Interior Architecture

Newton D’Souza, Associate Professor and Chair
Philip Abbott, Instructor
Katie Rothfield, Instructor
Darci Pappano, Instructor
Janine King, Associate Professor

Florida International University’s Department of Interior Architecture is situated within two very compelling conditions: the diverse international community within South Florida and the rich interdisciplinary environment in the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts. This unique context inspires our interpretation of the interior design profession as an occupation that exercises many types of knowledge and operates within complex social, cultural, technological, and artistic settings.

FIU’s Department of Interior Architecture provides students with a value added education that consists of small student-to-faculty ratios, studio facilities where students have their own workspace, study abroad options, and digital and fabrication labs offering advanced technology. The Department of Interior Architecture is an ideal setting where students are actively involved in learning and exploring the current and future roles of the interior design profession within a global society. More particularly, this context challenges our students to critically investigate the diverse roles of interior design and interior architecture, and inspires us to explore new avenues of thought and attitudes toward why and how we make human environments.

We focus on preparing well-rounded design professionals. Our interdisciplinary foundation coursework and our unique three years of professional graduate curriculum prepare our students to meet the profession head-on. Our graduates work in many different settings in the design of residential, commercial, and institutional projects. This exciting program has a strong emphasis on interior architecture and incorporates the recommendations and standards of national and local professional societies into the development of its curriculum.

The Master of Interior Architecture provides professional degree tracks that are intended for individuals with bachelor degrees from a variety of fields. This course of study has three tracks: a five-year track for students who begin as undergraduates, a two-year track for students with bachelor degrees in architecture or landscape architecture, and a three-year track for students with bachelor degrees in other disciplines.

The Accelerated Master of Interior Architecture (MIA) program provides a seamless course of study leading from undergraduate freshman year to the conferment of the Professional Master of Interior Architecture degree. The five-year Accelerated MIA track is comprised of 160 credit hours of integrated pre-graduate and graduate coursework. The degree consists of 73 credit hours of pre-graduate coursework taken over two years followed by 87 credit hours of graduate coursework. At the conclusion of 73 credit hours of pre-graduate study, students move directly to graduate study. A transition from undergraduate to graduate standing occurs during the fourth year after completion of 120 credits. Students must be in good standing with a 3.0 or higher GPA in graduate level coursework (5000 level or higher). A Bachelor degree is not awarded at any point in the program.

The department maintains close ties with interior design professionals. Our professional advisory board periodically reviews the curriculum to maintain program relevance.

Students applying to the department should plan for the financial aspects of a design education. This includes the costs of computers, software, travel and field trips, tools and equipment, and modeling supplies. All students must have continuing access to a laptop computer through purchase, lease or other arrangements.

Ownership of Student Work

Student work, submitted to the department in satisfaction of course or degree requirements, becomes the physical property of the department. However, students retain all rights to the intellectual property of such work. This work may include papers, drawings, models, and other materials. The department assumes no responsibility for safeguarding such materials. At its discretion, the department may retain, return, or discard such materials. The department will not normally discard the materials of currently enrolled students without giving the student an opportunity to reclaim them.

Admissions Requirements for all Graduate Degrees in the Department of Interior Architecture

All applicants must meet University graduate admissions requirements. Applicants to the Department of Interior Architecture degree programs must also submit a portfolio of creative work for department review. The portfolio review examines evidence of creative ability, academic success, and professional achievement. It is an important component of the admissions process. Please contact the Department of Interior Architecture for specific portfolio requirements. The deadline for portfolio submission is February 1st of each year. Portfolios submitted after this date will be considered if studio space is available.

Students who have successfully completed the portfolio review process must also meet the minimum requirements of an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university with undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or hold a graduate degree from an accredited institution to be fully admitted in the graduate program. When the academic record is less than 3.0 GPA, the applicant must submit Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.

