

# WSU Interior Design Fall Newsletter

## Upcoming Dates

PORTFOLIO REVIEW 2024

Save the Date: Friday, April 26,  
2024

## What's Inside:



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



2023 PORTFOLIO WINNERS



GRADUATE PROGRAM



INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Scholarships

Giving

Faculty

Judy Theodorson Retirement

Advisory Board

WHATS NEW IN ID?

## Message from Program Head:

Welcome to our Interior Design Program's inaugural newsletter! We are excited to share some of the many things that the program is doing in and out of the studio: field trips, study abroad, awards, and industry engagement involving alumni, allied professionals, students and faculty.

Wishing you all the best,

Bob Krikac, Interior Design Program Head



IDSa PUMPKIN PAINTING NIGHT



## Interior Design Student Association (IDSa)

### JOIN OUR STUDENT CLUB!

The Interior Design Student Association (IDSa) is a student-run program that allows other students in the program to connect with each other and get involved outside of the classroom.

IDSa provides several learning opportunities including info sessions on resume building and interview tips, connecting with professionals in the field, and fun workshops to touch up on creative skills! The IDSa Club is run by an amazing leadership team, which is elected by its members.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday. [If you are interested in joining IDSa, contact \[jerzee.mecham@wsu.edu\]\(mailto:jerzee.mecham@wsu.edu\)](#)

# Study Abroad in Florence, Italy

## CIAO! FROM THE SENIORS ABROAD

By Samantha Milam

Within the Interior Design Program at WSU, the students take part in an *Immersive Senior Experience* for their last year in the program. Studying abroad in Florence, Italy is one of those options.

This year, we have a remarkable number of Interior Design students studying in Florence, Italy who are getting the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a whole different perspective on architecture and design through a lens of cultural heritage.



STUDENT SITE VISIT TO WINERY IN GREVE

So far in Florence, the students have had their own personal experiences in a new and different environment. The students have been working on a project consisting of a graphic layout of some of their most memorable experiences so far in the city. Encouraged to paint the city beyond its' facade, the students were able to include their own views and opinions of the city that they have been exploring in. Below is a flip-through of some of the students' projects and their interpretations of the beautiful city of Florence, Italy.



DRAWING DONE BY ANNABELLE PARKS



STUDENT SKETCH DAY IN BARDINI GARDENS



[Scan or click to view projects!](#)

# Gateway Studio

## INTEGRATED STUDIO EXPERIENCE

By Samantha Milam

The Fall Gateway Studio is an option for seniors across the SDC. This studio course offers an interdisciplinary approach, combining Interior Design, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture into one studio classroom. With the methods, skills, and ideas from each discipline, the students take on a semester-long project that balances the components of all three.

This semester, the students started off with a journey through their given site. The site visit consisted of 7 key points on campus and through Downtown Pullman.



SITE SKETCH AT DOWNTOWN BRIDGE



PULLMAN SITE MAP

## STUDIO GUEST SPEAKERS

After receiving an overview of the presented site map and completing a site tour, the students were put into designated groups to form project concepts and ideas.

As the creative juices started to flow, the studio welcomed a few guest speakers to give students better insight on how to move forward with their projects.



URBAN DESIGNER BRUCE RIPS GIVES FEEDBACK

The first visitors to come to studio was the members of the Downtown Pullman Association to give input on the things that would help benefit the downtown community. The team gave ideas on design strategies for integrating the downtown region of Pullman with WSU campus life.

The other visitor was Bruce Rips, an urban designer in the Pullman area. He educated the students on street grids, navigating design challenges in the city, SMART Growth principles, and more. With this information, the students began their design process and development.

