-Signs/Hard-Wired-Exit-Sign-Plastic-with-Red-Letters?pricode=WA9259&qadtype=pla&id=H-1663&qad_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiA1fqrBhA1EiwAMU5m_8mLz6e_UFKrEt-NKKhYOrTLBa0jPTMhv5nwaD89odkKcPgUh6CEQRoC2B0QAvD_BwE

Number one in connected, LED and conventional lighting Signify is the world leader in lighting for professionals, consumers and lighting for the Internet of Things. Our energy efficient lighting products, systems and services enable our customers to enjoy a superior quality of light, and make people's lives safer and more comfortable, businesses more productive and cities more livable.

With 2021 sales of EUR 6.9 billion, approximately 37,000 employees and a presence in over 70 countries, we're unlocking the extraordinary potential of light for brighter lives and a better world.

Client: **Richard Flishneir/Brown University** - ASD developed 3D CAD models to assist with site design and installation. Granite and Bronze war memorial still standing in 2025.

<https://www.deldeobarzune.com/richard-fleischner>

Richard Fleischner: perhaps best known for his sited works and public projects which have distinguished a career spanning over forty years. Important projects include: Tufa Maze, 1973 (Rockefeller Collection, Pocantico Hills, NY), Sod Maze, 1974 (Chateau sur Mer, Newport, RI); Floating Square, 1977 (Documenta, Kassel, Germany); Chain Link Maze, 1978–79 (University of Massachusetts, Amherst); Massachusetts Institute of Technology Project, 1980–85 (Cambridge); Dallas Museum of Art, Courtyard Project (TX); Marsh & McLennan Companies Memorial, 2002-03 (New York, NY); Courtyard Project for the Balsillie School at the Center for International Governance Innovation, 2010–12 (Waterloo, Ontario, Canada). Fleischner's studio practice is varied and wide ranging, encompassing drawing, sculpture, and photography.

Fleischner's work is collected by museums and foundations including: Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; Dallas Museum of Art, TX; Des Moines Art Center, IA; Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation for Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Laumeir Sculpture Park and Museum, St. Louis, MO; List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, CA and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Client: **Numark** 1994 - ASD developed several DJ mixing boards. <https://www.numark.com/>

Continually the first to adopt and develop new technologies that advance the mixing experience for DJs at every level, Numark empowers DJs with revolutionary products that seamlessly combine classic feel with cutting-edge performance capability.

Client: **Performance Bicycle** 1995 - ASD helped design and fabricate a line of aluminum bicycles.

<https://www.performancebike.com/>

Client: **Colonial Knife Company** 2001-2025 - Smith is lead designer for Colonial Knife Companies pocketknife's and auto-tool designs. Including minatory, firefighter, rock-climbing, and sailors. ASD works directly with CFO Steven Panentonio, Kingstown RI

<https://www.colonialknifecorp.com/>

Established

1926 CKC continues manufacturing knives, tools, survival kits, and flashlights. "Over 90 years and 4 generations, view the art, drama and history of one of the most interesting knife companies in the world". Tactical Knives Magazine April 2008 issue

Client: **Goldline Controls** 2004 - ASD helped design a line of floating pool remote controls.

<https://start.cortera.com/company/research/k3j5swp5m/goldline-controls-inc>

Client: **WR Cobb** 2007 to 2010 - ASD worked to retool there entire line of die-casting ear-ring gem basket molds which needed replacement after decades of use at the world wide jewelry

manufacturer. ASD designed and built hundreds of CAD models for their entire product line of earrings, each for all gem sizes. <https://wrcobb.co>

W.R. Cobb Company has been a fundamental part of the precious metal industry since 1877. Each division of the company focuses on providing our customers with exceptional customer service and products.

Client: **Acopia Harvest** 2009 2011 - ASD helped Acopia Harvest design hydroponic growing systems for Basil, Cilantro and Lettuce. In conjunction with lighting designers at MIT working on developing specific light waves best for each plant species, ASD was developing both consumer and commercial farming units for Acopia. ASD's involvement helped transition rough prototypes of hydroponic growing systems to CAD models and CNC prototypes in order to re-design towards mass manufacturing resulting in final off-the-self consumer products.

<https://mainvest.com/b/acopia-harvest-central-falls>

Acopia Harvest is comprised of scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs dedicated to promoting Earth-friendly technologies that will provide reliable and efficient solutions to the social, environmental, and economic woes affecting communities worldwide. Our focus is to develop and promote self-sufficiency in food, water, and energy sources with our innovative technologies. In tandem, educate and motivate society to become self-sufficient through the use of our technologies and programs.