Thesis Requirement

Interior Architecture graduate students in master degree programs are required to undertake a master’s project or a master’s thesis as part of their course of study at the Department of Interior Architecture.

Master of Interior Architecture

Professional Degree Tracks

The Graduate Program in Interior Architecture prepares expert interior designers with strong professional and content background, capable of engaging in evidence-based design and able to conduct and apply research. The program is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary degree program designed to engage students in advanced study
regarding public interiors. The unique curriculum provides students with firsthand experience of a wide range of interior design issues in specialized areas of study such as hospitality design, healthcare facility design, and workplace design.

The Master of Interior Architecture provides professional degree tracks that are intended for individuals with bachelor degrees from other fields. This course of study has two tracks: a two-year track for students with bachelor degrees in architecture or landscape architecture, and a three-year track for students with bachelor degrees in other disciplines. Both of these tracks begin Summer Semester.

THREE YEAR TRACK – 87 Credits

A professional degree for students with a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science, or equivalent, from an accredited institution. Leveling courses may be required for students without a design background. These are in addition to degree requirements.

Summer Leveling
IND 5319 Visual Notation for Interior Design 3
IND 5475 Computer Applications in Design 3
IND 5285 Design Foundations 3

Summer Semester
IND 5325 Color Theory and Application for the Built Environment 3

Fall Semester
IND 6255 Graduate Design 1 6
IND 5477 Computer Applications in Design II 3
IND 5486 Materials for Interior Design 3
IND 6616C Interior Architecture Theory I 3

Spring Semester
IND 6256 Graduate Design 2 6
IND 5438 Lighting Design 3
IND 5645 Structures 1 1
IND 5645L Structures 1 Lab 2

Summer Semester
IND 5427 Construction Documents in Interior Architecture 3
IND 5629 Computer Applications in Design III 3
IND 5138 History of Modern Interior Design (online) 3

Fall Semester
IND 6257C Graduate Design 3 6
IND 5485 Advanced Construction Documents in Interior Architecture 1
IND 5454L Advanced Construction Documents in Interior Architecture Lab 2
IND 5615 Building Systems for Interior Designers 3

Spring Semester
IND 6258C Graduate Design 4 6
IND 5937 Special Topics 3

Summer Semester
IND 5138 History of Modern Interiors (online) 3
Directed Elective 3

Fall Semester
IND 6259C Graduate Design 5 6
IND 5626 Project Programming 3
IND 6639 Research Methods 3

Spring Semester
IND 6970 Master’s Project 6
IND 5438 Lighting Design 3
IND 5508 Professional Office Practice 3

Master of Arts in Interior Architecture

Post-Professional Degree

Individuals with an undergraduate degree in Interior Design or Interior Architecture from an accredited professional program are eligible for admission to the program provided University requirements are met. This 36 credit hour degree prepares students who wish to conduct research, teach and undertake advanced studies in Interior Design. One year of full-time study in residency is normally required. However, a part-time study option is available subject to the review and approval of the Program. Satisfactory completion of 36 credits in the following course of study is required.

First Year (Fall Semester: CORE courses)
IND 5939 Design Thinking and Creative Process 3
IND 5637 Design Research Methods 3
IND 5616 Env. & Beh Theory 3

Health Care Design Track

This track prepares students with a specialized healthcare design expertise. Students will interact with a variety of stakeholders to co-create spatial contexts in partnership with related academic disciplines (nursing, medicine, public health, occupational therapy, computer science and bio-medical engineering), health care design professionals, and healthcare facilities (hospitals and nursing homes). The program is designed to provide students with research expertise, problem-solving skills,
health care design thinking and prototyping skills while engaging with a multicultural urban community.

