



## **LAURA HARRIS**

RID, NCIDQ, LEED AP ID+C, IDEC, IIDA

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### **EDUCATION**

Master of Fine Arts in Interior Design (2019)

Brenau University, Atlanta, GA

- Terminal degree with a focus on teaching at the collegiate level
- GPA: 4.0 / Concentration: Human Environment
- Interior design department graduate student assistantship (2014-2016)
- Thesis: Designing Educational Facilities for Social Engagement in Adolescents

Bachelor of 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
- Interior Design Department Student Organization President (2004-2005)

### **REGISTRATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS**

Alabama State Registered Interior Designer (2012)

Council for Interior Design Qualification Certification (2012)

LEED Accredited Professional: Interior Design + Construction (2011)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Student Teaching at Brenau University, Summer 2015

ID233 – Computer Aided Drafting & Design

- Online class with on-campus workshops every two weeks
- Created course content, instructed students, and graded assignments
- Designed a syllabus, weekly learning modules in Canvas with weekly assignments, online instruction videos, a mid-term exam, and a final project
- Devised a grading rubric for student assessments and returned redlines of all student projects
- Focused on teaching AutoCAD techniques needed for construction documents in compliance with CIDA accreditation
- The final project resulted in each student creating their first set of construction documents in AutoCAD

Guest Critic 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

## **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

Interior Design Educators Council, Auburn, AL (Anticipated - Fall 2019)  
Invited to Present Thesis Findings at the South Regional Conference

Brenau University, Atlanta, GA (2019)  
Expand Your Horizons Research Symposium  
Presented Thesis Findings: Social Engagement in Educational Facility Design

Samford University, Birmingham, AL (2009)  
Honors Program Capstone Presentations  
Presented Honors Research: Sustainable Design and LEED Requirements

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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

- Produce furniture packages of up to \$5.5 million for student housing developers and universities which include residential units, amenity spaces, study areas, classrooms, offices, game rooms, outdoor spaces, and fitness centers
- Furniture packages include furniture and fabric selection (both graded-in and COM), furniture finish selections and specifications, fabric testing and furniture mock-ups, furniture package bidding, and compliance with local regulations
- Select interior finishes, lighting, and artwork for renovations to existing student housing facilities
- Develop AutoCAD renovation drawings and/or furniture plans to show furniture placement, coordinate electrical and data locations, and receive client approval as varying by project
- Generate building mock-ups in SketchUp and provide clients with finish options by manipulating photographs using Photoshop and Gimp
- Coordinate furniture installations for installations lasting up to thirty days, including pre-installation on-site meetings with vendors, conference calls with the universities and/or developer, construction teams, security, and local authorities
- Create installation contracts and documents for all installing vendors to include project specifics, timelines, on-site behavior and protocols, furniture placement, and guidelines for furniture and building damage punch lists
- Establish budgets for client and/or developer approval, contracts for fee negotiations, and track all purchases to maintain consistency with approved budget and fee compensation
- Prepare purchase orders for every fabric and furniture vendor selected for the project and monitor payment status and ship dates to ensure on-time delivery
- Complete punch lists for student housing renovations and furniture installations as needed by the project and coordinate issues with all vendors, developers, and construction teams
- Design, procure, and install accessories, such as bedding, rugs, artwork, lamps, and other accessories, for clubhouses and models of student units to aid in marketing and tenant retention
- Supervise student interns and independent contractors who provide assistance monitoring installations on large projects, help maintain the interiors library, and aid in the creation of installation documents and furniture specifications for clients
- Initiated and maintain the new department website: [www.capstone-interiors.com](http://www.capstone-interiors.com)

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

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

#### Gresham Smith and Partners, Birmingham, AL (2008)

- Summer internship as an undergraduate student
- Assisted professional designers and organized the materials library
- Observed field conditions at local construction sites
- Researched information regarding sustainability to provide designers
- Received additional training regarding company standards and methods at corporate office in Nashville, Tennessee

### **PROFESSIONAL AWARDS**

#### Thesis Findings: Received Joel Polsky Academic Achievement Award (2019)

- National Award Given by the American Society of Interior Designers
- Given to One Outstanding Graduate or Undergraduate Research Project

#### 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 ORGANIZATIONS**

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

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

- IIDA Alabama Vice President of Communications (2018-present)
- IIDA Alabama Vice President of Communications (2013-2015)
- IIDA Alabama Director of Communications (2012-2013)

#### Alabama Interior Design Coalition Professional Member (2013-present)

### **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

#### Computer Skills

- Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp, Adobe Photoshop, Gimp, and Adobe Acrobat Pro
- Microsoft Suite (Outlook, Excel, Word, Publisher, PowerPoint)
- Google Applications (Documents, Calendar, Sheets, Drive), Dropbox, Canvas, Skype, Prezi, and Wix (web development platform)
- Constant Contact (mass e-mail service) and Cognito Forms (online form builder)

#### Personal Skills

- Time and Project Management
- Critical Thinking and Organization
- Written and Verbal Communication