

## Participate in RealWorld DesignWeek!

ASID RealWorld DesignWeek is the Society's first cohesive, national program to educate future interior designers. Debuting in 2008, this program focuses on career development, and offers both classroom and hands-on learning experiences to introduce students to the real world of interior design.

During RealWorld DesignWeek, October 19 – 25, 2008, ASID student members will participate in one-day shadow experiences with ASID professional and allied members, as well as Industry Partner representatives on-site at work locations. In addition, the week will be book-ended by a pair of online instructional seminars—*Prepare* and *Position*—hosted by prominent guest speakers. *Prepare* will teach students specific professional practices, such as business etiquette and interviewing techniques, to prime them for job shadowing experiences. *Position* will demonstrate how to put those learned professional practices, ethics and skill sets into action and leverage participation in RealWorld DesignWeek to reach a desired career.

This innovative program exists exclusively for ASID members—students and practitioners (allied, professional and Industry Partner representatives)—and has the potential to touch thousands of members at once. The benefits to student participants are numerous as RealWorld DesignWeek will empower ASID student members to succeed in the industry, build relationships with the design community, as well as provide them with the tools to jump-start their careers. The hope is that the program will act as a catalyst for developing long-term mentoring relationships and filling internship or entry level job openings. Moreover, ASID chapters will experience overall improved relations between professionals and students.

To facilitate the coordination of the shadow experiences that will take place during RealWorld DesignWeek, practitioners and students will be paired online in a self-service fashion on a secure Web site in April or May 2008. Practitioners will be given an initial window of time to post their profiles and availability on the site. Once this window is closed, students will then be able to log on, view profiles and self-select which practitioner they would most like to shadow. Pairings will be first come, first served, so students should sign up early!

Participant instructions and additional information on RealWorld DesignWeek is available on [www.asid.org/rwdw](http://www.asid.org/rwdw). Get involved with this program and make a difference in your life as a future interior designer. Be a part. It's your profession.