

INTERIO:SCOPE

A look into the world of interior design at MSU through faculty, students, and alumni.

ISSUE 3: Spring 2026

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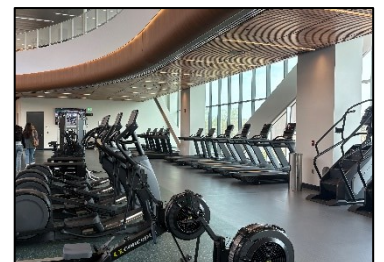
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Interior Design Student Organization's Annual NBS Design Charette

In March 2026, students from all grade levels participated in the annual NBS Charette, a design competition hosted by MSU IDSO and NBS Commercial Interiors. Working in mixed-level teams, they had four hours to design a travel agency's workplace. At the end, each team presented their own design proposal, including branding, research, their floor plan, material selections, and renderings, to a panel of judges. The event was a success thanks to participating students, volunteers, and support from NBS and the MSU Federal Credit Union.



→ Continued on page 8 with detailed highlights from the charette, student work, and photos capturing the event.



Students Tour Brand New MSU Wellness Building

Back in April 2026, upper-division Interior Design students toured the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center, gaining behind-the-scenes insight into one of MSU's most significant recent campus additions. The visit highlighted the meaningful role that interior designers can play in large-scale recreation projects, improving the health and wellbeing of students.

→ Continued on page 13 with detailed highlights of the process.

MESSAGE FROM

ID Director and Alumni Board Director

Welcome MSU Interior Design Community,

As we bring you the latest issue of INTERIO:SCOPE, we continue to celebrate the energy, creativity, and impact of our Interior Design network. This publication is a space where the ideas and achievements of our students, alumni, and faculty come together to reflect the evolving story of MSU Interior Design.

Inside, you'll find work that showcases innovation in process, progress in practice, and the meaningful contributions our community is making across the profession. Each feature reinforces the strength of our shared foundation and the diverse paths shaped by an MSU education.

We invite you to play an active role in shaping future issues. Share your recent projects, career updates, or perspectives to help highlight the breadth of experiences across our community. We also encourage you to expand our reach, pass this newsletter along to colleagues, consider connecting us with potential sponsors, or support the program through partnerships and contributions.

Engagement goes beyond the page. Whether through involvement with IDSO, participation in program events, or mentorship opportunities, your connection strengthens the experience for current students, future students, and alumni.

Thank you for being part of this growing network and for helping us continue to build a vibrant and connected Interior Design community.

Go Green!

Dr. Linda Nubani & Dawn Cenowa



Linda Nubani, Ph.D.,
NCIDQ

Associate Professor and
Director of Interior Design
Program



Dawn Cenowa, CDT, CSI, IIDA

Class of 2010
Account Executive,
Client Specifications
Sherwin Williams

School Update from SPDC Director

The Interior Design program within the School of Planning, Design and Construction continues to exemplify the excellence, innovation, and community engagement that define SPDC's mission. This past year has been marked by significant achievements across our program, reflecting the dedication of our students, faculty, alumni, advisory board members, and industry partners.

Our faculty continue to advance the profession through outstanding accomplishments and recognition. We proudly celebrate Dr. Linda Nubani's achievement of NCIDQ Certification, Laura Winter's receipt of the CANR Excellence in Teaching Award, Dr. Jisun Lee's Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award, and Dr. Kristy Kellom's completion of her Ph.D. in Environmental Design at Michigan State University. These accomplishments reflect the expertise, scholarship, and commitment to student success that distinguish our Interior Design faculty.

Student engagement remained strong throughout the year through a variety of professional, academic, and experiential learning opportunities. Students participated in the IIDA Think Tank event, collaborated with industry professionals during the annual NBS Commercial Interiors Charrette, and expanded their global perspectives through a faculty-led study abroad experience in South Korea and Japan. These opportunities strengthen students' ability to think critically, collaborate effectively, and engage with diverse design contexts.

We are also pleased to celebrate the awarding of \$39,200 in scholarships to 27 undergraduate Interior Design students. These scholarships play a vital role in supporting student success and creating opportunities for future design leaders. We extend our sincere gratitude to the generous donors and endowment supporters whose continued investment in our students makes these awards possible. Their commitment to education and the design profession has a lasting impact on the lives and careers of our students.

The continued success of our program would not be possible without the commitment of our Interior Design Advisory Board, whose guidance and support help shape the future of the program. I also extend sincere appreciation to the Interior Design Student Organization (IDSO) for its leadership in building a vibrant student community, as well as to our faculty and staff for their unwavering dedication to excellence in teaching, mentorship, research, and service.

As you read this newsletter, I invite you to celebrate the many accomplishments highlighted within these pages and the collective efforts that make our Interior Design program a thriving and dynamic community.

Thank you for your continued engagement.

Go Green!



