greetings from the department of interior architecture!
the university of north carolina at greensboro

The Power of Design Thinking
From creative expert Sir Ken Robinson’s Ted Talk titled “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” to a more recent article on NPR titled “Nonacademic Skills Are Key To Success”, there is a common idea floating around these days. The idea is that perhaps there is more to a person’s ability to succeed than simply regurgitating material. Namely, exercising divergent thinking (which leads to creative solutions), building social and emotional skills, and even developing grit are just as important as learning your ABC’s. Sir Ken Robinson describes this new type of education as being lateral rather than linear.

Interestingly enough, IARc students are exposed to projects that promote character building and creative insights every day. Professor Tommy Lambeth states that “iterative development is one of the most important design thinking skills taught here. Iteration is fueled by associative thinking, i.e. finding ideas for designing that come from unfolding and analyzing aspects of concepts, theories, and function. There is a heuristic nature to it as well that necessitates the ability to experiment and develop.”

What’s happening in studio?
Project summaries and final critique schedules

1st year studio project
The first year studio has been working on projects that introduce the design process, exploring place, and how to manipulate space. Their first project was to create a place for a leaf. The second project was to create a container for an object using paper, leather, and a third material of their choosing. They have taken field trips to the University Archives, Blandwood Mansion, and the High Point Market. The class has started to explore color through color workshops in watercolor and is now working with light. They have created light boxes (paper and natural light), explored light and objects (how you see light), used charcoal, created Halloween lights which were required to have a light source within them, and the final project is titled “Wall of Light” where they will be working with spotlights. The Wall of Lights will be the first year students’ final critique which was held on November 20 and 23 in Gatewood 401. After the final critique the class will be compiling a video of their IAR experience and was shown on December 2.

2nd year studio project
The second year students have been working on the semester-long art-2-space project. In this project, students analyze artwork, extract design strategies, and derive products. Students sought inspiration from assigned paintings that would become the focus of the semester. A thorough analysis of the paintings’ color, line and form was the basis for creating textile patterns. The next phase of this project is developing a sculpture, which moves the exploration from 2-dimensional to 3-dimensional form. The final stage of their studio projects will be an art gallery where each student's artwork, textile pattern, and sculpture will be on display. The focus of the architectural interior project will be creation
of spatial experiences, attention to movement through space, and display of planar and volumetric elements. Visitors are welcome to attend the final critique, which will be held on Monday December 08, 8 AM to 11 AM and 12 PM to 3 PM in Gatewood 401.

3rd year studio project
The third year students have been working on a semester long project for the 2015 Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library Interior Design Competition, which is actually two competitions; one for interior design (a therapeutic spa for MS patients) and one for furniture design (a chair for the spa). The objective of this competition is to test students' interior design skills, in which the format has been modeled after the NCDIQ practicum exam. Thirteen students are participating in the interiors competition and five are entering the furniture competition. First prize in both competitions is $5000 for the student and $1000 for the school. Only five of the interior design competition projects may be entered in the competition, therefore on Tuesday November 24 at 9 AM a gallery style critique was held for viewers to vote for the projects that may be submitted to the competition.

4th year studio project
The fourth year students have been working on one project focused on office environments throughout the semester moving through the programming, schematic, and design development phases. These corporate interiors projects are based in either Raleigh or Charlotte. Amanda’s section presented on Thursday November 12 from 9 AM to 12 PM. Travis’s section presented on Thursday, December 3 from 9 AM to 12 PM at Gatewood 401. The section of fourth years who have already presented will be attending Greenbuild in Washington DC the week of November 16.

Graduate studio projects
The 501 graduate students have been working on a semester long adaptive reuse project. Students had to create one space dedicated to a healthy corner store, the rest of the spaces were determined by the students. Codes and the integrity of the existing building were to be addressed. An extensive amount of detail has gone into the designs.

The 502/602 graduate students have been working on their thesis for the duration of the semester. Jack will be presenting his thesis work on Emotional Durability of Product Design. Mardita will present her thesis work on Kirkbride in Motion an Adaptive Reuse Study of Morganton, NC. Lastly, Cat will be presenting her thesis work on the Historic Character Preservation during Neighborhood Revitalization. Their final critiques will be held in Gatewood 401 on Tuesday, December 8th between 10:30 and 3. The 501 graduate students will present at 10:30 and the 502/602 presentations will present around 12:30.

National Preservation Conference 2015
Some of the graduate and Historic Preservation certificate students attended the 2015 National Preservation Conference in DC from November 3 to 6. This year at PastForward 2015, the conference began with a celebration of the National Historic Preservation Act’s 50th anniversary through programming that celebrated and honored the past while looking forward toward our next 50 years. Attendees included preservationists, architects, planners, developers, environmentalists, students, and scholars. All of which came together at PastForward to ask questions, debate solutions, challenge assumptions, and acquire new approaches and skills.

For more information on the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conferences, please visit <<NTHP>>

Pictured: (from left to right) Samantha Smith, Christopher Vann, Audrey Wagoner, Mardita Murphey, Shelia O’Rouke, and Jack Kennedy at the opening plenary session in National Cathedral for the National Preservation Conference in DC. Contributed by: Jack Kennedy

**Felicia Dean Summer Residency in Italy**

Felicia Dean participated in a one month residency in Gramolazzo, Italy this past summer called The Digital Stone Project Workshop. During this time Felicia focused on a sculpture which is relevant to her current research. The concentration was on transferring her fabric and textile form investigations into sculpture. She created a digital file which was rough milled out of marble by a robotic arm. From there she worked on hand carving and finishing the stone sculpture. The work is entitled *Dug by the Devil*. It is based on Dean’s Blue Hole, the deepest blue hole in the world located in Long Island, Bahamas.

As a result of rapid prototyping being produced outside of a virtual environment, the experience increased her knowledge of digital modeling for production. The hand finishing portion was very time consuming, but the hand techniques were familiar to that of the hand making processes she has previously encountered in wood carving. Through this residency Felicia learned how to work with marble and its properties. All of the work completed during the residency was exhibited at the Villa Strozzi in Florence, it was also part of the Marble Codes conference at the Villa Strozzi.
Pictured: Felicia working on *Dug by the Devil* and the finished product displayed at Villa Strozzi. Contributed by: Felicia Dean

**Think House Pocket Parks**

HQ Raleigh and HQ Greensboro *conceptualized* the idea for "Think House's." These "Think Houses" will house up and coming entrepreneurs that attend UNCG that also hold memberships to the "HQ's." By living in the houses, these entrepreneurs will better their futures through living and learning as a community. The lot next door to the Think House here in Greensboro is currently being looked at as a possible social "pocket" park for the Think House residents as well as the surrounding community. The vision is in fact much larger than just a pocket park; it is for a more connected, brighter future for up and coming entrepreneurs and the communities here in the triangle. CCED fellows that are currently working on this project are: Alanea Kriete, Clint Ronsick, Leslye Rubio, and David Duperault. Shown *above* is a current conceptual rendering.

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[ii]news is edited by Emily Miller and Taylor Ghost, a graduate-undergraduate student team in IARc, who gladly accept all responsibilities for factual errors. Send emails directly to them at emmille5@uncg.edu and tlghost@uncg.edu

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