20 Years of Art & Design
1998–2018

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APPENDIX J

IDES RETREATS' AGENDA AND SUPPORT DATA

COUNCIL FOR INTERIOR DESIGN ACCREDITATION

March 23-26, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY—QATAR

IDES DEPARTMENT RETREAT
Intercontinental Hotel West Bay
AGENDA

8:00   **Breakfast**

8:30   **Welcome Back!**
              Iceland Field trip, sustainability summer course, any other news to share

              Fall course schedule, Administrative Schedule, and Advising

9:00   **IDES Students Boot Camp:** Agenda discussion

              Follow up on Curriculum map, CIDA and JAB Reports
              1.   Size, Scope and Complexity already addressed
              2.   Student Learning Outcomes as per 2014 CIDA PS
              3.   Collect data for CIDA (Hard and Digital Copies)—Due Sept. 14th.
              4.   Faculty JAB report data Due Sept. 7th. Cherif's report is due Sept. 10.

              Vision and Mission statements--outcome as per precedent feedbacks

              PLAGIARISM—strategies to be adopted

11:30   **Dean Akel Kaheera**
              Meet, greet, and overview of future research perspectives

12:30   **Lunch time**

1:30   **Overview of senior thesis project and portfolio reviews**
              1.   Critiques' comments relative to senior thesis project
              2.   Alumni's comments relative to portfolio reviews
              3.   Senior Exit Interview overview

              Future Interiors Conference
              7-8 September 2015 (Monday and Tuesday mornings)
              US100$ Dollars Per head for 2 days--Intercontinental Hotel The City

              3D scanner

2:00   **Dissolution of the CDRE center and substitution**
              Fikria El Kaouakibi: Authorized Research Office Representative

3:00   **Former Registrar Position—New administrative structure and roles**
              Greet Provoost: Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Registration Services
              Missy Hernandez: Senior Director for Academics and Career Advising

End of Meeting
              see next page for few miscellaneous reminders…/….
              Some of the items below will be addressed in our subsequent meetings.

1. Check studios, anything needed bore start of class... things to get rid of...
2. Advisory board meeting--List of membership with email and date
3. Design competition list
4. Syllabi update as per Line
5. TEDex request Abdullah Radwan
6. Interiors and Design magazine
7. JAB, NASAD, and CIDA Reports

CIDA next site visit: Spring 2018—Projects Collection for six semesters:
spring and fall 2015, 2016, and 2017. The required data will include the following documents:

- Course syllabi
- Project statements,
- Grading Criteria,
- Lectures,
- Site visits and critiques listing
- Projects processes and outcomes
- Other data you deem appropriate

A shared Google drive folder (2018 CIDA Accreditation) will be generated with the corresponding sub-folders to upload your respective course data, as per the above list.

Wish you a successful start of the semester!

IDES DEPARTMENT BOOT CAMP
DATE MONDAY AUGUST 24—ROOM 273/275

9:00 am   Welcome back!

Planned the morning session to be an active/interactive session… whereby students and faculty have to intervene…

- Quick overview of IDES accreditation and strategic developments

- Overview sophomore, junior and senior years

- IDES Internship—Matt

- IDES Spring fieldtrip—Li Han

- Ownership of studio working space—Johan

- Advising—Maja

- College events—Liam

- Dean Akel Kahera, welcome! (10:45 am)

- Reviewing syllabi common themes—Kevin

- Plagiarism—Cherif

11:30   Lunch---**Mentor Mentee Lunch**
Faculty-student advising and student-student mentorship
(Advisors to meet with respective advisees)

Horse Grooming, Riding Behavior, Communication

12:45   Departure to Outdoor activity—Buses @ main entry

1:00   Al-Shaqab Equestrian Center
See attached agenda

4:00   Conclude event

Wish you a joyful semester!

The following comments were based on an open-interview based on two questions:

- **What are the strengths and weaknesses of the department…**
- **What are the things we should address to make it a better learning environment**

Observations: more comments on junior and senior years than sophomore…

Comments

> **Liked all professors,**
> **liked the diversity,**
> **Liked the program and VCUQ,**
> **Already starting to miss the school…**
>
> **These might be true/false… students comments…**
>
> **Felt that courses were taught by the same professor every semester…**
> **Seminar Courses ought to be addressed**
> **Senior year is stressful—many important dates and new issues addressed for the first time… see const docs, rcps, ffe…**
> **Weird courses where nothing is done at the beginning, but at the end of the semester everything is required…**
> **We are not well-prepared to develop research phase—senior year we are overloaded…**
> **Misunderstanding of design concept…**
> **Digital graphics—we need more help…**
> **Business of design is a mess… taught as if it is another studio…**
> **We don't know anything about how to do budgets.**

Arwa

- Challenged to take care of the projects—you are independent you can do it by yourself…
- ==Things that we might have learned earlier rcp, specs, etc…would have made us stronger during eh senior year..==
- ==Senior level stress level is very high… should be done with concepts during the fall…==
- ==Exhibition time is very stressful… we did not have enough time….==