First Year (Spring Semester)
- IND 5602 Health Care Design I 6
- IND 5612 Environmental Sys. for HealthCare Environments 3
- IND 5617 Health Care Theory 3
- Elective course 3

Second Year (Fall Semester)
- IND 5603 Healthcare Design Studio II 6
- Directed Elective 3
- Directed Elective 3

Certificate in Cruise Ship and Super Yacht Design
The Interior Architecture Department has assembled a team of professionals and educators to offer a unique curriculum that will prepare designers for the specific issues associated with designing cruise ship and yacht interiors. The certificate program is offered to students who are enrolled in the FIU's Master of Interior Architecture program and involves international workshops with designers from overseas venues. Enrollment in the certificate program offers FIU students the opportunity to form specialized knowledge in this area of design prior to graduation with their Master of Interior Architecture degree.

Entrance into the program is limited to students entering their fourth year of the MIA curriculum who have earned a 3.0 or better grade point average in the graduate program. All applicants should access the appropriate application through the University Graduate School website, at: [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html). The application is in paper form and must be completed by the student to Graduate Admissions in PC 230. At the conclusion of the certificate program, students will be issued a Certificate in Furniture Design from Florida International University. This certificate program is open to degree-seeking students only.

Program Requirements
The certificate program consists of 15 credit hours of courses currently embedded within the existing Master of Interior Design curriculum: two specialized sixteen-week studio courses; plus an industry specific internship course coordinated through FIU's interior design program.

- IND 5418 Design at Sea 3
- IND 6257C Graduate Design 3 6
- IND 6258C Graduate Design 4 6

Certificate in Furniture Design
The Certificate in Furniture Design offers students the ability to explore, design, and create furniture for commercial and residential purposes. This program serves FIU students who wish to extend their design education into this area of specialized study. Focused on creative design process and on bringing products to market, the four courses in this certificate develop students’ skills, knowledge, and critical thinking about the design, making, and marketing of furniture products for industry, retail, and gallery markets. This certificate program is open to degree-seeking students only.

Entrance into the program is limited to students enrolled at FIU who have earned a 3.0 or better grade point average. All applicants should access the appropriate application through the University Graduate School website. The application is in paper form and must be completed by the student to Graduate Admissions in PC 230. At the conclusion of the certificate program, students will be issued a Certificate in Furniture Design from Florida International University.

Program Requirements

**Studio Courses**
- IND 5445C Introduction to Furniture Design 3
- IND 5447C Advanced Furniture Design 6

**Subject Area Courses**
- IND 5164 History of 21st Century Furniture Design 3
- IND 5446 Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship in Furniture Design 3

Course Descriptions

**Definition of Prefixes**
- IND-Interior Design
- F-Fall semester offering; S-Spring semester offering; SS-Summer semester offering.

- IND 5029 Art in Public Interiors (3). Examination of the creative place making and the integration of artwork into the interior architecture of public places.
- IND 5137 History of Design from the Renaissance to XIX Century (3). Survey of the architectural, interior and landscape design from the Renaissance to the XIX century, including western and non-western traditions.
- IND 5138 History of Modern Interiors (3). An analysis of the history of architectural interiors, furniture and decorative arts from the Neo- Classical period to the present time.
- IND 5164 History of 21st Century Furniture Design (3). Students will research and analyze the social, political, technical economic and theoretical forces that contribute to new movements in late 20th century and early 21st century furniture design.
- IND 5235 Formative Studio 1 (6). Introduction to concept development, spatial expression, and representational techniques in architecture.
- IND 5285 Design Foundations (3). The course is a rigorous introduction to design fundamentals. It builds a design language through lectures, practical exercises, exploring techniques, materials, skills, making and critical thinking. Prerequisite: Program approval.
- IND 5319 Visual Notation for Interior Design (3). Course will develop drawing skills in multiple media, actively engaging in projects of drawing as a medium of investigation, documentation, memory, observation and presentation for interior design. Prerequisite: Program approval.
- IND 5325 Color Theory and Application for the Built Environment (3). Use of color in the built environment including principal color systems, methods of color
harmony, effects of visual phenomena, and various psychological, cultural and historical implications.