Dr. Jun-Hyun Kim



Dr. Jun-Hyun Kim

SPDC School Director and
Professor

2025-2026 ID Advisory Board

The Michigan State University Interior Design Advisory Board, established on April 2019, serves to provide strategic advice and support for the MSU Interior Design Program. The board's contributions encompass a range of activities, including advising program faculty, mentoring students through portfolio reviews, and offering financial support to meet the program's needs.



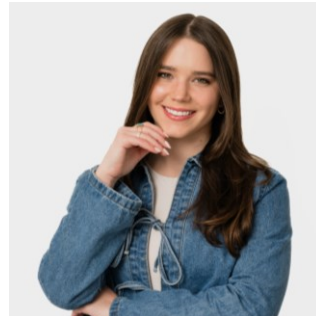
Michelle Allard, ALEP, NCIDQ, IIDA

Class of 1992
Learning Environments
Consultant + Design
Fleetwood Furniture



Kay Barber, IIDA, LEED AP, ID+C

Class of 1997
Manager, Steelcase Workplace
Services Design
Steelcase



Emily Bojo, IIDA

Class of 2023
Creative Strategist
Interior Environments



Dawn Cenowa, CDT, CSI, IIDA

Class of 2010
Account Executive,
Client Specifications
Sherwin-Williams



Briana Cornell Hipkins, IIDA, NCIDQ, EDAC, LEED Green Associate

Class of 2013
Office Technical Leader (Interiors)
& Sr. Interior Designer
HKS



Larissa Fedoroff, NCIDQ, LEED AP, WELL AP, EDAC, CDF, IIDA

Class of 2014
Senior Interior Designer
HKS



Courtney Hicks, IIDA, NCIDQ

Class of 2015
Interior Design Lead
Greene & Co Interior Design



Patricia Kammer

Class of 1988
Principal Design Researcher
Steelcase



Bari Pfeiffer, IIDA

Class of 1997
Director of Learning
Environments
Interior Environments

We extend our sincere thanks to our advisory board members, whose generosity of time, expertise, and resources plays a vital role in supporting the Interior Design program. If you are interested in learning more about engaging with or serving on the board in the future, please reach out to Dawn Cenowa at dawn.m.cenowa@sherwin.com

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ID Students Represent MSU in the Annual IIDA ThinkUp Design Charette



In February 2026, two Michigan State interior design students, third-year Ava Hochthanner and fourth-year Maya LaBruzzy, were nominated by the ID program to take part in the **International Interior Design Association (IIDA) ThinkUp Competition**, hosted by Haworth.

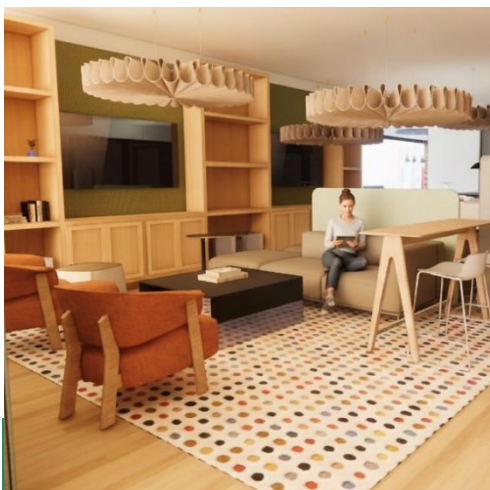
The week started off with a tour of Haworth's Headquarters in Holland, Michigan, where they learned about the Haworth brand, history, and design applications. Then, both MSU students were then split into two teams alongside four other design students from programs across Michigan to create a design proposal for the new Haworth Toronto showroom.



Both teams were given a week to create their designs before virtually presenting to a panel of judges, IIDA members, and a public audience.

Team A, including third-year Ava Hochthanner, focused on a proposal that highlighted Haworth's brand identity by drawing inspiration from the Headquarters' history displays and incorporating a new entrance focal wall featuring their iconic chairs. "It was an inspiring experience and a great opportunity to learn from peers with different strengths and perspectives," said Ava Hochthanner.

Team B, including fourth-year Maya LaBruzzy, produced a design proposal that channeled Haworth's emphasis on culture and innovation, creating an environment with communal workspaces and private pods that foster connection, productivity, and functionality for all users. "I am incredibly proud of my team for winning with our solution and grateful for the opportunity. I could not have asked for a better group," said Maya LaBruzzy.



IDSO Spends a Day in Downtown Grand Rapids



Experiencing the Design Industry Firsthand

On Friday, March 20th, the Interior Design Student Organization (IDSO) hosted its annual Day Downtown event in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Travelling together by bus into the city, students spent the day touring three design firms: **AMDG Architects**, **Integrated Architecture**, and **Mathison Architects**, gaining valuable firsthand insight into the industry. Each firm offered a unique perspective on both commercial and residential work, highlighting unique design approaches, processes, and styles that helped students better understand the range of possibilities within the field.

