

Charles “Chuck” Harrison

Industrial Designer

Industrial designer Charles Harrison is most famous for his work on the team that updated the View-Master, but examples of his innovations can be seen virtually everywhere. Harrison rarely visits a home that does not contain something he designed. Harrison was born on September 23, 1931, in Shreveport, Louisiana. His mother, Cora Lee Smith Hamilton, was a housewife and his father, Charles, an industrial arts professor. Harrison grew up on the campuses of Southern University and Texas A&M. He spent his summers wandering through the campuses' experimental farms, chemistry laboratories and woodshops.



In 1954, Harrison graduated with a B.F.A. from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. One of his early design jobs was with the small firm of Robert Podall Associates. It was here that, in 1958, Harrison joined the team that streamlined the legendary View-Master toy. In 1961, he was hired by Sears Roebuck & Company, where Harrison designed trash cans made out of heavy plastic with snap-lock lids and hundreds of other consumer products, including hair dryers, toasters, stereos, lawn mowers and sewing machines. Harrison worked at Sears for thirty-two years, rising to the position of design department manager. He received his M.F.A. from the Illinois Institute of Technology Graduate School in 1963.

Harrison has served as an adjunct professor of design at the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1993. In 2000, his design work was featured in an exhibit: *The World of a Product Designer: Charles Harrison* at his former high school, Phoenix Union Colored High School, now the Carver Museum and Cultural Center. Having retired from both professional design and teaching, Chuck Harrison has been making public appearances to speak about his life's work and passion, as captured in his insightful memoir, (Ibis 2006, 125 pp) **A Life's Design** (www.alifesdesign.com).

Carole Bilson

Pitney Bowes, Inc.

Carole Bilson, recently promoted to Vice President of Global Design and Usability, formerly directed the design and development of integrated mail and document management systems at Pitney Bowes' Global Mailing Systems department in Shelton, Conn. She joined the business equipment maker after a 19-year career at the Eastman Kodak Co., where she held a variety of positions in product design, marketing and program management. She was program manager in Kodak's consumer imaging division, charged with working with Asian alliance partners to develop and commercialize camera programs in the United States and Far East for worldwide distribution.



Bilson also held several other positions at Kodak, including worldwide product line manager for the award-winning, digital kiosk known as the Kodak Picture Maker, loaned executive to a National Science Foundation Initiative to improve the teaching and learning of math, science and technology, and project industrial designer.

Bilson is the first Black woman and one of three Black industrial designers in the U.S. currently holding executive positions with major corporations. She holds two patents, speaks several languages, has received numerous awards for her business achievements and has served on numerous boards. A past president of the Rochester Women's Network, the country's largest network of professional and executive women, Bilson is a 1980 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in industrial design.