

Certified Interior Designer - NCIDQ Certificate Number: 021161  
FL Registered Interior Designer - Number: ID5433 (currently inactive)  
LEED® Accredited Professional in Interior Design and Construction

## Education

2003

### **Master of Fine Arts – Interior Design**

The Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA

Thesis: “Communicating Preference: An Exploration of Methods for Obtaining Client Preferences for the Interior Environment”

G.P.A. 4.0

2000

### **Bachelor of Arts - Clinical Psychology, Minor – Studio Art**

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Magna Cum Laude, Dean’s List

## Special Studies

2018

Film and Video Teachers Workshop

Maine Media Workshops + College, Rockport, ME

2009

USGBC LEED for Homes Green Rater Training Course

E3 Building Sciences, Bonita Springs, FL

1998-2000

Fine Art Coursework

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA), Boston, MA

1997-2000

Set Designer, Assistant Director & Member

Student Theater Organizations: Torn Ticket II and Pen Paint & Pretzels

Tufts University, Medford, MA

1999

Study Abroad Coursework

The Queensland College of Art, Brisbane, Australia

1998

Summer Coursework – Black and White Film and Digital Photography

Maine Media Workshops + College, Rockport, ME

Summer Coursework – Ceramics and Fiber Arts

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME

1997-1998

Curriculum for Living, Self-Expression & Leadership Coach

Landmark Worldwide

## Academic Professional Experience

2021-Present

### **Assistant Dean of Students for the College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA)**

Florida International University (FIU), Miami, FL

Works directly with the Dean and collaborates with the College's academic department chairs, the Office of Admissions, and the Center for Academic Success to develop, assess, and support programs, initiatives, and processes that enhance student recruitment, retention, engagement, time-to-graduation, graduate school readiness, and career employment. Oversees the College's student advising and career services professionals. Responsible for increasing student internships, experiential learning opportunities, engagement, graduate school applications, and post-graduation career employment. Oversees the design and implementation of various initiatives aligned with the University and CARTA missions for achievement of student success as it relates to post-graduation and employment.

2010-Present

### **Associate Teaching Professor | Internship Coordinator**

Florida International University (FIU), Miami, FL

Studio Courses: Graduate Design 1, 2, 4, and Master's Project, Design 2

Lecture Courses: Building Systems for Interiors, Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture, Professional Office Practice, Project Programming, Personal Branding + Career Preparation

Serve as Faculty Chair for annual Festival of the Trees Scholarship Fundraiser (grossing over \$50,000 each year). Create and execute annual D3E Student Conference for all three School of Architecture disciplines (grossing over \$32,000 in total over three years).

Manage Department of Interior Architecture internship program. Lead FIU by Design-funded design studios to collaborate and liaise with real clients, including Red Bull and American Social. Develop course curriculum, communicate course content, facilitate class discussions, and evaluate projects. Coordinate service projects, field trips, guest lecturers, and guest critics. Review potential student and faculty applicants. Manage Graduate Assistants. Submit proposals for and present at conferences.

2020-2021

### **Director of Experiential Learning + Career Services for CARTA**

Florida International University (FIU), Miami, FL

Provides leadership to the overall operation of Career Strategy + Success within CARTA. Serves as strategist and liaison between the University and CARTA's various teams and departments (Communication, Journalism + Media, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, Art + Art History, Music, and Theatre) associated with careers. Facilitates team collaboration focusing on providing resources to students related to career readiness, internships, employment and/or graduate school. Oversees the design and implementation of various initiatives aligned with the University and CARTA missions for achievement of student success as it relates to post-graduation and employment. Accountable for college-wide career-related student engagement and programming, employer initiatives and engagement, post-graduate course coordination, Handshake (online career platform) promotion and engagement, CARTA careers website design and strategic development ([carta.fiu.edu/careers](http://carta.fiu.edu/careers)), career resource development, promotion and marketing strategies, partnership policies and norms, and metrics and reporting.

2009

### **Art Teacher**

Alexander Camp, Alexander Montessori School, Palmetto Bay, FL

Planned lessons and taught art projects to children ages 6-13 in class sizes of up to 22 students.

1999-2000

### **Teaching/Clinical Psychology Intern**

The Kennedy School S.E.E.K. Program, Somerville, MA

Assisted lead teacher in public school program designed for children with psychological disabilities. Developed weekly activities and met with students individually outside the class setting. Taught lessons and supervised students in class activities.

