



SCHOOL OF INTERIORS HONORED WITH IDEC TEACHING AWARD

LEXINGTON, Ky. (March 28, 2017) – The School of Interiors in the College of Design at the University of Kentucky was recently honored by IDEC (Interior Design Educators Council) with the IDEC Teaching Excellence Award for its revision of ID161/162 history and theory sequence.

Presented with this nationally competitive award in Chicago during the 2017 IDEC Annual Conference in early March, the School of Interiors revamped its history and theory courses to better engage today's college students. Where previously these courses were taught in a darkened room with projections on the front wall, the SOI faculty restructured the course to include a paradigm of both virtual and physical learning experiences. The sequence is both topical and chronological.

“Armed with strategies and approaches rather than dates and facts, students are able to use the pathways for exploring the built environment introduced in the sequence throughout their schooling and into the professional world,” said Patrick Lee Lucas, director of the School of Interiors in the UK College of Design.

This new mode of teaching history and theory has also allowed the voices of the entire SOI faculty to participate. Focusing on more of a thematic approach to instruction rather than chronologically, this allows faculty to adapt their area of specialization to the sequence, so students now get multiple perspectives in an immersive experience.

“With the current and rising cost of tuition, we have to think forward about how to give students the broadest and richest curricular experience,” said Dean Mitzi Vernon. “In the College of Design, we are experimenting with new definitions of ‘class time.’ The Interiors history sequence is the perfect example of that innovation.”

With the effort of more than 30 individuals – including students, faculty and staff – the SOI was able to fund the new sequence with a grant through the University of Kentucky's eLearning Innovation Initiative (eLII).

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