

1976-current /Ayako Takase // atakase@risd.edu

CURRENT  
PROFESSIONAL  
PRACTICES

**2016-17 /Rhode Island School of Design // a term assistant professor in Industrial Design**

2016 Fall /Prototyping Form // 13 juniors, 4 graduate students  
2016 Fall /Furniture: Insightful Design for Production // 15 seniors, 1 junior  
2016 Fall /CSP // 2 2nd yr graduate students  
2017 Wintersession /CSP // 2 seniors  
2017 Spring /Graduate Thesis Making // 23 graduate students  
2017 Spring /Wood II

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

Co-founder and director of an award winning multidisciplinary design consultancy (formally Kaiju Studios) 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, Keilhauer, Samsonite, Skip Hop, and Tradeworks of Japan.

ADDITIONAL  
EXPERIENCES

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

2010 fall /Metal I // 15 sophomores  
2011 fall /Metal I // 15 sophomores  
2014 fall /Prototyping Form // 15 sophomores, 2 Brown students, 3 graduate students  
2015 spring /Design Principal II // 14 sophomores  
2015 spring /Sustainable Design Lecturer // ID & Furniture sophomores  
2015 fall /Prototyping Form // 15 sophomores, 2 French exchange students  
2015 fall /ISP // 1 senior  
2016 spring /Graduate ID Studio II // 22 1yr graduate students  
2016 spring /Graduate Thesis Advisor // 2 students  
2016 spring /ISP // 2nd yr graduate student  
2016 spring /Sustainable Design Lecturer // ID sophomores

**2013-current /West Side Play Space, Providence RI // founding & board member**

Founding board member of the community and play based co-op for 50+ families and children aged 0-5 years old. Current roles include overseeing running of the co-op, visual design & communication, facility management & maintenance of the play space.

**2004-current // independent web & graphic design and development contractor**

Design and development contractor of visual identities, visual materials, and websites to various artists and small business owners.

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

Lead Industrial Designer of an internationally renowned design firm lead by Ayse Birsal. 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.

**1999-2000 /Williams-Sonoma, inc // freelance industrial designer**

Industrial Designer for tabletop products and collections

EDUCATION

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

EXHIBITIONS 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 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 & Media Cabinet for Herman Miller  
2008 /International Contemporary Furniture Fair, Editors' Award for Body of Work // Lifework Portfolio, Airia Desk and Media Cabinet 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

SELECTED PRESS 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, etc

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INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

2013 /US Design Patent 739604 // razor handle  
2009 /US Design Patent 601893 // cosmetic bottle cap  
2009 /US Design Patent 600104 // office chair caster  
2006 /US Design Patent 542675 // cosmetic bottle cap  
2006 /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  
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)