WE ARE RANKED

No. 9  Top 10 U.S. Interior Design Graduate Programs

No. 1  Interior Design Graduate Program in Florida

No. 4  Top 5 Interior Design Undergraduate Programs in the southern U.S.

No. 2  Top 5 Interior Design Graduate Programs in the southern U.S.

DesignIntelligence 2015 RANKINGS
Introduction

We are proud to present to you the highlights and accomplishments from Florida International University’s Interior Architecture Program in Spring 2015. This has been a good year for the Interior Architecture Department; first and foremost, we achieved one of our major goals and were recognized as belonging among the preeminent Interior Architecture programs in the country. In November 2014, we were ranked the 9th best interior design graduate program in the nation for 2015 by DesignIntelligence, a direct result of the department’s relentless pursuit of our core academic mission to engage our local and global communities by using the power of Interior Architecture to create, innovate, and inspire solutions to social, economic, and environmental issues. The information in this book represents our department’s efforts to achieve success in three key areas:

- Preparing our students for seamless career opportunities or for further education,
- Enriching lives and engaging our communities responsibly,
- Investing in the success of our students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni.

This folio thus documents the results of many initiatives our program has implemented this year in the areas of engagement, leadership, and design excellence.

Most importantly, this book reflects our program as a dynamic community, passionate about design and the contributions it makes to the world around us. Enjoy!

Janine King  
Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Interior Architecture  
Florida International University College of Architecture + The Arts
Engagement

Students listen to a presentation by architect Brandon Haw at the Faena Collaboratory. Photograph provided courtesy of Faena
Martin and Dr. Constance Silver, M.S.W. Award Art in Public Interiors Scholarships

On January 22nd, 2015 Martin and Dr. Constance Silver, M.S.W. handed out the Fall 2014 Art in Public Interiors awards to students in the Master of Interior Architecture program.

Three students from each design studio were selected as award recipients. Each student was given a scholarship according to his/her ranking. The scholarship funds devoted to the Art in Public Interiors program amounted to a total amount of $7,000, thanks to Martin and Dr. Constance Silver.

The following students from the following design studios received Art in Public Interiors Awards. They were awarded for being the best who integrated artwork and collections of art into their interior architecture designs.

**Design 3**
1st – Daniel Ruggero ($1,000)
2nd – Nishita Aswani ($500)
3rd – Leeann Evron ($250)

**Grad 1**
1st – Amy Alonso ($1,000)
2nd – Anamary Fernandez ($500)
3rd – Francene Halili ($250)

**Grad 3**
1st – Adriana Lacruz ($1,000)
2nd – Monica Fuentes ($500)
3rd – Frank Baster ($250)

**Grad 5**
1st – Michelle Jardine ($1,000)
2nd – Fatma Hasanian ($500)
3rd – Alejandra Saul ($250)
Italian Cultural Exchange: From the Students’ Perspectives

We want our students to have a global view in their work, one which draws on cultural, social, and economic interconnections to create a context for design. As part of the FIU Interior Architecture’s Cruise Ship & Super Yacht Design Certificate’s Italian cultural exchange program, naval architecture students from the Università degli Studi di Genova study for a week at FIU, working in teams with FIU Interior Architecture students, and then FIU students travel to La Spezia, Italy to work with the same students at the Promostudi La Spezia, Polo Universitario G. Marconi campus. Thus, each group of students has the opportunity to travel abroad to examine a different perspective on boat design.

To the right are two recollections written by Katrina Best (FIU Master of Interior Architecture student) and Riccardo Menin (Bachelor’s in Industrial Design – Curriculum Yacht Design and Master’s Degree in Ship and Cruising Vessel Design student).
Riccardo Menin, Università degli Studi di Genova

The international exchange with Università degli Studi di Genova and Florida International University played an important role in our growth.

Future jobs in the design industry presuppose the need for a hardworking disposition and perfect synergy within a team. The intensive team experiences facilitated by the cultural exchange workshops definitely allowed for the realization of this kind of training.

