Kathy Fox  
Exhibition Producer, Exhibitions, Museum Victoria

Swathi’s experience was at Museum Victoria’s Scienceworks campus to create a new permanent exhibition - Think Ahead - an exhibition that presents advances in science and technology. She was given a diversity of design ‘mini projects’ and invited to meetings and sessions with external multimedia contractors. Swathi demonstrated her ability to generate ideas quickly and communicate clearly through sketches and verbal presentation. She demonstrated strong visualisation skills - using model making and CAD to create scale models of interactive and exhibition form elements. This was of great help to the project’s interactive designer, and the whole team appreciated Swathi’s thoughtful approach.

Swathi Madike  
Exhibition Producer, Exhibitions, Museum Victoria

Swathi Madike undertook work experience during her third year of Industrial Design studies in 2013, when she had the opportunity to work on a new permanent exhibition at Museum Victoria’s Scienceworks campus (museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks), an interactive science museum.

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I worked on a science exhibition called Think Ahead - an interactive projection where players build their own future city according to the challenge given. Ever since high school, I have been curious about how these exhibitions come about so I felt lucky to witness all the action of a major project being created in Melbourne. The game play for Think Ahead is controlled by placing blocks on an interactive table and my first task was to make rough iterations of these using card. Issues to consider included the complexities of the audience. The assumption that children are ‘out to destroy’ was at first amusing, but now I understand that it’s because they have a natural curiosity about how things work, and it is a science museum after all!

I also designed a small viewing peephole from concept through to fabrication. I’m used to spending a lot of time defining the concept, but I learned that it then takes a lot of effort to make it work in the real world context.

The collaboration involved in this project demonstrated how well resolved and rich outcomes are produced when the team comes from different backgrounds, and for me personally, it was exciting to see that there is a creative space available for the designer.