



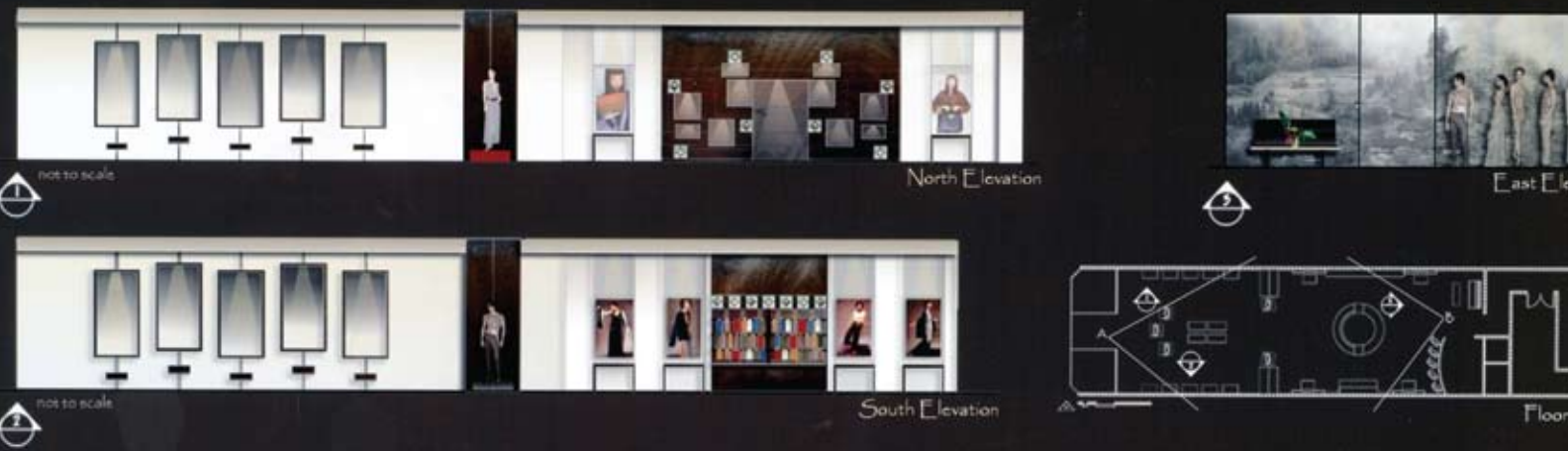
# Interior Design

## Undergraduate Information

### The Study of Interior Design

Interior design is an ideal academic home for enthusiastic and inquisitive students seeking a meaningful, varied and creative profession. Designers enhance interior spaces to maximize occupants' quality of life, increase their productivity, and protect their health, safety and welfare. Aesthetic principles have long inspired and guided interior design, but it must be equally attentive to laws of nature and science, lessons of liberal arts, and developments in technology. A designer must be broadly educated in art, architecture, literature, psychology, economics and management, while using the latest technology in computers, materials and building processes.

Find us online at  
[www.design.iastate.edu/ID](http://www.design.iastate.edu/ID)



**How can interior spaces affect and improve people's lives and protect their health and safety?**

### Interior Design at Iowa State University

From its modest beginnings in 1901 as a course in Interior House Design, interior design at Iowa State University has evolved into one of the better-known professional programs in its field. Since 1978, it has been one of the creative disciplines in the College of Design, and since 1983, it has been accredited at the professional level by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. *DesignIntelligence* consistently ranks the program in the top 15 in the country.

The interior design program, part of the department of art and design, focuses on a process of sequential learning framed around a model of experimentation. This model is based on the belief that interior design is purposeful problem solving that emphasizes issues of human safety, operational (functional) utility, and physical, psychological and contextual fit.

**How do lighting and color affect health, establish mood, focus attention and create illusions?**

### The Degree

Undergraduates earn a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in interior design. This four-year, FIDER-accredited professional degree prepares students to design the complex environments that make up building interiors. BFA students learn business practices, industry trends, and design communication. They develop expertise in such areas as human factors, lighting, design history, structures, color, materials, and building and fire codes, as well as an understanding of people and the way environment affects their behavior, performance and satisfaction.