IND 5418 Design at Sea (3). Study of Interior Architecture of Cruise Vessels. Students learn spatial material and regulatory issues associated with marine design.

IND 5427 Construction Documents in Interior Architecture (3). Conceptual framework for design of building assemblies, understanding of construction technologies and properties of interior building materials. Construction drawings and specifications are produced. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

IND 5428 Materials and Methods (3). Research and analysis of building materials and methods. Properties of materials and performance in a variety of light building, interior and environmental assemblies are investigated.

IND 5438 Lighting Design (3). Exploration of theories and applications of lighting design. Emphasis on studying research about interactions between light, people and articulation of interior space.

IND 5445C Furniture Design (3). Providing a general overview of furniture design process, this design/build studio course teaches students about ergonomics, scale, space, structure and materiality related to furniture design.

IND 5446 Professional Practice and Entrepreneurship in Furniture Design (3). Learn about industry standards and entrepreneurial strategies that successful designers and furniture companies use when bringing new designs to different markets.

IND 5447C Advanced Furniture Design (6). Research, analyze and design furniture using wood, metals and plastics. Instruction will include advanced technical skills and emphasis on qualitative and conceptual aspects of design.

IND 5454L Advanced Construction Documents in Interior Architecture Lab (2). Supplement Adv CDs Lectures with hands on exercises in advanced problems associate with production of professional construction documents for interior design practice. Prerequisite: IND 5427

IND 5475 Computer Applications in Design (3). Study of computer software packages applicable to the architecture office environment, with particular emphasis on CAD software, graphics packages and desktop publishing.

IND 5477 Computer Applications in Design II (3). Intermediate study of computer software applicable to the architecture and interior design office environment, with particular emphasis of CADD software, graphics packages and desktop publishing.

IND 5485 Advanced Construction Documents in Interior Architecture (1). Advanced understanding of construction technologies, plus properties and assembly systems of interior building materials. Construction drawings and specifications are produced. Prerequisite: IND 5427.


IND 5508 Professional Practice (3). Advanced study office administration, contract negotiation, fee structure, professional ethics, client and public relations. Investigations and analysis of business organizations and project management. Prerequisite: Program approval.

IND 5509 Personal Branding and Career Preparation (3). Learn brand strategy, storytelling, media consistency, brand maintenance, interviews, and personal marketing packages. Covers values of responsibility, accountability and effectiveness.

IND 5513 Managing the Design Project (3). Principles and methods of managing design projects including, buildings, interiors and landscape projects. Content covers planning, scheduling, organizing, and controlling complex design projects.


IND 5603 Healthcare Design Studio 2 (6). Students explore application of theoretical issues in order to create ‘what-if’ scenarios in health care design that might not be currently addressed in industry.

IND 5612 Environmental Systems for Healthcare Environments (3). Study of building environmental systems and building performance issues that impact the design of Healthcare environments.

IND 5615 Building Systems for Interiors (3). Study of building environmental systems and building performance issues that impact the design of building interiors and affect the health, safety, welfare, and performance of building occupants. Prerequisite: IND 5628.

IND 5616 Environment and Behavior Theory (3). Students explore, analyze, and interpret various environment and behavior theories appropriate for designing healthcare environments.

IND 5617 Health Care Theory (3). Exploration of health care theory, its manifestation in specific health care models and delivery systems, plus, its implementation in design of healthcare environments.

IND 5625 Interior Architecture Theory II (3). Overview of the environmental parameters, morphological concepts and ideological principles that generate form and meaning in interior design, architecture, and landscape architecture.

IND 5626 Project Programming (3). Students perform pre-design research and analysis aimed at programming the design of a specific facility. Students ultimately prepare a program of requirements for their master’s project. Prerequisites: IND 5937, IND 6639. Corequisite: IND 6259C.


IND 5629 Computer Applications in Design III (3). Students learn advanced techniques in digital design through using 3 dimensional modeling and rendering software within the design process.