The comparison method, the hard work, and the exchange with the FIU students was a significant opportunity and an important part of our development. Though our method of working was different than the American method, we had a similar work ethic, and this combination created projects that have made both parties very proud.

Working for long hours, day and night, for a week in the classrooms of FIU's campus was so different from the European standards, but it was a great experience and a great honor for us.

Having worked closely with students from a different continent and with a different background has enriched our experience and has contributed to our growth. It has given us a fantastic opportunity to meet not just people, but friends.

Katrina Best, FIU Interior Architecture

Our time spent at the Polo G. Marconi Campus of the University of Genova in La Spezia was edifying in many ways. It was an unparalleled learning experience, on both an educational and personal level.

During the week spent working with the students from Italy, we were able to gain a greater appreciation for the technical elements that need to be considered when designing the interior of a yacht. However, aside from learning about the technical elements of yacht design, one of the great takeaways from the exchange was being exposed to a different design methodology.

We were challenged to understand the Italians’ process and find a way to bridge cultural variances in order to create a successful interior space. This also helped us to hone our skills in effective listening and communication. In the face of globalization and the changing landscape of design, this was undoubtedly an invaluable life lesson.

Another important cultural lesson learned was the importance of a work-life balance. The school life in La Spezia is considerably different from that in Miami. In Miami, we often take advantage of and take for granted FIU’s 24-hour architecture studio access. The campus in La Spezia closes promptly at 7pm daily and the students make “la cena” a priority. Many times the members of our class forgo dinner to work on assignments. It was a good reminder that taking time for yourself does not mean that you have to sacrifice the quality of work that can be produced.

Lastly, but by no means least, the cultural exchange was invaluable simply because of the relationships we formed with the Italian students. The chemistry between the two classes, for such a large group, was extraordinary. Everyone seemed to gel, and this connection showed in the quality of projects produced by each team. Certainly some lasting friendships evolved as a result of the exchange.
Students from Florida International University and the Università degli Studi di Genova participate in a tour of Ferretti Group Yachts with UNIGE Professor of Architecture Massimo Musio Sale.
Students Tour Faena Collaboratory and Faena House Miami Beach

On March 19th, 2015, FIU Interior Architecture students in Luxury Residential Interior Architecture and Design (taught by Adjunct Faculty Liliana Korn Custy) visited the Faena Collaboratory and toured Faena House Miami Beach.

The Faena Collaboratory is a showroom ensuing from the work and philosophy of a creative group which includes architect Brandon Haw, the lead architect of Faena House Miami Beach. The Collaboratory is “a creative think-tank, a laboratory of true collaboration consisting of a group of individuals of genius who interact, play with concepts, and transform [Faena’s] projects into the most imaginative reality.” (Source: Faena)

FIU Interior Architecture students toured the Faena Collaboratory, where Pablo de Ritis (Vice President of Faena Rose, Culture and Community Relations for Faena Group) talked to the students about the Faena District and Faena’s cultural philosophy.

Afterwards, the students enjoyed a presentation by Brandon Haw which touched on his background, career, projects, and design theories, and included a discussion on design and architectural history, theory, and practice. Then, the students experienced a hard hat tour by Haw of the Faena House Miami Beach. The students had the opportunity to examine all elements included in a luxury residential project, and through their exposure to Faena’s values and project details, learned how to understand a client and provide high-class services.
Art in Public Interiors Course at FIU Welcomes Prominent Guest Lecturers

Art in Public Interiors – a course taught by Interior Architecture Adjunct Faculty member Kemo Duddle (MIA ’14) – saw visits by important guest lecturers this Spring semester.

This Spring, the course welcomed:

**Dr. Constance Silver**
Constance Silver, M.S.W., Ph.D is a teacher, psychoanalyst, highly recognized artist, and philanthropist all rolled into one. Dr. Silver is the vice chairperson of the NYU Board of Trustees. Along with her husband Martin, she established the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at NYU.

