

Save A Sample! 2018

Press Kit

National Press Release

National Press Release – Post Event

Formica Letter

Company Background

Green Build Press

Save A Sample! Team

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Save A Sample! 2018 challenges design firms to keep materials out of landfill.

Save A Sample!, a non-profit, nationwide recycling drive, makes it easy (and fun!) for designers to donate materials and samples to local design schools redirecting "tons" of materials from landfills into the hands of talented students.

SpecSimple.com's Save A Sample! 2018 welcomes back Formica as a returning national sponsor.

"Save A Sample! is a fantastic program that protects our environment while educating future architects and designers," said Amy Gath, VP Marketing at Formica North America. "We are proud to deepen our commitment to sustainability and design education by keeping unused samples out of landfills and putting them into the hands of students across the country."

"We are grateful," declares Suzanne Swift, Save A Sample!'s Founder and President of SpecSimple.com "for the support of great companies like Formica who are committed to sustainability and the growth of young designers."

Save A Sample! also welcomes back Perkins + Will as this year's Design Firm Sponsor.

"Perkins+Will is proud to support the sustainable practices of Save A Sample!," affirmed John Sadlon, Principal at Perkins+Will. "We're committed to building greater awareness within our profession, and to inspiring young designers who will become future leaders in our industry. We hope that design firms across North America will join us for this important initiative."

Save A Sample! 2018 takes place April 3-5 in cities throughout the United States. **School and Furniture Dealer delivery sign up runs through February 28th. Design firm registration begins February 1st.**

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter to be alerted to event deadlines!

If you are interested in joining us as a Save A Sample! sponsor please contact us!

Contact:
Suzanne Swift
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PO Box 211
New Castle, DE 19720
Ph: (212) 352-2002 ext: 11

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Save A Sample! 2018 diverts 10,840 pounds of samples from landfill!

Save A Sample!, a non-profit, nationwide recycling drive, makes it easy (and fun!) for designers to donate materials and samples to local design schools redirecting "tons" of materials from landfills into the hands of talented students.

"This year's event was the best coordinated Save A Sample!" exclaimed Vija Berzins, Professor from New York Institute of Technology.

SpecSimple.com's Save A Sample! 2018 welcomed back Formica as a returning national sponsor and Perkins+Will as a returning design firm sponsor.

"Save A Sample! is a fantastic program that protects our environment while educating future architects and designers," said Amy Gath, VP Marketing at Formica North America. "We are proud to deepen our commitment to sustainability and design education by keeping unused samples out of landfills and putting them into the hands of students across the country."

"We're thrilled to give our excess samples a second life and support future designers!" Eileen Ley, Resource Director at TPG Architects

Over 5 tons of samples were donated by 105 design firms, delivered to 23 design schools and organizations, by 22 delivery partners, across nine locations in the U.S.: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington D.C.

Josh Rosen from Knoll Inc., a delivery partner in New York states, "Save A Sample! is truly a WIN for everyone involved! Vendors are giving back to the design community, design firms are donating un-used samples, and most importantly, students are benefitting from a refreshed materials palette with which to work. We were glad to be a partner!"

Save A Sample! returns April 2-4, 2019 for its anniversary 20th year!

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter to be alerted to event details!

If you are interested in joining us as a Save A Sample! National or City sponsor please contact us!

Contact:

Suzanne Swift

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Save A Sample!
PO Box 211
New Castle, DE 19720

Formica Group
Attn: Meghan Howell
Re: Save A Sample! National Sponsorship

Dear Meghan,

On behalf of everyone at Save A Sample! we would like to thank you and the Formica Group for your continued sponsorship of Save A Sample! Without your support, our dual missions of sustainability and design education would not be possible. Throughout the past 19 years, Save A Sample! has redirected thousands of pounds of materials from landfill and been instrumental in educating a generation of designers. We hope to have the Formica Group by our side as we continue to change how the architectural and design industry disposes of their samples and educates their students.

This year we saved 6 tons of material from local landfills in the following cities: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington D.C! Just over 100 top design firms took part in this year's recycling drive assisted by 22 delivery partners who delivered samples to 22 design schools and one design organization. We also raised a record \$13,000 in design school scholarships!

Save A Sample! will be celebrating its 20th recycling drive in 2019 and we have lots of great things in store! Do you have time on August 8th, 2018 to review this year's event highlights and discuss next year's plans?



Amanda Quade

Save A Sample! Coordinator

Suzanne Swift

Founder

Company Background

Every year, Save A Sample! creates a second life for unused brochures, fabrics and finish cards. Over the years, thousands of pounds of materials have been donated by some of the country's busiest design firms. Materials are delivered to local design schools with the help of local furniture dealers. As a result, talented students have richer resources to choose from during the year.