IND 5637 Design Research Methods (3). Advanced strategies and tactics to gather, organize, assess, analyze,
interpret and judge the many forms many forms of information relevant to design.

**IND 5645 Structures 1 (1).** Through the study of statics and strength of materials this introductory course provides a scientific basis for analysis of how various structural systems work and withstand loading. Prerequisites: PHY 2053 and MAC 2233 or MAC 1114 or MAC 1147.

**IND 5645L Structures 1 Lab (2).** The lab sessions will supplement lectures through additional practice and hands-on problems that are designed to enhance the application of structural concepts. Prerequisites: PHY 2053 and MAC 2233 or MAC 1114 or MAC 1147. Corequisite: IND 5645.

**IND 5937 Special Topics (3).** Examination of the conceptual framework supporting the theory, and research applications in specialized area of interior design. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**IND 5938 Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar (1-3).** This is a seminar/workshop course taught by distinguished educators, scholars, and designers. Lectures, critical readings, and discussions of thematic topics make up the methodology of the course.

**IND 5939 Design Thinking and Creative Process (3).** Using literature on design methods, design cognition, cognitive psychology and design protocol studies, students will learn about the various models of creative process in design.

**IND 5941 Internship Experience (0).** Experience in interior design practice learned through work with licensed professionals.

**IND 5948 Interior Architecture Graduate Internship (3).** Advanced issues in professional practice learned through work experience with design professionals.

**IND 5950 Interior Architecture Travel, Culture, and Design (3).** Study of Interior Architecture through travel. Adopting a global view, students learn to weigh design decisions within the parameters of ecological, socio-economic, and cultural contexts.

**IND 6255 Graduate Design 1 (6).** Exploration of highly articulated projects utilizing innovative research methods to strengthen and clarify design concepts taken to a detailed resolution. Corequisite: IND 5427.

**IND 6256 Graduate Design 2 (6).** Advanced design topics explored. Focus on student specialization interest. Emphasis on integration of design process from conceptual formulation and programming to design development and reflection. Prerequisite: IND 6255.

**IND 6257C Graduate Design 3 (6).** Advanced content with focus on developing and applying of design criteria to create highly articulated interior environments for work, retail, and recreation. Prerequisite: IND 6256. Corequisite: IND 5485.

**IND 6258C Graduate Design 4 (6).** Focus on developing a global approach to designing with awareness and respect for cultural and social differences, and the implications of conducting the practice of design within a world market. Prerequisite: IND 6257C.

**IND 6259C Graduate Design 5 (6).** Complex issues associated with the design of institutional environments are used to explore issues of environment and behavior, universal design, plus issues of health, safety, and welfare. Prerequisite: IND 6258C. Corequisite: IND 5626.

**IND 6616C Interior Architecture Theory I (3).** Students analyze and explore the application of pivotal theories regarding the relationships between human behavior and the design of interior environments.

**IND 6639 Research Methods (3).** Methods of data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation used in interior design research. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**IND 6906 Independent Study (1-3).** Coursework on a particular aspect of Architecture under the direction of faculty in an individual study format. Prerequisite: Program approval.

**IND 6910 Graduate Seminar (3).** Coursework under the direction of faculty in preparation for a master's thesis or master's project in interior design. Prerequisites: IND 6906, program approval.

**IND 6970 Master's Project (1-6).** The curriculum was reordered and the Master's project is now the terminal studio for all students.

**IND 6971 Master's Thesis (1-6).** Coursework under the direction of faculty for the completion of thesis by candidate for the degree of Master of Interior Design. Prerequisites: Program approval and IND 6910.

**IND 6973 Thesis Seminar (3).** Students develop an independent research strategy that will enable them to address their thesis question. Prerequisite: IND 6979.

**IND 6979 Thesis Research (1-3).** Design, development, and execution of research project for master's thesis in interior design. Prerequisites: IND 5937, IND 6639.