## Other Professional Experience

2019-Present

### **Executive Producer | Website Designer**

Surfing Corporate, Miami, FL + San Francisco, CA

One of three founders of multi-media start-up. Develop brand and written content across all media including podcast, social media, merchandise line, and website. Design UX & UI for website, including graphic language. Edit and develop all content, including Surfing Corporate book, written and graphic content, and podcast audio.

2018, 2019

### **Senior Faculty Lead**

FIU Interior Architecture Department, Miami, FL

Represented the University to lead and coordinate design studios sponsored by Red Bull and in collaboration with American Social Bar & Restaurant. Liaised with clients, developed and taught curriculum, reviewed student work, and coordinated student scholarship within University guidelines.

2010-2018

### **Architectural & Interior Design Consultant**

Alexander Montessori School, Palmetto Bay, FL

Led national search for artist to fulfill the Village of Palmetto Bay's Art in Public Places requirement for Alexander's new LEED Gold building. Developed competition criteria, compiled, evaluated, and presented candidates to stakeholders, including architect and Co-Heads of School. Consulted with co-Heads of School on various renovation projects: researched and presented design proposals.

2003-2018

### **Principal Interior Designer**

Freelance

Managed and completed residential and commercial interior design projects through all phases of design and procurement, both as an individual and with an assistant.

2014-2015

### **Project Designer | Principal Investigator**

FIU by Design, Miami, FL

Represented the University to complete commercial interior design project from contract writing through design development. Led client meetings, developed project timeline, and managed Graduate Assistant.

2009-2010

### **Brand Developer | Senior Designer**

blue lite, a design company, inc., Miami, FL

Led the development of a start-up company. Established relationships with suitable vendors and developed furniture packages and budgets. Researched marketing opportunities, competition, and potential sales leads. Created brochure templates and marketing materials.

2009-2010

### **Brand Developer | Copywriter**

blue, a design company, inc., Miami, FL

Developed new website UX map, content, and copy. Hired and coordinated with graphic designer. Wrote copy for publications.

2009-2010

### **LEED Consultant**

blue, a design company, inc., Miami, FL

Led project team through the initial LEED for Homes process. Acted as head liaison between the project team and the USGBC-designated LEED for Homes Provider. Reviewed LEED requirements and project documents and met/coordinated with consultants.

2007-2009

**Project Designer | Project Manager**

The Gettys Group, Coral Gables, FL

Led design team in programming, space planning, and FF&E selections. Developed proposals and served as Miami office representative the Hotel of Tomorrow (H.O.T.) Project, a thought leadership forum spearheaded by The Gettys Group and *Hospitality Design* magazine to conceptualize the future of the hospitality industry. Authored proprietary online FF&E Specification Manual. Conducted quality control measures for specifications, budgets, construction drawings, and presentation materials. Participated in project scheduling, consultant coordination, and client meetings. Performed specification writing and prepared presentations and drawings for conceptual, schematic, design development, and construction documents. Performed construction administration duties including shop drawing/submittal review and site inspections, and oversaw project installations.

2005-2007

**Designer**

The Gettys Group, Coral Gables, FL

Assisted in the selection of FF&E materials, space planning, and programming. Participated in consultant coordination and client meetings. Worked with vendors to compile pricing and obtain product samples. Performed specification writing and prepared presentations and drawings for conceptual, schematic, design development, and construction documents.

2003-2005

**Junior Designer**

blue, a design company, inc., Miami, FL

Assisted in the selection of FF&E materials, space planning, and programming. Prepared presentations and drawings for schematic, design development, and construction documents. Performed specification writing and assisted with client invoicing. Coordinated merchandise procurement, including purchase order writing, follow-up, warehousing, and delivery. Produced 3D digital renderings and presentation boards. Presented designs to clients, met with vendors, and organized library. Inspected job site, coordinated and supervised contractors, and completed installations.

2001, 2002

**Interior Design Intern**

blue, a design company, inc., Miami, FL

Organized library, met with vendors, produced presentation boards, and followed-up on purchase orders. Assisted with specification writing, site inspections, and project installations.

1999

**Interior Design Intern**

Denham-Vitalie design associates, inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Organized library. Assisted in client meetings and site inspections. Gathered field measurements and created as-built drawings.

