

LA ROCHE COLLEGE INTERIOR DESIGN

A designer
is an emerging
synthesis
of artist,
inventor,
mechanic,
objective
economist
and
evolutionary
strategist.

R. Buckminster Fuller

INTERIOR DESIGN AT LA ROCHE

Interior designers are creative problem solvers. They use their knowledge of human behavior and technical skills to create innovative design solutions for spaces such as restaurants, retail stores, schools, museums, offices and places of worship. We experience these interior spaces every day, spending hours working in them or relaxing in their comfortable surroundings after a busy day. Interior designers are responsible for creating spaces that are functional, safe, aesthetically pleasing and most importantly, enhance the quality of life for the people using the spaces.

Our broad-based curriculum prepares students to solve problems and create innovative, functional, and aesthetically pleasing solutions for many types of residential and commercial spaces. Interior design is a multi-faceted profession—constantly changing—and our curriculum recognizes the importance of preparing our students to meet new design challenges. Our program emphasizes the history and theory of design, building and computer technologies and sustainable design. Changes in the profession often necessitate changes in curriculum and we routinely evaluate our curriculum to guarantee that all courses offer the educational preparation necessary for graduating interior designers.

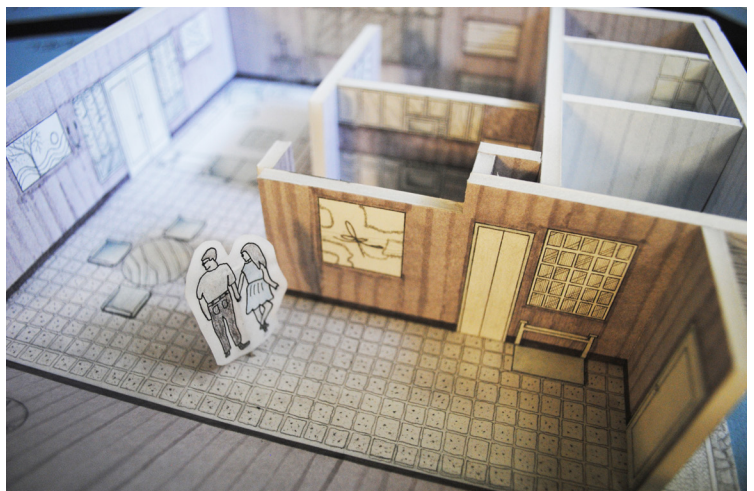
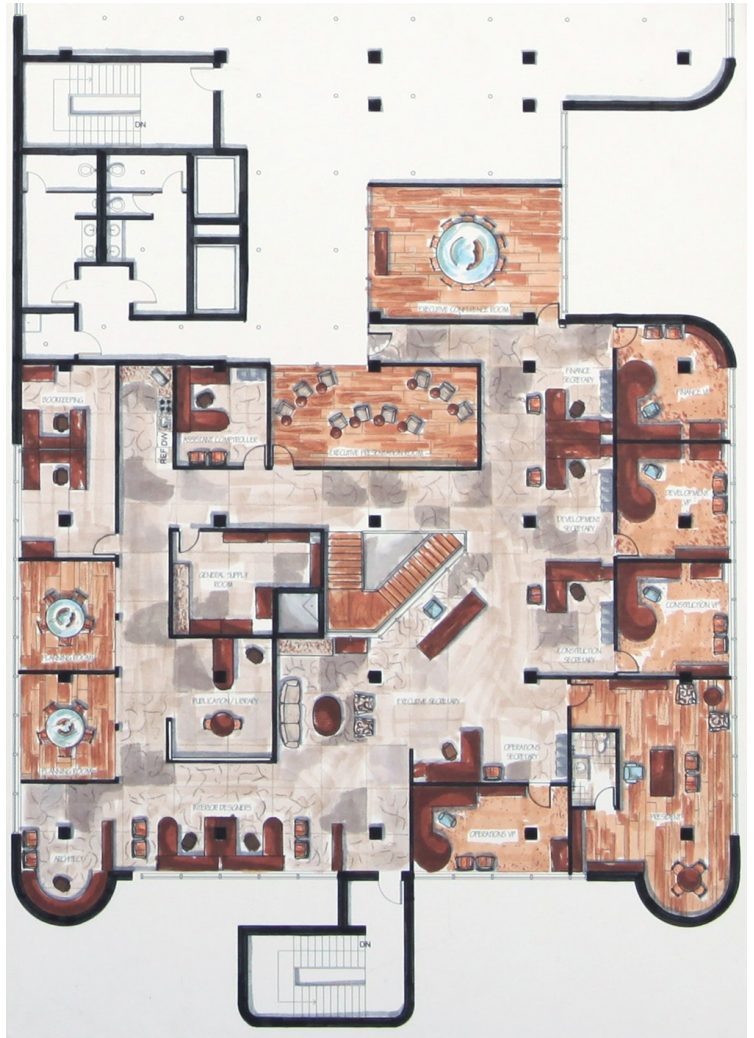
NASAD AND CIDA ACCREDITED

La Roche College is one of only two colleges in the area to be fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD).

In addition, our Interior Design program has been accredited by CIDA continuously since 1985, giving us the distinction of achieving and holding CIDA accreditation longer than any other Pittsburgh Interior Design program. At La Roche, you will receive a level of education that will prepare you for the profession and allow you to sit for the national certification exam administered by the National Council of Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ).

OUR GRADUATES

Hundreds of students have earned their Interior Design degree at La Roche College, since the program was initiated in 1976. These talented interior design professionals are living and working all over the country and remain committed to our Interior Design program. The design graduates living in the Pittsburgh area provide strong alumni support, offering both internships and employment opportunities in the firms where they work, including DRS Architects, Stantec, The Design Alliance, Astorino, Desmone & Associates, Franklin Interiors, Workscape, KMA & Associates, Radelet, McCarthy & Polletta, Kolano Design, OM Workspace and many others.



