

Q&A: Interior Architecture

Beginning Fall 2017, the UT College of Architecture and Design School of Interior Design changed its name to School of Interior Architecture and simultaneously changed the name of its degree to Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture to

- better align with the school's program of study
- connect with the school's counterparts in the college
- reflect the expertise of its faculty
- improve recruiting
- reduce attrition
- position itself as a leader in the design education industry.

Why the need for clarity?

Since 1997, the interior design curriculum has moved toward broader and rigorous architectural content, following a national shift. The name change clarifies the educational intent and scope of work required of the students in the school, which reduces attrition, and the clarification influences a more diverse student body. The more accurate degree name assists with job placement for graduates.

What about the title "architect?"

As always, only those who pass the ARE and the LARE will be able to use the word, architect, in their professional titles. Presently, graduates from interior architecture schools may become certified or registered interior designers.

Are the faculty prepared?

The school is supported by five full-time faculty with four having dual degrees. One faculty member holds a degree in interior architecture; three have degrees in interior design and architecture; and one has all degrees in architecture. The dual degree is an ongoing distinction of the school's faculty.

Does this change reflect a national shift?

About 35% of the Top 20 programs in the nation, as ranked by 2016 *DesignIntelligence*, are called "interior architecture," including Auburn, RISD, Art Institute of Chicago, Oregon, Woodbury, Florida State and Philadelphia. All of the schools of interior design across the state of Tennessee reported that they plan to or have already made the change: University of Tennessee Knoxville, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Memphis, East Tennessee State University and O'More College of Design.

Does this change affect the school's accreditation?

The school continues to hold CIDA and NASAD accreditation with the name, Interior Architecture.

What steps were taken to change the name?

The college's curriculum committee comprised of representatives of all three schools and the university's curriculum committee voted on the name change. The name change became official in the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

For more information, visit archdesign.utk.edu/academics/interior-design or contact David Matthews, Director, School of Interior Architecture, matthej3@utk.edu.