



LAURA HARRIS
RID, LEED AP ID+C, IIDA

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Interior Design (2019)

Brenau University, Atlanta, GA

- Terminal degree with emphasis on collegiate teaching
- GPA: 4.00 / Concentration: Human Environment
- Graduate student assistantship, Interior Design Department (2014-2016)
- Thesis: Designing Educational Facilities for Social Engagement in Adolescents

Bachelor of Fine Arts + Honors in Interior Design (2009)

Samford University, Birmingham, AL

- CIDA accredited undergraduate program
- GPA: 3.86 / Fulfilled honors program requirements
- Interior Design Department Outstanding Senior Award (2009)
- Interior Design Department Student Organization President (2008-2009)
- Samford University's Student Employee of the Year (2009)

REGISTRATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Alabama State Registered Interior Designer (2012)

NCIDQ Certification (2012)

LEED Accredited Professional: Interior Design + Construction (2009/2011)

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer at Auburn University, Winter 2021 & 2023

CADS 5400 – Interior Design for Health & Wellness

- Created presentation content from Sloan and Delta research
- Presented material to class online (2021) and in-person (2023)
- Addressed questions concerning the operation of plumbing products and importance of designing for the health and safety of the public

Guest Reviewer at Samford University, May 2019

IARC 252 – Design Fundamentals II

- Participated in mid-term and final student project reviews
- Offered constructive criticism regarding student projects
- Evaluated space planning, design fundamentals, building codes, construction methods, furniture selections, and presentations

Served as a guest critic for midterm and final project reviews (2020-2023)

Student Teaching at Brenau University, Summer 2015

ID233 – Computer Aided Drafting & Design

- Online class focused on teaching construction document creation in AutoCAD with on-campus workshops every two weeks
- Created course content, instructed students, and graded assignments in accordance with CIDA accreditation requirements
- Designed a syllabus, weekly learning modules in Canvas with weekly assignments, online instruction videos, a mid-term exam, and a final project
- Devised a rubric for student assessments and provided detailed redline feedback on all student projects

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Interior Design Educators Council, Auburn, AL (2019)

South Regional Conference

Paper Presented: “Social Engagement in Educational Facility Design”

Brenau University, Atlanta, GA (2019)

Expand Your Horizons Research Symposium

Paper Presented: “Social Engagement in Educational Facility Design”

Samford University, Birmingham, AL (2009)

Honors Program Capstone Presentations

Presented Honors Research: Sustainable Design and LEED Requirements

PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

Southern Living Magazine (digital and print, 2024–2025)

- Interviewed in two August 2024 digital articles:
“The 5 Things You Should Prioritize When Renovating a Home on a Budget”
“Designer Tips for Renovating a Home on a Budget”
- Featured in published March 2025 article “Bungalow Revival” for work on the Yeager Residence in Birmingham, AL

ASID Foundation’s Joel Polsky Academic Achievement Award (2019)

- Submitted Thesis: Social Engagement in Educational Facility Design
- Received \$5000 and award at the ASID Foundation’s conference

Ecotech Institute: Received “Best of Institutional” Award (2013)

- Team Award for Designers at Education Corporation of America
- Presented at IIDA Alabama’s 2013 Biennial IDIE Awards Gala

PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Delivered approximately seventy-five accredited HSW continuing education courses to architecture and interior design professionals since 2020, grounded in applicable building codes, accessibility standards, sustainability research, and best practices.

Representative Topics:

- Conserving Water Through High Efficiency Fixtures
- Considerations for Accessible Design in Commercial Restrooms
- Sink Selection for Sustainability & Accessibility
- Specifying Plumbing Fixtures for K12 and Higher Education
- Transforming Aging in Place to Aging with Grace

Representative Organizations:

- AIA: Mississippi, Mobile, Montgomery, North Alabama, Northwest Florida
- ASID Alabama, IIDA Alabama

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Will & Pierce Agency, Daphne, AL (2020-present)

- Educate architects and designers on the functionality, hygiene and accessibility requirements surrounding commercial plumbing products
- Present continuing education courses to architectural and design firms and organizations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Northwest Florida including topics such as ADA and codes requirements, sustainability guidelines, hygienic recommendations, and other practical design considerations
- Answer technical questions regarding installations and provide support from specification through final punch for both specifier and manufacturer
- Contributed to sustained sales growth over three years through management of large-scale institutional projects such as the Auburn University, Jackson Airport, Huntsville Airport, Mobile Airport, Trenholm State Community College, Von Braun Exhibition Hall, and others
- Plan events for architects and designers to market products and provide networking opportunities

Capstone Real Estate Investments, Birmingham, AL (2015-2020)

- Produced and tracked furniture packages of up to \$5.5 million for student housing developers and universities which included residential units, amenity spaces, classrooms, offices, outdoor spaces, and fitness centers
- Developed construction drawings and/or furniture plans to show furniture placement, coordinate electrical and data locations, detail millwork, and call-out finishes as varying by project
- Led furniture installations for large-scale installations, including pre-installation on-site meetings with vendors, conference calls with the universities, developer, construction teams, security, and local authorities, and punch list enforcement throughout construction administration
- Created informational documents for all vendors to include budgets, contracts, project specifics, timelines, on-site behavior and protocols, and guidelines for punch lists

Education Corporation of America, Birmingham, AL (2009-2015)

- Assisted in the production of construction drawings for new facilities
- Researched equipment and requirements for student programs
- Assisted existing schools with facility renovations and modifications
- Selected finishes, materials, interior and exterior signage, and artwork
- Specified furniture for educational facilities and coordinated orders and installations with vendors

Gresham Smith and Partners, Birmingham, AL (2008)

- Assisted designers and organized materials library during summer internship
- Observed field conditions at local construction sites
- Researched information regarding sustainability
- Received additional training regarding company standards and methods at corporate office in Nashville, Tennessee

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) Graduate Student Member (2019)

International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Member (2013-present)

- IIDA Alabama Past President (2021-2022)
- IIDA Alabama President (2020-2021)
- IIDA Alabama President Elect (2019-2020)
- IIDA Alabama Vice President of Communications (2018-2019, 2013-2015)
- IIDA Alabama Director of Communications (2012-2013)

Alabama Interior Design Coalition Professional Member (2013-present)

- Communications Committee Chair (2022-present)
- IIDA Liaison (2020-2021)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Computer Skills

- AutoCAD, Revit, SketchUp, GIMP, Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Acrobat Pro)
- Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint)
- Google Workspace (Documents, Calendar, Sheets, Drive, Forms)
- Dropbox, OneDrive, Canvas LMS, Skype, Zoom, Teams, Prezi, Canva
- WordPress, Weebly, Wix (web development platforms)
- Constant Contact (mass email service), Cognito Forms (online form builder)

Personal Skills

- Project Planning, Time Management, Organization
- Critical Thinking, Design Problem-Solving Skills
- Clear Written and Oral Communication (Academic & Professional Contexts)
- Collaborative Leadership, Community Engagement, Student Mentorship