## Computer Skills

**Proficiency In:**

Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Premiere, Adobe Presenter, Canva, WordPress Avada and Divi, Canvas, Blackboard, Prezi, Animoto, PowToon, Microsoft Word, Excel, & PowerPoint, AutoCAD

**Knowledge of:**

Adobe Illustrator, 3DS Max, Microsoft SharePoint

## Honors, Awards, & Grants

2020

Top Scholar Award for Excellence Beyond the Classroom  
Florida International University

2014-Present

LEED Green Associate Exam, FIU Department of Interior Architecture

30+ students successfully passed the LEED exam after taking my course, Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture. I was also the originator of the LEED Achievement Award, which reimburses FIU Interior Architecture students who successfully take and pass the LEED Green Associate Exam.

2017

Excellence in Teaching Award  
College of Communication, Architecture + the Arts, Florida International University

2016

Excellence in Teaching Award  
Florida International University

2016

Silver Star Award  
NEWH South Florida Chapter

2015

Educator of the Year Award  
International Interior Design Association (IIDA) South Florida Chapter

2011

Best Paper Award  
Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) South Regional Conference

2011

FIU Office of University Sustainability, \$1,000 Sustainability Award, “Greening’ the Interior Architecture Finish Materials Collection: Teaching Future Designers Responsible Sustainable Design”

2008

Board Member of the Year Award  
IIDA Florida Chapter

2003

Outstanding Achievement in Interior Design  
The Savannah College of Art and Design

2000-2001, 2002-2003

Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges  
Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture and Allied Arts  
Golden Key National Honor Society  
Psi Chi Psychology National Honor Society

## Presentations

2021

IIDA South Florida Chapter, New Year, New You, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Panelist: “Lifestyle Hack: Automate & Delegate”

2019

NEWH Green Voice Conversations, BDNY, New York, NY  
Panel Moderator: “Adaptive Reuse: What’s Old Can Be New Again”

2018

IDEC South Regional Conference, Miami International University of Art & Design, Miami, FL  
Panel Presentation: “Emerging Concepts for Healthy Indoor Environments”

2016

IDEC National Conference, Portland, OR

Panel Presentation: "The Virtual Classroom: Does It Have a Future in the Interior Design Curriculum?"

PechaKucha Presentation: "Why We Teach: Interior Design Matters"

2015

Miami Center for Architecture + Design (MCAD), Miami, FL

PechaKucha Presentation: AIA Women in Architecture, 8 Women x 8 Slides x 2 Projects (WiA 8x8x2)

2014

IDEC South Regional Conference, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Pecha Kucha Presentation: "Strategies for Bringing Excitement and Fun to an Otherwise Lackluster Course"

2013

IDEC South Regional Conference, Cooper Lighting Center, Peachtree City, Georgia

Teaching Presentation: "Engaged Production: A Historic Theater's Sustainable Makeover Remodels the Classroom Environment"

2011

IDEC South Regional Conference, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia

Paper Presentation: "Pedagogy 2.0 in Practice: Linking Your Students' World with the Classroom"

## Publications

Contributor, page 92: Sinovic, D. (2010). *100 Florida architects and interior designers*. Miami: Design Book.

Book Review: Bender, D.M. (2012). *Design portfolios: moving from traditional to digital*. New York: Fairchild Books.

## Special Projects and Student Outreach

2018-2021

### **Founder and Co-Chair**

D3E Student Conference (Founder + Co-Chair), D3E Student Conference + Career Fair (2021 Co-Chair)

FIU School of Architecture

- Created event, developed event logo, designed event website and created content: [soa.fiu.edu/d3e](https://soa.fiu.edu/d3e)
- Developed sponsorship levels, content, and graphic design: <https://carta.fiu.edu/interiors/students/d3e/sponsorship>
- Developed event program content and design: <https://carta.fiu.edu/interiors/students/d3e/d3e-2020-recap>
- Designed and executed post-event follow-up including website updates and post-event surveys: <https://carta.fiu.edu/interiors/students/d3e/d3e-2020-recap>
- Established and managed all aspects of the event and team including:
  - Student Committee Chairs
  - Volunteers, including students, FIU faculty and staff, and industry professionals
  - Enrolled students, professionals, and sponsors in the mission of D3E, to increase and maximize its impact each year
  - Liaised with CARTA Leadership, Faculty & Staff, including CARTA Dean and Assistant Dean, Department Chairs, and Senior Special Events Manager

2018-Present

### **Faculty Chair**

Festival of the Trees, Annual Scholarship Fundraiser

FIU Interior Architecture Department

Liaison between event chairs, committee, and department. Oversight of event coordination including oversight of student assistants and volunteers, copywriting, website development and edits, proofreading, problem solving, and kick-off party organization. Over its 33 years, the Festival of the Trees has raised over \$400,000 in scholarships for FIU Interior Architecture students.

