IN THIS DEPARTMENT, we turn interior design students into practitioners and well-rounded individuals. We prepare our students for entrance into the workplace in New York City and other national and international environments, where they take their places as designers and work on all kinds of projects: residential, retail, hospitality, commercial, institutional, and corporate. We believe that the intellectual, aesthetic, and ethical development of our students is essential. That’s why, over the four years that they attend SVAID (School of Visual Arts Interior Design), our students explore theoretical, critical, and philosophical topics. By the time they graduate, their rational and intuitive understanding has developed, they are able to evaluate their own work and that of their peers, and they are ready to launch their careers.

Our graduates excel as designers who have tremendous social and environmental impact. They are committed to improving the well-being of all the individuals and communities that are touched by their work. At SVAID, we know how competitive the marketplace is and we make sure our students are fully prepared: We emphasize not only ideas and creative solutions but also practical skills and business tools. We work together in a vibrant community of students, dedicated staff, professional faculty, and engaged alumni, all striving for excellence.

This portfolio is a glimpse into the life at SVAID. It highlights work that spans project types, socio-economic sectors, and continents. It celebrates the talents of our students as artists, creative thinkers, technicians, and of course, interior designers. The work is concerned with well-being, place, and space. But beyond the work, within these pages we have provided insight into the culture of SVAID with its diverse group of students and faculty that work hard and play hard together, learning from each other, and united in their passion for interior design. We invite you to learn more about our program.

Jane Smith, FAIA, IIDA, ASID

Jane Smith has chaired SVAID since 2006. She is the founding partner of Spacesmith LLP, an architecture, interior design, and planning firm.
- ORIGINAL

- PUSHES THE SLIT OUTWARDS TO ALLOW THE CARDBOARD TO CONNECT SINGLE.
- APPLIES TO DOUBLE AND TRIPLE WALL.
- SIDE EFFECT, CAN GET MESSIER, NOT AS CLEAN ON THE OTHER SIDE.

- ABLE TO SQUEEZE BETWEEN THINNER SLITS THROUGH FLEXIBILITY.

- H. STICKING WOULD BE STRONG. COULD GET V. HEAVY.
- GETTING LARGER WERE RETAINED THEIR FLATNESS.
- WHEN PAPER IS THINNER, MIGHT BE MORE FIRM.
SVAID PORTFOLIO #15 HIGHLIGHTS
“Interior design is creating a small world in your hands that’s full of your imagination.”

DEULLE MIN, CLASS OF 2015
AN INTERCONNECTED VERTICAL CITY
The best interior design treats human society as a vital and organic process. Fourth-year student Cheri Ailin Li took these ideas to heart when she created Vertical City Park, a series of connected environments where residents of lower Manhattan can live and work. She wanted her biologically-inspired design to be as open and transparent as possible so that it functions like a park and the society within it can evolve. (Cheri Ailin Li, Fourth Year)
The Garage, a fabrication workspace and education center for New Yorkers, plays with the relationship between designing and building. To open up the building facade, this student imagined it had been cut using a hot wire, which, as well as dividing the space, allowed for the flow of light and air. (Danielle Kachler, Fourth Year)
DESIGN FOR A CITY BUILT BY MUSIC

Asbury Music Park (AMP) is located in New Jersey on the Asbury Park boardwalk. The design for this music-based performance center was inspired by its environment and the hard and soft elements of an acoustic guitar. AMP provides the community with a creative space in which to practice, record and collaborate. (Amanda Bacha ’14)
“With vision, courage, and determination, anything is possible. SVAID has taught me how to turn my vision into reality and make a difference in the world.”

CLAUDIA MATUSZCZAK, CLASS OF 2017
SHIFTING PLATES
Fourth-year student Kwangsung Park was inspired by natural light and the lines created by an earthquake’s movement when designing the Los Angeles Center for Earthquake Prevention, an immersive exhibition space and educational center focused on informing the public about natural disasters and their prevention.
(Kwangsung Park, Fourth Year)
MULTIPURPOSE LIVING

UpDown combines a store, an office, and an apartment. It was created by third-year student Dina Reziapova for a unique couple — a florist who lives with a graphic designer. She used angled walls to give the space movement and explored the design by building a model, taking photographs of it, and using vector-based software to trace over the photos. (Dina Reziapova, Third Year)
HEALING THROUGH DESIGN
Multiple studies have proven that walking in nature helps alleviate anxiety and depression. This design for an Eco-Therapy Center creates an environment where people with those conditions can take an “urban hike.” It provides areas where people can connect and engage in conversation, if they choose, and other private areas where they can remain quiet. (Hanna Kim, Third Year)
AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE
Effective renderings in interior design build strong narratives and help clients understand what it would feel like to be in the finished space. Third-year student Fatima Jeghir had that in mind when she created this immersive image for a wellness center, showing how the blue mosaic tiles of the pool deepen in color to reflect its depth. (Fatima Jeghir, Third Year)
A CONNECTED SOLUTION
The Junction House provides housing for people who have been formerly incarcerated. As part of a larger complex located in Philadelphia, this design highlights the stairs, which connect all elements of the building, from the street and park at ground level to the viaduct on the roof. (Daniel Chilcote, Fourth Year)

LINES THAT TELL A STORY
These concept images for the Los Angeles Center for Earthquake Prevention draw from the organic lines of tectonic plates. (Kwangsung Park, Fourth Year)
“Interior design does not just become your career, it shapes who you are.”