- ID 442 did not help… everything was done last minute… too much pressure…
- I had like to complete many things at the same time, which led problems…
- My professors are nice and enjoyed working with them…

Heba…

- Instructors were not helpful, for us they were yaling and screaming
- Write 1000 words, make a mood board that represent you…
- Design layout of the portfolio
- More professors is helping… Standard grading whatever you do…
- I am missing Maysaa…
- RCP's furniture, finishes, etc… not addressed at all before…
- Construction documents course cancelled but…
- Some instructors are not flexible… Prof x was not flexible with final projects…
- Need to learn 3DMax, firms don't know what is Rhino…
- School senior spirit…
- We are not used to research… Al-khor project was a mess – interview with just any one, take photos, and talk to people… a couple of hours and you are done…

Dhika and another student Ihave fogotten

- Super studio was not about rendering, we achieved a lot; we created our own brief… it is almost we are responsible about everything… Goup project are positive…
- Curriculum for seminar courses… thesis proposals it was weird some people have used it for two projects…
- Studio are well organized… beginning of the semester how it looks like…
- Construction documents…
- Big picture of the expectations…
- Structure of the course is good concept, prelim and final…
- Timeline of the seminar classes… ID 442 needs a lot of work…

Aisha

- Id junior year, I wish we have something about interior design…
- Rhino is very good
- Problem of teaching a little bit of every thing, this in computer graphics…
- Senior year was stressful because of lack of knowledge of concept not learnt before
- Allow Mohamed to help with digtal things…

Amelie and Reem

- More time at the end of the senior year… thesi, bfa, and presentation…

- First phase too long… more deadline,
- Did enjoy the studio fall… essential for fall….
- Seminar was not helpful…
- Portfolio seminar—need more feedback… having something in March…
- Enjoyed the fall semester—teachers forced us to think on our own…
- From junior year we need more independent thinking… concept of self learner…
- Feedback should be specific for your project but not all…
- General teaching specifics…
- I feel I did not learn about many things
- Schedule should be looked at… curriculum should have more
- Having the same professors for a long period…. No improvements…
- Small community is very good…
- Business of design class is a mess…
- Appreciated in Richmond…. Why you won't to be here, why design,
- IT 24/7 call center…
- Rhino was very helpful…but it is not used in industry
- Budget—

Asma Ulhasna

- There are professors who helped us a lot… they were good mentors
- Kevin and johan helped me a lot…
- If we are falling back they are there to help us…
- Sometimes happen that we are not at the same level, some of the faculty are not easy…
- Department wise, the way how you are taking it I like it…
- We did not learn how to do FFE so it created stress;
- Technical aspects should be taught at the beginning
- 3DS max should be the rule, but not Rhino…
- So far we see that there is good progress since you came…
- Woodshop is wonderful approach to learn… should be a course…
- Fit out are very important in the program… how to assemble things…
- Most classes cover a lot of things…
- History of interiors are very general, it does not address the art history aspect…
- Values ethics and morals, it is missing at VCU,
  Smokers number is increasing… out of stress and depression
  Need to talk about values Morales, professional attitudes…
- As fresman we have got IdES 201, is a good one…

Sudania
  Issue what I have felt… the same faculty teach you;

it is the same grade whatever you do…
I do my best, but it remain at the same level…
Other professors are better they movtivate you
Senior semester was stressful, it is better to send us the requirements as soon as possible.
More exposure to the work field, trips with prof x were very successful… she points out certain things tha realted to what we do in the class… practical
Exposure to proeccjects meaning/// junior year so focused on retail and rendering…
The Richmond exposure was better…
Digitally, we are pushed the creativity, think out of box, thing your way, we learned them in a very superficial… we did not use the digital a lot…
We should learn 3Dmax…—

weak sustainability… LEED offering

Professor wise: we appreciate our professors… BFA/MFA… stressful…
Last two days we made our porftolios… brochure, business card…
Seminar course…not helpful at all because of the professors…

Noha

Small ratios of faculty to students generate one to one evaluation
Availability of the professors… is not good… sometimes you had a quick question you have done good job… in telling us that your office is open

Something realtistic can be very fruitfull… site visits, we are not asked about the construction… technically we are weak… at least the genral understanding… more hands on projects… how things hold together… to enhacnce how the joinery work…

Digital design needs a lot of work….

Co-teaching advantage learn much more from both faculty and help a lot from the feedback but the inconvenience is when the faculty are not the same and contradicting each other…

I enjoyed having two professors because of the feedback… other things

IDES 400 was confusing… start your thesis project but cannot use the same data….

