

Karen Kaoru Iwata

EGD + Industrial Designer

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Experience

AP+I Design Environmental Graphic Designer

Mountain View, CA
Apr 2018–Oct 2020: Full-time
Nov 2020–Present: Contract

As a member of the Environmental Graphic Design team at an interior architectural design firm specializing in corporate office environments for innovative Silicon Valley clients, I help my team to create spaces that convey our clients' brand and company culture. While working closely with interior designers and architects my scope of work includes exterior and interior signs, wayfinding, 2-D and 3-D focals, and environmental guidelines.

VKK Signmakers Environmental Graphic Designer/ Production Artist

Redwood City, CA
Jan 2015–Mar 2018

Designed and generated drawings for manufacturing, installation, design review, permit application processing, and production artwork for various clients around the San Francisco Bay Area. Clients ranged from medical, educational, civic, retail, residential, corporate, and hospitality industries. Projects involved branding, interior and exterior signs, space planning, wayfinding design and code-related signs. Assisted in managing relationships with vendors and manufacturers, and ensured the ordering and organization of materials and samples. Oversaw data collection and documentation for on-site surveys and installations.

A.Bottini Enterprises Graphic and Industrial Design Contractor

Gilroy, CA
Sep 2013–Oct 2014

Created CAD models for 3D-printed prototypes of tile installation products. Assisted with printed catalog, packaging, trade show banners, and e-commerce website. Provided technical drawings and illustrations for various tile and stone surfacing products to overseas manufacturers.

Simpler Products Industrial Design Freelancer

Sunnyvale, CA
Jul 2013–Aug 2013

Assisted with form development through ideation sketches, mockups, patterns, and prototypes. Provided technical drawings for soft good designs for baby sleep wear. Created initial concepts for packaging and designed the final product logo.

Skills

Software

- Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign
- CAD Tools
- WordPress
- Google Office Suite
- Microsoft Office Suite

Design and Fabrication

- Sketching
- Technical drawing
- Computer rendering
- Wood working
- Model making and prototyping
- Sewing

Other Skills

- Understanding of architectural scales and drawings
- Knowledgeable about ADA & CBC sign compliance
- Thorough understanding of project process, from programming to implementation
- Ability to collaborate and coordinate directly with a multi-disciplinary team (client, designers, architects, general contractors, fabricators and vendors)
- Understanding the possibilities and limitations of sign design while maintaining the project aesthetic
- Detail oriented, fast, motivated learner

Education

San Jose State University

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design
2013

Languages

- English
- Japanese
- Brazilian Portuguese