

Andrew Figueira

After several years as head of design at De La Espada (www.delaespada.com) I have recently branched out. Since Autumn 2008 I have been running my own practice, allowing me to exploit my interests in design and concentrate on developing my existing client base. I aim to work mainly on a mix of design commissions, product development, art direction, photography and project management.

Whilst working in-house at De La Espada, as head designer my responsibilities were broad and challenging. The primary focus was in research & development and designing new products. I have also been responsible for their contracts division and art director for product catalogues and advertising imagery. Other responsibilities involved aiding the graphics team and on occasion helping the sales force. De La Espada contracts were mainly centered around high end domestic property commissions, working with developers such as Candy & Candy & Defining Spaces. My role was to manage these projects from initial quotations to final hand over.

My long term objectives were to improve manufacturing efficiency and build a world class design department, working closely with in-house factories in Spain and Portugal. During my time there I introduced new manufacturing techniques, and spear headed participation in international design exhibitions. This involved frequent trips to meet and work with factories and designers across Europe and the US. Towards the end of my tenure I actively pursued the development of working relationships with external design houses and independent designers such as Autoban and Matthew Hilton.

Currently, Inspiration grows from my desire to explore traditional and new materials, using a mixture of craft based and modern manufacturing techniques. I aim to work on projects & products that are fun, inspired and inspiring, and stimulate positive interaction between my clients and me. Ultimately I want to better understand the relationship between objects and people. I would like to achieve this by introducing intelligent, creative and well thought out designs, which are not transient but sustainable and engaging, handed down through generations to come.

I have engaged my past and present experiences in a focused, determined and passionate manner and am always seeking out new challenges so that I can deliver real value to clients and prospective employers. I will always go the extra mile to meet deadlines and goals. Past experiences have equipped me to engage problems in an innovative and confident manner. I am able to move capably from task to task and would prove to be an asset in any work place. I feel that the energy and creativity I can bring to any project would be a welcome addition. I can work efficiently on my own as well as being a valuable team player.

Andrew Figueira



EXPERIENCE

Dec 2008 – Present

Freelance - Main clients include:

De La Espada (delaespada.com)
M-scheme Collection (mscheme.co.uk)
Matthew Hilton (matthewhilton.com)
Autoban (autoban212.com)
Alma Home (almahome.co.uk)

Jan 2001 – 2008

Senior Product Designer/Contracts Manager

De La Espada. London / UK (delaespada.com)
Designing & photographing furniture in house.
Managed & designed bespoke commissions, working closely with client
Managing relations with external design partners.
Heading contracts division for clients like Candy & Candy / Hill Spink.
Directed design & development within the company.
Aided direction of collections & advertising / branding media.
Leading a small design & project management based team.

Nov 1999 – Jan 2001

Technical/Product Designer -

Alpha Dot Ltd. Salisbury / UK (alphadot.com)
Development of new products.
Produced technical manuals.
Produced company and product advertising media.
Implemented the use of 3D CAD Mechanical Desktop & 3D Max.

June 1999 – Nov 1999

Freelance - Main clients included:

Capital Marble (capitalmarble.co.uk) - design.
Great White Studio's (sarahkaye.com) Nick Cole - photography assistant

May 1998 – May 1999

Photographer - Ocean Images. Southampton (ocean-images.com)

Travel & portrait photographer aboard a five star, luxury, liner.

Nov 1997 – April 1998

Model Maker - Benchmark. Herts (benchmarkmodelmaking.com)

Developed & aided the design process of new products.
Fabricated prototypes for clients like Sony, Samsung, Tangerine, Fitch.
Work shop management, maintenance and use of machinery.

1995 – July 1997 Internships & industry projects

Kemmpi International, Transtech Finland and Texas instruments.
Huges Plastics - assistant tool setter in an injection moulding plant.

EDUCATION

1994 - 1997

Product Design & Development BSc (Hons)

2:1 Salford University / Manchester

Project and studio driven course. Design projects included the feasibility, development and realisation of; Domestic appliances, office / commercial products, leisure products, medical equipment, machine design, transport, furniture and lighting.

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Personal-Info.

Status: single.no dependants
Nationality: British
Driving Licence: full.no points
Car Owner: yes
DOB: 13.08.76

CV

EDUCATION cont...

1992 - 1994

Trinity catholic high school / Essex

A - level Media Studies (B) Graphic Communication (C) History (C)

1987 - 1992

Secondary Education Trinity catholic high school / Essex

9 GCSE's grades A-C including Maths and English

FURTHER COURSES

August 2008

Ten day release, New Product Development Programme London Metropolitan / London

The programme included the following modules:

- Market Assessment
- Developing a Design Brief
- Design and Designer Management
- Increasing value through 'Lean Design'
- Understanding and Managing Risk
- Product Evaluation and Customer Feedback
- Distribution and Routes to Market
- Product Launch and PR
- Product Performance Indicators

January 2005

Project ISOS Furniture Works London Metropolitan / London

(hiddenartlondon.co.uk/news/news-archive)

January 2003

Night classes, Furniture Works London Metropolitan / London

(metropolitanworks.org/business_support/furniture_works/)

September 2000

Four day release, Mechanical Desktop v4.0 training Cricklade College

INTERESTS

Beyond design I am most content with a camera and traveling the world, I love exploring new cultures and seeing how disappearing local skill-based industries continue to survive in the face of new mass production processes. I am a sports enthusiast with particular interests in scuba diving, squash and football. I also have a keen interest in conservation and design and firmly believe that responsible design should be undertaken using sustainable materials that have a minimal impact on the world around us. Travel, socialising, photography and music are also other interests that I actively pursue.

REFERENCES

Luis De Oliveria (CEO De La Espada) luis@delaespada.com
Jason Knight (CEO M-scheme) jason@mscheme.co.uk

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SKILLS

Software -

- Photoshop,
- Illustrator,
- Acrobat professional,
- Corel Draw,
- Quark Express,
- Freehand,
- Microsoft Excell,
- Microsoft Word/Powerpoint
- Auto CAD,
- Vector Works,
- Solid Works
- 3D Studio Max,
- Mechanical Desktop,
- Rhino
- Alias Wavefront

Model making-

from mock ups to complex prototypes.

Language -

- French (Basic)
- Spanish (Competent)
- Portuguese (Competent)

Visualisation -

using a range of mediums, from sketching through computers.

Photography -

I have art directed and photographed product catalogues for several clients and have set up a wedding photography business with my partner.