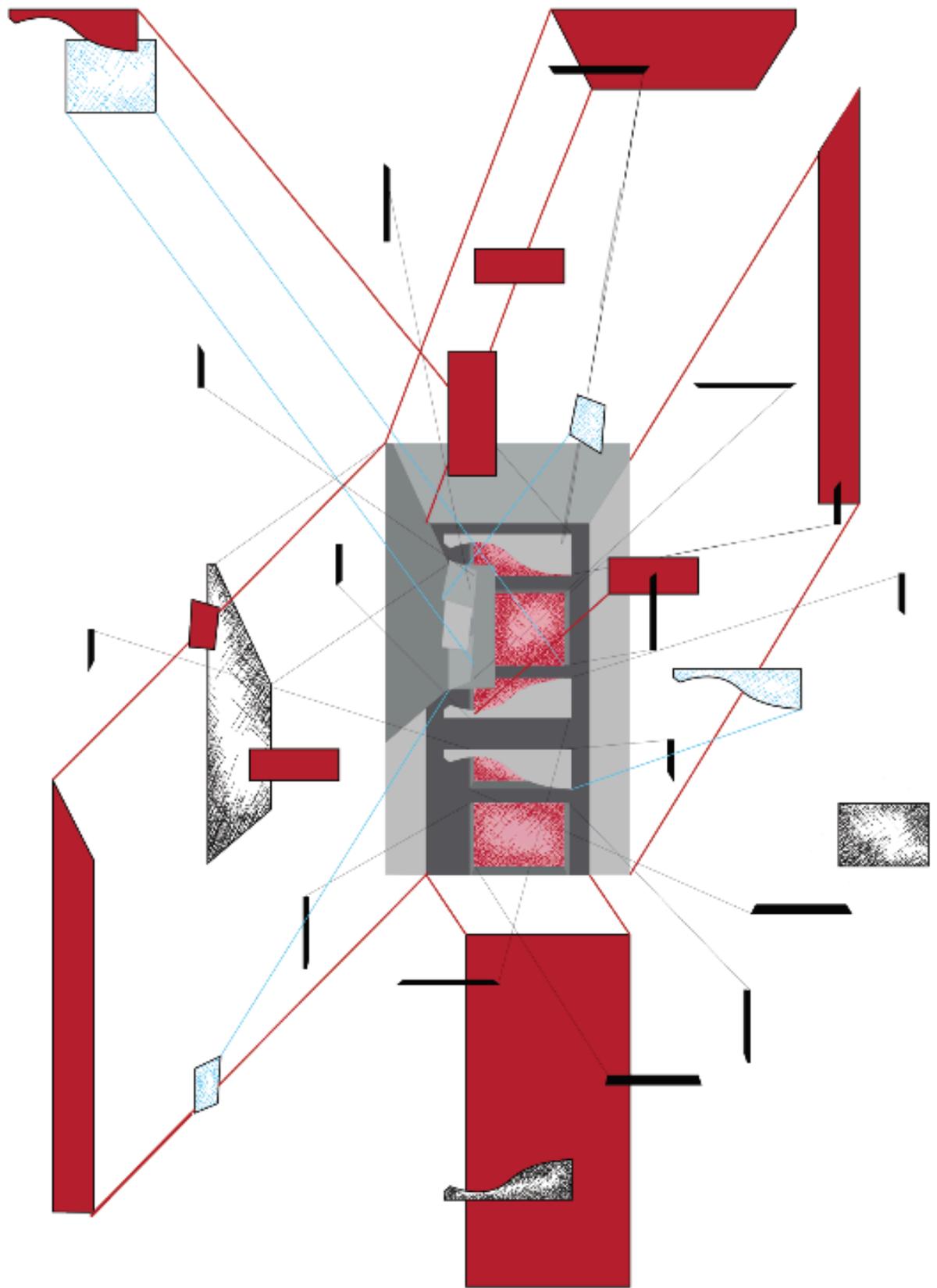


Interior Design Newsletter

WSU School of Design + Construction

2025

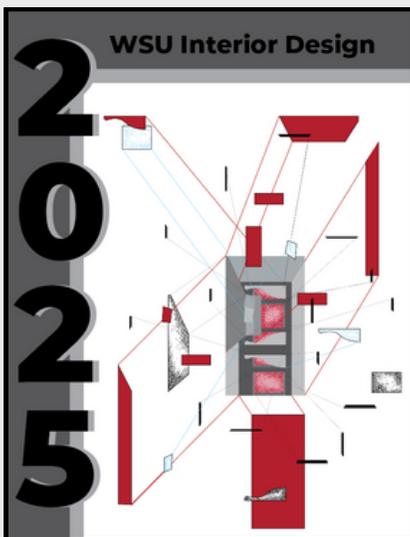


COVER COMPETITION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

i | SPRING 2025

For this edition of the interior design newsletter, we wanted to give SDC design students the opportunity to create the cover design. We had prizes for first second and third place, shown below.

First Place Winner's Statement



Jai's original newsletter cover design

Jai-Marie Washington-Martin - Interior Design Sophomore

The cover letter was inspired by a combination of geometric, spatial abstract artworks by Dutch artist, Daniel Mullen and deconstructivism style architectural sketching. I took these design styles and applied them to images taken from Twinmotion of my Besse Project's main bedroom. I then took this image and traced its shapes in Adobe Illustrator, greyed them using the WSU color palette, and fragmented them away from the original image almost like a puzzle. Then, I added lines reminiscent of a sketched style connecting the exploded pieces back to the bedroom image. I wanted the colorful strokes to look like authentic colored pencils and hatching done by hand, so I took the image to Procreate to get the correct look. From there, the image was reinserted into Adobe Illustrator to construct the final document with further abstraction and typography.



Natalie's newsletter cover design

Second Place Winner

Natalie Dreilling
Interior Design
Sophomore



Morgan's newsletter cover design

Third Place Winner

Morgan Sobel
Interior Design
Sophomore

Welcome Message from the Interior Design Program Head

Welcome to the second edition of the WSU Interior Design Program’s Newsletter! We are grateful for your interest in and support of the program. The program engages in so many activities each year that it is a challenge for our newsletter team to capture all of them. We hope that this edition gives everyone a glimpse into what we do. We have included student perspectives from freshmen to graduate students, articles on student/alumni engagement events, career perspectives from recent and not-so-recent graduates, as well as snapshots of the work of some of the design studios and the portfolio design competition winners.