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"The Metaproject course is a powerful expression of the RIT philosophy where education and industry meet to generate meaningful work in a global context. With the Metaproject course, everyone wins: students, sponsors, faculty and RIT as a whole. Congratulations on 5 successful years of Metaproject!"

Lorraine Justice

metaproject 05
Rochester Institute of Technology

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Industrial Design at RIT

At RIT, we believe that industrial design education lies at the nexus of theory, process and practice. Industrial design is a humancentered discipline which requires an understanding of the complex relationships between culture, commerce and environment. Our varied and experienced faculty expose students to the history, context and state of the art, while imparting the skills necessary to compete as contemporary designers. Aesthetic sensitivity, technical competence, social and environmental awareness. and analytical thought are developed in a robust university environment where business, engineering, social sciences and scientific partners exist within arms reach as willing collaborators. Through hands-on experience in strategic design thinking, graphic visualization, technical drawing, model making and prototype development, graduates emerge with the skills needed to conceptualize, design, and develop new and improved objects and systems with an eye towards a better world-view. Our high profile internships expose students to formative experiences in the field. Our ever expanding international agenda links students to global thinking. The world renowned Vignelli Center for Design Studies is a unique resource that reveals the nuances of design process seen through the lens of some of the world's most masterful projects housed on site in the center's archives. With all of these assets, our students emerge as leaders in the field and our graduates redefine the profession as capable editors of content and 21st century story-tellers.

Metaproject

Meta

from Greek: μετά= "after," "beyond," "with," "adjacent," "self"

is a prefix used in English (and other Greek-owing languages) to indicate a concept which is an abstraction from another concept, used to complete or add to the latter.

Word Origin & History

Prefix meaning
1 "after, behind"
2 "changed, altered"

3 "higher, beyond"

from Gk. meta (prep.)
"in the midst of, in common with, by means of, in pursuit or quest of,"

from PIE *me- "in the middle" (cf. Goth. mip, O.E. mið "with, together with, among;" see mid). Notion of "changing places with" probably led to senses "change of place, order, or nature," which was a principal meaning of the Gk. word when used as a prefix (but also denoting "community, participation; in common with; pursuing"). Third sense, "higher than, transcending, over arching, dealing with the most fundamental matters of."

The Metaproject Series

The Metaproject initiative from RIT is now running in its fifth iteration. In keeping with the Design is One philosophy espoused by RIT's Vignelli Center for Design Studies, Metaproject aims to encourage students to produce design that is "semantically correct, syntactically correct, and pragmatically understandable, but also visually powerful, intellectually elegant and timeless."

Metaproject 05: Kikkerland and Bed Bath & Beyond The title for this project and corresponding exhibition is reflective of the project's ongoing initiative: to impart a deeper understanding of problem-solving with the goal of exposing the intricacies of design thinking through the execution of a project brief. This exhibition demonstrates that education partnered with industry can be a successful vehicle for fostering innovative thinking and product excogitation.

In the fall of 2014 twenty Industrial Design Seniors taking a course with Professor Josh Owen were given the task of addressing the challenges associated with designing for one of following types of home and dorm room storage categories: closet, desk, shelving, over the door, under the bed, and jewelry applications.

Introduction

Jan van der Lande

Founder/President, Kikkerland Design

It is our pleasure to have had the opportunity to partner with Rochester Institute of Technology for the Kikkerland x Bed Bath and Beyond Design Project.

With a goal to engage students of industrial design in the design process by creating useful products geared to the North American consumer, Kikkerland invited students from Rochester Institute of Technology to design a storage & organization product that would appeal to Bed Bath and Beyond customer and include Kikkerland contents.

We were pleasantly surprised by the wide variety of designs, from quirky to smart, small to extra large. It was therefore not easy to compare and judge. The winning designs however stood out by their simplicity, beauty and the user's ability to immediately understand the use. We hope these products will find their way to the stores and entice the consumer as much as it did us.

This ambitious group of future designers demonstrated their passion for design with innovative and unique submissions that stayed true to the Kikkerland Design philosophy that: "where creativity runs rampant, even the most utilitarian gadget becomes a delightful discovery." Every step of the process of product design, from concept, development, production, packaging and finally appearing on a retail shelf was explored in this challenge.

