BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS, INTERIOR DESIGN

Department of Interior Design | School of the Arts
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia
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What do Interior Designers do?

Interior designers conceive and create imaginative and innovative solutions that transform environments into functional, beautiful and inspirational spaces. Contemporary interior designers solve spatial problems by:

- Interviewing clients and defining their specific needs
- Researching and analyzing the spaces and sites
- Conceptualizing the spaces through 2D and 3D drawings, diagrams and renderings
- Selecting materials, finishes, furniture and equipment
- Communicating the construction of designed spaces to clients, architects and contractors through floor plans and elevations

We will prepare you to become a professional interior designers by giving you a strong art and design foundation that is combined with advanced courses focusing on the professional study and examination of interior design.

You will discover creative design possibilities conceptually and then begin exploring and developing practical design solutions and applications for all types of interior environments. As a complement to your studies, you will complete a professional design internship, which can open not only professional doors, but also your creative mind.

For a more detailed description of the interior design profession, visit www.cidq.org/definition-of-interior-design.
The Department of Interior Design at VCUarts is one of the most well-established of its kind in the United States. We offer two degrees programs:

BFA in Interior Design
MFA in Design: Interior Environments

Both programs are accredited by CIDA, the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. Our BFA program is an intellectually rigorous and studio-based experience grounded in the issues of interior architecture. We are devoted to developing a foundation of design, building on the principles, theory and fundamentals of design from the perspective of the interior environment. The curriculum balances academic study with professional training and allows you to gain conceptual knowledge and technical skill.

We have a diverse student body with most of our students coming from all over the United States, but many from abroad. As an undergraduate, you can participate in national design competitions and will have access to financial aid and many scholarship opportunities. You will complete an internship in a professional design setting, such as an architecture or design firm, and you will receive training in all areas of design, including presentation and communication skills.

The Department of Interior Design boasts a strong, professional, working faculty, as well as an active relationship with the professional community, and an engaged alumni base. We have extensive academic resources available, including a materials lab, a model shop with a laser cutter and 3D printer, and individual work stations in our studios.

We sponsor a summer study abroad program in Italy, and you will have access to many other study abroad opportunities through other departments in VCUarts and the university. In addition, throughout the year, field trips to New York, Philadelphia, and other locations are available through the department or our student ASID and IIDA chapters.

As a graduate of our BFA in Interior Design program, you’ll be prepared with the skills and knowledge that can facilitate your transition into an entry-level interior design position at a firm or corporation, or entry into programs of advanced study.
Our mission is to foster excellence in Interior Design education and prepare students for a career in interior design or entry into programs of advanced study. **Standards for the BFA in Interior Design program:**

1. Students who have successfully completed the Art Foundation Program may enter in the fall semester only.

2. Students who wish to transfer into the Interior Design program must first apply to the Art Foundation Program. You must demonstrate equivalent preparation and submit a portfolio of work for review. Transfer students admitted into our program must complete all requirements determined to be missing from their academic design experience.

3. Students must complete the required prerequisites and corequisites of the program in the order presented in the curriculum outline.

4. Students must earn a minimum 2.50 GPA on all work before entering the program, in the semester immediately before entering the major, and each semester they continue in the program. Students must maintain a minimum grade of “C” in each studio in order to continue to the next studio course.

5. Students are required to have a laptop computer and appropriate software upon entry into the interior design program.

6. An interior design student kit containing a variety of supplies for graphics and studios, including a portable drafting table, is required upon entry into the program.

7. Students with experience in interior design or related fields may challenge some interior design courses based on regulations for “Credit by Examination” as stated in the current VCU Bulletin. Students must be accepted into the Interior Design program and challenges are based upon demonstrated experience, portfolio work and professional years of experience. A list of courses that may be challenged can be found in the online VCU Bulletin at bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/arts/interior-design.

8. A student majoring in interior design who does not enroll in courses in the major as a full-time student for three or more consecutive semesters (including summer) must reapply to the program, submitting a portfolio and undergoing a grade review.

*The full version of these standards can be found in the VCU Bulletin online at bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/arts/interior-design.*
How to Apply

Whether you are new or transferring from another institution, to enter the Department of Interior Design you must first successfully complete the VCUarts Art Foundation Program.

VCUarts continues to review applications until all spots are filled.

To view the most current application requirements:

Go to arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/ and select the status that most applies to you (Freshman or Transfer), then:

- If Freshman, select Art Foundation (Visual Art & Design)
- If Transfer, select Interior Design BFA

From here, you can review deadlines, access the Common Application, submit transcripts, and view additional application requirements, including test scores and how to submit your portfolio.

If you are an international applicant, make sure to review any additional requirements on the Global Education Office website at international.admissions.vcu.edu/apply/undergraduate/.

Student Success

Job Placement
82% of the students who graduated in May 2019 were employed within the first year after graduation (88% response rate).