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to this year’s newsletter team, all of whom are sophomore interior design students (‘24/’25) who have done an amazing job in developing this edition. They developed the content framework, conducted interviews, created the graphics, wrote the copy, and curated the images like professionals. They also created a design competition for the cover of this edition. This team will continue to develop the next edition while mentoring new team members to take over as they advance towards graduation. These amazing students are: **Sophia Wilson, Trinity Puryear, Meadow Wilder, Savanna Day-Meneely, and Mackenzie Gordon.**

Bob Krikac
Interior Design Program Head

ID Advisory Board.....	1
Industry Engagement Studio Collaboration.....	2
Gateway Studio	3
WSU Alumni Career Pathways	4-5
Recent Grads	6
Interior Design Student Association-IDSA.....	7
Faculty Led Study Abroad	8
Student Perspectives.....	9-10
Master Students Highlights	11
Scholarships Awarded 2024.....	12
2024 Portfolio Winners	13
ID Faculty and Staff.....	14

“As the new president of the WSU Interior Design Advisory Board, I am honored to continue the incredible work of fostering **connections**, **mentorship**, and professional **growth** within our program.

Our board is dedicated to ensuring that WSU interior design students graduate with confidence, equipped with the industry knowledge, relationships, and hands-on experiences that set them apart. Whether through student and alumni networking events, design critiques, or new outreach initiatives, we are here to support their journey.

Of course, none of this is possible without the support of our community. If you'd like to help shape the future of design at WSU, consider contributing to the SDC Interior Design Excellence Fund—every bit of support helps fuel the next generation of designers.