We would like to thank our long time friend and designer Professor and Industrial Design Program Chair, Josh Owen from RIT for organizing this wonderful project. We also thank Barbara Weston, Director of Design at Bed Bath and Beyond for inviting us to collaborate on this challenge. We wish all the students the best in their future endeavors, and may they continue to learn the most important aspect of design—perseverance.

Kikkerland Design February 2015

Prologue: Pedagogical Context

Josh Owen

Faculty and Metaproject Author

Course Description

This semester-long course introduced industrial design students to a working relationship with clients using a combination of seminar and workshop formats. The first half of each session presented aspects of the history, theory and the practice of product design as it related to the Kikkerland and Bed Bath & Beyond project agenda in the design and development of a solution to one of the aforementioned storage categories in the home or dorm room.

The second half of each session consisted of group and one-on-one critiques, discussions, field-trips and materials workshops. Critics were engaged at regular intervals throughout the course to share their insights.

Project Goals

Each student was required to explore the factors and challenges associated with creating storage and organization products that solve existing problems or improve upon current solutions. This required that students fully immerse themselves into design research and seek for results that relate to the core constituencies, brand values and philosophies relative to both Kikkerland and Bed Bath & Beyond.

Procedures

The industry participants used the following guidelines

Feasibility

Appeal

Value for Money

Project Deliverables

Students each designed and produced a high-quality, finished functional prototype from actual materials using available on and off-campus resources. They were expected to carefully archive their process and document their final product with design-control drawings, graphically compelling use-scenarios and the written word to convey their overall concept. Students were given the opportunity to art-direct the final documentation of their product using a professional product photographer to deliver pressquality communication materials.

Outcomes

In addition to the considerable media exposure given to the projects selected as winners, the projects were brought to New York City and exhibited in the context of Design Week. Several were earmarked for potential further development in order to explore their feasibility as products suitable for manufacture. Each student retains the ownership of the intellectual property of his/her design.

metaproject05 Prologue: Pedagogical Context

Institutional Value

The furtherance of a strategic course plan

As demonstrated by this fifth generation of the course, Metaproject is a repeatable template to be used as a thematic umbrella. The program of study can be used as a model for other courses to follow the strategic plan of the institute which addresses innovation and globalization. Metaproject 05 successfully fit into a single semester and works well with the rapid output needs of professional collaborators.

A partnership with the industry

In the case of Metaproject 05, the partnership was with world-renowned companies, Kikkerland Design and Bed Bath & Beyond. In this project, the company donated materials and services, and provided educational feedback sessions from their members and partners. In exchange, twenty students designed products which were crafted in synergy with the sponsors' core values.

An exhibition of RIT student work

Together with students from the course and a support team, which included a graduate teaching assistant and members of the sponsors' groups, an exhibit was designed to showcase the course output in a consolidated vision in the University Gallery of the Vignelli Center in Rochester, New York.

A global venue

The venue for further dissemination. of the results of the student research in this project was the May, 2015 International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York City. The ICFF, in conjunction with "Design Week" in New York City, is the most visible design-related event in the United States. During the Fair's four days, 145,000 net square feet of the Javits Center are filled with more than 23,000 designers, architects, retailers, manufacturers, representatives, distributors, developers, students, educators, curators and media. More than 550 exhibitors display contemporary furniture, seating, carpet and flooring, lighting, outdoor furniture, materials, wall coverings, accessories, textiles, and kitchen and bath fixtures for residential and commercial interiors. Selected projects from universities and design schools are also showcased. Together with the many lectures and presentations held on site during the fair, and the hundreds of off-site events held throughout New York City and Brooklyn as part of Design Week, this assemblage of national and international exhibitors and visitors affords the chance to experience the most selective scope of the globe's finest, most creative, individual, and original avant-garde home and contract products showcased in one venue. This year's installation was housed within the Jacob Javitz center. In addition, there was an exhibit curated in the Lazzoni Showroom in SoHo.