Client: **The Digital Ark** 2016 (Smithsonian, Washington DC) - ASD worked with the CEO of Digital Ark (Ed Codierr) developing systems to streamline the process of scanning in millions of slides that the Smithsonian Museum has to scan in before the silver fades away forever. ASD conducted basic concept development of a system for quickly scanning in hundreds of slides quickly, CAD and 3D printing, analog prototyping, and planning final manufacturing of the device. <https://www.thedigitalark.com/>

Client: **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island** 3/20/20 to 7/28/20 - ASD worked directly with Blue Cross CFO by Mark Stewart. The job involved future forecasting the digital transformation of health insurance, and speculating the user experience of future Blue Cross members in 2026. App and wireframe prototypes helped to speculate the future UI/UX vision for Blue Cross Blue Shield. Also produced was an animated video giving a future vision that was presented to the Blue Cross Blue Shield board of directors showing a vision of why they need to increase funding to the company servers and AI hardware over the next 6 years in order to allow the vision to take place. <https://theorg.com/org/blue-cross-blue-shield-of-rhode-island/org-chart/mark-stewart>

Client: **Jay Strongwater** 2022 to 2024 - ASD's ongoing client Jay Strongwater is a worldwide luxury brand company that produces many products. Over the past 2 years ASD specializes in designing collectable boxes for Jay Strongwater. Collectable boxes ASD has designed include: Sargent Pepper collectable box 1, Sargent Pepper collectable box 2, Sargent Pepper Tray, Hershey Kiss Collectable Box, Pez Collectable Box, Batman Collectable Box, Superman Collectable Box, and the Wonder-Woman Collectable Box. The average price that the end consumer pays for a Jay Strongwater collectable box is \$8,000 each. Below are two URL's

that show 2 of the most popular collectable boxes that ASD has designed. ASD works directly with the manufacturing facility in Cranston, Rhode Island. <https://jaystrongwater.com/>
<https://jaystrongwater.com/products/pez-rock-box>
<https://jaystrongwater.com/products/hersheys-kiss-rock-box>

ADAM SMITH, COLLEGE SERVICE

1996 to 2025

2023/2025

Active member of the RISD Curriculum committee, this assignment is active this year due to the fact that the 2024/2025 credit reduction vetting goes through this committee and what is passed will have impact on future curriculum for all departments at the college.

Current Chair: Susan Doyal

1993 to 2021

For 28 years I have designed, produced, and output departmental awards presented each year to graduating seniors in the ID awards ceremony. This consisted of managing and producing on average 23 awards per year. Professor emeritus: Robert O'Neal hired me back in spring 1993 to design and produce the first student awards for the ID department. The last year I completed this honorable task was 2021.

2022/2023 to 2021/2020

Active member of the RISD Academic Standing Committee. *Chair: Donald Keefer*

2018:

I served as chair: Industrial Design Curriculum Committee. *Department Head: Peter Yeadon*

2017 to 2019

Active member of the Admissions Committee. *Chair: Ed Newhall*

2015 to 2016:

- 1. Active member of the RISD Admissions Committee** *Chair: Ed Newhall*
- 2. ID Internship Facilitator 2011 to 2016** (authorization and grading of all credit bearing internships within the ID Department) Over the past 5 years I have been designated the key full time faculty member responsible for ID student internships. During this period I have facilitated over 280 students. The job consists of: reviewing student proposals and granting internship status; reviewing student performance during the internship experience; and final grading with a pass-fail system. *Charlie Cannon, ID Department Head*

3. **ID Metal Shop Faculty Administrator** Designated full time faculty, working with faculty and staff around Metal Shop issues - Over-see the metals course's curriculum development - Consider policy health & safety issues - assist techs with space & equipment planning for the shop. *Charlie Cannon, ID Department Head*

2014 to 2015:

1. **Active member of the RISD Steering Committee** *Chair: Ann Tate*
2. **ID Internship Facilitator** - *Department Head: Soojung Ham*
3. **ID Metal Shop Faculty Administrator** - *Department Head: Soojung Ham*
4. **ID Curriculum Committee ID Self-Study Group** - *Chair: Charlie Cannon*
5. **ID SolidWorks Course, Full Time Faculty Team Leader** (6 sections) Work with each of the sections; develop a road map for the pedagogy of the course; provide lectures and handouts to other faculty teaching the course. *Department Head: Soojung Ham*

6. **During spring semester 2015, I developed and taught a new workshop for the Graphic Design department.** This is the first time Industrial Design and Graphic Design departments have swapped faculty in order to teach the use of three dimensional modeling software. ID received a typography course. *GD Head: John Caserta*

2013 to 2014:

1. **Active member of the RISD Admissions Committee** *Chair: Ed Newhall*
2. **Active member of the ID Curriculum Committee** *Chair: Soojung Ham*
3. **ID Internship Facilitator** *Department Head: Soojung Ham*
4. **ID SolidWorks Course, Team Leader** (5 sections)

2012 to 2013:

served as ID Department Head (my third year) This was the last year before the ID Department Head position became shared in terms of relieving duties and decision making of the department head in certain areas to other full time faculty members. I was the last department head to not have extra help with those duties. Faculty members in ID without salary compensation.

