

## Students design new living space

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STAFF WRITER

Drexel interior design students competed to design a sustainable living space for a hospitality suite in Dranoff Properties' new apartment complex located at 777 South Broad St. The winners of the competition were junior interior design majors Christine Murray, Courtney Robinson, and Candace Spence. They will be working with Dranoff Properties in implementing their design.

"The general response has been outstanding," Zeek Weil, director of communications and events, stated in an e-mail. "The competition was featured on the FOX 29 10 p.m. newscast in December and the students' design plan will come to life in February at the location. At the final presentation, all the judges had very positive things to say regarding the work of our interior design students. This competition

was great especially coming on the heels of our national rankings."

The students spent all of fall term working on their designs and on Dec. 10, presented their work to a panel of five judges- Carl Dranoff, director of sustainability for the city of Philadelphia; Katherine Gajewski, Philadelphia Fox-29 News reporter; Kerri-Lee Halkett; and University of Pennsylvania's environmental sustainability coordinator and senior facilities planner Daniel Garofalo.

Each of the five teams published design books detailing the specifics of what their space would look like and budget calculations. Within the \$15,000 budget, the students formed the layout and marked pieces of furniture, decorations, and accessories to include in the space. To fulfill the criteria of sustainability, the teams shopped at stores such as Crate & Barrel,

IKEA, West Elm, and Pier One.

"This initiative is a win-win for the students, the residents, the environment and Dranoff Properties," Director of Marketing for Dranoff Properties Melissa Wyatt stated in an email. "Carl Dranoff, who is a Drexel University [alum], is fully aware that the school boasts some of the best and brightest students who will bring contemporary, luxurious, and sustainable design to 777 South Broad."

"In many of our programs [such as] digital media, graphic design, film & video, music industry or in this case interior design, faculty look to place student work into competition, which mainly benefits the students, but also the program and the college," Weil said.

The Westphal College of Media Arts and Design will be looking to have more competitions in the future.