100% Acceptance into Graduate Programs
All three students from the May 2019 graduating class who applied to graduate school were accepted.

Graduation Rates
86% of the students from the class of 2019 graduated within four years.

Retention/Attrition
94% of the students completing the 2017-18 academic year returned for the 2018-19 academic year.
Portfolio

After your application has been processed, you will receive an email with a link to the supplemental materials upload site. Your portfolio must be submitted online through this website. The School of the Arts does not accept physical portfolios.

Portfolio Requirements

12 to 16 works of art that you have created within the past two years. Present your strongest work and demonstrate your potential to develop a diverse set of skills and ideas should you be accepted. Include a diverse range of 2D and 3D media, including drawing from observation, if possible. Copying anime, cartoons, graffiti or tattoos is highly discouraged.

Images (up to 5 MB each) may be submitted in the following formats:
- .JPEG, .PNG, .GIF, .TIF, .TIFF, .BMP, .TGA

Videos (up to 30 MB each) may be submitted in the following formats:
- .M4V, .MOV, .MP4, .TLV, .ASF, .MPEG, .MPG, .MKV

All videos must be less than 3 minutes. The total maximum time for all moving images cannot exceed 5 minutes.

Expenses

For current information on tuition, fees, and other expenses, including a tuition and fees calculator, go to accounting.vcu.edu/tuition.

The university and the department require additional resources, such as a laptop computer, textbooks, materials and supplies. For information about these additional resources and expenses, go to arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign/student-resources.
Plan of Study

Please contact an adviser before beginning course work toward a degree. For course descriptions, go to bulletin.vcu.edu/azcourses/ides.

The VCU Bulletin is the official source of VCU degree program information and contains additional curriculum information that can be accessed at bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/arts/interior-design.

Year 1 – Art Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 131 Drawing Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 132 Surface Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 139 Project</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 103 Survey of Art I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative literacy course (university core)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 133 Space Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 134 Time Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTF 139 Project</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 104 Survey of Western Art II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/behavioral sciences course (university core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
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Year 2 – Sophomore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 201 Introductory Interior Design Studio I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 211 Interior Graphics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 231 Fundamentals of Interior Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 251 Historic Environments: Ancient through 19th Cen.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200 Inquiry and the Craft of Argument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 202 Introductory Interior Design Studio II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 212 Interior Graphics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 252 Historic Environments: 20-21st Cen.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 311 Advanced Interior Graphics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural/physical sciences course (university core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
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Year 3 – Junior

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 301 Interior Design Studio I</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDES 312 Advanced Interior Graphics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 321 Interior Materials and Textiles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDES 323 Light and Color in Interior Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities/fine arts course (university core)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 302 Interior Design Studio II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDES 422 Building Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 431 ID Business Practices</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art/design elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
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Year 4 – Senior

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 400 Senior Interior Design Studio I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 441 Senior Seminar I (capstone series)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDES 493 Interior Design Internship*</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General education elective</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 401 Senior Interior Design Studio II (capstone series)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 442 Senior Seminar II (capstone series)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art/design elective (300-400 level)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General education elective (300-400 level)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total hours to graduate** 120

* The required internship can be completed during the summer after the junior year or during the senior year.
Faculty + Staff

**Roberto Ventura**, LEED AP  
*Interim Chair, Associate Professor*  
M.Arch., Miami University  
BA, Math + Physics, Albion College

**Christiana Lafazani**, NCIDQ  
*Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Associate Professor*  
MFA, Interior Environments, VCU  
BS, Interior Design, James Madison University  
BAD, Business Administration, School of Business Thessaloniki

**W. Camden Whitehead**  
*Associate Professor*  
M.Arch, Architecture, Virginia Tech  
BA, Art, Averett College

**Rab Mcclure**, AIA, NCIDQ  
*Associate Professor*  
M.Arch, Architecture, Yale University  
BS, Architecture, University of Virginia

**Emily Smith**, CID, LEED AP  
*Assistant Professor*  
MFA, Interior Environments, VCU  
BS, Interior Design, Virginia Tech

**Lexy Holcombe**  
*Assistant Professor*  
MFA, Interior Environments, VCU  
BS, Interior Design, Virginia Tech  
BA, Political Science, Chatham College (now Chatham University)

**Robert Smith**  
*Administrative Director, Associate Professor*  
MFA, Design, Interior Environments, VCU  
BS, Theology, Kentucky Christian University

**Eleanor Campbell-Barton**  
*Adjunct instructor*  
Principal+Director of Interior Design, Glavé & Holmes  
BFA, Interior Design, VCU

**Jillian Chapin**  
*Adjunct instructor*  
MFA, Design, Interior Environments, VCU  
BS, Marketing Management, Virginia Tech