ANNA HAREA, CLASS OF 2018
REUSE, DON'T DESTROY

The inspiration for this design came from decommissioned military submarines. Instead of dismantling them, why not reuse them to provide "submersible cruises"? Retractable platforms allow guests to enjoy outside space when the submarine is on the surface of the water, while preexisting interior tubes are modified to hold new spaces, such as a spa and fitness center.

(Anthony Pezzulo, Fourth Year)
THE ORGANIC GROWTH OF HOTEL DESIGN
Aether is a new manifestation of urban farming combined with a hotel and food market. Hydroponic and traditional agricultural techniques are housed in a clean and sculptural space, suitable for stylish customers and for growing the fruits and vegetables they wish to consume. (Stephanie Chan, Second Year)
THE AWARD-WINNING SVAID FACULTY is made up of working professionals who bring real world knowledge into the classroom. They expect industry-level work, and our students are given access to contacts, internships, and mentoring so that they can achieve it. SVAID professors, lecturers, and guest critics work at some of the most prestigious design and architecture firms in the world. They are award-winners, cutting-edge thinkers, and experienced teachers.
UNITY THROUGH DESIGN
This community center is a project for a united Korea. Drawing from traditional Korean houses known as hanoks, the space could become a meeting place for people from both sides of the border, enabling them to find connection, community, and understanding. The center is infused with nature and features an interior residential courtyard surrounded by a library, a café, and an art gallery. (Minju Lee, Fourth Year)
ESSENTIAL SKILLS
As part of the Design Principles course, SVAID students learn how to represent their ideas and create images that play with dimension, composition, symmetry, axial relationships, balance, form, and texture. (Hyun Jung Park, First Year)
“Design is not simple, but my job is to make it simple.”

Kwangsung Park, Class of 2016
NEVER ENDING PROJECT
NEVER-ENDING LEARNING

For the second consecutive year, a team of students participated in the Never Ending Project, a dynamic collaboration between SVAID, ESAG Penninghen in Paris, and the American University of the Emirates in Dubai. The brief was to design an interface, control space, and docking station for drones. Over an intense five-day period, teams from each school would work through the day before passing the project onto the next team in a different time zone, providing a crash course in collaboration, problem-solving, and overcoming differences in style and language.
A SPACE THAT INSPIRES DIGNITY
With the design of Junction House, fourth-year student Daniel Chilcote sought to not only address the issue of homelessness among people who have been formerly incarcerated, but also to create a space that infused the daily lives of its inhabitants with strength, connection, and dignity. *(Daniel Chilcote, Fourth Year)*
A CENTER FOR CONSERVATION
The design for the Los Angeles Water Conservation Center is built around water awareness. Functioning as an educational center for all segments of the population, the center provides visitors with examples of conservation as they move through the space, from the composting toilets to the use of solar panels and rain collectors. (Hanna Kim, Fourth Year)
“SVAID prepared me for the real world. The tougher it gets in school, the closer you are to reality.”

HANNA KIM, CLASS OF 2016
COLOR STUDIES
In this simplified landscape of the Pacific Coast Highway, first-year student Jackson Dahl experimented with how different colors could change the mood of his design. (Jackson Dahl, First Year)
A CENTER FOR CONNECTION
The design for Centro de Esperanza, a museum and learning center serving the Latin American community in the Bronx, takes inspiration from traditional Latin American dance. Every design element, from the curved walls to the use of light, was chosen to create an encouraging and motivating environment for the center’s visitors and to connect them to the richness of their cultural heritage. (Paula Trivino, Fourth Year)
SHIFTING LIGHTS
The design for Seasonal Winery, a store located in the Flatiron Building in New York, reflects the shift from one season to the next by changing both the interior lighting and the visual projections on the exterior. Third-year student Danielle Kachler paid close attention to the needs of the store’s employees and customers, incorporating wine racks, storage, and a tasting area into the small footprint. (Danielle Kachler, Third Year)

<<< HOPE IN SUSTAINABILITY
El Canto de la Esperanza is a training and resource center located in Managua, Nicaragua. By providing a place where people can learn about and use sustainable technology, the center seeks to address overcrowding in the city. The design merges indoor and outdoor, connecting the interior and exterior spaces. It features classrooms, a library, a lounge, and a central workshop accessible and visible from every point in the building. (Vanessa Lacayo, Fourth Year)
BEFORE ANY OF OUR STUDENTS can put ideas into action, they must first dream and invent. Then they make sure their concepts are robust, well-conceived, and practical. The Critical Thinking for Interior Designers course turns our students from researchers into practitioners. This class is where they define their values as designers and then transform their plans into reality.
WHEN INJUSTICE BECOMES LAW RESIST BECOMES DUTY

SOY INMIGRANTE NO CRIMINAL
The Crystal City Center for Food, Nutrition, and Health in Arlington County, Virginia, rehabilitated a former office building into a state-of-the-art center for research, innovation, and learning. For this project, the entire second-year class, working in teams, developed a cohesive design for all twelve floors, plus the primary and secondary program areas. (Christina Agosta, Daniela Cid, Shannon Dyson, Suho In, Rachel Kennerly, Anthony Legato, Cheri Ailin Li, Yijing Lin, Bo Liu, Vitalia Svechin, Paula Trivino, Zoe Zhou, Second Year)
“During your four-year journey, your teachers keep pushing you over a cliff. But in the end you fly into the sky.”