OUR FACULTY

La Roche College's Interior Design faculty members are some of the finest in the field. They bring many areas of expertise to the classroom and represent many years of experience as design educators. Of our four full-time faculty, one is a trained architect, three are trained interior designers, one is a design researcher and one focused her doctoral studies on sustainability in interior environments. Achievements of our full-time faculty are complemented by many talented adjunct faculty who are working professionals and bring that up-to-date knowledge into our classrooms.

ASID STUDENT GROUP

Students are encouraged to start networking with design professionals in their freshmen year. By joining the La Roche ASID student chapter, students become involved in planning and implementing many service-related projects throughout the academic year. The chapter also provides leadership opportunities for students who want to serve as officers of the student chapter or serve as the student representatives to the ASID Pittsburgh-West chapter, which invites the students to attend their professional ASID events.

The La Roche ASID student chapter hosts a design industry Trade Show each year, which brings representatives from major design manufacturers to the college so that our students can become acquainted with the products and the manufacturer's representatives who service the Pittsburgh design firms.

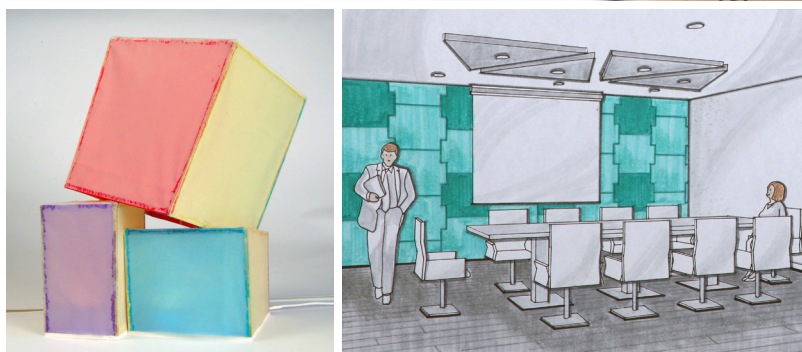
INTERIOR DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD

The La Roche College Interior Design Advisory Board, established in 2003, is comprised of local interior designers, architects and other industry-related professionals, who support our program in various ways. The Design Dialogue Speakers Series is an annual event sponsored by the board. This series brings an internationally known designer to Pittsburgh each fall to speak to the professional design community and students at an evening event in downtown Pittsburgh and the following day on our campus.

The Board also awards two annual scholarships to Interior Design students. One is presented at the Design Dialogue Series event and the other, the IDEA (Interior Design Educational Achievement) award, is presented to the outstanding graduating senior at the Senior Portfolio Show in the spring.

Other professionals, often La Roche College alumni, act as mentors for senior Interior Design students during the final academic year; serve as jurors for student design presentations; or share their expertise as guest speakers in design lecture classes.





INTERNSHIPS

Each Interior Design student completes a three-credit internship as part of the required Interior Design curriculum. The semester-long internship experience, normally completed in the junior or senior year, is an opportunity for a student to work in a professional design firm, under the guidance of a site supervisor who is a qualified interior designer or architect. Each internship site has been carefully evaluated by the Interior Design department chair to assure that the intern will be given work experiences that teach valuable lessons about actual professional work. Students also submit an internship site evaluation after the completion of their internship, which provides current information about the intern's responsibilities.

FRESHMAN REVIEW

While there is no initial portfolio requirement to be admitted to the Interior Design program, students are required to present a portfolio of their interior design work to advance in the curriculum. Interior Design majors submit work for both Freshman and Sophomore Reviews at two key points in their education, after they have completed specific design courses with grades of "C" or above.

Freshman Review results in one of three recommendations:

- Continue in Interior Design; or
- Continue in Interior Design with stated reservations or recommended action; or
- Change majors before the next academic term

SOPHOMORE REVIEW

Students submit work for Sophomore Review after completing Design Studio II and other specific Interior Design courses with grades of "C" or above. Students may advance in the program only after successfully completing the Sophomore Review process. Sophomore Review results in one of three decisions:

- Student is invited to continue in Interior Design major; or
- Student is required to take IDS2038C Interior Design II the next semester and submit work for Sophomore Review again; or
- Student is required to change majors before the beginning of the next term

AWARDS

Recent recognition and accolades for our students:

- One of our students was one of 13 students in the United States to be awarded a scholarship by the Planning and Visual Educational Partnership (PAVE).
- Three of our students placed in the Top 10 in the Raymond Waites International Furniture and Design Competition. Each winning student's project was displayed at the High Point International Home Furnishing Market, in High Point, NC, the largest furnishing industry trade show in the world.
- A recent graduate won the Richard G. Kotarba Outstanding Honors Presentation Award for her Senior Seminar project titled "Therapeutic Environments for Alzheimer's Patients." The student's project was also recognized in the Western Pennsylvania Healthcare News.

COMPUTER INITIATIVE

The La Roche College Student Computer Initiative requires that all freshman and transfer students who are entering the Interior Design program purchase a laptop and software that is commonly used in the profession before the start of the fall semester. Hardware and software specifications are posted on the La Roche Design Division website during the summer for the next academic year.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any more questions please feel free to contact us at design@laroche.edu. Our faculty would be more than happy to answer your questions. We also invite you to come to campus during the week, meet all of our faculty, sit in on a class or two and meet current interior design students. Just give us a call or send an email and we can set up an appointment for you!



La Roche College

Interior Design Department

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