2. **Active member of the ID Search Committee**, *Cas Holman RISD Hire*
3. **ID Internship Facilitator**, *I was current ID Department Head*
4. **ID SolidWorks Course, Team Leader** (5 sections), *I was current ID Head*

1. I

2011 to 2012:

1. **I served as ID Department Head (my second year)**
2. **Active member of the ID Search Committee, *Andy Law RISD Hire***
3. **ID Internship Facilitator, *I was current ID Department Head***
4. **ID SolidWorks Course, Team Leader (5 sections), *I was current ID Head***
5. **As department head I helped to implement the first of ID's "Special Topic Studio".**

2010 to 2011:

1. **I served as ID Department Head (my first year)**
2. **I put in place and equipped our program with a state of the art professional product photography studio which is still located on the 3rd floor of 161 S. Main St. today. *I was current ID Department Head***
3. **ID Internship Facilitator *I was current ID Department Head***
4. **ID SolidWorks Course, Team Leader (5 sections), *I was current ID Head***

2009 to 2010:

1. **Active member of the RISD Curriculum Committee, *Chair David Bogen***
2. **ID Curriculum Committee, *I was Chair L. Fontaina, Head***
3. **ID SolidWorks Course, Team Leader (5 sections), *L. Fontaina, Head***

2008 to 2009: Sabbatical Leave

2007 to 2008:

1. **Active member of the RISD Admissions Committee *Chair Ed Newhall***
2. **Appointed 1 of 2 RISD faculty members to be a member of the first polite year of the Brown RISD Dual Degree Admissions Committee. *Chair Ed Newhall***

2006 to 2007:

1. **Active member of the RISD Admissions Committee. *Chair Ed Newhall***
2. **Delivered the Freshman Presentation (fall) at the RISD auditorium, describing the Industrial Design Program. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman***

2005 to 2006: COLLEGE SERVICE:

- 1 **Active Member of the EHP committee *Chair: Colgate Searle***
- 2 **ID department Gallery Coordinator *Department Head Mickey Ackerman***
- 3 **Coordinator of Presentation I course, planning curriculum for the required spring course with five faculty members and five sections, 60 Students. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman***
- 4 **Delivered the Freshman Presentation (fall) at the RISD auditorium, describing the Industrial Design Department. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman***

2004 to 2005: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 Active Member of the EHP committee, Chair: Colgate Searle

2 Coordinator of Presentation I course, planning curriculum for the required spring course with five faculty members and five sections, 60 Students. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman*

3 Appointed, ID Department Student Work Documentation Coordinator. I was the first one who came up with the term "Academic Portfolio" along with a system for organizing student work for RISD.

Department Head Mickey Ackerman

4 Delivered the Freshman Presentation (spring) at the RISD auditorium, describing the Industrial Design Department.

Department Head Mickey Ackerman

2003 to 2004: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 Appointed Chair of the ID Search Committee, charged to search for 2 full time faculty members. Hired: Lorna Ross & Soojung Ham.

2 Appointed Chair of the ID Curriculum Committee. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman*

3 Appointed: Academic Digital Coordinator representing the ID department. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman*

4 Appointed Coordinator of Presentation I course, planning curriculum for the required spring course with five faculty members and five sections. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman*

2002 to 2003: Sabbatical Leave

2001 to 2002: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 Assigned, Coordinator of the Design Principles course, fall 2001, 64 students, 4 sections, taught by myself and 3 other part time faculty members. *Department Head Khipra Nicholes*

2 Assigned, Coordinator of Presentation I course, spring, 64 students, 4 sections, taught by myself and 3 other faculty members.

