

Design programs are on point to be state of the art conceptually and technologically.

Students want to be up to date with the information they are learning. They also want to be challenged to be innovative.

Students in interior architecture programs expect a broadening relationship with architectural education while they maintain intimate relationships with user-centered design, lighting, details, furnishings, and materials.

WHAT STUDENTS EXPECT FROM THE PROFESSION

Students have high expectations

Students have high expectations from the profession. For those who truly appreciate the opportunity to work with people, to reimagine new uses and new concepts for habitation, design is a lifestyle. It includes life-long learning from the academies, from the offices, from industry, and from society. Students champion the understanding that good design is integral to our future and undertake jobs in which they can make a difference. “As a professional, I expect to work in a field which is increasingly open to experimentation and which invites the designer to take part in creating real environments, not just shells. I expect color and delight to become more important to interior design. I expect good design to be seen as an important factor in a happy life.”³¹ Some students continue their education to specialize in their respective fields, interior decoration or interior design. Some continue to focus on furniture, industrial design, lighting, and architecture, taking training in the office. Many continue their education in related fields, combining their educational experience into an innovative marketable network of design abilities. Some choose not to become expert in any one area, but to broaden their understandings so as to work in an expanded arena.

WHAT PARENTS EXPECT

Balancing the intensity

Balancing the intensity of the actual educational experience—the demands of creative thinking and invention, which stress many students—with the reality of the demands placed on the graduate, design education still carries the reputation of salaried art for parents of degree-seeking students. High school art and design teachers report that parents first and foremost want students to