Located in a multi-cultural dynamic urban city, the FIU interior Architecture program in Miami is a unique creative environment within the hub of design industry. Professional design critiques and mentors formally participate in our students’ growth. Our vision is to engage in an interdisciplinary, culturally rich setting, that enables, creates and imagines a more responsible, sustainable, and humane environment. Our degree programs are gateways to preparing graduates who embrace these current and future worlds.

As human beings, we spend over 90% of our time indoors. Interior architecture is hence a central discipline for maintaining human wellness and environmental sustainability. While there is often a common misconception that interior designer’s focus only on ‘interior surface textures,’ the practice today addresses macro-trends of health, well-being, technology, sustainability, urbanization, globalization, and resilience. Interior designers are hence called on to collaborate with interdisciplinary experts to offer evidence-based solutions. As we advance into the future, smart building technologies, internet of things and robotics are becoming integrated into building practices that are ubiquitous part of the building interiors.

Today, in the pandemic era, as we spend copious amounts of time in the indoors, we can reflect on the difference, interior architecture makes to our lives and lives of others. As we have learned, the more vulnerable we are, the more the environment affects us. Through design we can bring healing to people in sickness and improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable. We can bring to bear our collective knowledge and skills to become stewards of a sustainable environment.

To support our students, the Festival of the Trees (FOT), an annual fundraising event coordinated by our department and its advisory board, brings together South Florida’s architecture and design community. We are thankful to all our donors, sponsors and well-wishers, and are honored to present student projects that won the FOT merit awards on design excellence. We hope to continue the mission of providing enriched educational experiences to our students in a highly dynamic environment where creativity flourishes and gives birth to next generation of design leaders.

Chair’s Message

Chair, Newton D’Souza
FIU Interior Architecture
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The Master's Studio is the culmination of the professional degree program in Interior Architecture. This studio is a synthesis of each student's educational experience within the program. Students explore advanced problems in interior design with emphasis on critical thinking within the design process, development, and resolution. Each student identifies, initiates, and develops their own project in response to their literature review, research methods study, and programming efforts. The outcomes of this studio demonstrate a higher level of complexity in both thinking and problem solving than is encountered in previous design studios. The thesis culminates through information and evidence gathered through previous courses of research methods, literature review and programming. Students in this course use commercial, residential, educational, hospitality, and institutional environments to explore issues related to human needs, goals, and experience of interior architectural spaces.
Television is the art of telling a story by organizing a sequence of actions that evokes emotions in the users. Its evolution throughout the years has changed the way we experience each new story, but the idea remains the same. Netflix Evolution aims to tell the story of cinema through its evolution, using the spaces, technologies, and movies as formal elements to conduct the story. The project uses different formal cues to ‘tell a story’ where we look back at the past to see where we are heading in the future. The materiality of the space captures elements used in recording studios such as acoustical features which serve both as a functional and aesthetic elements. The finished palette will support the Netflix brand, neutral colors with subtle red accents. Contrast between wood, black, and concrete materials are central to the project.
BALANCE BY EVOLVE

NJODD BOKHARI

BALANCE Wellness Center is a destination for millennials who crave customization, social connection & unique experience. This project follows a homeostatic approach that promotes positive balance between activities, enclosures, patterns and forms. Fading the line between traditional and nontraditional, dynamic and tranquil, natural and human-made, tangible and intangible. It reconnects them in harmony within themselves, the environment and with one another. It behaves in unexpected ways, surprising us with its apparent suddenness. The mission is to encourage users to invest into improving their wellbeing, until finally breaking out of their shell and feel free. It’s a journey, an adventure, a celebration of the mind, soul & body.
When designing the interior environment of a cancer healthcare setting, it is important to understand the patient's perspective as to what they believe contributes to their ability to heal. Another defining factor is understanding what treatment means to the patient, and it could be defined differently based on the medical approach taken. The space will focus on psychological, physical, spiritual healing which aims to promote patient well-being by combining traditional medicine and holistic approaches in a hospitality setting.
The design seeks to challenge the hospital environment and break its rigidity. Fusing hospitality and healthcare, the line between both worlds will be erased creating an idyllic environment. The interior design will incorporate the 5 key elements gathered from previous research. These are: color, biophilia, audio and visual privacy, positive distraction as well as furniture and finishes in order to create an optimal center that will aid in the healing and recovery of the patients. This healing resort will only think of the patient’s well-being and their journey to recovery, not the illness.
The course investigates the attitudes and psychological needs of users with a real-world case study. Using research techniques such as photo-interviews, activity mapping, surveys and interviews, Research methods course introduces procedures to collect and analyze data on human behavior leading to the Master’s Capstone Project. Design evidence collected in this project follows the literature review in the previous semester. Students examine a real-world project and gather evidence from the community in order to create an evidence-base and apply them as design guidelines in their thesis.
Most important types of play witnessed:
- Individual
- Sibling play
- Group
- Same age pairing