At each location, students gathered for presentations about their company, design philosophies, recent projects, and professional experiences within the industry.

Following the presentation, students toured each office space, a favorite part for many attendees. Seeing the firms' work environments allowed students to visualize the several types of studio cultures, layouts, and branding styles that exist within the industry.

Beyond professional experience, the trip also served as a meaningful bonding event for all the students. Traveling together, walking the city, and sharing lunch at the Grand Rapids Downtown Market allowed students from different grade levels to connect, collaborate, and build relationships outside of the classroom. A special thank you to AMDG Architects, Integrated Architecture, and Mathison Architects for welcoming our students into their workplaces and making this experience so impactful for our members!



Starting off with AMDG Architects



Touring Integrated Architecture



Ending at Mathison Architects



IDSO Students Participate in Annual NBS Design Competition

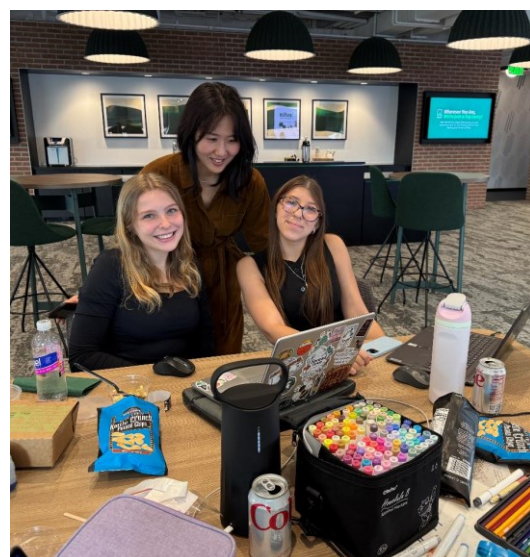
On Friday, March 27, IDSO student members from all grade levels took part in the annual NBS Charette, an all-day design competition hosted by both the **MSU Interior Design Student Organization** and **NBS Commercial Interiors**. This year's event took place at **MSU Federal Credit Union's** community space, providing the perfect environment for inspiration and collaboration.



Twenty Students were split into four mixed-level teams and given four hours to design a travel agency's workplace before presenting to a panel of judges. Congratulations to the winning team: **Ava Hochthanner, Taylor Davis, Addyson Shogren, Evie Lewin, and Sasha Ransom!** Second place was awarded to **Norah Stockwell, Alyssa Desjardins, Kenna Johnson, Emily Meyers, and**



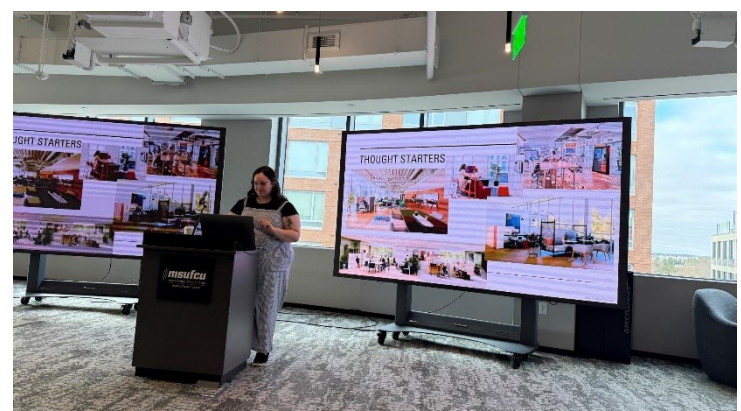
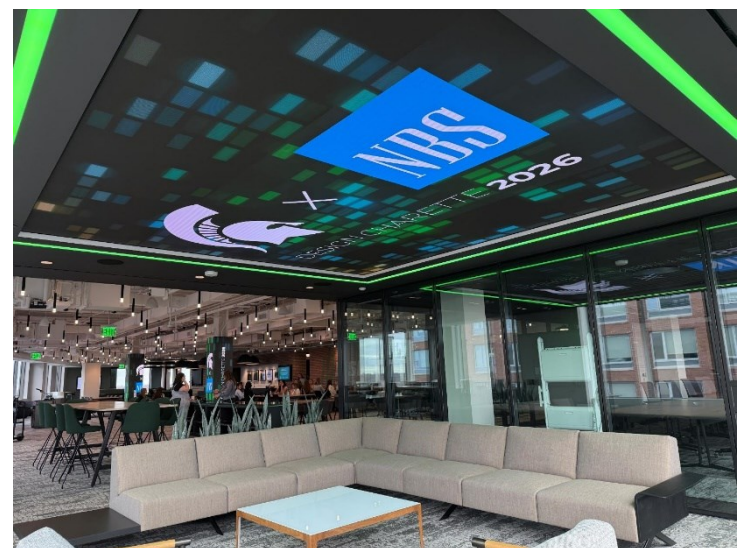
Denver Campau, while third place went to **Jackie LaPoint, Callaway Thomas, Isabella Kuntz, Keira Slaton, and Dahlia Leyden**. Fourth place was earned by **Ella Wright, Ava Sherman, Sophia Krupa, Emma Bell, and Sam Lazcano-Lazcano**.



