INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

College of Arts and Sciences

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About

Interior Architecture is a holistic and integrative practice dedicated to the design and making of interior environments that support the human experience. As a discipline, Interior Architecture interweaves the arts and the sciences, discipline, both mutually informing and connecting with the allied disciplines of interior design, architecture, historic preservation, engineering, and graphic, industrial, and product design.

Becoming an Interior Architecture designer requires devotion, passion, and a fundamental interest in human and environmental relationships. Our curriculum focuses on the understanding and application of design composition and visual representation; design history and theory, placemaking, and the transactions between society and the environment; sustainable design and interior architecture materials; interior construction, building systems, light and sound; and professional practice and experience. Instruction in these areas fosters the development of comprehensive design skills and knowledge while converging with general education requirements at UNC Greensboro to prepare the student for a successful 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. M.F.A. students are expected to engage in design discourse, problem-solving, and research to develop a body of work anchored in our values of promoting ethical, sustainable, inclusive, and meaningful built environments. In addition, we expect that our students display a strong sense of professionalism, are independent and critical thinkers, and examine historical context while adapting to the future by means of intellectually informed and thoroughly articulated designs.

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 drawing, making, and craft are emphasized. Second-year design studios focus on the development of interior design skills such as space planning, the satisfaction of human needs, and attention to function within the context of interior spaces. Visual communication skills are stressed. Third- and fourth-year studio courses engage students 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 rigor of design, and by doing well in an academic setting, will be prepared to enter a competitive workforce. See IARc Website’s Departmental Policies (https://iarc.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/IARc-Departmental-Policies_Final_2021.pdf) for details.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

Experiential Learning is a vital element of the Interior Architecture education. Students are offered travel opportunities through short- and long-term national and international faculty-led programs. Students are encouraged to take part in these experiences which are carefully curated to support their design education. Qualified third- and fourth-year students also have the opportunity to take a semester abroad through the International Programs Center without extending their graduation date. Most such programs are exchange-based, meaning the tuition and fees for study abroad are the same as those at UNC Greensboro.

Engagement and Service

Opportunities for engaging with the profession and leveraging the power of design for transforming society are offered throughout the curriculum. Studio courses often engage students in real-life problem solving and offer interaction with practicing professionals through guest lectures and critiques, and site visits. Through the Center for Community- Engaged Design students participate in service projects benefiting real stakeholders within the region and in the Main Street Program serving North Carolina’s rural towns. The Interior Architecture Diversity and Equity Initiative promotes educational cross-cultural exchange centered around racial, ethnic, and gender-based inclusion.

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. 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 public defense of their written theses and public exhibit of their design work.

Professor
Lucinda Kaukas Havenhand

Associate Professor
Amanda Jane Gale
Travis Lee Hicks

Assistant Professor
Asha Kutty
E Stephen Skorski
Derek Scott Toomes

Graduate-level faculty

- Interior Architecture, B.F.A. (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/interior-architecture-bfa/)
- Design Studies Undergraduate Minor (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/design-studies-minor/)
- Interior Architecture, M.F.A. (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/interior-architecture-mfa/)
- Historic Preservation, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (https://catalog.uncg.edu/arts-sciences/interior-architecture/historic-preservation-pbc/)