

Undergraduate

## Interior Design

### *The Study of Interior Design*

Interior design has a place waiting for enthusiastic and bright young designers. Qualified by education, experience, and examination, designers enhance interior spaces to improve the quality of life, increase productivity, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of society. There are many opportunities for designers to solve problems and make lasting social and political impacts in the world. Education in interior design integrates knowledge about many fields, such as business, banking, and entertainment, into problem solutions. A designer must be broadly educated in subjects including art, architecture, literature, economics, and management, while using the latest technology in computers, materials, and building processes.

College of Design



*How does color create a strong impression, make a small space appear larger, or make an impact on human moods and impressions?*

*How does lighting establish mood, focus attention, and create illusions?*

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

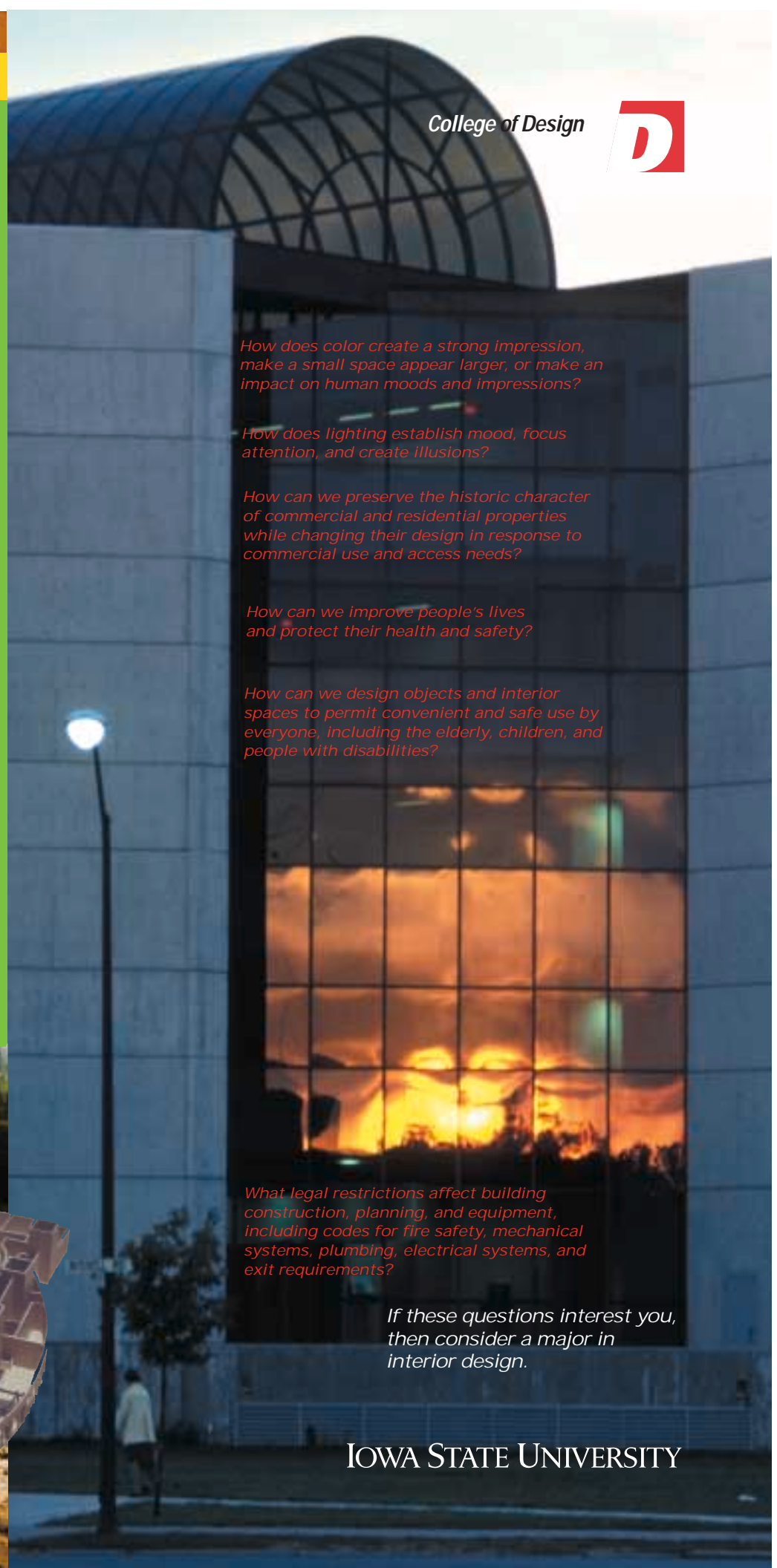
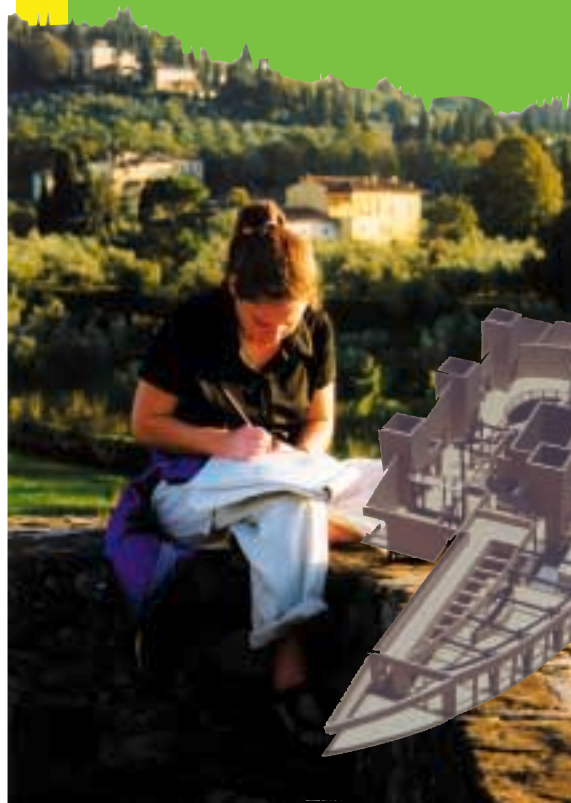
*How can we improve people's lives and protect their health and safety?*