"Save A Sample! offers students access to the newest architectural materials and finish products available," says Linda Oshea, Design Chair at Kean University in New York. "I have seen great improvement in terms of creativity, innovation, and imagination on student material and finish boards since being involved in this wonderful program. It is like Christmas morning in the design studios when Save A Sample! boxes arrive at our school!"

Save A Sample! has helped students in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Wilmington!

Save A Sample! was started in 1999 by [SpecSimple](#). A natural outgrowth of Spec Simple, Inc. a resource company which manages libraries and Virtual Libraries for design firms and furniture professionals across the country, Spec Simple brings together design firms, furniture dealers and manufacturers each year to benefit design schools and their students.

Recycling Sparks Imagination, Avoids Landfills (For A While)

Waste Management - ([/waste-management](#)).

Save A Sample! helps firms reuse product samples by delivering them to architecture and interior design schools.

by [Nancy Eve Cohen](#) ([/author/nancy-eve-cohen](#)).

March 6, 2018



[\(/sites/all/modules/bg_content/templates/imagemodal.php?image=https://www.buildinggreen.com/sites/default/files/articles/Mount%20Ida%20College%20in%20Boston%202015-800x.jpg&nid=50142\)](#)

Design students at Mount Ida College receive samples from Save A Sample! in 2015.

Photo: RoseMary Botti-Salitsky

Nearly twenty years ago, Suzanne Swift's company, [SpecSimple.com](#) (<http://www.specsimple.com/>), faced a challenge.

The company sets up and maintains resource libraries for architectural and design firms. Ultimately the materials become outdated and need to be replaced.

Firms were accumulating boxes and boxes of design samples they wanted to get rid of, including wood, wall coverings, small stones, cork, and other flooring samples.

Swift, who has been recycling since she was a kid, thought, "I don't want to throw these out! Is there someone who could take them?"

At the time, Swift was part of a design school initiative and was learning how difficult it was for students to get materials. So, she brought together people who needed to get rid of stuff with those who could use it: architects with design students.

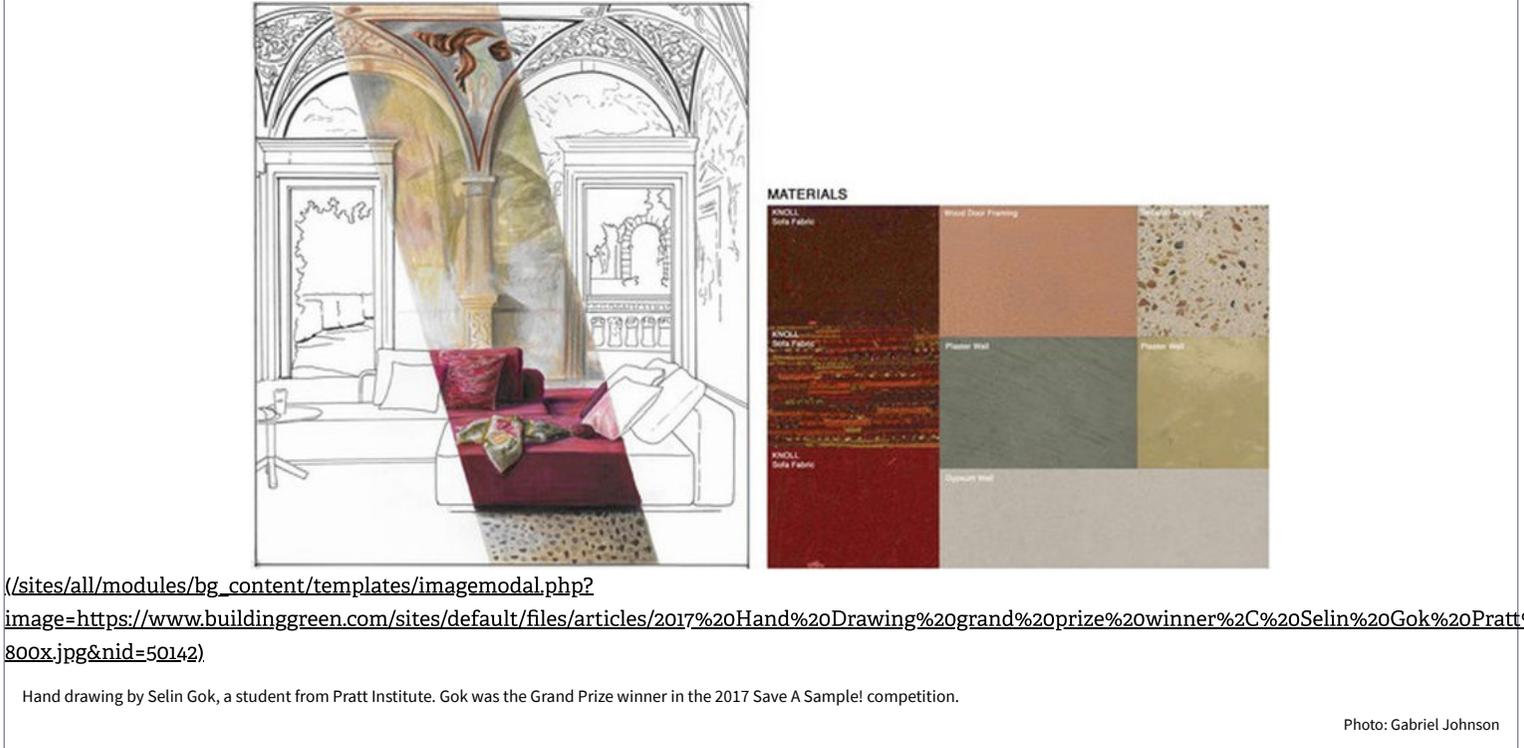
She also invited a third partner: furniture dealers who provide trucks and drivers to pick up the boxes of samples from firms and deliver them to schools.