Welfare in America has housed nearly 400,000 children yearly. Systemic issues have come forth that impede youth from successfully transitioning into independent living. We aim to identify these youth as well as address the fundamental needs that a child needs to transition into adulthood. This research delves into evidence-based design in congregate care to assure that adolescent developmental needs are met, a caring environment is provided in the process, and therapeutic interventions are afforded to mediate any issues during this period of growth and instability. Our research topic pertains to forming an understanding of the needs of adolescents in the foster care system and facilitating their transition into independent adulthood through architectural and spatial qualities.
In general, we tend to spend most of our adult life in a workplace environment. We are living in an era of dramatic changes that are impacting businesses, cities and human experiences. Technology is playing one of the biggest roles in our daily life, since it has become ubiquitous in places of work and leisure and embedded in our buildings and city. Is not only affecting how we live but is also disrupting traditional business practices. Techniques such as Behavior mapping analyze the usage of the space in relationship to people. It is also important to notice where these activities are taking place since the implementation of mobile technologies bring the opportunity to patrons to work from different locations.
The Activities Mapping show the frequency and how much time the subject spend in each point of the space where they realize some activity, the workers on the second floor usually moves more in the surrounding areas to they workstation since the use of desktop computers not permit the change of scenario as easily as their coworkers from other spaces.

INTERVIEW CONCLUSIONS

1. Issues related with privacy and the need of spaces with different design features and the same function. (Focus rooms and pods).

2. One of the most evident issues that the users have with the space is the lack of greenery and natural elements on the workplace.

3. Privacy is often related with the open plan office settings. The use of low panels for the division of workstations is also part of the perceived lack of privacy.

4. The lack of control in the general setting (temperature, natural light, work setting, levels of enclosures) is one of the biggest impact in the wellbeing of the users.

5. There is a general understanding that the design of the space lacks of privacy. Which we see can be modified allowing employees to have more control of the setting.

6. The use of technology in many cases to create the desired level of privacy, for example the use of headphones to block external sound.

7. A big percentage of the work in the office is related with the use of technologies specially emails, phone calls, the use of desktops and laptops.

8. The possibility to work in different parts of the office is completely related to the use of technologies (desktops and laptops).

9. The open plan promotes the collaboration between users at different levels of enclosures and privacy. They can have quick conversation over the workstation or use private conference rooms for more privacy.

10. The lack of spaces where the users can practice different physical activities influence the perception of wellbeing of the workers.
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS II

RETAIL SHOWROOM

This course explores advanced problems in interior design with an emphasis on design, detailing, and the production of construction documents for commercial projects. This course introduces complexity of details and uses commercial environments to explore issues related to human materials, construction methods, code compliance, construction documentation, and graphic communication techniques.

PROFESSOR CATERINA GARCIA & PROFESSOR MERCEDES GARCIA
The goal of FIU-HKS healthcare design studio is to engage interior architecture students at FIU with practitioners and leaders in healthcare design at HKS, Miami. Students tackle the complexity of healthcare design situations by proposing a transformative healthcare program by developing critical thinking and associated design solutions. The project was to design a pediatric ambulatory surgery space addressing hospital management issues such as efficiency, surveillance, privacy, sterilization, patient flow, staff flow and equipment flow among others. In the first project, students designed “a journey to the surgery rooms,” for children who are ready to go into surgery. The goal is to create evidence-based design to reduce preoperative anxiety may improve surgical outcome, shorten hospital stay, and minimize lifestyle disruption. The second part of the project included detailing out clinical spaces such as preoperative, PACU, operation post-operative, educational and staff spaces. The final part of the project included a prototyping exercise that provides innovative insights into healthcare design project.

