The School of Interiors
Graduate Program
The School of Interiors
Graduate Program

Exploring the interdisciplinary territory of environmental design, students in the graduate program at the University of Kentucky School of Interiors address a vast array of issues impacting our region and the broader world. Students work closely with a diverse, internationally-recognized faculty in design research and studios investigating the social, behavioral, and ecological parameters of design. Our faculty, students, and alumni have been recognized with numerous design awards, publications, and exhibitions.

The graduate program prepares students for careers in environmental design, interior design, interior architecture, adaptive reuse, and exhibition design, as well as further study in Ph.D. programs focused on design of the built environment, design history and the humanities. Students hone visual communication, critical-thinking, research, and writing skills with special emphasis on the historical and theoretical discourse surrounding environmental design and interiority.

The graduate Interiors program shares state-of-the-art design fabrication facilities, lectures, and other opportunities within the College of Design. Students can develop and nurture close relationships with faculty in other disciplines on the University of Kentucky campus, as well as professional design organizations, academic associations, and industry partners.
Interiors Graduate
Course of Study
Interiors Graduate Course of Study

2-YEAR DEGREE PLAN

Contributing to transformational change in contemporary design discourse, School of Interiors faculty assist graduate students in identifying new opportunities in an expanding field. The Master of Arts in Interiors: Planning/Strategy/Design degree combines design research with making and community advocacy. Based within a Research 1, land-grant university, our program offers an extraordinary environment to explore design challenges that are transmutable worldwide.

Engaging the socio-cultural and ecological parameters of design, we provide a rich studio culture committed to environmental stewardship, speculation, and building. Guided by a humanistic approach, our faculty and students partner with community stakeholders throughout the region to address real-world issues.

The two-year Master of Arts in Interiors degree represents a next-level option for applicants holding an undergraduate degree in spatially-oriented design disciplines including interior design, interior architecture, architecture, environmental design, exhibition design, and industrial design. Students combine coursework, independent study, and research to develop a degree plan tailored to their individual interests. Each student works with a primary professor and an advising committee to approve appropriate coursework and develop a written or design project thesis.

3-YEAR OPTION

For applicants with undergraduate backgrounds unrelated to interior design or architecture demonstrating a strong aptitude for graduate study in design, the School offers a Qualifying Program consisting of an additional 24 credits of required coursework.
Interiors **Graduate Pathways**

Engaging interdisciplinary design thinking, students in the graduate Interiors program embrace the built environment to address issues of an increasingly globalized, connected, and complex society. Situated at a Research-1 university, students investigate research-driven scholarship that reframes the contemporary discourse surrounding environmental design. Some of our pathways include:

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The School of Interiors promotes the public interest through human-centered research, education, and design practices focused on enhancing communities. Our partnerships have significantly contributed to the public discourse in design that catalyzes social justice and revitalization. We work with community stakeholders to enhance the built environment through reciprocal actions promoting sustainability, reuse, innovation, and diversity.

**ADAPTIVE REUSE**

Operating within the realm of existing conditions, designers foster connectivity among the environmental, economic, historical, and social dimensions of design in adaptive use projects. This strategy maximizes latent resources in current buildings, mobilizes materials reuse, and promotes sustainability. Students may choose to concurrently pursue a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation during their course of study.

**EXPERIENTIAL & EXHIBITION DESIGN**

Experiential and exhibition designers engage information through the spatial application of visual storytelling. As a multidisciplinary process, designers holistically consider the interior, architecture, graphics, lighting, sound, acoustics, cinematography, and additional multimedia elements. Our students pursue interdisciplinary approaches to experiential and exhibition design through the spatialization of multilayered narratives and diverse topics.

**HEALTHCARE**

Driven by emerging technologies and trends in well-being, healthcare designers emphasize patient-centered care and the integration of evidence-based approaches uniting the academy and the industry. Our faculty emphasize well-being by addressing the physical needs of people, as well as the cognitive and psychological aspects of environmental design. Students employ strategic decision-making in the healthcare design process.
Interiors
Graduate Research
Interiors Graduate Research

Interior-focused disciplines must advocate for spatial expertise, bridging territories and scales as their primary distinction. The faculty of the graduate Interiors program encourage students to pursue diverse research paths that respond to their professional practice and scholarship interests. As design often centers on understanding communities, our students collaborate with partners at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington and Central Kentucky, and throughout the Appalachian region.

