Hello my name is Kara O’Connell and I am currently a senior at Stephen F. Austin State University majoring in Interior Design. There was never a defining moment that led me to this major but, I know for sure I was designed with a purpose to create. Throughout my life I have always had a creative imagination and I have always wanted to do something that is meaningful and encouraging to people. The impact spaces have are tremendous and are very important for people in their everyday lives. With Interior Design, I have the passion and ability to do both and bring joy not only to myself, but more importantly to others.
Kara O’Connell’s Design Philosophy

to go above client’s desires in a space and create a welcoming atmosphere that is one of a kind and personal to them. To design an environment that inspires them to live and follow their passions. A space should not be just that, but a place of encouragement and where memories are created and shared within.
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Concept Statement
This modern yet rustic space meets the female journalist's need for a place to relax and unwind from her work demands. The colors in the space are mostly neutral. There are wood accents and some pastel colors along with hints of bright colored fabric, seat cushions, and indoor plants on the walls to create emphasis. The texture of the rug will create a contrast with the muted wood floor. The live plants, wood flooring, and decorations with the pops of color make the space a rustic modern area. This space is filled with youthful creative objects for the client to focus on her work and be inspired as well.
Concept Statement
This space was designed for a family’s vacation beach home in California. It has plenty of lounging areas as well as a movie room and game room. The clients would like to rent this beach house to others when they are not using the space so it was designed for universal design to accommodate everyone’s needs.
First floor floorplan and exterior landscape
Second floor floorplan

Rendering of Game Room

Rendering of Movie Room
Concept Statement
This simplistic modern house meets the needs of a 21 year old male musician. This small space will be used to its full advantage by using the bar in the kitchen as a table for eating and studying, the loft as the bedroom, and the part of the space under the stairs for the client’s studio. Because the client enjoys spending more time outdoors, a nice patio has been designed to entertain with friends or just to get away from the stressful days of being indoors for too long. Overall this space has been created so that the client can flourish and be creative as well as finding relaxation in his own home.
Concept statement
The client's, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, purchased a historic house that needed to be renovated as well as extending the space by adding on a few more rooms. Looking at the Sanders property, we were able to locate where the house would go on their land.
Site plan of the property. House will be located near the lake and will have two entrances to the driveway.
Exterior elevation
Mechanical floor plan
For my lighting class, my partner and I created a geometric aquatic theme bar. Using different lighting for different areas of the space, we achieved our goal of successfully designing the Fishbowl Aquarium Bar.
Concept statement
To design a sacred space for an acute hospital. A space where people can come in and feel comforted both patients and families.
Floorplan and exterior plan
For a business in downtown Waco, they needed a conference room and an office area within their current space. For this project I spaced planned and created 6 offices and a conference room that has a kitchenette.
Concept Statement
Imagine a secret spring in the middle of a sprawling forest. The natural spring is calm without a single ripple in the slate blue reflective surface. Apprehensively one dips their feet into the deep peaceful liquid oasis. Once submerged into a feeling of weightlessness and serenity, the pond feels like home. With those affected by ASD at the heart of the project we designed using this concept because of the large transitional impact this center hopes to make. Making progress with ASD can be a difficult conquest, through our design we hope to make it an exciting adventure for all.
Lighthouse Coffee and Wine

Concept statement
The clients of this space want a spacious light and airy area that has modern finishes for their coffee house and winery.
Concept statement
For this classy whiskey bar, the client’s wanted this space to have warm colors and feel like a proper men’s space to enjoy their drinks and each other’s company.
Main Room
Concept statement
The client’s wanted this Italian restaurant to have rich warm tones and feel very inviting.
Eating Area
The business, Waco Tours wanted a light and inviting space that feels like home and is welcoming. They wanted it to have natural elements as well and modern furniture and finishes.
Bathrooms
SKETCHES

Taj Mahal

Ornate Window
“Every great design begins with an even better story.” - Lorinda Mamo