Today, 150 firms and 25 schools participate in [Save A Sample!](#) (<http://www.saveasample.org/>) in ten U.S. cities and five in Canada. Everything happens locally. Nothing is shipped.

Swift says the project makes a huge difference in the lives of students. "It is like Christmas morning," she said. The students "run down and open up all the boxes ... descending like locusts ... grabbing whatever they can for their projects."

The tiles, fabrics, and stone, glass, and wood samples fuel the development of the students' design skills. "Anything that they can use to spark their imagination for a project," said Swift, "something that will help build their skills and build their eye for what's important when they design."

The project can't deliver heavy items such as hefty stones or large glass samples, which might splinter.



https://www.buildinggreen.com/sites/all/modules/bg_content/templates/imagemodal.php?image=https://www.buildinggreen.com/sites/default/files/articles/2017%20Hand%20Drawing%20grand%20prize%20winner%2C%20Selin%20Gok%20Pratt%20800x.jpg&nid=50142

Hand drawing by Selin Gok, a student from Pratt Institute. Gok was the Grand Prize winner in the 2017 Save A Sample! competition.

Photo: Gabriel Johnson

And Swift concedes that at some point the materials will be landfilled. "Unless they keep their project for archival purposes," said Swift, "it is delaying probably the inevitable, but in the process giving design students an opportunity to learn something from really good materials."

The project tries to avoid landfills by also donating materials to much younger students. "Fabrics are very popular with daycare centers and elementary schools," said Swift. "They love the carpet samples for nap time."

The Save A Sample! nonprofit is funded this year by Formica.

Perkins+Will is the design firm partner and helps publicize the event.

Save A Sample! also holds a hand drawing competition each year. Students submit a rendering and a materials board to illustrate how the samples were used. Architecture and design firms in New York judge the work. The winners receive between \$250 and \$1,000 in scholarship funds.

Save A Sample! has awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships since its inception.

For more information:

[Save A Sample! \(http://www.saveasample.org/architects-and-designers.html\)](http://www.saveasample.org/architects-and-designers.html)

[Save A Sample! Canada \(http://www.saveasample.ca/\)](http://www.saveasample.ca/)

[SpecSimple.com \(http://www.specsimple.com/\)](http://www.specsimple.com/)

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Suzanne Swift - Founder

suzanne@specsimple.com

Suzanne sought to create an organization that gave a 'second life' to architectural and design samples. In 1999 she did just that by creating Save A Sample!, the nation wide recycling program whose mission is to divert architectural and design samples from landfill. To date, Suzanne's efforts have saved thousands of pounds of samples from landfills from coast to coast.



Amanda Quade - Coordinator

amandaq@specsimple.com

Amanda started working with Save A Sample! October 2017. Her duties include: working with sponsors, coordinating sign ups, writing press releases, broadcasting, scheduling pick ups and drop offs, social media, and updating both websites. Amanda loves Save A Sample! because, "the program is not only one of a kind, it is completely sustainable. It connects each facet of our industry with future innovators - design students." Amanda lives in Minnesota and is pursuing a Ph. D in Forensic Psychology



Elizabeth Holt - Collaborator

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Elizabeth has been working with Save A Sample! since September 2017. Her duties include: updating contacts, working directly with industry related associations, coordinating the Spec Simple Student Hand Drawing Competition, graphic design, and photographer. Elizabeth wanted to participate with Save A Sample! because she experiences "fulfillment working for a good cause." Elizabeth lives in New London, CT has her Masters degree in Historic Preservation from Pratt Institute, is the new Preservation Services Officer at New Haven Preservation Trust, and volunteer at New London Landmarks.



Wendy Penny - Collaborator

wendy@specsimple.com

Wendy has been working for Save A Sample! for three years. Her primary focus is fundraising, and she is great at it. In 2018 Wendy's fundraising efforts led to a record breaking year with Save A Sample! raising \$14,000 in scholarships! Wendy enjoys working with Save A Sample! because it's sustainable and helps design students. Wendy lives in Wisconsin and uses her fundraising skills for her sons baseball team breaking records there too!