# Healthcare in Portland

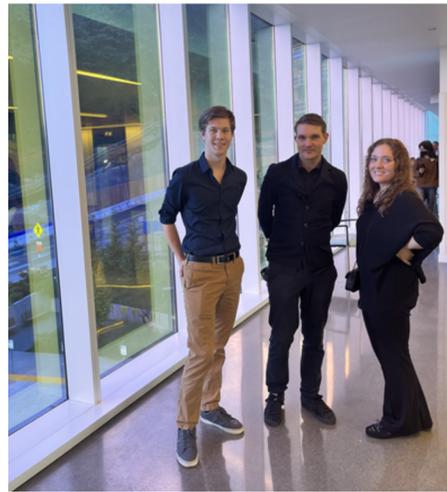
## TAKING A DEEP DIVE INTO ACCESSIBILITY

By Kristen Rue

The graduate ID students took a trip to Portland to learn more about healthcare design. They are working on a studio project to design a primary and behavioral outpatient clinic, with guidance from ZGF. Their first stop in Portland was the Pacific WRO showroom where they learned about Miller Knoll healthcare furniture. They then learned more about healthcare accessibility design at the AIA AHC Fall 2023 - Designing for All: Accessibility in Health and Wellness conference. They gained insights on how to create inclusive spaces for people with different abilities, such as mobility, vision, hearing, and play. The conference included a tour of the OHSU Casey Eye Institute designed by NBBJ. The students saw how the design responded to the needs and perspectives of the patients. Alex Almerico, Carl Tully, and Brian Uyesugi from NBBJ shared an app, the ViaOpta Simulator, that they used when designing OHSU Casey Eye Institute to see spaces through eyes of potential patients as shown below.



STUDENT TEAM AT THE CONFERENCE



TOURING OHSU CASEY EYE INSTITUTE



POST CONFERENCE GROUP PHOTO WITH ZGF MENTOR BETHANY CHILDRESS

**ViaOpta Simulator** shows how patients may be perceiving spaces.

This is an example of the OHSU Casey Eye Institute elevator.



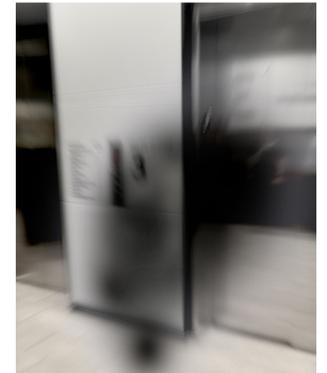
NORMAL



ADVANCED CATARACTS



ADVANCED DRY EYE



ADVANCED CENTRAL RETINAL VEIN OCCLUSION

## Sophomore Field Trip to Seattle

By Vivian Nguyen

The second week of October is “Study Tour Week” where the sophomores tour design firms, built projects, and showrooms in Seattle for three days. This year, they were able to go to the Amazon Spheres, meet with IKEA designers, tour the Seattle Design Center and have lunch with a panel of ASID, NWSID, and NKBA professionals. One of the main engagements for the students was a half-day job shadow. For most students, this is their first time in a professional setting as a designer. This trip is intended to expose the students to a variety of career path options and the profession.



SOPHOMORES MEETING WITH WSU ALUMNI AT THE MOHAWK SHOWROOM IN SEATTLE

## Alumni & Firm Visit in Spokane

The interior design program took 20 students from all years to a WSU Alumni Mixer to Freeform, a showroom in Spokane. During their time at Freeform, multiple firms including BCRA, RFM, Bernardo Wills, DS Studio, NAC, Mint Design, and United tile presented to the WSU students a little about their firms and the many different projects that they were working on. Students were able to network with the alumni and gained an understanding of the many different projects they could design in the future. Some include hospitals, hotels, banks, airplanes, cruises, etc.



NELLIE SCHWARTZ SPEAKS WITH MADISON PLOWMAN AND JERZEE MECHAM.



CECILIA ARROYO '12, NAC ARCHITECTURE, SHARED ASPECTS OF HEALTHCARE DESIGN.



OLIVIA AMYX AND LAURA SOMERVILLE SPEAK AFTERWARDS

## AIA/ IIDA Summer Social AUGUST EVENT

A group of 9 students attended the AIA / IIDA Summer Social at Spokane's Steam Plant in late August.