IDSO Students Participate in Annual NBS Design Competition

Reflecting on the experience, **Jayme Grubaugh, Workplace Specialist at NBS Commercial Interiors**, shared: *"I've always really valued NBS's partnership with the MSU IDSO Interior Design Group and the opportunity to be part of and host the annual design charrettes. It's a great experience getting to connect with the students and watch their ideas come to life—I'm always impressed by their creativity, technical skills, and how well they present their projects and adapt to challenges during the prompt."* She continued: *"I always look forward to the MSU IDSO design charrette—it's such a rewarding experience working with the students and seeing their ideas come to life. Recently, we've started hosting the charrettes in spaces we've designed, which adds a more curated, immersive layer to the experience. It's been exciting to see how that environment influences their creativity, adaptability, and overall approach."*

"I am especially grateful for the longstanding partnership between MSU Interior Design and NBS Commercial Interiors.", said **Dr. Linda Nubani, Interior Design Program Director**. "This collaboration has been thoughtfully planned and cultivated over many years, and each spring we look forward to providing students with this unique, real-world design experience organized by NBS Commercial Interiors and IDSO. We invite you to enjoy the photos from this year's event and see how NBS transformed and branded the space to create an engaging and inspiring environment. A tremendous amount of planning and hard work goes into making this day possible. **Special thanks to Jayme Grubaugh, Kelli Johnston, Megan Robinson, and Emily Becker of NBS Commercial Interiors** for their dedication, enthusiasm, and countless hours spent planning a successful event. **We would also like to recognize Lauren Reiss, President of IDSO**, for her outstanding leadership and hard work coordinating with students and industry partners to make this year's charrette such a meaningful experience.



Thanks to NBS, participants enjoyed a catered lunch, and every placing team received a gift. This year was another remarkable success for this event, made possible by our talented students and our generous volunteers. Thank you to NBS for sponsoring, for our judges for their time, and MSU FCU for hosting!





IDSO Watch & Works

Throughout the 2025-2026 school year, the Interior Design Student Organization (IDSO) introduced a new event series called *Watch & Works*, designed to support students both socially and academically. Open to all grade levels, these gatherings gave students the opportunity to work on projects and coursework while enjoying a movie, food, and time with peers through either member potlucks or catered meals.

By creating a more flexible and relaxed meeting environment, *Watch & Works* allowed the club to stay connected while accommodating students' busy schedules and demanding workloads. The events quickly became a favorite among students, encouraging collaboration, creativity, and inspiration.

After four successful events throughout the year, IDSO plans to incorporate their *Watch & Works* into future semesters as a valuable opportunity for students.

Support IDSO!
Donations of prizes, catering, supplies, or cash are appreciated. Contact the ID Director for account info and details.



Students Mentor Local Highschoolers Through ACE

Throughout the spring semester, SPDC students spent their Tuesday evenings mentoring local high school students participating in the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) dual-enrollment program. Each MSU student was paired with a team, alongside a professional, helping guide creativity and design decisions throughout their lake house proposal. In February, all mentors got to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of Little Caesar's Arena.



ID Students at the SPDC Awards Ceremony

On April 9th, twenty-seven interior design students across all years attended the 2026 SPDC Awards Ceremony, where students, faculty, donors, and supporters gathered to celebrate academic achievement across the different programs within the School of Planning, Design, and Construction. Throughout the evening, attendees enjoyed a catered dinner alongside faculty speeches and the recognition of students receiving scholarships and awards within each one of the four SPDC programs. The ceremony highlighted both the accomplishments of SPDC students and the generosity of the school's supporters and donors, reinforcing SPDC's commitment to educational excellence, student success, and community building. Congratulations to all recognized students and scholarship recipients!

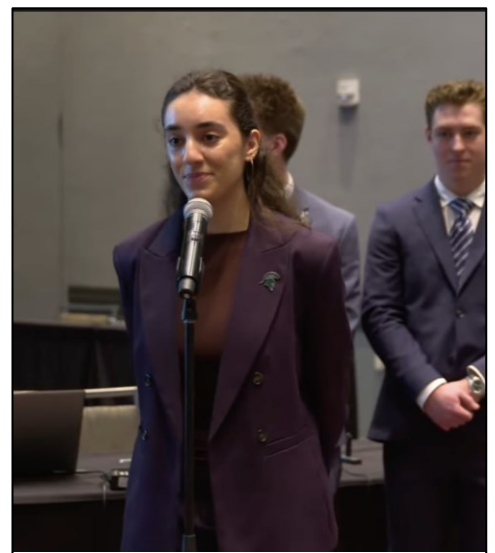


SPDC Honors Four Outstanding Student Leaders

In Fall 2025, third-year interior design student Julia Sesi was nominated and supported by ID faculty to take part in the 2026 **National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) Student Competition** alongside Construction Management students. The competition was led by Dr. George Berghorn, Assistant Professor of Construction Management. As the designer on the job, her role was to develop layouts for 6 floor plans for homes ranging from 2,400 sq./ft ranches to 3,400 sq./ft two-stories for a residential development in Georgia.

