

# IIDA STUDENT BLOG

## *NeoCon® East 2009– A Student's POV*

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by Kristyn Ivey, Student IIDA

This year at NeoCon East I left the convention hall with over 20 industry contacts and hours of footage for my vidblog. As a student, I networked during the career exchange, on the exhibit floor, and during the sessions.



*Practitioners, exhibitors and students network on the NeoCon East exhibit hall floor during the Career Exchange.*

**The career exchange.** Now more than ever is the time for students to focus on refining their portfolio/resume, making the career exchange a popular event. Every exhibit and portfolio review table was occupied non-stop with students gaining insight from Gensler, OPX, HDR, and more.



*Dawn Esposito (right), owner of Dawn Marie Designs, takes a moment to provide resume and portfolio feedback during the career exchange.*

**The exhibit floor.** The exhibit floor was packed with the latest and greatest in office trends, cutting edge products and technologies. It was really exciting to see NeoCon® East embrace social networking media (Twitter) to broadcast live feeds throughout the exhibit floor and lounge. Thanks to Designer Pages, I became a social networking advocate by mixing and mingling with practitioners and exhibitors as tweet clouds floated by with real-time feedback.



*Interior design student, Kristyn Ivey, takes a moment to check out the “Smart Car” by Mercedes, on display in U.S. Green Building Council Maryland Chapter (USGBC-MD) exhibit booth at NeoCon East.*

**The student seminars.** During the IIDA panel session, two principals from Envision design firm provided career advice that captivated the audience. Real-world insight ranged from “don’t over design your resume” to “never chew gum during an interview.” Career tips focused on the value of one-on-one connections and volunteering. At the end of the session I was empowered with information.



*Students gain insight from NeoCon East IIDA student seminar titled “Never Chew Gum in an Interview...and other career saving tips.”*

NeoCon® East 2009 was informative, exciting, innovative, and interactive. I attended the conference as a student. However, with all of the networking and resources acquired, I’m confident when I return next year I’ll be an industry professional!

**For more information and footage from the conference floor visit:  
[www.kristynivey.com](http://www.kristynivey.com)**

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