**Sebastien Laboureau**
A native of France, Laboureau is the founder of Moonster Fine Arts. He is an adviser to many individuals and corporations investing in art. He has a wealth of knowledge about the value, impact, and growth of the worldwide art market, and is a very active supporter of Art Basel-Miami Beach.

**Sir Alan Duddle**
Former creative director and member of the board of directors for brands such as Ritz, Dunhill, Cartier, Harrods (London), Sir Duddle was responsible for the interiors, product development, packaging, and marketing of these highly recognized labels, all of which include art in various forms as part of their public identity.

**Irvin Lippman**
Lippman is the executive director of the Boca Raton Museum of Art. Previously, Irvin held the same post at the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art/Nova Southeastern University and the Columbus Museum of Art (Ohio).

Art in Public Interiors focuses on how students can integrate artwork and collections of art into their interior architecture designs. In addition to listening to guest lecturers speak on this subject, students visited the Pérez Art Museum Miami and The Wolfsonian-FIU.

The adjunct faculty member behind the course, Kemo Duddle, had already established a successful career in both Europe and the U.S before coming back to FIU to teach. He worked on prestigious projects for companies such as Cartier, Calvin Klein, the Ritz Hotel, and Harrods. Duddle presently focuses on high-end homes both in Europe and in the United States. He recently launched his own American company called Kemo Design International, which concentrates on residential, hospitality, and commercial establishments, particularly in Miami, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean. Duddle has been instrumental in the development of the Martin and Constance Silver Awards, which recognizes students in FIU Interior Architecture for integrating artwork into their designs of interiors.
Students from Art in Public Interiors pose in front of “Western Sun” by Mark Handforth at the Pérez Art Museum Miami.
Excellence
2015 Interior Design Emerging Symposium Held at MBUS with Karim Rashid

On April 10th, 2015, FIU and its Interior Architecture Department hosted the 2015 Interior Design Emerging Symposium at The College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios.

*Blurred Lines*, the 2015 Interior Design Emerging Symposium, gathered various representatives of interior design and architecture to advocate for professional identity, support cultural diversity through design, encourage global connectivity, and foster interdisciplinary exchanges. The 2015 symposium theme, *Blurred Lines*, referred to those narrow and vacillating borders between the designs of interior spaces and the objects, forms, and technologies that interact in and out of those spaces. *Blurred Lines* investigated the ever-evolving role of the Interior Architect/Interior Designer as an individual that creatively touches every part of the built landscape. The keynote speaker for the symposium was Interior Architect and Industrial Designer Karim Rashid.

Symposium guests were exposed to an interdisciplinary approach to design when participants shared and discussed ideas and research findings, an experience that allowed them to learn about “new possibilities and reinvented spaces and objects that blur the lines of convention and shape an unbounded future.”

The bi-annual symposium, in its second year in 2015, was under the direction of Sarah Boehm, Assistant Professor in the FIU Interior Architecture Department, who coordinates the amazing meeting of practitioners, scholars, and students.
Interior Architect and Industrial Designer Karim Rashid directs a student workshop at The College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios.
Students Awarded at Interior Architecture Master Project Jury

FIU’s Master of Interior Architecture program prepares students for a successful future after graduation, especially through the Master Project Jury conducted at the end of each semester for those in their final term. Completing the program in its entirety prepares our graduates to meet the profession and tackle new challenges in a refreshing manner.

This Spring, FIU Interior Architecture presented the following awards:

**Design Excellence**
Alexandra Fernandez
Dragana Stovanovic
Cristiana Quinonez
Antonella Jahn

**Exceptional Application of Research**
Patricia Rotella Martinez

**Design Scholarship (Highest GPA)**
Michelle Jardine
Fatma Hasanain

**Excellence in Sustainable Design**
Dragana Stovanovic
Estefany Intriago

**Jurors’ Choice Awards for Best Presentation**
1st place: Antonella Jahn
2nd place: Dragana Stovanovic
3rd place: Gabrielle Gonzalez
Rick and Margarita Tonkinson Host Their Interior Architecture Scholarship Winners

Rick Tonkinson, Chair of the CARTA Advisory Board, and his wife Margarita have thoroughly enjoyed working with Isabel Collazos, Stephanie Jenkins, and Filippo Poggipolini, the three FIU graduate students in interior architecture who are working as a team to redesign the master bathroom in the Tonkinson estate home.