WSU ID ALUMNI PRISCILLA BROWN, CHELSEA BERMUDEZ, AND LAURA SOMERVILLE SPEAK WITH STUDENTS.

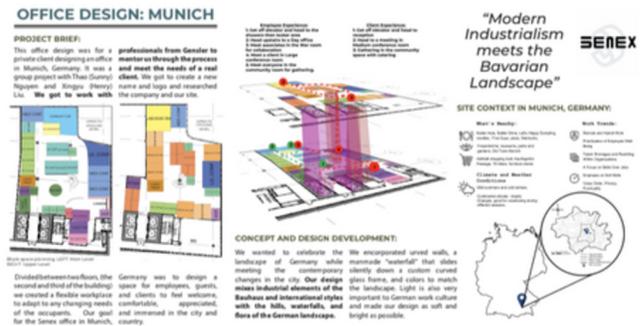
# 2023 Jennifer Scott Portfolio Design Competition Winners

## FIRST PLACE: LEXI MILLS

“Winning first place feels so surreal. It’s taken a lot of worries off my shoulders post-graduation and I am unbelievably grateful. It’s paying for my wedding and when my fiancé and I moved, it helped furnish our new place and buffer our bills until I got my job. I’m proud of myself for the hours and hours of work over the last four years and grateful to all my teachers, TAs, classmates, and friends. The SDC truly changed my life. Thank you!”



Scan or click to view [portfolio!](#)

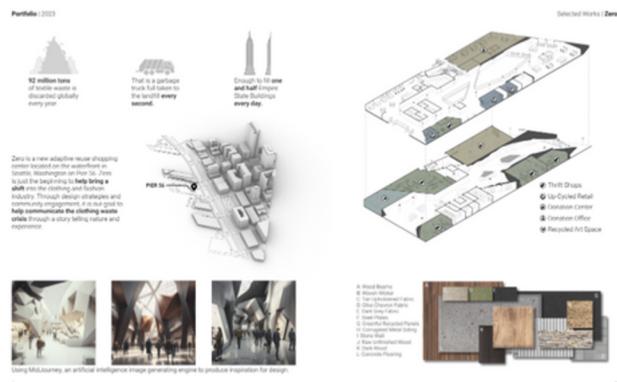


## SECOND PLACE: CHANDLER KAST

“I was very grateful to have been acknowledged for having the second-best portfolio. As most college students, I did not have a lot of money after graduating in May and It has helped me out tremendously while I continue to look for a job opportunity. The award had a positive impact on me while creating it and after receiving the award. After receiving the award, it has been a great thing to put on my resume and has raised a big topic of discussion in all the interviews I have had. I have received many compliments from friends, family, and employers on how professional it looks and I can not wait to look back on it as a professional.”

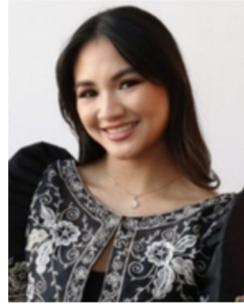


Scan or click to view [portfolio!](#)



**THIRD PLACE: PRINCESS GUNTALILIB**

“Winning this award has had a profound and immensely positive impact on my life. Not only did this portfolio showcase my years of hard work, but it also shows my growth as a young Interior Designer. This has instilled a deep sense of confidence and motivated me to push my boundaries of creativity, to constantly seek improvement, and to remain passionate about what I do. I am immensely grateful for this honor, as it has not only shaped my professional life but also enriched my personal growth as an Interior designer.”



[Scan or click to view portfolio!](#)



**HONORABLE MENTION: ALEX VERNKAMP**

“...When I look back at the time put into my portfolio development throughout the three years in the program, as well as the night when I received the Honorable Mention award, I remember how proud I was of myself for all the work and dedication I put into my projects and how all of that was going to be celebrated with the award. The impact of the award proved to me that my commitment to the SDC program was seen and acknowledged. The award on the tangible side allowed me to explore a part of the world I never thought I would get to experience. I was given the opportunity to take a month-long backpacking trip in Southeast Asia.”