After developing their floor plans, Julia Sesi then created renderings for their final report and presentation at the International Builders Show in Orlando, Florida in February 2026. All four students who presented were awarded Outstanding Student Leader awards at the SPDC Scholarship Ceremony in April as a recognition of their efforts and hard work.

"This project gave me so much big-picture insight on what goes behind the scenes of a large-scale residential development and also introduced me to different dynamics while collaborating across disciplines! While it did challenge me in several ways, overcoming those challenges made me a better collaborator, student, and design professional. I feel that my experience was invaluable," said Julia Sesi.



An Inside Look into the Profession: Spending the Day at Steelcase

This spring, our third-year Interior Design students in IDES 451: Interior Design Professional Practice visited **Steelcase** for an immersive and inspiring learning experience. Students toured the facility and testing lab, tried out numerous furniture pieces, and explored a wide variety of **DesignTex** finishes, engaging with design hands-on and in real time.

Just as impactful was the opportunity to network with many professionals across the company, learning about their diverse career paths and gaining invaluable advice as students prepare for their own professional journeys.

The day clearly demonstrated how Steelcase uses research to

drive thoughtfully, evidence-based design solutions, while also offering students meaningful insight into the many roles and opportunities within the design industry.

Thank you to the Steelcase team for welcoming our students, sharing your expertise, and investing in the next generation of designers!



To the Beach: A Site Visit for a Project with the Michigan DNR

In IDES 352: Synthesis II, taught by Professor Laura Winter, third-year students concluded the spring semester with a comprehensive final project that challenged them to design an accessible concession facility for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. This project pushed students to think holistically – about people, place, and the systems that shape design – while producing professional-level work grounded in research, collaboration, and code-compliant planning.

A site visit on March 31 allowed teams to gather firsthand insights and meet their collaborators from LA 243: Place Making Studio, taught by Professors Fatemeh Saeidi-Rizi and Allison Balderston. Each interior design team partnered with a landscape architecture team, working together throughout the schematic and design development phases to align building placement and orientation, outdoor gathering areas, and overall brand cohesion.



Touring New MSU Facilities: The Student Recreation and Wellness Center



From Classroom Concepts to Campus Creations

On Tuesday, April 21st, the upper-division Interior Design students had the unique opportunity to go behind the scenes of the new Student Recreation and Wellness Center, gaining firsthand insight into one of the most significant additions to campus in recent years. The state-of-the-art facility features expanded fitness spaces, multi-purpose studios, a dedicated wellness suite, and upgraded recreation amenities designed to support student health, community building, and inclusive programming.

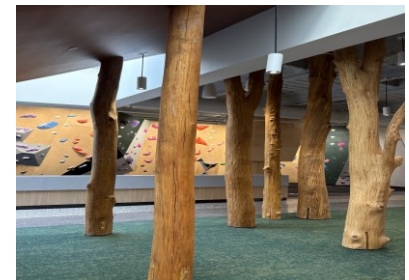
This visit also highlighted a meaningful role Interior Designs students have played in shaping spaces at MSU. In previous years, two upper-level ID courses developed conceptual proposals for existing campus recreation buildings as part of their studio projects. These forward-thinking ideas – ranging from improved circulation, branding, and inclusivity – helped students think about the future of student wellness spaces on their own campus.

The impact of that work extended beyond the classroom. Multiple former Interior Design students were invited to serve on student committees, where they contributed insight during the planning phases of the new Recreation and Wellness Center. Their participation ensured that student perspectives, especially those grounded in design thinking, were represented throughout the development of this major campus project.

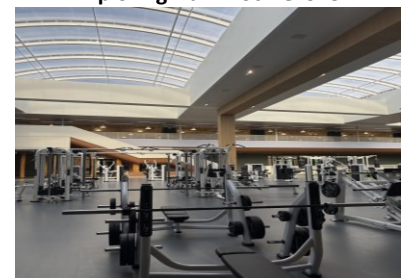
For the students who toured the new facility, the experience served as an inspiring reminder of the many ways design shapes the spaces around us. Seeing how the recreation center was thoughtfully adapted to support student wellness, community, and everyday campus life left many feeling both creatively inspired and excited for the future of Michigan State University's campus.