In a way, I used it as an experiment… in that way it was helpful, I used it in that way…

The rotation was fine but it is overwhelming, short periods of time, split into small groups was not helpful… The second project did not built on any ideas from the first project… this is particularly true for the QMA project….. three mini offices… is nice… the outcomes are much better and stronger… one is responsible for a section of the

project… we create a movie segment… grateful that the professors understood my feeling… it was stressful…

<mark>Submitted the first version of the portfolio… but did not get enough feedback…</mark>

ID 400--Fall semester was not manageable at all… seminar approach takes time… we talk more than produced…

Business of Design, specs, and senior completion year.…

Muneera:

<mark>Collaboration between faculty is very week…</mark>

Grading… is another issue that deserves to be looked at…

Digital graphics…Maysaa was great teacher

<mark>3DSmax I liked it and it is the best…</mark>

Construction documents… is another issue…

Next years wil be better…

Johan and kevin, when they teach they are helpful…

I interviewed Sara—IRAKi

Digital graphics

Construction docs

Professors are nice by some are not good…

Group project are problematic

ID 400 three projects is a lot

Grading—some professors are not fair

Dear Dr. Amor,

We would like to thank you and your staff for the efforts you are making to offer the VCU students another type of view on what their projects could be. My team and I have enjoyed being part of the review panel and we are looking forward for other events.

Regarding the presentations(general observations):

-the idea of "concept" is used in most cases as a point on a check list, not as the driving force of the project

-if there are trials of using the concept as a design tool, the interpretation is quite literal and does not bring real value to the end result.

-the technical documentation makes sense in a presentation if it illustrates an idea, rather than just to show it has been produced.

Personally, I would have liked to see more maturity ,in depth research and courage in the approach considering that we are talking about diploma projects. I have seen it is possible in several cases, therefore I am sure there is a lot of hope for improvement.
Regards,
Alexandra Danciulescu

Dear Mr. Amor,

Hope this e-mail finds you well.
I would like to thank you too for hosting us. It was a really interesting experience and I hope that it was also helpful for you and the students too.
My colleagues will provide you with all the information that you need.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional comments.

Kind Regards

Myrto Grigori

Dear Mr. Amor,
First of all, I would like to congratulate you for the steps you are taking to develop a better learning environment for the students.
I really enjoyed a lot being part of the review, and was very happy to see the amount of effort all the students put in their work, it was marvelous.

Regarding the review:
·   Very Important thing for us being Designers, is the information regarding the "Concept". I felt that Most of the Students had good concepts, but they did not had it well documented.

·   Lack of Physical models, we need to have more physical model experiments done for their concept design. It not only helps them to develop the idea in a better manner, But also it is a good record to show the review team the process through which the design has evolved.

Personally, I would like to see them do an in-depth documentation of the ideas more than the Technical Drawings.

Those were my remarks on the overall work, and I look forward to having such collaborations more often in the Future.

Thank you.

Regards,

Shaique Uddin
Architect

Dear Cherif,

It was a pleasure to attend all of the crits and see the broad spectrum of talent across the senior year.

I think there are a number of general points from the presentation some of which have been previously mentioned:

· <mark>Spelling, lots of bad examples which distract a potential client from your message, yet so simple to check/fix</mark>

· <mark>Define a strong concept and be ruthless in its implementation throughout the project</mark>
· Utilise the graphics/imagery to tell a story of your project, with no superfluous slides (they can be in bound folders etc…)
· <mark>Demonstrate experimentation with light/materials/forms etc…</mark>

· <mark>Physical models as well as computer models are design tools, and should be utilised</mark> whether they are part of the final presentation requirements or not

There are also a number of specific issues which you might wish to consider for forthcoming years:
· I understand the mini thesis became the briefing element for the thesis project however some students changed afterwards and this is pretty evident in the presentations
· <mark>Greater understanding of materials/materiality</mark>
· Presentation skills
· <mark>Design process of defining a concept and implementing it prior to final thesis</mark>

· Weak projects to be rejected before final presentation stage

· <mark>Weekly external crits?</mark>

I look forward to seeing you on 03 May.

Best Regards
Philip

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Gensler

Dear Dr. Amor,

It was a real pleasure for me to participate in the Senior presentations last week.

Having briefly discussed this matter with Shaikha and with the support of Qatar Foundation, I would really welcome the opportunity to get more involved with the VCU - ID Program, not only for a 10' critique at the end of a Design Phase but to help the students and assist teachers during the project development as noted in your email.

As for my feedback regarding the sessions, please note the following:

· 10' minute duration for each presentation is appropriate. We all know how difficult it is to compress months of work in such as limited time but this is preparing them for real life.

· The presentations demonstrated that the students understand the importance of approaching a Design problem from a global perspective to the specifics of target markets and Client requirements.

· The works presented showed the connection of the Interior Design with the Architecture of the building. In some cases the Interior design challenged the Architecture. This was interesting to see.

· The students all have strong concepts but in the majority of the project the concept got diminished during the design process.

· Construction Documents were available during the presentations which shows students are not only learning about design but technical skills.

· Students were able to illustrate their design with beautiful computer renderings and hand sketches.

Some items for consideration:

· It would be helpful to see physical samples.

· Although it might not be required during a presentation, I would like to see more of the engineering coordination but I am not sure how this is address in the school.

Overall I think the students are being given with the right knowledge skills and well prepared for their professional careers as Interior designers.

That said, it would nice to see more innovations in term of concepts, ideas, materials, etc.

I am sure this is all addressed in the program and the reason why I think it would be more helpful as a reviewer to be involve from the beginning of the Design process.

Hope this helps.

Regards,

Maria