[Scan or click to view portfolio!](#)



WINE BAR DESIGN

Berry's Corner's bar design provides a stunning focal piece for customers looking at the bar as well as sitting at the restaurant. The electrochromic glass in the light source within the bar, the illumination from the inside out allows for reflection of the glass wine bottles, creating different shadows and light color changes, adding to the ambience of the space.

The circular stair wrapping around the bar acts not only as visual excitement, but also as circulation for employees to move drinks from the bar to customers at the restaurant, as well as access to the wine storage.

## Recent Grad First Job Stories

### **RACHEL JUPINA - WARE MALCOMB**

Graduated Fall, 2021

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Rachel earned her MA in interior design from WSU in the fall of 2021. She landed a job at Ware Malcomb thanks to a referral from a fellow alum. Rachel began with a lot of technical tasks like Revit and CAD, but she soon got more chances to showcase her creativity and flair in material selection and design. Rachel also assists with construction administration and project coordination. She has worked on many office and workplace projects and is excited to start a new dental office project that will be both fun and challenging.



### **CLAIRE BABCOCK- JPC ARCHITECTS**

Graduated Spring, 2022

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Claire graduated from WSU in the Spring of 2022. She got her first job at JPC Architects in Bellevue, WA as a Design Resource Lead. This position is one that newly graduated design students commonly take over and entails working in the materials library to keep it up to date with the latest and greatest products. Claire gained a vast amount of information and knowledge through this position, and now works as an Interior Designer for JPC Architects, as well as mentoring the new Design Resource Lead and being part of the sustainability team at JPC. Claire feels that WSU has given her amazing opportunities and she is grateful for the well-rounded program that set her up for success.



### **ILSE AGAPITO - DESIGN WEST**

Graduated Spring, 2023

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Ilse recently graduated from the master's program this past spring. She started looking for a job right after graduation in May. Ilse reached out to companies near Pullman trying to see if any had open positions. The first time Ilse reached out to Design West, they said that they had no open positions at that time but that they would keep her file on hand for any openings in the future. That's how Ilse landed her job at Design West in the Spokane location. Currently, she is working on remodeling apartment complexes and public libraries. Ilse spends her days going out onto site, field measuring, and recording it into AutoCAD.



## MA Students / Research Topics

**Boning Zhao** (2024)- Post-Pandemic Opportunity of Collaboration in Office Design

**Darren Thompson** (2024) - Biophilic Luminaires

**Feras Alsodais** (2024)- Efficiency of New Daylighting Strategies in Commercial Buildings in Saudi Arabia

**Kristen Rue** (2024) - Interior Stargazing Effects on Stress

**Sierra Rothlisberger** (2024) - CLT Indoor Air Quality

**Victoria Burnett** (2024) - Biomorphic Forms Impact on Nurse Burnout

**Tendaishe Shingirayi Mugaviri** (2025) Undecided

**Nic Miranda Dyer** (2023) - Magical Realism as a Design Framework

## Highlighted Masters Projects

### **NIC MIRANDA DYER- MAGICAL REALISM AS A DESIGN FRAMEWORK**

Graduating Fall, 2023

Comparing the characteristics of Magical Realism with that of Immersion Theory revealed an overlapping set of characteristics from which design guidelines were developed with the hope of increasing the immersion and the personalization experience of exhibits for visitors. A virtual reality museum exhibit was developed from the design guidelines. The study findings, based on analysis of participant behavior within the museum walkthrough and averages from the Exhibit Immersion Scale, suggest that the design guidelines do affect participant immersion, as does the virtual reality interface.