PROFESSOR NEWTON D’SOUZA & ARTHUR BRITO, HKS ARCHITECTS
This is the story of a family who wanted to connect and discover new places they could explore and experience adventure. They would be visiting the NASA Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral and then spend the day at Magic Kingdom. This was an early vacation since Oliver will go under surgery in a couple of weeks, missing part of the summer. Sadly, the center was closed for a scheduled maintenance. Oliver was devastated. The time passed and the day of the surgery Oliver was anxious because he’s being treated in a new hospital with new doctors. Arriving at the parking lot, they saw through the windows in the facade an oversize structure similar to a rocket. Oliver was amused and began walking faster to get to the entry of the buildings and find the elevators. When they entered the elevator Oli and his family were thrilled to get a better view of the “rocket.” His mom heard about these features before they visited and decided to keep it a secret so in the end Oli would be surprised and more comfortable before the surgery. Stepping out of the elevator was like entering the NASA Space Center, the big rocket at the end of the hallway promised fun and exploration as they were waiting. The lobby was configured to give the impression of a spatial station, with a command center, a lunar module, and the view of educational graphics and sculptures. Oli spent the time playing with Neil and Victoria while waiting for the surgery, he was so relaxed that the doctor’s were able to ensure he was comfortable and the surgery was a success!
We create the 'Ibed' with the objective of a more efficient service in the hospitality sector. The main feature of the design is the possibility to plug the bed directly to the wall without any cables. The bed is also equipped with a rechargeable battery and a status display that allow to monitor the patient. The functional principle of the Ibed is based on the Form and Contra-form between the one piece of bed and one from the wall. Both elements work as a system where different configurations are possible for the wall according to the hospital room. The entire body of the Ibed is created with environmentally friendly materials according to the Cradle to Cradle certification.
ALYSSA GARCIA
LUISA CASTANEDA

Models artistic design elements on naturally occurring patterns or shapes reminiscent of nature and living organisms. It also attempts to force naturally occurring shapes onto functional devices. In nature, especially at a marine life and cellular level, we find spherical arrangements, fractals of patterns (repetition at varying scales), a center core, and highly saturated palletes.
Florida encompasses an astonishing diversity of species and ecosystems. These species and ecosystems are a valuable resource to our state and what makes up Florida’s existence. By incorporating four of Florida’s main ecosystems into the design, the project strives to bring a little piece of Florida’s natural wonders into the facility while educating its users on the importance of conserving and protecting our local animal species, agriculture, resources and overall environment.
This exploratory studio will focus on developing a global approach to designing with awareness and respect for cultural, social, individual, and environmental relationship differences and the implications of conducting the practice of design within the context of a world market.
CONTEMPLATIVE SENSORY SANCTUARY

MELISSA BRICENO
ANGIE GONZALEZ

Through the exploration of vertical and horizontal enclosure systems, the Contemplative Sensory Sanctuary delineates and organizes a collection of architectural space integrated within nature that allow self-contemplation while experiencing the senses; aligning the mind, body, and soul.
The intent of this design is to create a space that connects the user to the exterior environment by incorporating open and transparent views while providing a sense of security with enclosed areas. The design creates a space that is cohesive by integrating detailed elements that compliment and balance each other.
This studio course explores advanced problems in interior architecture with an emphasis on the design of cruise ship and super yacht interior environments. This course explores issues related to environment and behavior in determining and meeting programmatic goals and designing to create specific experiences of the interior spaces of various passenger vessels.
SAN LORENZO STUDIOILSE