**Sara Desvernine Reed**  
*Adjunct instructor*  
PhD, American Art, University of Delaware  
MA, Art History, VCU  
BA, Art History, University of Colorado at Boulder

**Annie Frankfort**  
*Adjunct instructor*  
MFA, Design, Interior Environments, VCU  
BA, Psychology, Washington and Lee University

**Tim Hamnett**  
*Adjunct instructor*  
Architectural Designer, Baskervill  
M.Arch, Architecture, University of Washington  
BDes Arch, BA, English, University of Florida

**Joanna Gragnani**  
*Program Assistant*  
BA, Art History, University of Virginia
VCUarts Qatar

VCUarts Qatar's BFA program in Doha, Qatar, was established in 2000 and is linked to our BFA program through a common curriculum, goals and objectives. You can apply to spend a semester at VCUarts Qatar and continue your design studies while experiencing another culture up close and in depth. As an exchange program, students from VCUarts Qatar can also spend a semester in Richmond. In addition to Qatara, students at VCUarts Qatar come from many other, adding to the exchange of cultural ideas and enrichment of knowledge within the studio environments on our campus. For more information on VCUarts Qatar, visit qatar.vcu.edu.

Study Abroad: Italy

You will have the opportunity to travel to a specific city or area in Italy, such as Florence or Sicily, depending on the year, and take summer courses that will apply directly to your BFA degree major requirements. The study abroad program is sponsored by VCU's Global Education Office and our department. The program and classes are led and taught by VCU Interior Design faculty.
Field Trips

Each fall, students new to our BFA and MFA programs take an autumn day trip to visit an architectural site, such as to Fallingwater, the Frank Lloyd Wright architectural masterpiece in Mill Run, Pennsylvania. You will tour the entire building and grounds and have an opportunity for further study through sketching and photography. This day trip provides opportunity for you to bond with other students through the experience of a long bus trip and really great architecture and design.

Student Organizations

Student-led chapters of national and international interior design professional organizations offer you opportunities to meet other design students, learn from professionals in the design community through seminars and events, and to travel to conferences and trade shows.

Organizations with a presence at VCU include:

- ASID, American Society of Interior Designers, www.asid.org
Studios

The Department of Interior Design values and nurtures a studio environment for our students. Each class is allocated a design studio for the academic year and you will have a place in that studio to call your own. You will have access to your studio at all hours during the academic year. The studio environment fosters collaborative learning, allowing students to learn from each other and, in the process, learn about and get to know each other in a very supportive atmosphere.

Model Shop

The Model Shop houses small woodworking machines suitable for building models, as well as a large lasercutter and a 3D printer. The lasercutter offers you an opportunity to create high levels of detail for your design models. In addition to the equipment in the Model Shop, each design studio is equipped with woodworking equipment. The Model Shop is staffed by trained teaching assistants and work study students. To learn more about the Model Shop, visit arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign/model-shop/.
Internships

As part of the BFA in Interior Design program, you are required to complete a design internship. Internships within the design community offer you an opportunity to experience the “real world” of a design firm. You will be supervised by a designer with the requisite design degree and experience.

You will be eligible to enroll in the internship class after you have completed the spring junior design studio and the design business practices course. With the support of the department, you will independently research interior design and architectural firms, communicate with any firms that are of interest to you, and then apply for internship positions.

You can intern at firms that offer specific areas of design that might be of interest to you, such as hospitality, residential, healthcare, offices, and so on. We encourage you to explore opportunities in locales that best suit your needs and interests, whether in the Richmond area, your hometown, or in a larger metropolitan area, such as Washington, DC, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, or even abroad.

mOb studio

mOb studio is an experimental design lab that works to realize the potential of design to shape the City of Richmond. The studio is a partnership of the Graphics, Fashion, and Interior Design departments. mOb studio partners with Storefront for Community Design, a local non-profit design assistance center that facilitates access to design and planning resources for small businesses, non-profits, and individuals in Richmond.

Together they form mOb+Storefront and join the energy, enthusiasm and expertise of VCUarts students and faculty with Storefront’s community connections. As an upper level student, you can apply to spend one or two semesters at mOb studio, which is located literally the middle of the Broad Street corridor at 205 East Broad St. in downtown Richmond.
For more information about the VCUarts Interior Design BFA program, please contact:

Robert Smith
Administrative Director
smithrd@vcu.edu or 804.828.1713

Department of Interior Design
VCU School of the Arts
325 N. Harrison St
Richmond, Virginia 23284

arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign
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Cover rendering by Madeleine Hardy, 2017

Virginia Commonwealth University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran’s status, political affiliation, or disability.
Online

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instagram @vcuartsinteriordesign

intdesign@vcu.edu or 804.828.1713

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virginiacommonwealthuniversity.tumblr.com

**Financial Aid**  finaid.vcu.edu

**Student Accounting**  accounting.vcu.edu

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Department of Interior Design

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