Department Head Khipra Nicholes

3 Appointed member of the ID Search Committee looking for fulltime faculty member for the ID department.

Department Head Khipra Nicholes

4 Assisted the Department-Head review transfer student applications and portfolios.

Rated and made recommendations for all of the students that applied for the fall 2002 ID program. *Department Head Khipra Nicholes*

5 Assigned to plan and manage the ID Lecture Series. *Department Head Mickey Ackerman*

6 Throughout the year I was an **active member of the ID Curriculum Committee.**

Department Head Khipra Nicholes

7 Researched and identified all software/hardware to be used in the ID laptop program for the following academic year, 2002-2003. This was the first program at the school that supported each student in ID having a laptop computer. **I worked with the department head Khipra Nichols, and the head of CNS Ralph Fasano to put the first laptop program in place for RISD.**

2000 to 2001: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 **Before the ID Department had the Divisional Computer Technician I helped with many technology related issues and events for the ID department.** Some of the areas of help were, manage labs and work-study students working in the labs, keep equipment and software functioning, define yearly budgets for technology related upgrades, and purchase new equipment and equipment consumables and software. The Divisional Computer technician took over in February 2001. This ended over 5.5 years of work that I did which is now handled by the Divisional Computer Technician. *Department-Heads during that period were Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Nichols.*

2 **I was appointed and Coordinated the Presentation 1 course,** 4 sections and 4 faculty members. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

3 **I helped the Department-Head generate parts of the Departmental Self Evaluation Report requested by the Provosts office.** *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

4 **Throughout the year I was an active member of the Industrial Design Curriculum Committee.**

Department Head: Mickey Ackerman

5 **Throughout the year I was an active member of the RISD Academic Computer Advisory Committee.** The committee membership 5 consecutive years. *Chair: Will Yoter*

1999 to 2000: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 With absence of a computer technician during this year **I helped with many technology related issues and events for the department.**

Department Head: Mickey Ackerman

2 **I conducted research and identified all software to be used in the ID laptop program** for the following academic year, 2000/2001. *Mickey Ackerman ID Head.*

3 Throughout the year I was an **active member of the RISD Academic Computer Advisory Committee.** *Chair: Will Yoter*

1998 to 1999: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 Fall 1998, **I proposed and set-up the "ID Faculty Computer Lab"** (6th floor faculty alcove). This faculty computer lab is critical for faculty members to have the same access to

digital media that the students have. All ID faculty members have access to use this area, to learn software, practice techniques, prep themselves for digital lectures, and to create digital presentations for lectures.

Department Head: Mickey

Ackerman

2 Spring 1999, **I helped to coordinate the Presentation I course** (required course for all ID Sophomores).

Department Head: Mickey Ackerman

3 **I produced plan view drawings for equipment and furniture for the layout of the new Faculty Computer Lab in Market House.** Plans were used by CNS for reference for equipment installation. *CNS: Ralph Fasno*

4 Throughout the year **I was an active member of the RISD Academic Computer Advisory Committee.** *Chair: Will Yoter*

5 With the absence of a computer technician during my second year, **I helped with many technology related issues and events for the department.** *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

1997 to 1998: COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 **Established and implemented the curriculum for the new Advanced CAD course**, the course structure remained a model for everyone teaching the course from 1997 to present times. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

2 To make the Advanced CAD course possible students needed to access SGI computers. **I assisted Ron Smith (the Corporate Foundations Relations Office at RISD) to put together a grant proposal to pay for a new SGI Lab. A Champlain Foundation Grant for \$300,000 was received to pay for the SGI Computer Lab.** At the time this equipment was needed to run the first 3D modeling software "Pro-Engineer". I also, helped with deciding on and purchasing hardware/software. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

3 **I produced plan view drawings for equipment and furniture for the layout of the new Freshman Computer Lab in Market House being built that year.** Plans were used by CNS for reference for equipment installation. *CNS: Ralph Fasno*

4 Throughout the year **I was an active member of the RISD Academic Computer Advisory Committee.** *Chair: Will Yoter*

5 With the absence of a computer technician during this year, **I helped with many technology related issues and events for the department.** Other responsibilities included the research and identification of all software to be used in the ID program for the next academic year (1998-1999) to CNS and Department-head Mickey Ackerman.

1996 to 1997: FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE SERVICE:

1 **The Summer before the start of my full time position at RISD, I worked to define hardware and software for the setup of the ID Departments first computer lab.** Other responsibilities included researching and purchasing equipment/software, did plan view drawings of the lab (floor plans necessary for network and electric wiring of room 502), defining

lab policies and rules, addressing security concerns, and hired work-study students to work in the lab. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

2 Established and implemented the curriculum for the new Basic CAD Course the new course at the time was a requirement for all students within the ID department. The course structure served as a template for myself and others teaching the course from 1996 to present times. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*

3 Throughout the year I was an active member of the RISD Academic Computer Advisory Committee. *Chair: Will Yoter*

4 With the absence of a computer technician I helped with many other technology related issues and events for the department throughout that first year. *Department Head: Mickey Ackerman*