A case study book & a project identity

This book chronicles the methodology and output from the course, shedding light on the project results. The design of the book itself reflects the "Design is One" philosophy espoused by the Vignelli Center for Design Studies which is overlaid into the project linking the student work and the print collateral thematically to the Vignelli Center. Together with a press-kit of images and information, this book is printed in edition of 3,000 and used as collateral to accurately communicate the course and its representatives to the scholarly world as well as to the media and to the professional sector when it is disseminated during the ICFF. Extra copies are used by the ID department to seed future projects and by SoD to promote further. trans-disciplinary collaboration as well as by the Dean's office and the Development office for their purposes.

A trans-disciplinary team to focus & communicate course output

Professor Katie Nix and Timothy Bromm, a second year graduate student from RIT's ID program took the lead this year in developing the graphic materials for this course. Elizabeth Lamark, Photography Services Supervisor, RIT Production Services photographed and processed the student projects together with her team of photography students under the art direction of myself and the students in order to provide press-ready high quality documentation of the work for use in all communications. The Vignelli Center hosted the project's final on-campus event and displayed the student work for the university community and award ceremony. Rich Kiley from RIT's University News Services and Lucas Barber, Marketing Communications Manager from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences at RIT made sure that the University's interests in promoting the project were well represented working in concert with the sponsor's outreach efforts.

A process-oriented support website

Professor Adam Smith mentored two seniors from New Media Design, Joey Bright and Andrew Mikulski to generate the original Metaproject global website in 2012. This site consolidated the work from all Metaprojects and created a platform for future iterations of the project. The current website serves as an on-line portal for the project, however it does not duplicate the efforts of the book. Where the book focuses on project results, the website focuses on the project back-story and linkages to the institution. This site is also used for dissemination to media and other interested parties. As with last year, the new site content will be timed to be made live on the opening day of the event in New York City. This year, the website was revisited by students James Curtis and Steve Godlewski in order to follow new trends in technology and to remain current.

Bringing in industry luminaries

The Kikkerland and Bed Bath & Beyond teams are leaders from industry and acted as judges for the project. Outside perspectives of this nature are invaluable in selecting the most promising projects to be evaluated for further interest. The judges were:

Jan van der Lande Founder/President Kikkerland Design

Perrine Giacomazzo Director of Global Marketing, Kikkerland Design

Jay Lee Product Designer Kikkerland Design

Barbara Weston Director of Product Design, Bed Bath & Beyond

Building the future

Efforts like this project require extensive planning and the coordination of many resources beyond the classroom. It is our hope that the above methods of documentation, dissemination and exhibition initiatives will facilitate the generation of more such projects in the future.

Student Designers

Veronica Brown Adam Capron Angela Corrado Linda Deng David Donath Alex Dupont Ryan Gregory Brian Keyes Audrey Kirk John Lillibridge Jane Lim Hannah Mokoski Daniel Moreno Holly Neel Stephen Petoniak Alex Reding Jeff Sprague Michale Tsai Lina Velandia Diane Wang

Veronica Brown

Helping Hands



Storage CategoryOver the Door

Context

These hands are a spring steel storage solution. Their bent thumbs allow them to grip over a variety of doors, furniture, and more. Space in dorms is extraordinarily valuable, so the goal of this product was to increase storage without decreasing floor space. It takes advantage of the leftover space on either side of over the door mirrors or the edges of a lofted bed frame, giving students a way to utilize every extra surface of their room.







Adam Capron

Backpack Pallet



Storage Category Desk

Context

The Backpack Pallet is a versatile, "Grab-and-Go" organizer to make transitioning between multiple workspaces easier. It has a thin profile to fit inside a backpack, or it can be carried separately. It serves as a great way to organize work essentials like laptops, tablets, and chargers and can have great applications for backpacks without incorporated organizers.







Angela Corrado

Book Binder



Storage Category Desk

Context

The Book Binder is a simple, elegant way to bind objects together while providing them with a handle for ease of transport. The straps can wrap around a multitude of objects; possibilities include books, papers, or clothes.









Linda Deng

Clock Cabinet



Storage Category
Shelving

Context

The Clock Cabinet is a graceful and discrete storage cabinet that utilizes the necessity of a time telling device in every home. It can be placed in the bathroom or bedroom to hold rings, medication, pearls, or any other valuables.