Let's continue to build a strong, creative, and collaborative design community. **Go Cougs**”

Louis Lanthier
Legacy Group Interiors

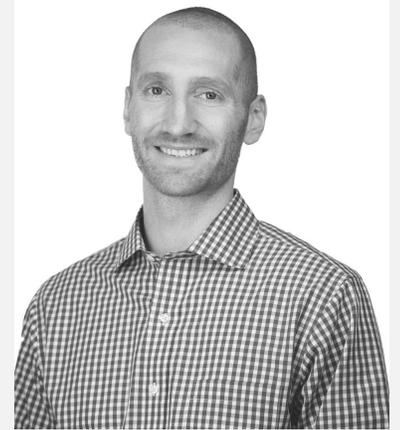


Photo Credit: Louis Lanthier

Interior Design Advisory Board - 2024/2025

Cecelia Arroyo – NAC Architecture – carroyo@nacarchitecture.com

Jenny Bengelt – Momentum – JBengt@momentumbuilds.com

Tim Dickerson – Rice Fergus Miller – TDickerson@rfmarch.com

Marian Evenson – MMEC Emeriutis – MBGEvenson@gmail.com

Mary Knopf – ECI Alaska Emeriutis – mknopf@gci.net

Sara Larson – DLR – slarson@dlrgroup.com

Louis Lanthier – Legacy Group Interiors – louis@legacygroupinteriors.com

Cherie McNabb – Forbo – cherie.mcnabb@forbo.com

Megan Onley – Integrus Architecture – monley@integrusarch.com

Amanda Sellsted – BCRA – asellsted@bcradesign.com

Four members from Gensler's Seattle office came to WSU to review the work in progress of our junior class' global officing projects. We got the opportunity to interview EJ and Bianca from their team.



Photo of Gensler team from left to right, Bianca Dyke, EJ Deasis, Monika Mannix, Miriah Osland.
Photo Credit: Bob Krikac



Gensler members that were interviewed from left to right: Bianca Dyke, EJ Deasis
Photo Credit: Bob Krikac

EJ Deasis and Bianca Dyke of Gensler shared their experiences with WSU students, emphasizing the importance of learning new ideas, mentorship, and real-world exposure. At the junior's critique session, EJ was impressed by WSU students' problem-solving skills. He highlighted how their work can inspire industry professionals. He also stressed the value of exploring firms of different sizes to gain diverse experiences.

