INTERIOR DESIGN
CAREER OVERVIEW FOR STUDENTS
A multi-faceted profession where technical and creative solutions are applied to interior spaces, creating functional, attractive environments to enhance quality of life for work, play or living. Bringing together past history, future technology, architectural form and environmental concerns, students create unique spaces to suit the needs of the inhabitant. Interior designers use their knowledge of structure, social and geographic context, codes, sustainability and barrier free design to create fully functional environments. Lighting, color, furniture fixtures and finishes are applied to create a complete, cohesive design. Projects explore actual client experience whenever possible and design innovation is encouraged. The CIDA accredited interior design program leads to state licensing and certification, careers in architectural and design firms, corporate and institutional design departments, as well as specializations in hospitality, retail, office, healthcare and sustainable design.

Curriculum for Interior Design
www.rit.edu/programs/interior-design-bfa

Degree(s) Awarded
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Enrollment
Approximately 80 interior design students

Cooperative Education Component
Cooperative education (paid full-time work lasting the length of a term) is an option for students in the interior design program. Students are typically available to co-op in the summer. Internships are also an option for students during the school year.

Salary Information – Avg/Range
Co-op: $12.25 $8.50 - $16.00
BFA: $40,389 $24,075 - $50,337*
*According to Salary.com

Equipment & Facilities
The interior design studio has a dedicated studio workspace and lecture area. A reference library, media center, photographic equipment, and imaging sciences labs for computer output are available.

Computer labs are equipped with Macintosh and PC systems. Software includes: AutoCAD, Revit, Trimble SketchUp, Shaderlight, Vectorworks, Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop and others.

Student Skills & Capabilities
- The interior Design curriculum provides an understanding of three-dimensional concepts as they relate to space, function and aesthetic resolution.
- Students gain excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills through group interaction and teaming.
- Technical presentation skills including: sketching, computer drafting and digital modeling.
- Color and lighting theory, materials specifications, business and career practices, universal design, ADA and sustainability
- Technical knowledge in building construction methods, passive and active environmental control systems, building codes and construction documents.
- Studio coursework includes residential, hospitality, retail, office, healthcare, multi-story/multi-purpose design and special topics, which may be community based, charitable or socially relevant projects. Coursework is both real life and theoretical.
- Residential, hospitality, retail, office, healthcare, and multi-story/multi-purpose design

Nature of Work
Interior designers draw upon many disciplines to enhance the function, safety, and aesthetics of interior spaces. Their main concerns are with how different colors, textures, furniture, lighting, and space work together to meet the needs of a building’s occupants. Designers plan interior spaces of almost every type of building, including offices, airport terminals, theaters, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals, and private residences. Good design can boost office productivity, increase sales, attract a more affluent clientele, provide a more relaxing hospital stay, or increase a building’s market value. (OOH)
Training/Qualifications
Postsecondary education, especially a bachelor’s degree, is recommended for entry-level positions in interior design. Two-year and 3-year programs also are available. Some States license interior designers. Postsecondary education, especially a bachelor’s degree, is recommended for entry-level positions in interior design. Training programs are available from professional design schools or from colleges and universities and usually take 2 to 4 years to complete. Graduates of 2-year or 3-year programs are awarded certificates or associate degrees in interior design and normally qualify as assistants to interior designers upon graduation. Graduates with a bachelor’s degree usually qualify for a formal design apprenticeship program. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Job Outlook
Employment of interior designers is projected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations. Designers will be needed to respond to consumer expectations that the interiors of homes and offices meet certain conditions, such as being environmentally friendly and more easily accessible. Although only about 4 percent of interior designers are directly employed in the construction industry, many interior designers are heavily dependent on the construction industry to generate new construction and renovation projects for them to work on. Overall employment in the construction industry is projected to grow over the projection period. Remodeling of large public spaces and facilities, such as hospitals, hotels, and schools, is often funded as part of a long-term project. Companies typically budget money over many years, so that they can afford remodeling efforts when necessary, regardless of economic conditions. In addition, as part of creating their corporate image, more companies are expected to take advantage of opportunities to use new furnishing and design concepts, to make their interior space easily identifiable. Employment of interior designers in specialized design services firms is projected to grow 20 percent from 2012 to 2022. As interior designers focus on increasingly specialized design areas, there will be a greater need for them to collaborate with other designers and in other design-related fields.

Job Titles
Interior Designer, Interior Design Coordinator, Interior Design Director, Interior Design Consultant, Corporate Designer, Project Designer, Project Manager, Design Assistant, Design & Planning Consultant, Certified Kitchen Designer, Color and Materials Designer, Commercial Interior Designer, Decorating Consultant, Director of Interiors

Significant Points
- Keen competition is expected for jobs because many talented individuals are attracted to this occupation.
- Self employment is common; many interior designers work in small firms or on a contract basis.
- Postsecondary education—either an associate or a bachelor’s degree—is necessary for entry-level positions; some States license interior designers. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics O.O.H.)

Employment
Job prospects should be better in high-income areas, because wealthy clients are more likely than others to engage in remodeling and renovating their homes. Interior designers who specialize, such as those who design kitchens, may benefit by becoming an expert in their particular area. By specializing in a unique area of design, interior designers can use their knowledge of products to better fulfill customer requests.

Selected Employers of RIT Interior Design Co-op and Graduating Students

Contact Us
We appreciate your interest in your career and we will make every effort to help you succeed. Call our office and ask to speak with Gretchen Burruto, the program coordinator who works with the Interior Design program. You can access information about services through our web site at www.rit.edu/co-op/careers.

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