



## A Quebec student distinguishes herself at the North American 2019 FORM Student Innovation Competition organized by Formica Corporation

*Marina Ostrow, the competition's first Canadian winner, receives an honourable mention and will see her work showcased at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center*

**Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, Canada, March 19, 2019** – Formica Canada is proud to announce that Marina Ostrow, an interior design student at Cégep Marie-Victorin, was awarded an honourable mention for the work she submitted as part of the 2019 FORM Student Innovation Competition and will see her design showcased at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center starting March 22, 2019, thereby becoming the first Canadian winner of this competition, which was open for the first time to Quebec students.



Lighting installation designed by Marina Ostrow, first Canadian winner of the FORM Student Innovation Competition

Interior design and architecture students from across North America were challenged to create a rendering of a “resimercial” furniture design using Formica® Brand products and competed to win cash prizes, national recognition and the opportunity to see their designs come to life in a public exhibit.

The winning designs were selected by top industry and design professionals, including Leanne Ford, interior designer and star of “Restored by the Fords” on HGTV, Tristan Butterfield, Regional Brand and Retail Lead at Gensler Chicago, Jaime Velez, former Director of Interior Design at SOM, Renee Hytry Derrington, Global Design Lead at Formica Group and Steven Matijcio, former Curator for the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati.

"We're very proud that a Quebec student has distinguished herself in this North American competition, and that her work charmed the judges and made them want to produce and exhibit it," said Christelle Locat-Rainville, Marketing Manager at Formica Canada. "Our schools are full of talented students with an innovative spirit, and competitions such as this allow them to be showcased and recognized internationally."

The panel reviewed designs from across the U.S. and Canada and honoured five up-and-coming design students, including the competition's first two-time winner and its first Canadian winner. Alyssa Holcomb's and Marina Ostrow's designs were selected to be made into furniture and showcased at the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center from March 22 through April 7.

### Prizes and honourable mentions

First place went to Alyssa Holcomb of Edmond, Oklahoma, for her Shrug Chair design, featuring a comfortable look that invites people to “shrug off” their cares. Second place went to Rachel Marie Thompson, of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania, for her “ke-li-de-skop” chair, named after the pronunciation of kaleidoscope, the classic toy that allows users to look inside and see small bits of colour change shape as the instrument is turned. Third place went to Mallory Bouchard, who hails from Provo, Utah, for her geometric Hex Link Chair. Inspired by biophilic designs, the chair takes on one of nature's favorite shapes to create a functional work of art.

Marina Ostrow of Repentigny, Quebec, and Natalie Gneiting of Layton, Utah, received honourable mentions for their designs.

More information about the winning students' designs is available at [www.formica.com/en/ca/landing-pages/contest/form](http://www.formica.com/en/ca/landing-pages/contest/form).

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