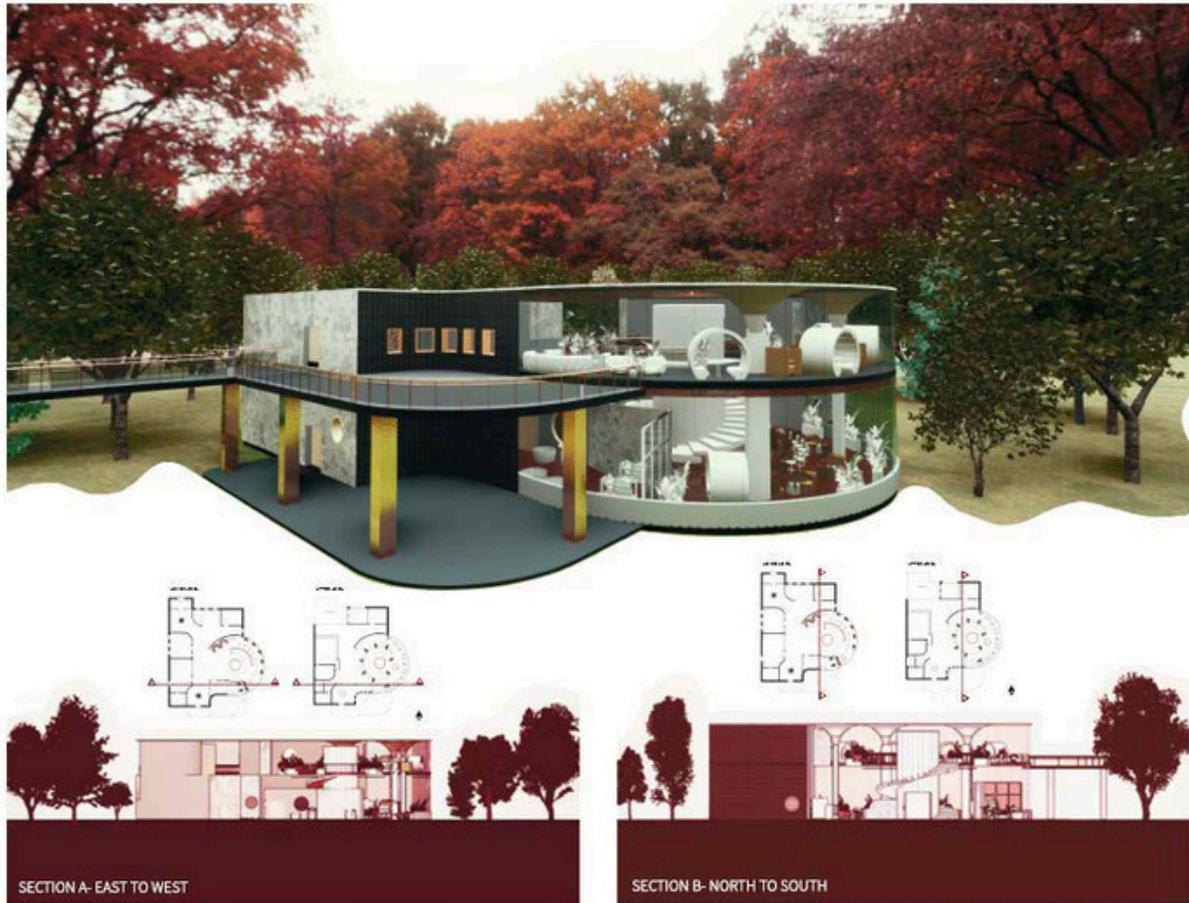
Bianca's career path showcased the versatility of an ID degree, from a furniture franchise internship to a design technician role. She and EJ advised students to welcome diverse entry-level tasks, as they build essential skills to provide fresh insights to firms. Bianca emphasized networking, sharing how connections led to opportunities. Both professionals made clear the significance of mentorship, mentioning its impact on bridging the gap between academics and practical industry experience.

Portfolio Tips from EJ & Bianca

- Digital over paper
- Include hand sketches (shows process)
- Take inspiration from potential employers (they will notice)

Internship at Gensler

EJ and Bianca mention that the internship process for Gensler is simple: they will evaluate your resume and portfolio, then conduct an interview. Once interning at Gensler, interns will work on material maintenance, go on site tours, and assist with smaller parts of a project.



Gateway Studio Project, Cougar Cider Co. & Cafe, Jade Bratrud, Interior Design '25

The Gateway Studio within the School of Design and Construction at Washington State University is a senior-level interdisciplinary design studio where students from landscape architecture, architecture, and interior design collaborate to explore how the built environment can strengthen connectivity between the WSU campus and downtown Pullman, WA. Guided by stakeholder input from the City of Pullman and the WSU President's Office, students developed innovative solutions addressing zero-carbon, equitable, resilient, and socially vibrant design goals. Building on prior collaborative studio experiences, this course challenged students to creatively reimagine the "town and gown" relationship while fostering multidisciplinary skills essential for future professional success.

Instructors: Prof. Robert Krikac, Prof. Matthew Melcher, Prof. Kate Kraszewski, and Prof. Dan Cronan

[The full work of the studio may be viewed here](#)



Photo Credit: Jim Burgess

Jim Burgess

Owner, Burgess Design - Seattle, Wa

Jim Burgess, owner of Burgess Design pursued architecture after discovering his passion for how humans interact with space. After realizing a large firm wasn't the right fit, he built his brand by focusing on a specific strength, rather than trying to do it all. Burgess learned that successful design isn't just about aesthetics; it's about meeting clients' needs. He learned the importance of owning mistakes, staying humble, and building trust. He advises designers to focus on what they're good at rather than just what they love and to embrace what makes them unique. Burgess mentions the importance of learning to be passionate about the entire design process in any career.