*How can we design objects and interior spaces to permit convenient and safe use by everyone, including the elderly, children, and people with disabilities?*

*What legal restrictions affect building construction, planning, and equipment, including codes for fire safety, mechanical systems, plumbing, electrical systems, and exit requirements?*

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

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY





## Interior Design at Iowa State University

From its modest beginnings as Interior House Design, first offered in 1901, 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 Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER).

The Iowa State program, now part of the Department of Art and Design, is founded on the humanistic values of the liberal arts, the rational problem-solving methods of the sciences, the aesthetic sensitivities of the fine arts, and the technical accountability of the building sciences and industry. Above all, the program values diversity based on the broadest possible range of individual, social, technical, and cultural factors.



## The Degree

The Bachelor of Fine Arts in interior design is a four-year, accredited professional degree that prepares students to design the complex environments that make up building interiors. Students develop expertise in areas such as ergonomics, lighting, design history, structures, color, materials, and building and fire codes, as well as an understanding of people and the way environment affects behavior.

The Iowa State interior design program also offers a Master of Arts degree focused on research and a Master of Fine Arts degree focused on studio design.



## The Curriculum

The undergraduate program in interior design is a four-year course of study. During the first year, students complete foundation courses in two- and three-dimensional design, drawing, design history, and interior design. At the end of the first year, they are evaluated by the faculty on the basis of a portfolio review, essay, and academic achievement. Successful candidates then enter the curriculum in interior design.

The interior design curriculum is studio-based, supported by lecture courses in materials, systems, history, and professional practices. Several courses are taught in the related departments of architecture, human ecology, and art. Expanding on this interdisciplinary approach to design education, students often select supplementary courses from other areas within the college, including craft design, landscape architecture, drawing, painting, and printmaking. Recent projects have included downtown revitalization projects, preschool play environments, and the design of an airplane interior for AccessAir, a new airline in Des Moines.

Communication skills such as drawing, drafting, and rendering are taught using both manual and computer applications. Computer-aided design is integrated into the studio at the completion of the sophomore computer course. Model building, written and oral presentations, and active listening are emphasized to provide students with well-rounded communication skills.

A general education core with elective courses provides a broad range of offerings. Students may organize these courses to develop special interests such as business, psychology, or sociology that support specific areas of interior design.





## The Faculty

Iowa State's seven interior design faculty have diverse educational, experiential, philosophical, and ethnic backgrounds. Outside their teaching and advising responsibilities, all members of the faculty are active, enthusiastic, and productive contributors to the profession. Their work is widely recognized and respected both nationally and internationally. Areas of expertise include traditional Turkish house interiors and architecture; lighting design; institutional design; health, safety, and welfare issues in design; product design; and visual communication.

## Opportunities and Resources

Studios often integrate outreach projects into the course assignments, providing students with direct opportunities to work with clients and experience real design situations. In addition to hands-on studio experiences and lecture courses, students are required to complete an eight-week internship program during the summer following their junior year. Internships are available in top-ranked design firms, small local firms, and allied organizations such as museums and set design companies.

Students are encouraged to explore their opportunities and often travel to large metropolitan areas within the United States as well as internationally. Field trips are integrated into all levels of interior design education at Iowa State. Day trips to local design firms, manufacturers, and historical sites are common in most studios and lecture courses. Extended trips to Omaha, Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, or Toronto expose students to a variety of design practices and help broaden their awareness of new design developments.

Senior students have a structured curriculum option for the direct study of European interior design, furniture, and arts and crafts. Based in Rome, the program offers them an opportunity to travel and experience the physical and cultural settings of major architectural and interior design elements.



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





### 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, wild prairie plantings, and several display areas for public art. Inside are the gallery, Design Reading Room, model shop, Design Cafe, art supply store, and several computer labs.

The computer graphics lab — with 20 advanced microcomputers — allows students to concentrate on image editing, three-dimensional modeling, and animation. Other computer labs focus on geographic information systems (GIS), computer-aided design, and desktop publishing.

The material resource sample center allows interior design students to explore and utilize samples and product information related to their studio work. The photocopy and reprographics center provides everything from a simple black-and-white page to copies of high-tech advanced computer imaging.

### 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. They are involved in many areas of specialization, such as offices; restaurants, hotels, and resorts; health-related facilities; retail displays and exhibits; places of worship; schools; museums and theaters; government facilities; airports; or the interiors of planes, trains, or ships.



### 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. For new students, two scholarships are available. One is awarded through the College of Design to students entering a design-related major, while the Department of Art and Design offers a scholarship for new students who have chosen a major in the department (like interior design). The interior design program has four \$500 scholarships to assist students with internships in a large metropolitan area and one \$1,000 scholarship generally provided for students participating in the Rome study abroad program. The department also presents a number of awards and scholarships to currently enrolled students on the basis of academic achievement.

### 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 courses that emphasize problem-solving helpful in preparing for their college coursework.



### Department of Art & Design Interior Design

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[http://www.iastate.edu/~adm\\_info/homepage.html](http://www.iastate.edu/~adm_info/homepage.html)



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