<http://festivalofthetrees.com>

2017-Present

**Internship Coordinator**

FIU Interior Architecture Department

Develop internship program to integrate Handshake and provide students with options for connecting with employers and gaining work experience. Advise and communicate with students regarding available internship opportunities.

2014-2020

**Faculty Coordinator**

Master's Thesis Super Jury

FIU Interior Architecture Department

Established the annual showcase of graduating Interior Architecture master's students. Coordinated and paired students with professional mentors, planned and executed the event that hosted the graduating class, professional jurors, recruiters, faculty, staff, students, family and friends.

2011-2014

**Faculty Coordinator**

MATx (Interior Design Materials Library)

FIU Interior Architecture Department

Coordinated the ideation, development, and implementation of online materials database. Worked with Graduate Assistants to reimagine and transform the existing Materials Library to better serve students.

2005-2009

**Key Contributor**

Hotel of Tomorrow (H.O.T.) Project

The Gettys Group/*HD Magazine*

Collaborated with team of industry thought leaders to research and brainstorm future hospitality trends. Synthesized data into written proposals for current and future projects. Represented Leadership Team at 2007 Annual Ideation Session, New York, NY, and promoted H.O.T. at 2006 HD Boutique, Miami, FL.

2008

**FF&E Specification Manual Author**

The Gettys Group

Proposed, developed, and wrote the first online company manual for the overall FF&E specification writing process and the proprietary FF&E specification software program. Led collaborative team sessions, researched standards and methods, established intranet format, and uploaded interactive content.

2007-2008

**Scholarship Team Leader/Supervisor**

The Gettys Group

Led and supervised team in development of new Scholarship Program, engaged with schools, established judging criteria, and participated in on-campus critiques.

2008

**Student Portfolio Reviewer**

IIDA Florida Chapter Student Day

Florida Community College at Jacksonville

2006

**Student Competition Judge**

IIDA Florida Chapter Student Day

Florida International University

## Professional Organizations

2011-Present

Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC)  
Professional Member

2012-Present, 2006-2008

The Network of Executive Women in Hospitality, Inc. (NEWH)  
Member  
Educational Representative, South Florida Chapter, 2012-2018

2006-2009

International Interior Design Association (IIDA)  
Professional Member

2006-2008

IIDA Florida Chapter

Vice President of Forums

Served as Board of Directors (B.O.D.) Member and represented the B.O.D. at local IIDA City Center meetings. Chaired the Annual Interior Design Competition and Glow Gala.

Results: Increased event profit by nearly 200% in 2 years.

2008

IIDA Florida Chapter

Nominating Committee Member

Reviewed, interviewed, and recommended potential candidates for incoming B.O.D. positions.

2001-2004

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)

Allied Member/Student Member

## University and Professional Service

2016

YWCA

Students developed and presented interior designs for the "Clubhouse" and "Teen Room" at the YWCA as part of my Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture course.

2014

Lotus House Thrift

Students developed and presented interior designs for the new Lotus House Thrift store as part of my Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture course.

2013

Actors' Playhouse

Students developed and presented interior designs for the existing balcony lobby of the Actors' Playhouse as part of my Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture course.

2012

FIU Everglades Dormitory

Students developed and presented interior designs for the common areas of the new FIU Everglades dormitory as part of my Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture course.



## Courses Taught

### Florida International University

#### **Studios:**

Fall 2020

IND 6257 Graduate Studio 3

Significant Course Development

Spring 2014 - 2020

IND 6970 Master's Project

Fall 2010 - 2011, 2013 - 2019

IND 6255 Graduate Studio 1

Significant Course Development

Spring 2013

IND 6258 Graduate Studio 4

Significant Course Development

Spring 2011, 2012

ARC 1302 Design 2

Spring 2010

IND 6258 Graduate Studio 2

Significant Course Development

#### **Lectures:**

Spring 2019 - 2021

IND 5509 Personal Branding + Career Preparation

New Course Development

Spring 2011 - 2020

IND 5628 Sustainable Practices in Interior Architecture

Significant Course Development

Spring 2010, Fall 2010 - 2011, 2013 - 2019

IND 5615 Building Systems for Interiors

New Course Development

Redeveloped for FIU Online

Fall 2013 - 2017

IND 5626 Project Programming

Spring 2011 - 2017

IND 5508 Professional Office Practice

Developed for FIU Online