Crystal Hooker

Kayser Wesner Manufactures Representative - Seattle, Wa

Crystal Hooker, a commercial furniture manufacturers representative, was inspired to pursue interior design from a young age by drawing floor plans and imagining her dream house. After an internship, she fell in love with commercial design and appreciated the variety it offered. She spent half of her career in commercial design, where a series of events led Hooker to transition to a manufacturers representative role. She enjoys the dynamic nature of the role, which differs from the desk-bound drafting of traditional design. Her interior design background, including being NCIDQ certified, has been essential in building trust with clients and collaborating effectively.



Photo Credit: Crystal Hooker



Photo Credit: Susie Parsons

Susie Parsons

Rice Fergus Miller, Senior Living Design - Bremerton, Wa

Susie Parsons is an interior designer who specializes in senior living design. Inspired by her grandfather's leg amputation and transition to a wheelchair as well as the wheelchair activity completed in the sophomore design studio, she focuses on creating accessible spaces that empower older adults to live independently and comfortably. Her designs emphasize safety, comfort, and elements such as acoustics to support physical and cognitive needs, as well as enhancing social interaction. Parsons enjoys the design variety that senior living projects allow, from residential spaces to healthcare spaces to hospitality amenities like dining venues, clubhouses, and beyond.

Whitney Wiggins

Owner: Florence Street Interiors - Enumclaw, Wa

Whitney Wiggins, owner of Florence Street Interiors, specializes in residential design. Initially studying veterinary medicine at WSU, she discovered her passion for interior design after taking an ID 101 class. After working on commercial projects, she started her business, focusing on creating user-friendly spaces, particularly during COVID. While commercial design offers creative freedom, Wiggins appreciates the personal connections in residential design and enjoys transforming homes. The biggest challenge in launching her business was building confidence, but she finds fulfillment in helping clients, as well as seeing successful projects.



Photo Credit: Whitney Wiggins

Kelly Primm



Photo Credit:
Kelly Primm

LPR Architecture - Tri-Cities WA

Kelly accepted her job as an Interior Designer at LPR Architecture in her senior year. She began working after graduating in 2024, working with architects as the first Interior Designer at this firm. She dove into Revit to learn how to complete construction documents while contacting sales representatives to build the firm's materials library from scratch. She is responsible for designing, drafting, assembling materials palettes, presenting to clients, coordinating with design consultants and going on site to take drone footage of project construction. She thanks WSU for giving her the presentation skills and an understanding of how the design process works from start to finish.

Nicole Bean

Hummel Architects - Boise ID

Nicole graduated from WSU in the spring of 2022 with a job lined up as an Interior Designer at Hummel Architects. She was luckily able to dive right into projects where she learned from mentors and colleagues. She believes that WSU's ID program set her up for success by familiarizing her with how the design process works, challenging her to think about the client's needs and understanding the technicalities of an interior designer's role. Since starting at Hummel, she's had the privilege of working on a variety of projects spanning from healthcare, higher education, government, commercial office, and mixed-used design.



Photo Credit:
Nicole Bean

Alicia Liddel



Photo Credit:
Alicia Liddel

JPC Architects - Bellevue WA

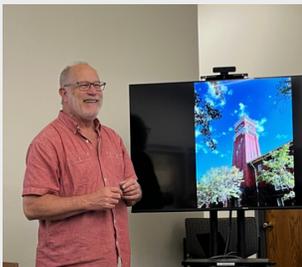
Alicia graduated from WSU in the spring of 2019. She started her first job at JPC Architects as a junior interior designer. She interned at JPS that previous summer, which played a significant role in her being hired full time. Starting as a junior designer meant exposure to a diverse group of corporate office projects and a variety of design phases. Her daily tasks at this time were space planning, selecting finishes, creating design drawings, and attending client meetings. WSU prepared her by giving opportunities to present to industry professionals, developing a strong work ethic, and giving her foundational design skills in software.

INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENT ASSOCIATION - IDSA

7 | SPRING 2025



Image of students Drawing in a drawing workshop
Photo Credit: Jerzee Mecham



Left Image of Bob Krikac presenting to a class,
right image of Bob's Drawing of Brian Clock Tower
Photo Credit: (left) Hannah Warren and (right)
Jerzee Mechan



Left Image of Alex Longwith's drawing of Brian
Clock Tower
Right Image of Kayla Turner at a IDSA recruitment
table
Photo Credit: Hanna Warren

IDSA is a student run program, that meets every other Wednesday and allows students to get involved with each other outside of the classroom.