At the wine and cheese event at the Tonkinsons’ home, the couple had the opportunity to present the students to faculty, fellow students, and the CARTA Dean’s Leadership Advisory Board. Janine King, Chair of Interior Architecture, and Mark Marine have been the students’ faculty advisors. They were also at the wine and cheese event.

The Tonkinsons awarded the three students scholarships for their excellent work. The Tonkinsons serve as a role model to other CARTA Board Members to use the talent of the students and faculty of CARTA.

This article was written by Ashley Garcia, Coordinator, Advancement and Alumni Relations.
Left to right: Isabel Collazos, Rick Tonkinson, Margarita Tonkinson, Stephanie Jenkins, Filippo Poggipolino
Leadership

Kreon creative director and award winning interior architect Oliver Koch reviews ASIA Triplex Penthouse Projects by students in Luxury Residential Interior Architecture.
Leaders of Design Features School of Architecture Alumni

As a featured event of FIU’s Panther Alumni Week (PAW), the Leaders of Design exhibition and its accompanying alumni panel on February 5th, 2015 had a great turnout of students, faculty, and CARTA friends at The College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios. Alumni in the design disciplines came from near and far for a panel discussion about creativity careers and celebrated the opening of an exhibition of FIU alumni work. The exhibit presented the alumni’s projects from Perkins + Will, HOK, Gensler, ArquitectonicaGEO, Enea Landscape Architecture, EDSA, CASE Inc., Rene Gonzalez Architecture, STA Architectural Group, Urban Works Architecture, Trachtenberg Architects, Antrobus + Ramirez, and RTKL Associates Inc.

FIU College of Architecture + The Arts Dean Brian Schriner started the evening with opening remarks and a welcome to the visiting CARTA alumni, students, and faculty. Professor Jason Chandler, Chair of the FIU Department of Architecture, moderated the panel of ten alumni, who graduated from the FIU Departments of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design. The panel discussed a broad range of professional experiences after FIU, many while working in international design firms. The alumni also discussed how their education at FIU prepared them for various opportunities after commencement and how what they learned at the university contributed to their professional careers.

The following alumni were represented in Leaders of Design this year:

**FIU Architecture Alumni**
- Leo Alvarez, Perkins + Will (BS ’79)
- Liliana Andrade, ArquitectonicaGEO (MA ’07)
- Jessica Ball, Rene Gonzalez Architecture (BA ’07)
- Pina Del Conte, Rene Gonzalez Architecture (M.Arch ’06)
- David Fano, CASE Inc. (BA ’03)
- Frederico Hurtado, STA Architectural Group (M.Arch ’06)
- Alexandra Pagliery, Rene Gonzalez Architecture (MA ’13)
- Maria Pellot, Urban Works Architecture (BS ’94)
- Daniel Romero (MA ’01)
- Jordan Trachtenberg, Trachtenberg Architects (BA ’05)
- Monica Vazquez, Rene Gonzalez Architecture (MA ’00)

**FIU Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design Alumni**
- Jose Alvarez, EDSA (MLA ’13)
- Margarita Blanco, ArquitectonicaGEO (MLA ’05)
- Sefora Chavarria, EDSA (MLA ’11)
- Kristen Hoover, EDSA (MLA ’12)
- Ben Hutchens, ArquitectonicaGEO (MLA ’06)
- Joanna Ibarra, EDSA (MLA ’12)
- Carolina Jaimez, ENEA (MLA ’11)
- Chelsi Liane Rome, Perkins + Will (MLA ’11)
- Alejandro Perez, ArquitectonicaGEO (MLA ’11)
- Maria Pizano, Perkins + Will (MLA ’12)
- Suhey Rojas, ArquitectonicaGEO (MLA ’14)
- Andrea Sandoval, Perkins + Will (MLA ’14)
- Laurinda Spear, ArquitectonicaGEO (MLA ’05)