The interior design program also offers a master of arts (MA) degree focused on general design practice, and a master of fine arts (MFA) degree that emphasizes the application of design research to the design studio.



Process books, ArtID 265



***How can the design of interior spaces create a strong impression or make an impact on human feelings, behavior and impressions?***

Retail design project, ArtID 465

***How can we preserve the historic character of commercial and residential properties while responding to changing use and access needs?***

### **The Curriculum**

Every first-year undergraduate student enrolls in the college's Core Design Program, which includes courses in design, drawing, and cultural studies as well as general education requirements such as math, science, English composition, an introduction to the university library, and electives. At the end of the first year, students wishing to major in interior design are evaluated by the faculty on the basis of a portfolio review, essay, and academic achievement. Forty candidates annually are selected for entry to the BFA curriculum in interior design.

The interior design curriculum is studio-based, supported by lecture courses in interior materials and systems, interior history, and professional practices. Expanding on the interdisciplinary approach of the freshman core, students often select supplementary courses from other areas within the college, including furniture design, architecture, and studio arts.

Visualization and communication skills, include drawing, drafting and rendering, are taught using both manual and computer applications. Computer-aided design is integrated into design studios during the sophomore year. Students are strongly encouraged to own laptops and bring them to class for maximum productive use of their time. The College of Design provides assistance and advice on which computer and software are needed for each design discipline; if you are considering a major in interior design, please consult with the college's laptop program coordinator prior to purchasing a machine. Model building, written and oral presentations, active listening and other communication skills are emphasized throughout the curriculum.

The availability of elective courses offers a broad range of opportunities. Students may organize these courses to develop special interests such as business, environmental science, psychology or sociology that support specific areas of interior design.



Junior class field trip to Chicago





*If these are questions that interest you, consider a major in interior design.*

Jillissa Balcom, retail design project, ArtID 465

### The Faculty

Iowa State's seven interior design faculty members have diverse educational, experiential, philosophical and ethnic backgrounds. Outside their teaching and advising responsibilities, they are all active, enthusiastic and productive contributors to the profession. Their work is widely recognized and respected both nationally and internationally. Their research and creative activity includes work on cross-cultural interiors and architecture; lighting design; institutional design; health, safety and welfare issues in design; product design; human-environment issues, and visual communication.

### Opportunities and Resources

Design-build and community outreach projects are included in studios, providing students with direct opportunities to work with clients and experience real design situations. Recent projects have included campus and downtown revitalization projects, full-scale furniture production, and the design of special exhibits. In addition to hands-on studio experiences and lecture courses, students are required to complete an eight-week internship during the summer before their senior year. Internships are obtained in top-ranked design firms, small local firms, and allied organizations such as museums and product design companies.

Students are encouraged to explore travel opportunities in the United States and internationally to broaden awareness of new design developments. Field trips are integral to interior design education. Day trips to design firms, manufacturers, historical sites and interesting design installations are common. Extended trips to Omaha or Minneapolis, Chicago and Toronto are a formal part of the study program. An optional trip to New York or another active design market focuses on studying design issues in context.

Many students choose to spend fall semester of their senior year in the College of Design's Rome Program. This optional academic program includes studios and lecture classes in interior design and art, architecture and design history. It also offers participants an opportunity to travel and experience first hand a range of significant classical and contemporary European interior design, furniture and art.

Professional designers are invited to campus to review student portfolios and have informal discussions with students about career building. Many students participate in the Interior Design Student Association (IDSA), which sponsors additional field trips, career days and interior trade shows. IDSA members benefit from networking and professional exposure, and may also become student members of the American Society of Interior Designers or the International Interior Design Association.



