

January 9, 2008

When I was a child I used to tell my teachers I want to draw pictures when I grow up. When they heard this, they would chuckle and tell me that it wasn't a good idea and I would never be able to make decent living drawing pictures. Fast forward fifteen years later. My daily routine consists of waking up, going to work, turning on my computer, and then DRAWING. Drawing every day from 8 to 5. I'm not drawing landscapes or dogs or anything like that, I'm drawing architectural woodwork and cabinetry, and yes, I get paid for it.

I was a participant in the AIA student design competition my sophomore and junior year in high school. Looking back, I now see and understand the value of participating. In a lot of ways the program set down the foundation to where I am today. Essentially this is a project. A lot of the steps you are going to have to take are the same steps myself, my co-workers, and anybody else in the design/drafting field take every day; designing and building 'real world' construction projects. If you put the effort and initiative into this contest you will see just like I have how much it prepares you for your future. I wish the best of luck to everybody who is taking this first step to building a foundation for a bright and fulfilling future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Putnam

AIA Student Design third place winner 2002

AIA Student Design participant 2003