**FIU Interior Architecture Alumni**
- Diana Farmer-Gonzalez, Gensler (BS ’96)
- Marlene Liriano, HOK (BA ’89)
- Ruby Ramirez, Antrobus + Ramirez (BA ’01)
- Yohandel Ruiz, RTKL Associates Inc. (BA ’98)
Sarah Boehm Presents on Cultural Competence and Effective Empathy at IDEC 2015 Conference

In March 2015, Assistant Professor Sarah Boehm presented “Encouraging Cultural Competence Through Effective Empathy” at the Interior Design Educators Council 2015 Annual Conference. The presentation was part of the post-conference Journal of Interior Design Symposium.

The theme for the IDEC 2015 conference was “Catalyst of Innovation.” The Annual Conference gathered the interior design industry, including leaders of interior design firms, interior design practitioners, design firm representatives, industry partners, publishers and both educators and students at universities, colleges and interior design schools. This year’s conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas. (Source: IDEC)

Clearly defining cultural competence in relation to interior design education is the first step toward embracing such a paradigm. A culturally competent interior designer must know, understand, and appreciate a variety of cultures and viewpoints. Professor Boehm’s paper advances the idea that teaching an empathic approach to design, one which includes immersive research methods, could promote cultural competence in interior design students. Such an approach will allow more culturally appropriate applications of designers’ knowledge, values, and skills, as governed by empathy, when designing in a global market. To achieve this, educators must infuse empathy-cultivating activities throughout the curriculum to shape culturally competent, global-minded citizens. Such activities can provide ample opportunities for students to break away from their own cultural boundaries and genuinely understand users of space from a wide variety of perspectives. Boehm’s paper illustrates selected empathy-cultivating activities that have the potential to shape culturally-sensitive globally minded interior designers.
Encouraging Cultural Competence Through Effective Empathy

Sarah Boehm
College of Architecture and the Arts
Assistant Professor, Interior Architecture
sboehm@fiu.edu
Academics

The Interior Architecture department offers a professional Master of Interior Architecture degree (MIA). Eligible candidates include high school students entering as freshmen, community college students with AA degrees, and candidates with baccalaureate degrees in interior design, architecture or any other field. Students already in the MIA program who are interested in training for a career in the cruise ship design industry can also earn a Certificate in Cruise Ship & Super Yacht Interior Design.

Master of Interior Architecture

- MIA (5-Year)
- MIA (3-Year)
- MIA (2-Year)

Cruise Ship & Super Yacht Certificate Program

The Interior Architecture Department at Florida International University offers an innovative program in cruise ship design, the nation's only formal educational initiative that prepares interior designers to work in the cruise ship and yacht industry. The Certificate in Cruise Ship and Super Yacht Interior Design program utilizes partnerships between FIU and design departments of major cruise lines to offer interior design graduate students the opportunity to train for careers in this exciting industry.

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You can visit us in the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture Building, Office 272, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Call (305) 348-2765 or email us at cartaadv@fiu.edu to make an appointment.
With over to 100 students in our Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) accredited Master of Interior Architecture program, the Interior Architecture Department at FIU is one of the premiere professional interior design programs in South Florida. Recognized as the 9th best interior design program in the United States, we are known for the quality of our students, for our excellent faculty, and for our strong relationship with Miami design professionals. We offer our students cutting edge award-winning facilities that house studios, galleries, labs and workshops, and foster a dynamic community of creative and ardent lifelong learners investigating design and its countless contributions to society.

The College of Architecture + The Arts
The College of Architecture + The Arts engages our local and global communities by deploying the power of architecture + the arts to create, innovate, and inspire solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Offering 9 graduate and 8 undergraduate degrees within 7 academic departments, our more than 2,500 majors have the unique experience working with our award-winning faculty, in nationally ranked programs, in the heart of Miami — one of the country's most vibrant, diverse, and creative cities! For more information, visit us at http://carta.fiu.edu/.