The mission of IDSA is to bring Cougs of any major together with the love of design. The club offers helpful workshops for design software, hand rendering and other classwork. It also features lectures from industry professionals, as well as fun activities to mingle and meet others interested in design. The student leaders of this organization are elected by members at the end of April every year. If you are interested in joining IDSA please get in contact with kayla.turner@wsu.edu

This spring, Colleen Knowles, a residential designer, spoke about how to prepare for starting your own business and her lessons learned. She reminded the students that there are many years of preparation involved.



Alex Longwith and
Jerzee Mecham at a
IDSA recruitment table

Photo credit: Alex
Longwith

Interested in joining IDSA?

IDSA President: Kayla Turner - kayla.turner@wsu.edu
IDSA VP: Gabriella Person - gabriella.person@wsu.edu



Ireland
Photo Credit: Maddie Plowman



Florence, Italy
Photo Credit: Maddie Plowman

Florence, Italy

During your senior year in the Interior Design Program at WSU you have the opportunity to study abroad for the fall semester in Florence, Italy. Studying abroad is a good way to develop friendships, connections, build confidence and gain perspective. One of the highlights that the participants emphasized was the ability to travel to other cities on the weekend because you have a manageable workload. The classwork exposes you to new building techniques, you get hands on experience and you get the chance to talk with some of the architects and designers in Italy.



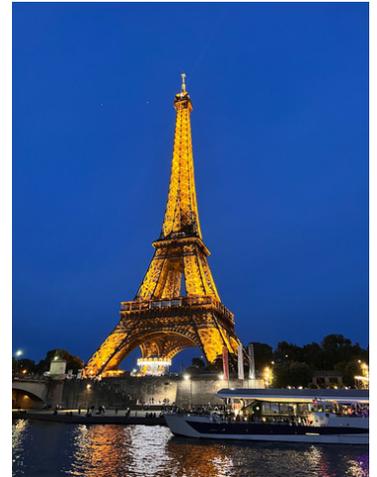
Dublin, Ireland
Photo Credit: Maddie Plowman



Amalfi Coast, Italy
Photo Credit: Maddie Plowman



Paris, France
Photo Credit: Bob Krikac



Paris, France
Photo Credit: Jerzee Mecham

Paris, France

A two-week-long faculty-led opportunity to Paris is also offered in the summer. Here you will get to experience all of the significant museums and monuments. Each day begins with an on-site lecture from the professors, followed by a tour of the museum or monument, time to sketch, and free time.



Paris, France
Photo Credit: Bob Krikac



Paris, France
Photo Credit: Bob Krikac

Freshman



When asked about what excites her about the design profession **Yuliana Pacheco** said that the “opportunity for conscious innovation,” the finding of new materials, rethinking traditional methods or creating impactful designs is what drew her to pursuing this career.



Highlighting her first year in the SDC, **Anna Emter** says that she has found life long friends and has more confidence in being able to talk to TAs and Professors. She loved being able to put her creativity into her work and focus it on pursuing her career.



Kirstina Glass is excited to deepen her understanding of design through hands-on projects, internships, and advanced course work, as well as building meaningful connections with people in her field.

Sophomores

For **Drew Hayton** the experience of going to Watson Furniture and learning the furniture construction process was the highlight of his sophomore year. He also enjoys making more connections with his fellow interior design students.



Sneha Sivasubramanian found that this year made her think about how technical interior design is and that there are so many different aspects of this career she didn't know before.



Shaelyn Shields is excited about how next year she will take the skills she learned Sophomore year and make them even stronger and more refined to be better prepared for the professional arena.



Juniors



When asked how each year's industry engagements was different, **Chamorra Anderson** said that Sophomore year was an eye opener into the interior design industry, while the junior year trip was focused on being highly professional and was informative on getting prepared for the field.



Kayla Turner says how exciting it is to, learn and design around cultural norms within the workplace, and create an inclusive, cohesive, and innovative environment. The spring semester Junior project provided the opportunity to work with the Gensler Seattle office on a global officing project. Her team designed a sportswear brand's corporate office in Tokyo.