Molly Benson, site model, ArtID 265

**"Learning to enhance human experience through thoughtful interior design"**

Interior rendering, ArtID 465



Site model, ArtID 265

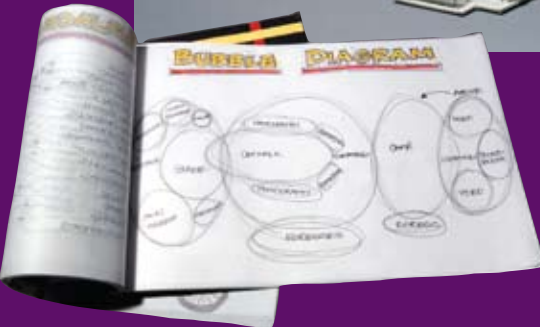


Brian Buckles, Kelly Kavelage, Massina Bloemke

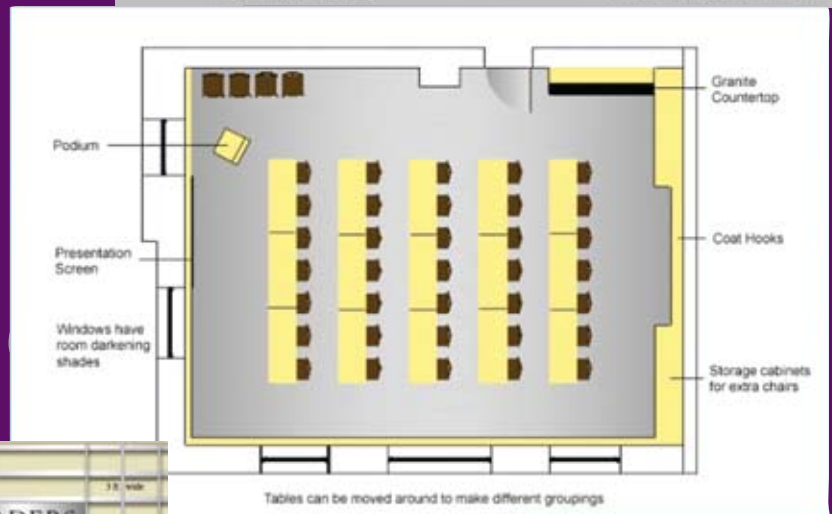


Impact on Society

Student and Visitor Information



Jessie James, process book, ArtID 265



Tables can be moved around to make different groupings



Ida Risius, Rachel Warren, Amanda Wierson

College of Engineering  
Marston Hall Renovation Proposals  
ArtID 465 Interdisciplinary Studio  
with graphic design



Ida Risius, Rachel Warren, Amanda Wierson



### The Facilities

The College of Design, home to the interior design program, features five stories of studio classrooms and offices wrapped around a public atrium capped with a vaulted skylight. Outside are expansive lawns, native prairie plantings, and several display areas for public art. Inside are galleries, Design Reading Room, Design Cafe, art supply store, printing center, a comprehensive model-building shop, and spray rooms.

Several computer graphics labs allow students to concentrate on image editing, three-dimensional modeling, and animation, as well as geographic information systems (GIS), computer-aided design and desktop publishing.

The material resource center allows interior design students to explore and utilize product information and samples of materials and furnishings in their studio work. The space also provides for experimentation with materials and lighting.

### Demand for Graduates

Iowa State interior design graduates are employed by interior design and architectural firms, retail stores, and the design departments of corporations and institutions. Some are self-employed and own their own studios. Some are involved in areas of specialization, such as offices; restaurants, hotels and resorts; health-related facilities; retail and exhibition design; places of worship; schools; museums and theaters; government facilities, etc. Still others are involved in specialized aspects of the field such as lighting, color and materials specification, manufacturer's representation, etc.

### Financial Assistance

The university offers financial assistance in the form of grants, scholarships, loans and part-time employment. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of academic merit or other demonstrated talent as well as financial need. A comprehensive list of scholarships available to new and currently enrolled College of Design students may be found at [www.design.iastate.edu/scholarships.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/scholarships.php).

Front cover student work by Stacy Kohorst, florist shop model, ArtID 465

### High School Preparation

Minimum high school requirements for admission to the department and the College of Design include four years of English, three years of math (including one year each of algebra, geometry and advanced algebra), three years of science (including one year each of two of the following: biology, chemistry and physics), and two years of social studies. Students planning to major in interior design may find courses in art, drafting, speech, wood technology, computer-aided design, and computer science and other courses that emphasize problem solving helpful in preparing for their college coursework.

### Contact Us

For more information on how you can become involved in the study of interior design at Iowa State University, contact the department or the Office of Admissions.

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Rome lecture



Students at work in Rome

Photographs by Cigdem Akkurt, Robert Elbert, Dorothy Fowles, Michael Faas, Heather Sauer, Maruja Torres

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