

**BRANDON OLSEN****Graphic Designer & Educator**

brandontolsen@gmail.com  
 brandonolsen.work  
 847-682-3339

**EDUCATION**

- 2015–18 **Rhode Island School of Design | Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design**  
 Providence, Rhode Island | GPA: 3.80
- 2010–13 **Lawrence Technological University | Bachelor of Science in Architecture**  
 Southfield, Michigan | GPA: 3.83 | Summa Cum Laude

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

- 2022–now **Assistant Teaching Professor | Iowa State University | College of Design**  
 Courses: Graduate Graphic Design Studio 1, F22  
 Graphic Design Methodology, F23 | Typography 1, F22 & F23  
 Typography 2, S23 | Design Studies, F22 & F23  
 F23 Placemaking & Branded Experience, S23
- 2021–22 **Adjunct Professor | Lawrence Technological University | College of Architecture & Design**  
 Courses: Graphic Design Senior Thesis 1, F21  
 Graphic Design Senior Thesis 2, S22 | Design Principles, F21
- 2017–18 **Instructor | Rhode Island School of Design | Dept. of Interior Architecture**  
 Courses: Portfolio Preparation & Production, W17 & W18
- 2016–17 **Graduate Teaching Assistant | Rhode Island School of Design | Dept. of Graphic Design**  
 Courses: Design Studio 1, F16 | Design Studio 2, S17  
 Branding Design, F17
- 2013 **Teaching Assistant | Lawrence Technological University | College of Architecture & Design**  
 Courses: Structures 4, S13 & F14
- 2013–14 **Architectural Tutor | Lawrence Technological University | Academic Achievement Center**  
 Subjects: Architectural Software & Structures

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2020–22 **Design Director & Partner | X-Identity**  
 Detroit, Michigan  
 Partial Client List: Beyond Basics, 501(c)3 | F1 Miami Grand Prix | Rosetti  
 Physician's Assistant Program at Lawrence Technological University  
 Riseabove Apparel | Greenpath Design | Raw Fitness | The Ciena Group  
 Castell | Meshico Tacos & Tequila | Premium Linens
- 2018–20 **Experiential Graphic Designer | IA Interior Architects**  
 Chicago, Illinois
- 2017–19 **Freelance Graphic Designer | Createur Studio**  
 Ann Arbor, Michigan (remote)  
 Partial Client List: Luna's Mexican Street Food | Ahmo's Mediterranean  
 Issa Logistics | Ciot | Openfloor
- 2016–17 **Environmental Graphic Design Intern | IA Interior Architects**  
 Chicago, Illinois & Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2014–15 **Intern Architect | Harley Ellis Devereaux**  
 Southfield, Michigan

**ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS**

- 2022–now **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Member | Iowa State University College of Design**  
 Fall '23 **Visiting Designer Lecture Co-Host | Tatiana Gómez & Jose Menéndez | Iowa State University College of Design**
- Spring '23 **Course Lead, Typography 2 | Iowa State University Graphic Design Dept.**
- 2022–23 **Inclusive Classroom Departmental Facilitator | Iowa State University Graphic Design Dept.**
- Winter '23 **Guest Critic | University of Tennessee Knoxville | Portfolio Design**

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- Fall '22 **Undergraduate Curriculum Ad Hoc Committee Member** | Iowa State University Graphic Design Dept.  
 Winter '22 **Guest Critic** | University of Tennessee Knoxville | Portfolio Design  
 Fall '21 **Guest Critic** | Lawrence Technological University | Game Design Senior Thesis 1

**WORKSHOPS**

- Summer '23 **Instructor** | Motion Graphics Workshop | Iowa State's Design Dimensions Summer Camp  
 Summer '22 **Instructor** | UX/UI Interaction Design Camp | Lawrence Technological University Summer Camp

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

- 2020 **Interior Design Magazine's Best of Year | Small Corporate Office | Finalist**  
 Project: Sterling Bay Headquarters
- 2019 **AIA Detroit Future Focus | Emerging Designers Spotlight**  
 Project: Luna's Mexican Street Food
- 2018 **Interior Design Magazine's Best of Year | Extra Large Office | Winner**  
 Project: McDonald's Headquarters
- 2017 **AIA Detroit Future Focus | Emerging Designers Spotlight**  
 Project: Pioneer Material Renewal
- 2015 **Parallel Projection's Reanimate the Ruins Design Competition | Finalist**  
 Project: Socioscape

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2022 **Encounter**  
 Buddy at Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2019 **AIA Detroit Celebration of Architecture | Future Focus Exhibition**  
 Eastern Market Shed 3, Detroit, Michigan
- 2019 **Play, Practice, Prototype, Critique | RISD Graphic Design Triennial**  
 Woods-Gerry Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2018 **Surface Levels | RISD Graduate Exhibition**  
 Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2017 **Vernacular Spectacular**  
 Gelman Gallery at RISD Museum, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2017 **AIA Detroit Celebration of Architecture | Future Focus Exhibition**  
 Eastern Market Shed 3, Detroit, Michigan
- 2017 **To Whom It May Concern | RISD MFA Graphic Design Biennial**  
 Sol Koffler Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2016 **X,Y, and Z: Graphic Design in Space**  
 Expose Gallery, Providence, Rhode Island
- 2015 **Reanimate the Ruins | Parallel Projections Finalist Exhibition**  
 Detroit Future Cities, Detroit, Michigan

**GRANTS**

- 2015 **Detroit Wholesale Produce Residential Study | Supported by the Eastern Market Corporation**  
 \$2,500 awarded | Worked with the owners of Detroit Wholesale Produce to repurpose and design residential spaces within the existing warehouse.
- 2014-15 **Pioneer Material Renewal | Supported by the Ford Motor Company**  
 \$25,000 awarded | Researched the viability of deconstruction as a means to reclaim salvageable materials from blighted homes in the city of Detroit.

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### **LECTURES**

- 2018 **Rhode Island School of Design** | MFA Candidate Public Thesis Defense | Space, Junk
- 2017 **Rhode Island School of Design** | MFA Candidate Public Position Presentation | It's A Mess

### **STUDENT AWARDS**

- 2023 **Anka Snider** | Award of Excellence in Editorial Design | Art Directors Association of Iowa  
Project: Place Exploration - Angry Irishman | Designed in ARTGR 511 Graduate Graphic Design Studio 1, Fall '22
- 2022 **Dane Bezeau** | Dean's Award | College of Architecture & Design at Lawrence Technological University  
Project: Community is the Foundation of Success | Designed in ART 4514 Graphic Design Senior Thesis 1, Fall '21

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Experiential Graphic Design (SEGD)

AIGA, The Professional Association for Design