Gabriella Person is looking forward to getting hands-on experience, expanding her industry knowledge and being able to apply what she's learned in a professional setting.

Seniors

WSU works to prepare their students to enter the professional world. **Aissa Avalos** says that the ID program has provided her with resources and support through her time at WSU and she feels ready to enter her career knowing she has a strong network of Cougs to reach out to.



Sibleigh Julander is a Senior who got to take a study abroad trip to Italy in the fall. She said that the experience "enriches what we learn in school as designers" and that it re-inspired her on why she chose a creative degree.



When asked about her internship experience **Hannah Warren** said that it was "transformative". It gave her invaluable insights and enriched her journey in becoming an interior designer. It also showed her the importance of designing with empathy.





Photo Credit: Emily Dutton

Emily Dutton

Emily Dutton originally did not plan on pursuing a master's degree, but that changed after she learned about the 1-year master's program here at WSU. Her topic is, *The Impact of Colored Lighting on Student Behavior and Cognition in College Dorms*. Emily determined this research topic through her exploration of campus, noticing that many students were using colored lighting in their dorms. The topic on colored lighting ties into her passion to create interior environments that have positive impacts on people's daily lives.

Hailey Parkison

Hailey Parkison was not originally planning on pursuing a master's degree, but she had an early interest in evidence-based design on the topic of introversion. She then decided to reach out to industry professionals to hear about their experiences, which led her to enter the master's program. Hailey started practicing her topic, design for introversion, during her sophomore year studio. She finds this topic very exciting as she is an introvert herself, and it is a largely untouched topic that impacts roughly 50% of the population.



Photo Credit: Hailey Parkison



Photo Credit: Boning Zhao

Boning Zhao

Boning Zhao was unaware of what a master's degree entailed but was willing to look into it a give it a try. He had a difficult time picking a topic for the program, so he started reading a lot of literature. Through this process, Boning concluded that his topic would be based on office workspace in the post-pandemic era. Through literature, he was able to determine current issues in office design and learn different ways to solve them.

Ward Scholarship in Interior Design

Ella Hsieh
Kayla Turner
Olivia Amyx

Carl Williams Scholarship in Interior Design

Jerzee Mecham
Jamie Henry
Kari Swett

PRISM Scholarship

Riley Bowen
Gabriella Pearson
Madison Plowman

Interior Design Scholarship Fund

Jade Bratrud
Karime Flores Torres

Gary Mueller Memorial Scholarship Fund

Sibleigh Julander

Kathryn Evans Memorial Scholarship

Jodie Sfeuntes



Juniors discuss their current project with Carl and Margaret.

Photo Credit: Bob Krikac

Interior design alumni Carl Williams (BA '70, MA '73) and Margaret Ward ('72) recently returned to Washington State University's Pullman campus for a nostalgic, yet forward-looking visit. Longtime friends and classmates, the two took the opportunity to reconnect with the program that helped shape their careers.

[The full article can be found here](#)

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.

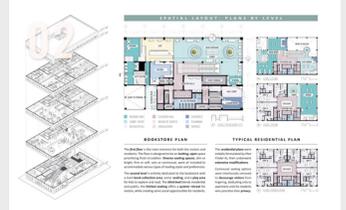
[Click Here to Donate to the Interior Design Program](#)

Ella Hseih - 1st Place Winner



Photo Credit: Ella Hseih

This portfolio design is a personal narrative, or an exploration of my identity through design. It reflects who I am as a designer, and all the influences that have shaped my aesthetics and my works: the four years as an interior design student, my roots in Taiwan, my life in the United States as a “foreigner”, and every piece of great design I have seen and admired. It is such an honor for what I have put together during my time here at Washington State University to be acknowledged like this, and I am deeply grateful for all the opportunities, mentorship, and inspirations that have helped me grow – not only as a designer, but as a person.



Olivia Amyx - 2nd Place Winner

My portfolio is meant to represent myself as a designer through a professional and creative layout. While the overall design is minimal, clean, and consistent, the formatting, hierarchy, and visual harmony of each project shows my creativity and graphic design skills. It features a



wide variety of mediums, project types, and stages of the design process to exemplify my capabilities as an interior design student. In some ways, it reads like a magazine, where the visuals are the main focus, and supplemental text further explains the context and justifies the meaning.