Linda Deng

The Wheel



Storage Category Jewelry

Context

The Wheel is a playful earring organizer that is kinetic and allows for easy access storage for earring studs. Its rotational movement adds a sense of spontaneity to the daily morning routine.





David Donath

The Hanging Butler



Storage CategoryOver the Door

Context

The Hanging Butler system holds all the things you don't want to forget when leaving your apartment (wallet, keys, sunglasses, etc). This can be hung anywhere enabling you to place it somewhere convenient, like next to the door.





Alex Dupont

Pipe



Storage Category Desk

Context

Adding a touch of industrial style to your bathroom, Pipe is a hanging shower caddy with the appearance of the plumbing running through your walls. It organizes all of your personal hygiene products and easily slides over your shower head. Unlike similar metal accessories on the market, Pipe is lightweight and would resist corrosion.



Ryan Gregory

Stretch-Clip



Storage CategoryOver the Door

Context

All doors are not created equal. The Stretch-Clip over-the-door-hook accommodates most door thickness. It has a flat bungee cord within that allows the clip to stretch-to-fit on virtually any door. The body is longer so that people who are of short stature would be able to put the product on the door without any help.



Brian Keyes

Hanging Facades



Storage Category Closet

Context

This series of hanging closet organizers allows for private, raised storage in the dorm room. Multiples side by side will create a city block in the closet for whatever you might need it to hold: clothes, shoes, food, kitchenware, books, and anything else you want out of sight.





Audrey Kirk

Wall Pockets



Storage Category Desk

Context

Wall Pockets are denim pockets that stick onto the wall to cleverly hold small items from reading glasses to keys, pens to post-its. They work well in multiples to decoratively hold items over the desk or on the door.





John Lillibridge

Curtain Closet



Storage Category Closet

Context

The Curtain Cabinet replaces most any curtain found in the living space. It contains pockets to hold items ranging in size from phones and keys to magazines and hockey sticks. The size and depth of the pockets follows the function of each pocket, some big, some small, wide, deep, shallow, etc. Materials like translucent or stretchable fabrics enhance the adaptability of certain pockets so that no matter what kind of stuff you need to store, the curtain has a place for it.





Jane Lim Hoop and Hang



Storage Category Closet

Context

As simple as it sounds, toss any piece of clothing over the hoop and then hang. The "Hoop and Hang" is inspired by the nostalgic fun of putting outfits together. The flexible structure and unique proportions of this hanger allows garments to be easily hooped around and hold multiple pieces of clothing together as an outfit.





Hannah Mokoski

Caterpillar Pen Holder



Storage Category Desk

Context

The Caterpillar Pen Holder is a new and better way to store your pens. Your pen case now displays and keeps your pens visible and easy to get to. It is made out of a flexible material so that the pens are gripped and will not fall out until you want them to. The hooks on the ends allow for the product to curl in on itself to be transported then unravel when you reach your destinations.





Hannah Mokoski

Origami Jewelry Box



Storage Category Jewelry

Context

The Origami Jewelry Box is a beautiful and efficient alternative to a large structure for jewelry storage.

These pieces allow storage of individual pieces or groups of jewelry in small package like structures.

The structures are made out of polypropylene so although it looks delicate, it is durable. These storage pieces take up very little space making them ideal for anyone living in a small space or for traveling with jewelry.





Daniel Moreno

Pop-up Tech Book



Storage Category Desk

Context

The Pop-up Tech Book is a cleaver organizational tool. It packs flatly and unfolds into a desktop organizer for electronics: a phone and tablet stand hybrid with pen holder. The shape of the pyramid is clean, simple, and attractive. The materials selected are strong to support phones and tablets.











Holly Neel

Door Belt



Storage CategoryOver the Door

Context

This over-the-door concept eliminates the guess work and struggle of fitting a hook over the door ledge by taking the form of a single large band. The large hooks can interact with hangers, caribiners, key rings, towels, shoes, and anything else the user sees fit. Its soft material and easy assembly reduce the risk of damage and add a component of playfulness while permitting minimal footprint on retail shelves.