### **SIERRA ROTH LISBERGER- CLT INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

Graduating Spring, 2024

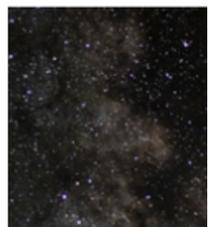
The goal of this study is to understand the effect of CLT construction interiors on occupant comfort, behaviors, and building performance metrics (IEQ, and energy use) at a transitory and permanent housing context through field measurements and online occupant surveys.



### **KRISTEN RUE- INTERIOR STARGAZING EFFECTS ON STRESS**

Graduating Spring, 2024

This study will explore the effects of actual and simulated stargazing in a hotel setting. The goal is to understand if stargazing is an effective tool for stress reduction and to see how the dark nature subcategory of the night sky compares with the proven restorative benefits of green nature.



## SENIOR PORTFOLIO REVIEW 2024

Where: Systems Source Seattle

When: Friday, April 26, 2024



## SDC ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING IN PULLMAN MARCH 21-22, 2024

The advisory boards of the four SDC disciplines; architecture, construction management, landscape architecture, and interior design met in Pullman. In addition to discussing how to best support the individual disciplines and the School, there were tours of SDC-associated facilities, meetings with students, and project reviews.

## SDC MIXER FALL 2024

Watch for an announcement about our annual social event with Spokane professionals, SDC faculty, and students in Spokane

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## Judy Theodorson - Retired

WE WILL MISS YOU



Judy Theodorson is retiring after 15 years of mentoring and inspiring WSU students. Her passion for lighting and the human experience is infectious. She is beloved by her students. Theodorson has mentored students to more than 25 national design awards with recognition in retail design, sustainable design, lighting, design communications, and housing design. In 2012, the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) recognized Theodorson with the national Teaching Excellence Award for her highly successful capstone studios.

Congratulations on retiring Judy! We appreciate everything you have done for WSU!

## Faculty Highlights - Research Creative Work and Awards



### VAHID VAHDAT

Vahid Vahdat is an assistant professor of architecture and interior design at WSU's School of Design and Construction. His primary field of research is spatial mediation, with an emphasis on virtual reality and film. He is the author of "[Occidental Perceptions of European Architecture in Nineteenth Century Persian Travel Diaries—Travels in Farangi Space](#)." The book has been commended by reviewers for its "compelling and convincing interpretations [...] grounded in archival and architectural evidence."



### ALANA PULAY

Alana Pulay joined SDC in Spring, 2019. Her research, teaching and professional practice are centered around human behavior in learning environments. She completed a PhD in Design and the Human Environment at Oregon State University where her focused research was on elementary school classroom lighting and the influence on student behavior. She holds an undergraduate degree in Interior Design from The Ohio State University and a Masters in Architecture Specializing in Interior Design from the University of Nebraska. Her professional experience, as an NCIDQ credentialed, WELL and LEED AP interior designer includes over sixteen years' involvement with architecture and engineering firms specializing in the design of public K-12 schools.



### MINYOUNG CERRUTI

Minyoung Cerruti is a designer and researcher integrating her experiences in design practice and research with her teaching of interior design and architecture studio and lecture courses, emphasizing research-integrated design process. Dr. Cerruti's research is focused on design for vulnerable populations (e.g., older adults with dementia, children with developmental disability, cancer patients), with an emphasis on supportive and healthy environment. Minyoung is a faculty fellow in the Center for Health Systems and Design at Texas A&M University. Prior to joining Washington State University in the fall of 2018, Dr. Cerruti practiced at architectural design firms in South Korea for five years and taught at the University of Idaho for eight years.

