



A note about Interior Design at ASU...

Any great product is periodically evaluated, reviewed and changed, if necessary, to ensure the very best end-result. Educational programs are no exception to this rule. To that end, the faculty of the Interior Design Program have been carefully reviewing the entire Interior Design Program at Appalachian State. This review includes the program's mission and vision for educating students, facilities, faculty, curriculum [courses], course sequence, interdisciplinary relationships, extracurricular offerings to enhance course work, and internship program. We are excited to announce that we are in the final stages of this assessment and anticipate offering a brand new curriculum beginning in the Fall Semester of 2006.

Many of the results of this assessment have already been realized; we've joined the Department of Technology to better align ourselves with related disciplines, three new tenure-track faculty members [four total full-time faculty who are all NCIDQ certified and four adjuncts], two completely renovated studios dedicated to the program, one studio integrated with full computer access for each student, and a total re-write of the program curriculum [anticipated implementation Fall 2006]. These changes have been introduced for three primary reasons:

- [1] to prepare our program for Council for Interior Design Accreditation [formerly FIDER—Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research, www.fider.org] assessment and accreditation;
- [2] to prepare our students to sit for and successfully pass the NCIDQ Exam [National Council for Interior Design Qualification, www.ncidq.org];
- [3] to provide an educational experience for our students that is competitive with the top design schools in the country; and
- [4] to provide an education that prepares students for the future of the interior design profession which includes environmentally and socially responsible decisions. Research will tell you that these items are no small task. However, we as a faculty are committed to interior design education and the success of each student. It is our belief that these changes will ensure the professional competency of each student, provide a fine balance between pragmatic and theoretical skill sets, further strengthen the program, and ultimately, the interior design profession.

Admission to Appalachian State allows you entry into the foundational Interior Design courses. Successful completion of the portfolio review following the foundational courses will allow you to continue your matriculation toward a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design. Transfer students will be assessed and placed on an individual basis.

Our faculty members are well-qualified, engaged and accessible; graduate assistants do not teach our courses. We proudly echo that Appalachian is a teaching university and faculty know the students. Our faculty members have excellent credentials; all are NCIDQ Certified, most have significant professional experience and maintain private design practices in addition to their teaching responsibilities. We walk the talk.

It's an exciting time to be involved with Interior Design at ASU. We know your decision is a tough one and we are here to help. We want your choice to be the right choice! Should you have any questions about the profession of interior design, Appalachian State University, or the Interior Design Program at ASU, please do not hesitate to contact us, mercerja@appstate.edu, 828.262.7832.

Good Luck,

Jeanne Mercer-Ballard