Holly Neel Yoke Caddy



Storage Category Closet

Context

Sharing a bathroom at the gym, in the dorms, or during travel means that your shower supplies have to be self contained enough to facilitate frequent transitioning from wet to dry, and from stationary to moving while also staying accessible enough for use. This concept is designed to hang in the shower or closet, or clip directly onto a gym or travel bag. The form reference to traditional "six-pack rings" engages a sense of playfulness conducive to the Kikkerland product dialogue while its minimal surface contact with the shower product means less chance of mildew build-up.





Stephen Petoniak

71 Oz Shower Caddie



Storage Category Desk

Context

The 71 Oz Shower Caddie envisions a minimalistic approach to shower storage. Its flat packed design allows easy storage while not in use, and the form of the six pack shines a playful lens on an otherwise drab object. A true American icon, this six pack encourages a fun way to help you stay clean and organized.





Alex Reding

Watch Tower



Storage Category Jewelry

Context

The Watch Tower is a castle like structure where watches can be hung by their buckles. It has a small cup in the top which allows for the storage of any small items. In production this would be a single hollow piece of injection molded 1/8 th inch plastic. Also, it would come in a small variety of colors, making it appeal to more people.





Jeff Sprague

Power Book



Storage Category Desk

Context

Power Book is a clever solution for organizing and storing cords. The book blends into the preexisting landscape of a desk while disguising a power strip within. Something old containing something new.





Michael Tsai

deskSide



Storage Category Desk

Context

Saving space is a way of creating a space. The deskSide is designed to organize and to store desktop objects. The slot can hold various things such as keys, stationary and mobile phone. The cup holder provides a safer space for drinks and greatly reduces the risk of spilling on important documents or electronic devices. The synthetic grass on top acts as a universal hook for audio cables and charger cords so they will never fall off the desk when unplugged. The flower makes you smile.





Lina Velandia

Jewelry Hive



Storage Category
Jewelry

Context

Shaped like a beehive, this jewelry holder stores and exposes your most precious gems. The outer shell features cloth covered foam grooves to push jewelry in, while the base is a tray for oddly shaped jewelry. Place it on your desk or nightstand and add a little fun to your room.



Diane Wang

Daisy Bag



Storage Category Closet

Context

Covered in huge vibrant blooms, the Daisy Bag is a simple, durable bag perfect for carrying laundry, storing pillows or hiding things from your roommate!



Winners

Academic Award Winner **Linda Deng**

Honorable Mention **Brian Keyes**

Honorable Mention **Audrey Kirk**

Production Award Winner **Linda Deng**

Peoples Choice Winner **Audrey Kirk**

Academic Award Winner

Linda Deng Clock Cabinet









Honorable Mention

Brian Keyes Hanging Facades







Production Award

Linda Deng

The Wheel







Honorable Mention

Audrey Kirk Wall Pockets





Peoples Choice

Audrey Kirk Wall Pockets







Student Designers' Statement Jane Lim & Jeffrey Sprague

Anticipation was high as we gathered in the University Gallery for the reveal of our corporate sponsor for Metaproject 05. The excitement that surrounds Metaproject had continuously escaladed from the overwhelming success it has received from previous years. This year Metaproject presented itself with the surprise of a dual sponsorship from Kikkerland Design Inc. and Bed Bath & Beyond.

The assigned project brief gave us the opportunity to design storage and organizational solutions geared towards a user profile that we are familiar with as students. We utilized this opportunity to embrace the diverse essence of both brands to design quirky and playful concepts that are well suited for commercial retail environments.

The fast paced nature of the project challenged us to perform professionally and efficiently within the limitations of our strict deadlines. The collaborative spirit of the class was essential in the progress and success of each of our projects. Under the guidance of Josh, along with the concept reviews from Kikkerland and Bed Bath & Beyond we were all successful in evolving our concepts into tangible, creative products.

The time between the project reveal and the final event went by quickly, but the amount of growth and experiences we enjoyed were numerous. Metaproject 05 was a unique learning experience because of the freedom to experiment and the immense expectations we had set for each other and ourselves. Working in collaboration with our sponsors was an invaluable experience of what professional design work could entail.