Entering the Space: Student Lounges



Exploring Hammock Grove



Second-Floor Fitness Space

Student Projects Throughout All Four Years



"For my IDES 452 Senior Thesis project, I designed 'En Collective', a multi-story cultural hub in Lansing's Old Town district. Featuring a café, lounges, gaming spaces, and a rooftop Zen pavilion, the space offers an inclusive environment for relaxation and social interaction while making community-centered experiences accessible to Lansing's diverse population." - **Ashlee Gerber, 4th Year**



"My favorite project was in IDES 142, where I designed a Greek based architecture and mythology restaurant centered on the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece; Dionysus, Demeter, and Hestia. The interior emphasized human scale and proportion by making those in the space feel as if the god(s) walk among them."

- **Emma Bell, 1st Year**

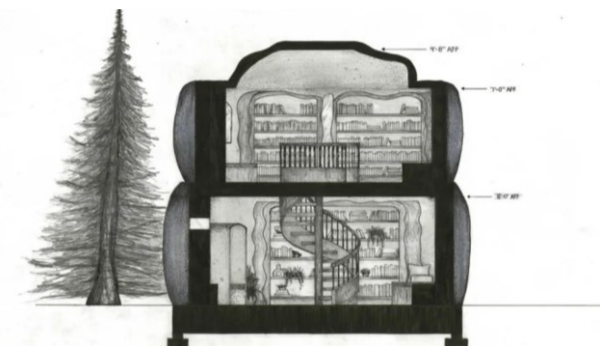
"My favorite project from the past year was the IDES 142 restaurant design because it allowed me to fully express my creativity through every detail of the design. I created a Puerto Rico inspired café that was thoughtfully designed to reflect the culture and energy of the space while still being functional and welcoming."

- **Evie Lewin, 1st Year**



"In IDES 342, I worked on a group project called 'Vaulted Vows,' designing a wedding planning company headquarters in Rockefeller Center, New York. The art-deco inspired space emphasized geometry, ergonomics, and user-centered zoning, blending technical design requirements with creative elements, making it one of my favorite projects!"

- **Ella Wright, 3rd Year**



"For my IDES 252 Meditative Space project, I designed Rochana, a two-story, 300 square-foot library and reading nook in Glencoe, Scotland. It was inspired by the rock cairns of the Scottish Highlands and uses natural materials and earthy tones to reflect the surrounding landscape." - **Taylor Davis, 2nd Year**



"'Kith & Kin' was my IDES 452 Senior Thesis project, a mixed-use development found in Old Town Lansing, MI. The design is centered around bringing people together through shared experiences: food, film, and everyday living. The project combines a neighborhood fresh market, an immersive micro-cinema and dining experience, and loft-style apartments. The development encourages connection and interaction while adding new energy to the character of Old Town and re-envisioning of Larch St." - **Norah Stockwell, 4th Year**



EXTERIOR ELEVATION

"My IDES 252 project, Grandpa's Closet, was one of the largest projects I've done so far. Stepping out of my comfort zone, I designed a men's retail space where apparel is created in-store for consumers. I really enjoyed moving through the entire process."

- **Rachel Mertz, 2nd Year**

Portfolio Review

Throughout finals week, first-year students set up all their projects for a portfolio review as part of the application process into the upper-division interior design program at MSU. Over the course of two semesters, students compiled a wide range of projects that showcased both their academic growth and creative development. Their submissions featured hand-drafted and AutoCAD construction drawing booklets, a full restaurant design proposal, a creative mood board, and a handmade 3D model. Three additional submissions were also allowed to highlight each of their personalities and creative abilities. Congratulations to all applicants on completing their first year in the program, and best of luck!



Featured submissions to the Upper Review Division demonstrate the breadth of student scholarship, design exploration, and professional-level presentation.



Senior Thesis Presentations & Final Showcase



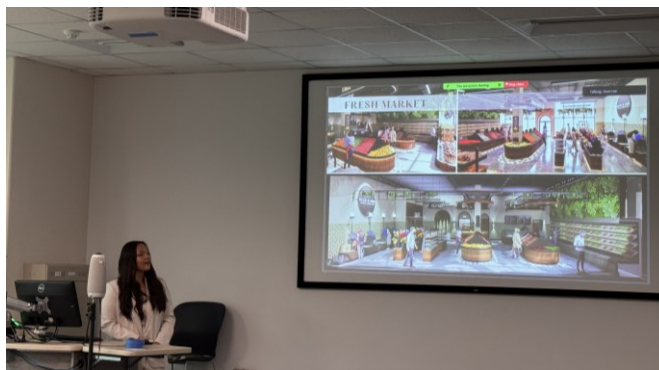
This year's annual Interior Design Senior Showcase and Presentations, hosted on April 29th, highlighted fourth-year students' yearlong capstone projects focused on mixed-use commercial and residential design solutions.

