



**Antonio Garcia**

### **CUBAN EMIGRE A DESIGN SUCCESS**

**Antonio Garcia has come a long way literally and figuratively. After four years of planning, he and eleven family members escaped from Cuba on a raft he had built in his back yard. Rescued at sea by the Coast Guard, he spent three months in Guantanamo Bay. Finally, he was relocated to Albuquerque, NM, where he worked for Catholic Charities for four years, helping other families relocate.**

**Antonio had studied architecture in Cuba, knowing he wanted to be in the design field. Along the way he worked in a factory making silver & turquoise jewelry, and in a fabric and prop design business. A man of many talents, he also worked as an anchorman for local news on Univision.**

**This spring, Antonio won a competition sponsored by SpecSimple.com's *Save A Sample*. To enter the competition, design school students submitted samples of hand-drawn work. The competition celebrated and honored students who had the artistic talent to reproduce something technical without using a computer based program.**

**Students from well-known, long-established design schools were represented. Antonio Garcia beat out the competition, winning \$1,500, while the school was awarded \$1,200 for the Interior Design Resource Room.**

**Antonio is proud to be a student at The Art Institute of New York City. The minute he began his Interior Design studies he felt he was home. "I love**

the enthusiasm of the instructors and the fact they are aware of what's going on in the Industry. I love the mixture of people – they come from all backgrounds. It's a great school and a great program – and a great country!"



**Antonio with ID Instructor Bill Gates**



**At the Reception honoring Antonio for his win, Antonio and Bill Gates joined by other ID students**