Interior Architecture

College of Arts and Sciences

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About

Interior Architecture is a holistic and multidisciplinary activity dedicated to the design and making of interior environments. Learning to be such a designer is a complex and rigorous task, requiring devotion and passion and a fundamental interest in human and environmental relationships. In our department we address Interior Architecture as a broad based discipline, both informing and defined by various fields—product design, architecture, historic preservation, and engineering; connected to the allied disciplines of interior design, art, theater, dance, film making, graphic design, fashion design, industrial design, and materials; and interwoven with the human experience expressed in psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, history, and religion. The curriculum focuses on the development of an understanding of materials, finishes, furnishings, manufactured objects and products, buildings, context, human behavior, and human development. Instruction in these areas converges with general education requirements at UNC Greensboro to reinforce and expand the multidisciplinary nature of design and to prepare the student for a career in designing interiors.

Mission Statement

Students and faculty engage in regional, national, and international design discourses, practices, and processes to unite interior spaces with enclosing architecture and the objects contained within them.

Undergraduate

The Interior Architecture program is structured as a continuing sequence of studio courses that help the student develop a deepening mastery of the processes of designing architectural interiors.

The first year presents small-scale problems that take the student through the total design process, from problem identification to graphic communication of the solution. Methods of making and craft are emphasized.

Second-year design studios focus on the development of scale and proportioning systems within the context of interior spaces. Communication skills are stressed.

Third- and fourth-year studio courses deal with typical interior environments, with emphasis on institutional and commercial interiors, but also including residential design, historic restoration, adaptive reuse, and interior product design. Attention is also directed toward the environmental needs of special populations.

The Interior Architecture Internship provides opportunities for experiential learning in design practice through private design firms, government agencies, or health care facilities.

Accreditation

The Interior Architecture program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).

Departmental Admission

Enrollment in the Interior Architecture program is limited. Students are admitted on evidence of scholastic and design potential, motivation, and self-direction. A personal interview or group orientation during a scheduled Open House is required. Students may not enroll in interior architecture courses without formal admission to the Interior Architecture program or written permission of the instructor.

Transfer students applying for advanced studio placement must present a portfolio and transcript evidence of relevant achievement through prior course work or experiences.

Curriculum Policies

The policies of the Undergraduate Program were developed with the best interests of the students in mind. Minimum requirements for overall and studio performance ensure that students understand the rigors of design, and by doing well in an academic setting, will be prepared to enter a competitive workforce. Students who fall below these standards in the protected environment of an academic setting where faculty members are invested in each student’s success are not likely to do well in competitive professional practice. See IARc Website for details on these policies https://iarc.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/IARc-Curriculum-Policies-rev19.pdf

International Study Opportunities

The international context is a vital element of the educational experience for Interior Architecture students. Qualified third- and fourth-year students are encouraged to take advantage of study abroad opportunities in a variety of locations around the world including Australia, Europe, Asia, Central and South America, and Africa. International travel grants are available for participating students through the International Programs Center. Most programs are exchange-based, meaning tuition and fees for study abroad are the same as those at UNC Greensboro. Studying abroad, whether one or two semesters, does not extend the student’s graduation date.

Graduate

The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) in Interior Architecture offers students a venue for advanced investigations of the built environment in close collaboration with faculty mentors. Students pursuing an M.F.A. in Interior Architecture develop their own intellectual interests in design while preparing for careers in teaching, research, or specialized practice.

The program offers distinctly strong student-faculty relationships, where students work closely with faculty members to gain expertise. The Department of Interior Architecture supports a broad range of student interests reflecting IARc’s values of promoting sustainable design for social, psychological, and ecological well-being. The department offers particular strengths in historic preservation, interior product design, community-engaged design, and human-environment relationships.

In the M.F.A. graduate studios, students will demonstrate their competency to gather, evaluate, and apply appropriate information and evidence to solve the problem. Their design investigations will demonstrate creative thinking and originality through presentation of a variety of ideas, approaches, and concepts. Students will apply a variety of communication techniques and technologies to their projects and
communicate their designs through competent drawings and models across a range of appropriate media.

The M.F.A. requires 60 credit hours and is a post-professional degree program. Through course work, studios, and thesis development, students will undertake advanced research investigations on topics related to architectural interiors. These investigations must align with faculty interests and connect theory with application. By the time students finish their graduate studies, they will have developed expertise on a relevant topic of interest and demonstrated that expertise through a public defense of their written theses and public exhibit of their design work.

Professor
Lucinda Kaukas Havenhand
Anna Marshall-Baker

Associate Professor
Travis Lee Hicks

Visiting Associate Professor
Maruja Torres

Assistant Professor
Amanda Jane Gale
Asha Kutty
E Stephen Skorski

Academic Professional
Matthew Bradley Jones

Graduate-level faculty

- Interior Architecture Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/minor)
- Historic Preservation, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/historic-preservation-pbc)