

greetings from the department of interior architecture!

the university of north carolina at greensboro

Welcome back students and faculty!

DesignIntelligence Ranks UNCG IARc #4 Most Admired Undergraduate Interior Design Programs!

Turn a page into this years Design Intelligence volume on America's Best Architecture and Design Schools and a quote from Van Day Truex greets you. It reads "Interiors speak! Rooms emphasize whether one exists or lives, and there is a great difference between the two!"

The importance of space is stressed to us in this way day in and day out in the UNCG IARc program. We are both encouraged and proud to find creative design solutions, embrace sustainability, and respect the built environment. It seems fitting that Design Intelligence's Survey of Deans and Department Heads ranked UNCG IARc as the number 4 most admired undergraduate interior design programs. Of those ranked, UNCG was the only program termed as "interior architecture" while the rest are specifically interior design.

This admiration from other deans and department heads is also found in the attitude of the students. When Design Intelligence surveyed students in our program, 100% said they will be well prepared for their profession upon graduation. Also found was that 41% plan to work for a private practice and that none of our students plan to work in a field that is not related to design.

An exciting (other positive adjective) percentage in comparison to similar programs is that 12% of IARc students hope to work for a non-profit or community service organization. We are the *only* program interviewed that showed this high of a commitment to a design career focused on giving. This fact can be directly attributed to the recent development by our students and faculty of the Community Center for Engaged Design and the true passion UNCG IARc has for design that makes a difference.

A New Wind Sweeps Through: Amanda Gale, Ph.D. comes to UNCG



As Fall semester 2015 began, 4th year interior architecture students were introduced to assistant professor, Amanda Gale. Gale holds a bachelor's degree in interior design from Michigan State University, a Master's degree in Facility Management and Interior Design from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Technology from Eastern Michigan University. Her research at Eastern Michigan focused on practitioners' understanding and adoption of sustainable design strategies.

Gale says that when it comes to design, she is, "strongly influenced by both psychology and how people use the built environment and interact with space." Her attention to detail coupled with expertise in sustainable design will be beneficial on those studying under her in studio this semester where the focus is on commercial workplace design.

Sustainability Film and Discussion Series

The Weatherspoon Art Museum is presenting the tenth annual Sustainability Film and Discussion Series. The objective of the series is to make known the issues that affect the community and the world, primarily of environmental sustainability and climate changes. The series is free and open to the public at 6:30 pm on the following dates:

September 24 – Who Killed the Electric Car (2006)

October 22 – King Corn (2007)

November 12 – Waste Land (2010)

January 21 – Living Downstream (2010)

February 25 – Overburden (2015)

March 17 – Just Eat It (2015)

April 21 – UNCG Sustainability Shorts Film Competition

Check out [UNCG's Office of Sustainability](#) for any related updates as well!

Student Abby Ekard Study Abroad Experience at Deakin University

3rd year student, Abby Eckard, studied abroad in Australia this summer at Deakin University. A typical day of class there began with two hours of lecture time, followed by three hours of studio. Abby says the structure of their studio was quite similar to ours. Their studies centered on tectonic design. Outside of coursework, Abby has enjoyed the Australian dish “parma” as well as trips to local amusement parks and landmarks.



Pictured right: Abby meeting a kangaroo at Dreamland; Pictured left: a view of Twelve Apostles, a landmark

Contributed by: Abby Ekard [3rd Year Undergraduate Student]

Jack Kennedy: Summer Internship Experience

Jack Kennedy, a second year graduate student and senior teaching assistant had a phenomenal summer internship in Charleston, SC. Jack had the opportunity to work for Meadors Inc., a design-build residential firm which focuses in historic and new construction. His personal connection directed him to visiting the firm and receiving a job before he left the interview.

Meadors Inc. is broken up into workshops which consist of architecture, design services, construction, architectural preservation, a cabinet shop, metal shop, and paint shop, as well as state management. The work environment was a traditional architect's office but Jack had the opportunity to become directly connected to metal, paint, and cabinet shops.

His primary duties were working as a team of two with one of the other members of the firm. In addition, Jack specified products to order them, conducted site visits, and created custom designed furniture pieces as well as architectural conception of spaces. Along with the design aspect, Jack was able to work with the workshops to direct the custom build. The primary programs used were Revit, Photoshop, and Illustrator which allowed his skills to expand and proficiently model small details in Revit. The main project the firm worked on during the internship was a 1780 historically significant home in South of Broad in Charleston, SC. There was a level of satisfaction with working on smaller projects and seeing the construction and installation of the projects come to life.



Pictured: Jack Kennedy 2nd year graduate student (far left), revit model of custom cabinetry (second from left), process of cabinets being built in the shop (third from left), and the final product in the home (far right). Jack created custom cabinetry in which the residence address is incorporated in Morse Code into the openings on the face of the cabinets.

Contributed by: Jack Kennedy [2nd Year Graduate Student]

Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference

The Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference was held in Salisbury, NC from September 16-18. Professor Jo Leimenstoll and seven other students for IARc attended the conference. The conference consisted of presentations in accomplishments of the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, a recap of the year's significant events from Preservation North Carolina,

successes and challenges that the Historic Salisbury Foundation has faced over the past 40 years, and much more. There was also a reception to interact with other preservationists, one of which took place in the Roundhouse at the North Carolina Transportation Museum. Additionally concurrent sessions under the following categories were held: diversity track, revolving fund track, training for commissions, tools for hands on learning, reserved for tax credits. Cat French a graduate student graduating in December also gave a presentation in new research.

Mardita Murphy, a graduate student who attended the conference, said, "IARc graduate students and faculty just returned from a three day gathering in Salisbury, NC with preservation professionals and homeowners from across the state of North Carolina. The conference focus was revolving funds but we covered much more; the group was strong exhibiting informative and inspiring projects."

Cat French stated, "I presented some of my thesis research at the Preservation North Carolina Conference in Salisbury on Friday, September 20th. The topic of my presentation was the investigation of the preservation of the historic character of inner-city historic neighborhoods that have experienced targeted redevelopment over the past several decades. There were maps presented of demolition, infill, and rehabilitation and photographic documentation of four neighborhoods in North Carolina: College Hill and Ole Asheboro in Greensboro, South Park in Raleigh, and Northside in Wilmington. The big question posed was: what is an acceptable level of change?"



Pictured: Cat French presenting her thesis research at The Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference.

Contributed by: Cat French [Graduate Student]

Check out [Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference](#) for any additional information.

Hannah Mendoza's Summer in Mexico

This summer Hannah Mendoza and her family traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico where they have a house and her in-laws live. The trip was filled with many adventures; they travelled throughout Jalisco, Colima, Michoacán, Mexico City (where the family stayed a week), Hidalgo, and Guerrero. Hannah, her husband, and the kids speak English and Spanish. While in Mexico they enjoyed local cuisines including enchiladas, horneadas, tamales de helote, churros, tacos, tacos, and tacos.

An interesting design difference between America and Mexico was the way the houses are heated and cooled. The houses in Guadalajara do not need air conditioning or heat, instead there is a central open atrium that circulates the hot air up and out while drawing cooling breezes in through the front door. The negative to this is when it's the rainy season, their house floods, which they encountered this summer due to heavy rainfall.



Pictured: An abandoned motel in Mexico (far left), architecture in Mexico (middle), and food available in Mexico (far right).

Contributed by: Hannah Mendoza

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