Divergent and human-centered design processes lie at the core of design. Because the study of interiors includes connections to both intimate settings and increasingly complex conditions, the faculty encourage students to move beyond conventional approaches to imagine transformative opportunities for the built environment.

**The field of environmental and interior design considers current needs and future opportunities to shape and sustain a better and more inclusive world.**

Students may pursue a broad range of specializations in design processes and scales from interior urbanism to topical studies in hospitality, healthcare, workplace, housing, exhibit, and experiential design; as well as preservation, sustainability, adaptive reuse, design history, theory, and community engagement. Students may choose to concurrently pursue various graduate certificate programs including preservation, universal design, and community leadership.

In either of two speculative platforms — a thesis or a design project — students examine design issues through theory, design-build activities, community-based work, and the Studio Appalachia research group. Students explore diverse spatial applications to engage a complex field of relations, actions, and collective design practices.

Furthermore, our program supports Studio Appalachia — a collective and interdisciplinary design research group established by graduate students and faculty — which serves as a hub for interdisciplinary and multi-scalar projects that draw upon the geographic, historical, social, and cultural diversity of the region to promote revitalization.
School of Interiors
Graduate Faculty
School of Interiors Graduate Faculty

Through coursework and extracurricular offerings, students in the graduate Interiors program explore design theory, applied research, cultural studies, building conservation, technological innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and social justice. Faculty of the School offer a broad range of expertise in areas including but not limited to: housing, sustainability, healthcare, exhibition design, history/theory, visual representation, design thinking, adaptive reuse, architecture, interior urbanism, historic preservation, and the social sciences. The faculty encourage students to pursue a thesis or project to draw upon this interdisciplinary expertise, as well as the extensive, research-driven resources and the rich variety of societal issues at UK, in the region, and worldwide.

Allison Carll-White
Professor
hedcarll@uky.edu
Healthcare, Workplace, Historic Interiors

Lindsey Fay
Assistant Professor
lindsey.fay@uky.edu
Experiential Learning, Healthcare Design, Professional Practice

Patrick Lee Lucas
Associate Professor and Director,
School of Interiors
patrickleelucas@uky.edu
Design History & Theory, Community Engagement, Cultural Studies, The American Home

Gregory Marinic
Associate Professor and
Director of Graduate Studies
gmarinic@uky.edu
Architecture, Interior Urbanism, Adaptive Reuse, Exhibition Design, Design History & Theory

Rebekah Radtke
Assistant Professor
rebekah.radtke@uky.edu
Community Engagement, Design Process, Educational Design

Joe Rey-Barreau
Associate Professor
joseph.ray-barreau@uky.edu
Design Process, Pedagogy, Lighting, Architectural Detailing

Helen Turner
Assistant Professor
helen.turner@uky.edu
Sustainability, Pedagogy, The American Home, Materials, Design History & Theory

Further information regarding our faculty can be found on our website at design.uky.edu/faculty-interiors.
At 500 million years old, Appalachia is one of the oldest environments on earth and home to a myriad of diverse species of flora and fauna. Following the spine of the Appalachian mountain range from southern New York to northern Mississippi, the region contains the entire state of West Virginia, as well as portions of 12 other states including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Home to more than 25 million people, Appalachia reveals a notable level of diversity, as well as household incomes and poverty rates that fall consistently below the national average. Its economy — once highly dependent on mining, forestry, agriculture, chemical industries and heavy industry — significantly impacts the future.

The University of Kentucky College of Design sits on the doorstep of Appalachia — one of the most socioeconomically disadvantaged regions in North America — and thus, it is poised to mobilize design as a catalyst for positive change.

As architects, designers and advocates, our solutions are only effective when we understand the needs and nuances of the communities that we serve. Studio Appalachia offers a collective and interdisciplinary design research group established by students and faculty in the College of Design. Operating as a collaborative hub for interdisciplinary and multi-scalar projects in architecture, urbanism, interiors and historic preservation, Studio Appalachia draws upon the geographic, historical, social and cultural diversity of the region to promote revitalization.

Our land grant, Research-1 institution is strategically positioned to serve communities in the Commonwealth and beyond with interdisciplinary research and hands-on learning opportunities. Research-based studios, design theses and scholarship engage sites within the Greater Appalachia territory as defined by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Design research endeavors of Studio Appalachia address issues that have enigmatically confronted the region for decades. Students and faculty consider such conditions as opportunities for design innovation in the built environment.