Students developed projects for two Lansing sites: renovation and adaptive reuse proposals for the Michigan Avenue site, and new-build concepts for the Larch Street site. They then presented their projects in the MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab Flex Space, while immersive visualizations of the designs were displayed in the 360 Virtual Reality Room.

The capstone projects began during the Fall 2025 programming phase with Professor Laura Winter and continued through Spring 2026 design development with Dr. Jisun Lee. The program also recognized the continued support of the Gillespie Group, the Ingham County Land Bank, and the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning.



Student Highlights



Senior Thesis Presentations & Final Showcase (Cont.)



Throughout the Final Showcase, fourth-year interior design students present and defend their thesis projects before faculty, peers, industry professionals, and community partners.

Shown at left are representatives from the Ingham County Land Bank and The Gillespie Group, long-standing partners of the MSU Interior Design Program who have supported student learning through real-world projects and community engagement.

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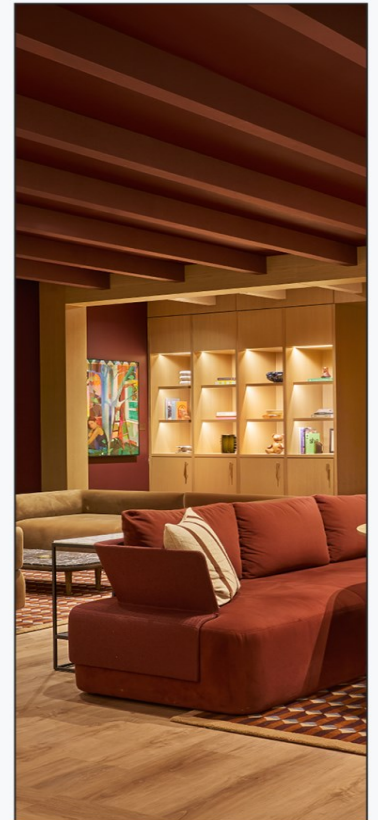
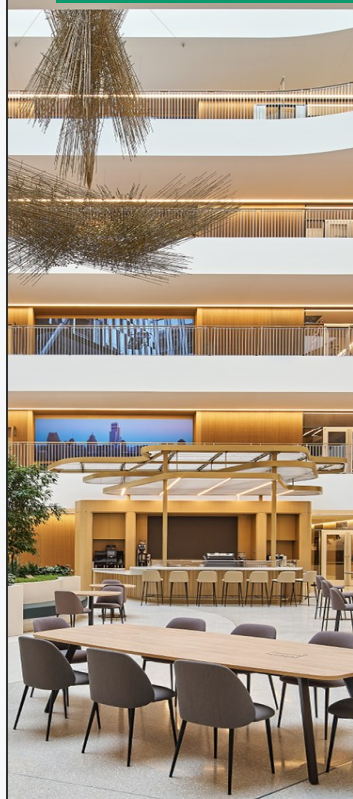
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Designing for Safety: Kellom's Doctorate Research



Sparty celebrates with Dr. Kellom at the Cowles House

To investigate this, I used virtual models of classrooms, comparing existing layouts with designs influenced by CPTED strategies. Participants navigated each space while evaluating their sense of safety, preparedness, and comfort. The findings showed that classrooms with improved visibility, intentional layouts, and reinforced materials increased participants' perceived preparedness, reinforcing how thoughtful design can shape how people respond under pressure.

I am deeply grateful for the foundation in interdisciplinary thinking and applied research that has allowed me to approach challenges like this one, working at the intersection of design, safety, and human behavior to support safer environments," written by Dr. Kristy Kellom.

"This year marks a meaningful milestone in my academic and professional journey as I complete my doctorate program. What I began as a curiosity-driven pursuit evolved into a deep focus on an increasingly urgent issue in higher education: how classroom design can support safety during emergency situations. This topic is especially relevant within our own campus community, where past experiences continue to shape how safety is understood and prioritized.

While many universities have implemented training programs to prepare for emergencies, far less attention has been given to the role of the physical environment itself. My research explored whether classrooms designed using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles could enhance occupants' sense of safety and preparedness.



Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremonies with Drs. Nubani and Kellom

