

JMU Interior Architecture Program Philosophy

DESIGN

The interior architecture curriculum is centered on a progressive 6-studio sequence. The teaching of process and a design ethos is at the heart of the program. The studio is the place of integration for all the components of the curriculum.

LIBERAL ARTS

Interior architecture at JMU is studied within the context of a liberal arts university. Students are exposed to a rich diversity of art making practices, other design disciplines, historical precedents, natural and human sciences, literature and philosophy, and world cultures in order to develop crucial skills in analytical thinking and humanistic understanding. Interdisciplinary collaborations and studying abroad are encouraged.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

JMU's interior architecture program is committed to the social aspects of contemporary design, including universal design, designing for under-privileged communities, projects that question cultural and political assumptions, and environmental sustainability.

TECHNOLOGY

Our students are empowered with the technological understanding to realize their design aspirations. State of the art fabrication techniques, CAD and digital representation, building information modeling, environmental technologies, and material detailing are integrated throughout the curriculum.

PROFESSION

JMU interior architecture students are valued and recruited in the interior design and architecture professions. The program emphasizes its links with the professions through a vigorous commitment to outside design critics, mandatory student internships, visiting professors in the practice, student chapters of ASID, IIDA and AIAS, and real-world clients & studio projects. The program has fully accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation for more than 15 years and graduates are encouraged to take the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) exam.

HOLISTIC EDUCATION

The study of interior architecture at JMU is a holistic learning experience. Technical capabilities are given purpose through humanistic learning. Social engagement is translated into versatile design thinking. Professional competencies are expressed through both practical and poetic forms. We are committed to educating students to lead productive and meaningful lives.