## ID Faculty & Staff

**Robert Krikac** - ID Program Head, Associate Professor

**Mathew Melcher** - Arch Program Head, Associate Professor

**Minyoung Cerruti** - Assistant Professor

**Alana Pulay** - Assistant Professor

**Judy Theodorson** - Associate Professor

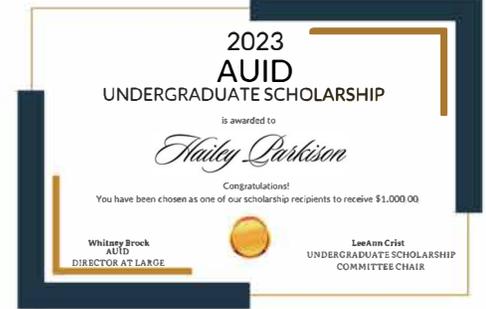
**Vahid Vahdat** - Assistant Professor

**Carrie Vielle** - Associate Professor

**Jaime Lynn Rice** - Assistant Professor, Academic Program Manager

**Ashley Baughman** - Academic Advisor

**Hailey Parkison**  
**ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY**  
**INTERIOR DESIGNERS, AUID**  
 Undergraduate Scholarship



**Sibleigh Julander**  
**NEWH**  
 Undergraduate  
 Scholarship



## WSU Scholarships and 2023/24 Recipients

**PRISM SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Chamorra-Lynn Anderson

**GARY MEULLER SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Olivia Amyx

**PRISM SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Gabriella Pearson

**CARL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Jade Bratrud

**PRISM SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Aissa Avalos

**CARL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Ella Hsieh

**PRISM SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Constance Chadwick

**CARL WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Ingrid Noyes

**PRISM SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Darren Thompson

**KATHRYN EVANS SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Madison Oliver

**INTERIOR DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Ana Borgheriu

**INTERIOR DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Lara Haddick

## Giving Back

### STUDENT FACULTY IMPACT

Many of the activities you see in this publication are supported through the generous contributions of our alumni and friends. Please consider supporting the program through a gift that can be used to support scholarships, student engagement, and faculty research. There are also many other ways of giving back through your time, supporting events at your facility, etc. Please contact Bob Krikac, Interior Design Program Head to discuss.

[Click Here to Donate to the Program](#)



## HIGHLIGHT FROM THE PAST

# 2022 NEWH Leadership Conference

By Kristen Rue

Thanks to Jennifer Fleming and Rice Fergus Miller, 10 WSU students had the amazing opportunity to attend the 2022 NEWH Leadership Conference in Seattle. They learned from top experts and innovators in the hospitality field and networked with talented designers. One of our ID seniors even landed a job through this event!

## Interior Design Advisory Board Members

“The WSU Interior Design Advisory Board is dedicated to fostering the **growth, outreach, and mentorship** within our interior design program. Recently, our efforts have included organizing engaging student and professional mixers across Spokane and Seattle, participating in student project reviews, and work to pilot a high school outreach program.

Outside **support** is pivotal in furthering these initiatives; please consider making a financial **contribution** to the SDC Interior Design Excellence Fund online. Together, let’s continue to fuel innovation, inspire creativity, and propel our Cougs forward!

**Go Cougs!**“

- Jenny Bengelt - President

**Cecilia Arroyo** - NAC Architecture - [carroyo@nacarchitecture.com](mailto:carroyo@nacarchitecture.com)

**Jenny Bengelt** - Momentum - [JBengelt@momentumbuilds.com](mailto:JBengelt@momentumbuilds.com)

**Tim Dickerson** - Rice Fergus Miller - [TDickerson@rfmarch.com](mailto:TDickerson@rfmarch.com)

**Marian Evenson** - Emeritus - [MBGEvenson@gmail.com](mailto:MBGEvenson@gmail.com)

**Mary Knopf** - Emeritus - [mknopf@gci.net](mailto:mknopf@gci.net)

**Cat Linton** - EB Creative - [cat@eb-creative.com](mailto:cat@eb-creative.com)

**Louis Lanthier** - Legacy Group Interiors - [louis@legacygroupinteriors.com](mailto:louis@legacygroupinteriors.com)

**Cherie McNabb** - Forbo - [cherie.mcnabb@forbo.com](mailto:cherie.mcnabb@forbo.com)

**Amanda Sellsted** - BCRA - [asellsted@bcradesign.com](mailto:asellsted@bcradesign.com)