The output of Metaproject 05 is an impressive collection of creative ideas that could not have been possible without the help and support of many contributors. We would like to thank all of our classmates for taking this journey with us, from the first day of class all the way to ICFF. Thank you to Rick Auburn for his assistance in the studio. Thank you to Jan van der Lande, Perrine Giacomazzo, Jay Lee and Kikkerland Design for giving us this opportunity. Thank you to Barbara Weston and Bed Bath & Beyond for introducing a new challenge to Metaproject. Thank you Elizabeth Torgerson-Lamark and her team for capturing our entire journey. Thank you to our Graduate Assistant. Timothy Bromm, for his bearded wisdom and continual support. Lastly, we would like to thank Professor Josh Owen for sharing his knowledge with us and always making sure we were having fun.

Jane Lim and Jeffrey Sprague

Project Team

Industry Collaborator

Kikkerland is an international hub that designs, produces and markets original products in a variety of consumer categories such as gift, stationery, and housewares. Bed Bath & Beyond is a national retail chain that specializes in the Home Furnishings categories.

Judges

Jan van der Lande

Founder/President Kikkerland Design

Perrine Giacomazzo

Director of Global Marketing Kikkerland Design

Jay Lee

Product Designer Kikkerland Design

Barbara Weston

Director of Product Design Bed Bath & Beyond

ICFF Exhibition Concept / Art Direction **Product Photography**

Process Photography

Portrait Photography

Graphic Design **Primary Author Contributing Writer** Josh Owen with Katie Nix Elizabeth Torgerson-Lamark **RIT Production Services** Tim Bromm

Elizabeth Torgerson-Lamark **RIT Production Services**

Katie Nix Josh Owen

Jan van der Lande





Studio Professor Josh Owen

The work of industrial designer and educator Josh Owen is at once simple. practical and creative. Although typologies that Owen creates are commonly described as refined, iconic or minimalist, he defines function in humanistic terms, combining clarity of purpose and functional efficacy with emotive and tactile qualities chosen to align strategically with industry. Owen is the president of Josh Owen LLC and is a Professor and the Chair of the Industrial Design Department at The Rochester Institute of Technology. His projects are produced by major manufacturers and have won many awards. Owen's work is included in the permanent design collections of the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Corning Museum of Glass, the Musee des beaux-arts de Montreal. the Denver Art Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Chicago Athenaeum, the National Museum of American Jewish History and the Taiwan Design Museum in Taipei. His work has been featured in major exhibitions, numerous books on design and is regularly included in critical design discourse.



Project Coordinator Perrine Giacomazzo

Perrine Giacomazzo holds a Master in International Business with a specialty in Negotiation from La Sorbonne university in Paris, France. She is the Global Marketing Director at Kikkerland Design where she started her career in 2005. Prior to leading the Marketing department at Kikkerland, she developed sales in Canada, Latin America and Europe. Curious how product design can improve everyday life, she is passionate about telling product stories to open up people's minds.



Teaching Assistant Timothy Bromm

Timothy Bromm holds a Bachelor of Science in Design and Environmental Analysis with a focus in Human Factors and Ergonomics from Cornell University. He is currently pursuing his Master of Fine Arts in Industrial Design at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Prior to attending RIT Tim worked in New York City at the Humanscale design studio where he provided ergonomic research insight through conceptual chair studies and prototypes. While at RIT Bromm worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant to Professor and Department Chair, Josh Owen. Through this apprenticeship he acquired a thorough understanding of the relationship between academic and professional environments. Tim is currently developing his graduate thesis project, Sunder Axe, which involves the redesign of the axe so as to encourage safe habit and education through use.









Acknowledgements

The implementation of this project is the result of the work of many individuals, too numerous to mention here. Nevertheless, we wish to especially thank:

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Lorraine Justice, Dean, College of Imaging Arts & Sciences

Peter Byrne, Administrative Chair, School of Design, CIAS

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Josh Owen, Chair, Industrial Design

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RIT Computer Science students
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their help maintaining the Metaproject
website and the development of
the Metaproject mobile site.

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Elizabeth Torgerson-Lamark and her team at RIT Production Services.

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Efe Kababulut and Lazzoni for hosting our event and exhibition in New York City

Our friends in industry: Innovation Product Development Kyle Banker at Roc City Expressions Smidgens Laser Cutting Chelsea Madden

And of course all of our friends and families

.