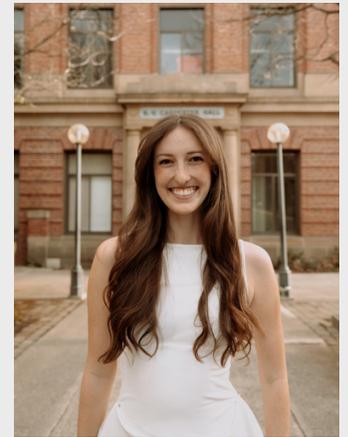


Photo Credit: Olivia Amyx

Sibleigh Julander - 3rd Place Winner



Photo Credit: Sibleigh Julander

The design of my portfolio is meant to illustrate my growth as a student and showcase the range of skills I use to communicate design. My goal for the design of my portfolio was to create a layout that is both seamless and flexible. A layout easily adaptable for adding or removing projects as my work evolves while maintaining clean lines to let my work shine through. Each project is presented with a balance of visual aids and written descriptions to ensure the portfolio can be clearly understood without verbal explanation. I introduce each project with its concept, tools used, and final render, followed by supporting drawings and diagrams that further communicate my design process. At its core, this portfolio is a reflection of my passion for thoughtful design and I hope that this shines through.





Photo Credit: Vahid Vahdat

Vahid Vahdat

Interior Design professor Vahid Vahdat published a new book titled, “A Purple Architecture: Design in the Age of the Physical-Virtual Continuum.” The book, which was published by Carnegie Mellon University’s ETC Press was recognized as 2024's winner in the art category by the Next Generation Indie Book Awards..

Alana Pulay

Professor Alana Pulay, a faculty member in the Interior Design program, recently concluded a research project at Palouse Elementary that explored the impact of lighting on student behavior, task completion, and teacher interactions. The study aimed to understand how different lighting colored temperatures affect classroom dynamics. In March 2025, Pulay presented her findings at the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) conference.

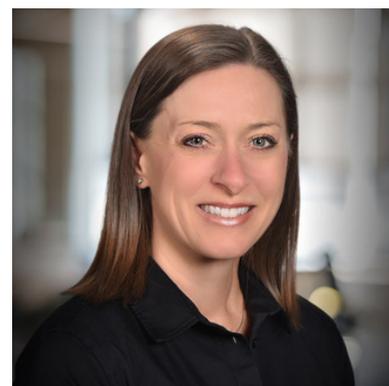


Photo Credit: Alana Pulay

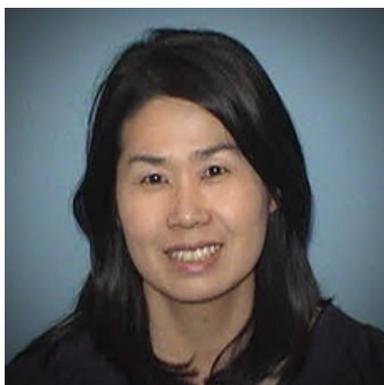


Photo Credit: Minyoung Cerruti

Minyoung Cerruti

Professor Minyoung Cerruti, from the Architecture and Interior Design program, leads the Health Design and Research (HD&R) Lab, where she explores how sensory features in the built environment can reduce anxiety among vulnerable populations. Recently, she has completed two studies investigating the effects of colored lighting as a tool to alleviate anxiety, enhance working memory, and support positive behaviors in young children, both with and without neurodiversity. Dr. Cerruti was also awarded a grant to further develop and commercialize an innovative multisensory pod—an outcome of these studies—designed to support nurses, neurodiverse children, older adults, and their caregivers.

ID Faculty and Staff 2024-2025

Robert Krikac – ID Program Head, Associate Professor

Minyoung Cerruti – Associate Professor

Alana Pulay – Associate Professor

Bill Furman – Senior Lecturer

Carrie Vielle – Associate Professor

Vahid Vahdat – Associate Professor

Jess Cross – Academic Advisor