

## **Program information –**

### **Bachelor of Interior Architecture (DBIR)**

#### **Statistical information**

- Program code: DBIR
- 2007 TER: 59.20
- Location: City West
- Course length: 4 years full time of part time equivalent
- Entry: 4 PES (and/or PAS) +1 (PES, PAS or SAS)

#### **Key features of the Program**

- Professionally relevant 4 year Bachelor degree
- Minor stream options available in furniture design or exhibition design
- Elective Studio projects available
- Honours available to students who display meritorious performance

#### **What does it take?**

- **Brief introduction:**

The aim of the Bachelor of Interior Architecture is to send into the profession of interior design graduates who are capable of designing and implementing socially and environmentally responsive environments, which sustain healthy human existence.

- **Personal attributes/interests required:**

Creative problem solving ability and the capacity to work as a team member are fundamental qualities for interior architects/interior designers. The ability to communicate ideas and concepts clearly and confidently is also important. Designers need to love what they do as the hours are often long and arduous and the demands are challenging.

#### **Who will employ me?**

- **What is the profession?**

Interior architecture/interior design is concerned with the planning and detailing of interior spaces. It considers structure, joinery, lighting, materials and building services (electrical, fire detection, airconditioning, etc) in addition to selection of furniture, finishes, fittings and artwork. Commercial interior designers work on diverse projects that may include corporate office fitout, retail interiors, exhibition projects, hotels, libraries, hospitals and schools. Projects may involve refurbishing existing buildings or working with architects on new buildings.

Interior designers work in a similar way to architects. They begin a project by defining the client's requirements and budget, then researching the special requirements of the project. The designer then develops alternative solutions to which the client responds. The final proposal, which includes costings is then fully documented. Interior designers are responsible

for the supervision of the construction of the project, working with the client, builder and consultants to ensure the finished product is as specified.

Interior designers may be involved in designing simple structural alterations and additions to existing buildings, requiring knowledge of building construction, building regulations and building law.

Increasingly interior designers need to have lateral thinking skills and to be attuned to the changing needs of society. They often work in project teams with project managers, consulting engineers, facilities planners, graphic designers, artists and architects to ensure the complex and various needs of clients and users are sympathetically interpreted.

- **Career/professional opportunities/recognition:**

Interior designers are generally employed in the building industry, an industry particularly subject to financial fluctuation due to its dependence on supply and demand. However, due to the diverse nature of the projects they are involved with, designers tend to continue to find employment once they have some experience in the field.

Many graduates choose to travel interstate and overseas, with Singapore, Hong Kong and London as possible locations for employment.

Opportunities exist for postgraduate studies for those students who wish to pursue an area of specialisation or an academic career.

The Bachelor of Interior Architecture is recognised for the award of Associate Membership of the Design Institute of Australia. The Bachelor of Interior Architecture does not confer qualifications in Architecture and the South Australian Architects Act legislation (1939) restricts the use of the title 'Architect' to those registered by the Architects Board of South Australia.

- **Employers:**

Employers are mainly architectural practices, interior design practices, building companies, and other companies supplying the building industry, such as corporate furniture suppliers. There are a number of private interior design firms in South Australia and jobs with them are sought after. Some graduates develop their own design practices and an increasing number of graduates are specialising in the areas of furniture design and exhibition design.

## **What will I study?**

All program courses contribute to the development of students' ability to undertake a variety of design problems with competence, imagination, and sensitivity to the needs of people.

- **First year**

introduces students to the basic skills and concepts, establishing a foundation in the areas of design theory, creativity and environmental awareness, together with the development of fundamental communication and technical skills. This level has courses common with the architecture program.

- **Second and Third years**

in this level design theory is expanded, developed and applied in the concept, synthesis, and resolution of increasingly more complex design problems. Increasing emphasis is given to the

integration of all course matter into design studio. Electives courses broaden the parameters of student awareness both in the program and outside of it.

- **Fourth year**

it is expected that students will develop a level of mastery in the application of the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program. The development of the individual as a creative and independent person, able to apply mature concepts and approaches to design problem solving within a framework of thoroughly researched needs and technologies is fostered. At this level, assignments require the application of advanced problem solving skills, communication techniques and building technology to factually based commercial projects. Electives provide the opportunity to pursue course areas in greater depth.

- **Minors:**

Students in 3rd and 4th year have the option to select one of two minor streams of study offered in furniture design and exhibition design.

- **Honours:**

An Honours year is offered in study period 5 to 3rd year students with meritorious performance in the program. Entry to Honours is at the invitation of the Head of School.