ALEJANDRO ESTRADA

A yacht that enhances life through design and uses rich tactile materials on surfaces, furnishings and fixtures that affords rejuvenation. Ilse employs details that foster well-being using sustainable architectural elements, framing moments that enhance human interaction and create a sense of understated luxury.
The Alexander McQueen Special Edition SD126 will combine traditional design and modern technology. Natural forms will balance linear elements to evoke a SENSUALITY and direct MOVEMENT. Light fabrics with CONTRAST dark leathers and offer the user a sensorial experience. The overall spatial configuration of the yacht, will go from a light EMBRACING to a dark scene.
This studio course builds on the lessons learned in Graduate Design 2 and seeks to deepen student learning in several different areas of the design process. These include the application of theory, research, information gathering and programming, ideation, three-dimensional design development, and detailing. Studio instruction generates an active and dynamic learning environment where students gather information and appropriately applying this knowledge in the design of the retail environment. Through this design process students will understand current issues regarding retail design, how to design for a particular sector, and why it is important that interior designs respond to client and users’ needs and desires.
The design intent was to create an environment where the user feels intrigued to explore. By using natural features and materials we are creating a calming experience while balancing the different areas with impactful elements. By using materials at different scales, the user will grasp the intention of different areas and services allowing a clear understanding of the space.
Inspired by the organic elements of Jasmin Tea and its meaning, the interior of Xenses is designed to provide a serene and inspiring environment that promotes relaxation for both the user and staff.
Weaving natural aspects into the fabric of the surrounding urban environment, nouveau focuses on a holistic approach to beauty and wellness. By combining ancient philosophies and modern methods to purify and restore, Nouveau represents brands that share their same ethical values of personal care. The healing properties of local and plant based ingredients have inspired our apothecarian approach to the design experience. Through the exploration of natural and healing elements, the user may be transported into an organic flow within the space that invokes a refreshing and natural sensory of pleasure.
This studio course explores advanced problems in interior design with emphasis on design hospitality facilities, specifically cruise ship design. The studio will allow students and instructors to work together to improve students’ ability to design architectural interiors. This course will use the cruise ship settings to explore issues related to environment and behavior in determining and meeting programmatic goals and designing to create specific experiences of architectural interior spaces. The course has a studio structure supplemented by instructional activities such as seminars, lectures, skill building exercises, field trips, and group discussions.
Sensuum is a holistic approach to wellness through an experience of the senses. It aims to serve as a pause in the midst of constant frenzy, represented through the use of curvilinear forms that take the edge off of the fast-paced lifestyle and sharper forms commonly associated with the ship’s brand.
The process of Unwinding, Immersing, and Emerging is comparable to exploring a cave. At 3 Waves Spa + Wellness Center, the programmatic experience and materiality concept are derived from the natural beauty and mystery of the cenote.
This studio course builds upon the lessons learned in previous courses and seeks to deepen thinking and skills within several different areas of the design process. These include: application and synthesis of theory, information gathering, programming, space planning with systems furniture, developing three-dimensional designs, and exploring design details.
The goals for Asahi’s office space is to create an artistic yet studious environment that reflects the company’s Japanese culture and identity while inspiring employees to create. Increasing interaction amongst employees in a non-forceful manner and creating convenient adjacencies are important aspects of this design.
The general purpose for the layout and programming of the design is to increase the overall wellness in a workplace. Prioritizing the employees' well-being results in better generation of ideas and performance. Maintaining a healthy balance between both cultures and brands is the main goal as far as design.
The purpose of the design in this office space is to create a space that honors the brand. The design needs to focus on the users or employees. The goal is to create a space with essentially day light and artificial light to improve well-being and productivity. It should give a feeling or vibe of the natural elements used to make coffee. The spaces that demand acoustic privacy should be considered.
The fusion between Cuban and American cultures is what will motivate the idea for the BACARDI Limited headquarters design to be successful. Keeping the employees in mind, and being a cherished asset for the BACARDI family, in-house accommodations, such as a fully equipped gym and bar will not only keep employees healthy, but in good spirits. Emphasis on Cuban colonial art deco united with American, Miami modern, will bring back the rustic heritage of the Bacardi family.
In the studio, students and instructors work together to improve students’ ability to design architectural interiors. Students work on individual projects and in teams to develop effective methods of inquiry that involve both the conceptual and the development phases of design. Studio instruction stresses creative as well as critical thinking processes. Students design interior spaces based on a process where they repeatedly revise and transform their initial schematic ideas before arriving at an acceptable, appropriate and meaningful design solution. Course structure and content is aimed specifically to improve students’ three-dimensional design/spatial development, design process, and their ability to represent their design ideas verbally, graphically, and through modeling.
Traditional roots from Acqua di Parma’s Italian history are fused with their simplistic and modern style. Sincerity in the brand is represented through material honesty. Reflecting the brand’s emphasis on sunlight, bright open areas are incorporated. The space showcases the natural elements and production process in order to educate the community.
The concept of Miami’s Dover Street Market is to create a fusion of urban culture, artistic desires, and experimental methods to create an industrial yet playful retail environment. The goal of this concept is to form a connection between Miami’s art district and the Design district by finding common elements like the experimentation of contemporary art. The objective is to create an artistic common area for high-end culture and urban-youth culture to share. These DNA words are the main ingredients to create this fusion.
The goal of the design is to create a delicate, balanced and comfortable environment where the senses are stimulated. This will be achieved with a floor plan that has a central focus point. The main geometrical form in the design is a circle. It is a formal representation of connection.
Allowing SOPHISTICATED and Modern design to be inspired by the EVERLASTING style of Roman architecture that never ceases to amaze; and striving for the continuation of CONFIDENCE in the ability to go against principles to aspire to greatness.
This is an introductory-course for the Interior Architecture Graduate Program. This design studio introduces students to the planning of interior environments, addressing both the contents of the environments and the process of interior space planning. Topics include the making of rooms, the design of effective spatial sequences, functional relationships among project parts, arrangement of furniture, planning effective circulation systems, making spaces accessible, and designing safe environments with efficient emergency egress systems.
Domination of curves, good lighting for recording studio, entertainment + Work combined, colorful Miami+Cali Style
Adjacency, safe environment for kids

