Design a better place

At Chatham, we view interior architecture as an inclusive design approach that encompasses all of the factors that influence the design of interior spaces, including patterns of human behavior, aesthetics, and building technology. The Master of Interior Architecture (MIA) is a two-year on-campus, 72 credit-hour, first professional degree program for students with an undergrad degree in a field other than interior design or architecture.

We will prepare you to excel in a variety of interior design careers, teach you to be a steward of the environment, and encourage you to provide lasting contributions to society. The program provides pragmatic approaches to innovative and adaptive re-use of spaces, sustainable materials and systems, and strong technical advantage in digital prepresentations.

chatham.edu/mia
The Master of Interior Architecture is a program within Chatham University's SCHOOL OF ARTS, SCIENCE, AND BUSINESS. Programs in the School of Arts, Science, and Business leverage Chatham’s strengths in the liberal arts, business, communications, and the arts, and complement them with professional preparation that helps students prepare for their futures and the next steps in their professional and academic careers.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Coursework focuses on the planning of residential and commercial spaces—how space is organized; developed three-dimensionally; aesthetically defined by materials, color, lighting systems, fixtures, and furnishings; and designed to incorporate user needs and building codes.
- The program includes field experiences at inspiring destinations like Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Fallingwater.
- Lecture and seminar courses in graphic communication, history and theory, building technology, and business trends build the foundation of your skills and knowledge, while studio courses allow you to put this critical thinking and learning into practice.
- Graduates are equipped with skills to start a career in a design or architecture firm, practice furniture design, or serve as an in-house corporate designer for a textile design or product manufacturing company.
- In 2010, Chatham’s interior architecture program received the Leadership award from the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Pennsylvania West chapter in recognition for its commitment to and accomplishments in sustainability.
- Chatham Eastside, where our interior architecture program’s state-of-the-art classroom, studio, and exhibition spaces reside, is recognized as a LEED-Silver renovation project that manifests sustainable design practices, use of recycled materials, and energy-efficient lighting to create a green academic and social space in an urban setting.

**SAMPLE COURSES**

**IAR505 Environment and Behavior**

The designed environment is influenced by human activity patterns and behavior. This course is an introduction to significant theories concerning the interaction of people and interior architecture. Emphasis is placed on shared human needs and differences based on age, culture, gender, and occupation.

**IAR631 Sustainable and Green Design**

Global issues of energy use, resource depletion, and indoor air quality have prompted design professionals to re-evaluate design and construction processes. This course provides students with the knowledge of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification system to promote environmentally responsible design.

**IAR645 Professional Practice**

In this course, students are introduced to the specialized services provided by the professional interior designer. Emphasis is placed on office operations and personnel issues, marketing strategies, project management, contract documents, ethics, and the legal and financial aspects of professional practice.

[link to curriculum page](chatham.edu/mia/curriculum.cfm)
OUTCOMES

The Master of Interior Architecture program is focused on preparing students for roles in the ever-evolving design industry. Here are some of the companies where our graduates have found employment:

- Perkins Eastman, Pittsburgh, PA
- MK DESIGN, New York, NY
- Nile Johnson Interior Design, Philadelphia, PA
- Art Institute of California, Los Angeles, CA
- Anne Kustner Lighting Design, Chicago, IL
- Bouyea & Associates, Inc., San Francisco, CA
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Pittsburgh, PA
- Eurasia Group, Pittsburgh, PA
- Imagination Grid LLC, Savannah, GA
- LaFace & McGovern Associates, Pittsburgh, PA
- The Beard Group, Cleveland, OH
- Basic Concept Interiors, Pittsburgh, PA
- DLA+ Architecture & Interior Design, Pittsburgh, PA
- Gerald Lee Morosco Architects, PC, Pittsburgh, PA
- Ethan Allen, Pittsburgh, PA
- Workplace Environments, Plymouth Meeting, PA
- Desmone and Associates Architects, Pittsburgh, PA
- Stantec Architecture, Pittsburgh, PA

“The inclusive teaching and practice of design is to fully understand the interconnection of people, products, places; and the positive confluence of process, policies, and potentials.”

—THELMA LAZO-FLORES, program director/chair of interior architecture

“My goal is to prepare students with both the necessary technical skills and the behaviors of critical thinking that will enable success in their professional lives.”

— GREGORY GALFORD, assistant professor in interior architecture

LEARN MORE
chatham.edu/mia

Chatham University
Office of Admission
Woodland Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
800-837-1290 or 412-365-1825
gradadmission@chatham.edu
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Completed online application, including:
  – a personal statement of intent explaining why you would like to pursue a graduate
degree in interior architecture
  – curriculum vita or resume
  – two letters of recommendation
• Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended verifying the
completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with an
undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
• Students with a GPA below 3.0 may gain conditional admittance to the program and
must complete 2-3 undergraduate design or parallel courses as recommended by
the program director. Upon the successful completion of these courses, students will
transition into regular graduate courses within the next term.

Note: The studio sequence begins each fall. Entering the program in the spring or
summer terms may extend the length of time needed to complete the course of study.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

• Fall Recommended Deadline: May 1
• Spring Recommended Deadline: October 15

Note: If you are applying after a recommended deadline, please notify the Office of
Admission and the program director.

Apply online at chatham.edu/apply

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A limited number of research, special project and teaching assistantships are available
to help defray the cost of the tuition while also earning valuable, hands-on experience
in the field. This assistantship is in the form of tuition remission and can cut a student’s
final tuition bill by over 30%. Please contact your admission counselor to learn more.