

Theresa Goudy
Grade 12
Billings Senior High School
Montana

Promoting Possibilities through Design

Throughout my short life, I have striven to help others however I can. Whether serving food at a homeless shelter, tutoring a classmate in Biology, or stopping at a sick friend's house to drop off soup, I embraced the opportunity. I have been blessed to work at the local Boys and Girls Club, where I can help children of my community become caring, responsible and productive citizens. I am also creative and have expressed my creativity through art, theatre, and writing. This past summer, I designed, implemented, and taught a creative writing program for elementary school children at the Boys and Girls Club. This program taught them the practical skills of problem solving and brainstorming and allowed them the opportunity to create worlds in which to escape their chaotic lives. To fulfill my desire to help others, I looked toward the future, searching for a career that was creative and people-oriented. I found the perfect balance in Interior Design.

Through an Interior Design degree, I will endeavor to serve others by designing peaceful and productive spaces. Each room tells a story about a client. Whether that room is the corporate office of a millionaire CEO, or the kitchen of a hands-full "momager", every room has a designated purpose and intent. The office may tell of the trials which its resident overcame and the kitchen may contain glimpses into a busy life with three kids. These personalities must shine through in a space because each space is a reflection of its residents. In fact, that wording is incorrect since the best-designed rooms truly help people to expand their horizons and live their best lives. I want to enable clients to find self-assurance and confidence through my designs.

From my relationships with those with disabilities and/or special needs, I know that they have a difficult time using spaces which were designed with no consideration for their needs. Whether they're confined to wheelchairs, or walkers, it can be immensely difficult for families to assist their disabled children with common tasks such as changing clothes, or traveling through a building.

People with disability challenges should be given due consideration in the design process because they are no less human than anyone else. Although disabled people face more hardships than others throughout their day, the building they interact with should not present another. As a designer, I will create spaces around the restrictions of people, not force people to work around the restrictions of a space. I want to provide an accessible design experience, so that all people can enjoy a space, regardless of ability or disability.

Interior Design will give me the opportunity to help others on an incredibly in-depth and personal level. By giving clients their ideal environment, all other areas of their lives will improve due to their new-found ease and productivity. With your support, I will use my assets of creativity, drive and desire to help others to design beautiful, functional, and inclusive spaces.