KELLER WILLIAMS FAMILY

JEANNIE ORDONEZ
Contemporary textures, colors and materials will give this home a sense of comfort and familiarity. Traditional Italian design and art will be a main focal point of the spaces. All these elements will come together to create a fresh and fun environment for the Pallermo sisters, expressing themselves and their new life in Miami.
This course explores site, building, social, cultural, and environmental issues that generate spatial and programmatic responses in designing interior architecture. Students conceptualize interior spaces using mapping, models and various drawing types. Focusing on environmental possibilities, students will experiment with different ways to manipulate interior space.

PROFESSOR DARCI PAPPANO
With a focus on providing a holistic, health and wellness experience, Canyon Ranch strives to develop a balance in harmony with the natural world. An immersive exploration of mind-body-soul wellness. Become stronger. Healthier. Truly well.
To connect with the Miami Art Deco Style as much as possible, while emphasizing the idea of Self-Guided Journey.
The Department of Interior Architecture collaborated with Red Bull who sponsored a design charrette for a mobile Red Bull bar trailer. The RedBull Team was led by Quinn Ross, Director of the Southeast Region for Red Bull and Brandon Todd, Consumer Specialist. IAR faculty Esperanza Muino and Prof. Katie Rothfield guided the students. This charrette provided the first studio in our graduate sequence, opportunity to rethink the interior and exterior bars. Student proposals were intended to catalyze possibilities for future construction. Working in student teams, the three-week Design Charrette will lead to design development scheme for construction. Congratulations to Maria Alfonzo, Adriana Gabaldoni, Eyla Pinto, Daniel Serrano & Fabiola Velez for their winning project. Their Tropical/Tulum Concept, “Earth in mind,” included sustainable materials such as reclaimed wood and recycled aluminum. The project will travel to select festivals around the country.
The IIDA SFC (@iidasfc) BRAGG Awards is a formal award ceremony that highlights design excellence in the community. In Summer 2019, the FIU Interior Architecture Department had many students represent at this showcase who won several awards. Carolina Cardona, pictured in the center above, explains how she applied and won the Dawn Starling Impact Award Scholarship.

2019

AWARDEES:
AMALIA MOREJON
CAROLINA CARDONA
BARBARA IGLESIAS

2020

AWARDEES:
LEANDRO LUJAN
ANGELA GONZALEZ
SOFIA MENDEZ
Dawn Starling Impact Award: This award is given to an IIDA student in the interior design program that has demonstrated an elevated commitment to the design profession through contributions in community service, mentoring, advocacy, and involvement in advancing the profession.

AWARDEES:
JENNIFER PEREZ
GABRIELLA MOREIRA
DANIELA PURRINOS
YAILEEN OBREGON

CERAMICS OF ITALY TILE COMPETITION 2020

STUDENT AWARDEES:
GABRIELA MESQUITA, MARIAPIA SIERRA, CAROLINA CARDONA, RACHAEL COWAN

FIU Interior Architecture student team was recently announced winners of the 2020 Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition. Congratulations to Gabriela Mesquita, Mariapia Sierra, Carolina Cardona and Rachael Cowan for their winning submission!

The Ceramics of Italy Tile Competition recognizes the exceptional work of North American architects and designers who feature Italian ceramic tiles in their institutional, residential or commercial spaces.
NEWH SCHOLARSHIPS

NEWH is the premier networking resource for the hospitality industry, providing scholarships, education, leadership development, recognition of excellence, and business development opportunities. The objective of NEWH is to promote scholarship, education and interest within the Hospitality Industry. NEWH, Inc. and its chapters fundraise to provide scholarships to students pursuing a career within Hospitality related fields (Interior Design, Hospitality Management, Culinary, Architecture, Senior Living, etc.).

THE CRUISE SHIP EXPO

AWARDEE: GABRIELA MESQUITA

2019 NEWH

AWARDEES: JUSTIN DIEPPA MARIA LEON

2020 NEWH

AWARDEE: DANIEL MARTINEZ
CREW MIAMI ROSLYN K
BERRIN SCHOLARSHIP

As part of CREW Network, the industry's premier networking coalition, CREW Miami is dedicated to transforming the commercial real estate industry by advancing women globally. CREW Network's membership of 12,000 professionals in over 75 major global markets represents all aspects of commercial real estate.

2019
AWARDEE:
MARIAPIA SIERRA MENDIZABAL

2020
AWARDEE:
ANGELA GONZALEZ