Dr. Jisun Lee's Awarded Excellence in Teaching with Technology

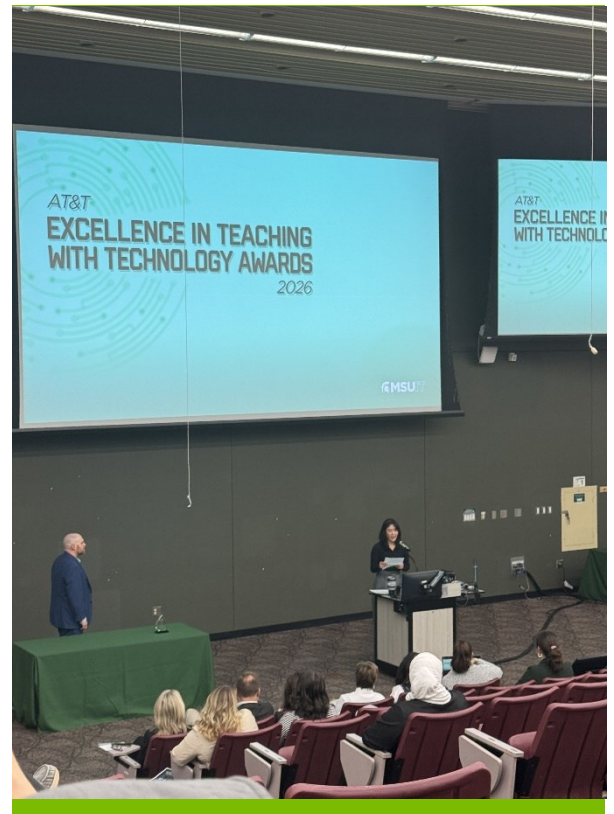
This past year, Dr. Jisun Lee won the 2026 MSU IT AT&T Excellence in Teaching with Technology award. She was recognized for integrating virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and generative artificial intelligence (AI) across three interior design courses, embedding emerging technologies directly into the core design process.

Established through a long-standing partnership with AT&T, MSU Information Technology proudly celebrates instructors and instructional teams who exemplify excellence in teaching by aligning technology with meaningful learning goals.

Throughout Dr. Lee's courses, students use AI-generated imagery to explore concepts, translate ideas into immersive 3D models, and evaluate and refine their designs within VR and AR environments.

From early-stage inspiration and visual communication to advanced mixed-reality simulations and capstone-level immersive presentation, Lee's approach enables students to assess user needs, enhance experiential quality, and improve accessibility while developing strong design intent, ethical awareness, and technology-driven design expertise.

Representing the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Jisun Lee showcases the creativity, care, and instructional innovation that makes teaching with technology impactful, inclusive, and student-centered.



Winter's Awarded CANR Excellence in Teaching



This previous academic year, Professor Laura Winter received the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Excellence in Teaching – Established Teacher award. This honor recognizes her for more than five years of exceptional teaching, innovation, and dedication to student success.

Laura's work spans foundational interior design courses, community-based studio projects, and professional practice classes that prepare students for real-world careers. Throughout both fall and spring semesters, Laura prioritizes her students' success, taking them on field trips including firm tours and site visits to aid in student projects. She also champions accessibility through her material rental kit program, now supporting 70% of first-year students.



In addition to her teaching on campus, Laura enriches global learning through study abroad programs in Italy. This program allows students to explore art, architecture, and professional design while immersing themselves in Italian culture and engaging in hands-on learning through site visits, sketching, and research.

Her commitment to experiential learning, inclusive practices, and meaningful community engagement continues to elevate the Interior Design program and inspire future designers.



Dr. Linda Nubani Achieves NCIDQ Certification

Dr. Linda Nubani recently earned the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) Certification in December 2025, a significant professional milestone and one of the most widely recognized credentials in the interior design profession.

Preparing for and completing the certification process was both rewarding and challenging. While balancing a full-time academic position and caregiving responsibilities, she chose to sit for all three NCIDQ examination sections within the same testing window. Although candidates have the option to spread the examinations across multiple testing cycles, she elected to complete them consecutively—a decision that, in retrospect, created considerable pressure but ultimately reinforced the importance of planning and exam strategy.

Unlike many professional certification programs, NCIDQ does not have a single assigned textbook or prescribed curriculum. Her preparation relied primarily on years of professional practice experience, and reference materials by David Kent Ballast.

An unexpected challenge arose the day before one of the examinations when she developed a significant eye infection and sought treatment at an urgent care clinic. After contacting NCIDQ regarding the possibility of postponing the examination by a few days, she learned that the organization's policies do not permit short-term rescheduling, even with medical documentation. Candidates may transfer their registration to a future testing cycle—typically from October to April or vice versa—but cannot move an examination date by only a few days within the same testing window without forfeiting registration fees. Faced with this situation, she elected to proceed with the examination despite the medical condition, completing a four-hour testing session while managing the effects of the infection in one eye.



CPTED CERTIFICATION

In addition to earning the NCIDQ certification, Dr. Nubani had an active year delivering Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) training programs across the United States. Most recently, she conducted CPTED training for the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

Reflecting on the experience, Dr. Nubani noted that the training was as much a learning opportunity for her as it was for the participants. She was particularly impressed by the department's leadership in crime prevention, its innovative use of technology, and its commitment to strengthening community relationships. During her visit, she observed firsthand the collaborative efforts undertaken to enhance public safety and community engagement, reinforcing the important role that partnerships between law enforcement and residents play in creating safer and more resilient communities.



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