KWANGSUNG PARK, CLASS OF 2016
COMFORTABLE POSITIONS

Our second-year students were challenged to design multi-use, functional chairs from cardboard as an exercise in design, construction, and material manipulation. The results—from seats inspired by leaves to ones that recline—were both comfortable and versatile. (Hua Tayhee Tong, Xinyan Zhou, Yue Gracie Zhang, Anna Harea, Chen Chen, Erin Checkosky, Seoeun Choi, Second Year)
A DESIGN WITHIN A DESIGN

The Brooklyn Plaza Center is a workspace and testing ground for the Department of Transportation’s Plaza Program, which eliminates excess roadways and replaces them with public spaces. The goal was to create a space where the community is able to engage in the design process. The building incorporates lounge areas, a café, and a gym, while adjacent to the site is a plaza where design solutions could be tried out before being implemented city-wide.

(Erica Norton, Fourth Year)
UNBOXED INSPIRATION
Is it possible to create an easy and comfortable living environment in a small box? This was the challenge taken on by second-year student Brandon Perler. The Box Apartment was designed to be simple, convenient, and customizable. It uses light colors, natural materials, and floor-to-ceiling windows to keep the space open and inviting. (Brandon Perler, Second Year)
FROM PRISON TO POWER
In this group project, SVAID students were asked to transform a former women’s detention center into a building used exclusively by female entrepreneurs and women-led nonprofits focused on issues of advocacy, equality, and wellness. The design celebrates the power of women through the use of dynamic geometric shapes. (Brandon Perler, Qiao Queenie Zhang, Yue Gracie Zhang, Second Year)
ÁMBAR MARGARIDA, CID, IIDA, LEED Green Associate, moved to New York from her native Puerto Rico to study at SVAID. She graduated in 2009 and is now a Senior Associate at Spacesmith LLP, a New York-based architecture and interior design firm. Ámbar has worked on a broad range of design projects for leading global clients, including Avon, Bacardi, BlackRock, The Durst Organization, New York University, US Department of State, and New York State. Ámbar returned to SVAID in 2014 to teach the Interior Materials and Finishes course and she is a founding member of the Latino American Commercial Real Estate Association (LACREA). She is also a LEED Accredited Professional and an expert in designing interiors that contribute to the occupant’s well-being.
“What inspires me about design is the psychology of it — how spaces are linked with human behavior.”

DINA REZIPOVA, CLASS OF 2016
**FUSION THROUGH COLOR**

The strong orange and yellow colors in the Cultural Fusion Community Library have two important functions: they reference the different cultural traditions of the multiethnic community members who might use this Lower East Side building, while also uniting them into one, new cultural design. Black and white patterns fused together across walls are another way this designer chose to symbolize the concept of cultures coming together. *(Anthony Pezzulo, Third Year)*
MAKING ROOM FOR LIGHT
A perspective image of The Garage by Danielle Kachler shows the tool check-out area and highlights the relationship between the main fabrication space and the rest of the building. An exploded axonometric diagram demonstrates how removing a section of the building divided it into new interior spaces with improved airflow and light penetration. (Danielle Kachler, Fourth Year)
ART IN TRANSITION
The art installation created by this second-year student was inspired by Buddhist ideas about reincarnation.
(Wei Chen, Second Year)

>>> FROM PRISON TO MEDITATION
This group’s design for the Women’s Building repurposes the bricks from the building facade, once used to imprison, and instead uses them to form a reception and meditation area. In this way, they are able to reference and recast the history of the building while creating a space that is welcoming to the new inhabitants.
(Yixiang Lam Chen, Andreina Figueira, Anna Harea, Second Year)
“SVAID is like a family – our department is close-knit, and we are always there to inspire one another to live up to our full potential.”

CHRISTINE MARSIGLIANO, CLASS OF 2019
CONTAINING THE SOLUTION
Syria's civil war has displaced nearly half of the country’s population, creating a housing crisis for refugees. Third-year student Brandon Perler demonstrates how temporary housing does not have to consist of bare-bones relief structures. Shipping containers can be repurposed to replicate apartment living, providing a functional, enjoyable home to their inhabitants. (Brandon Perler, Second Year)
BLOCKS FOR LIVING
The Moving House was designed for a very specific client: a mechanical and robotic toy-maker in Haiphong, Vietnam. The house consists of five movable parts that can be reconfigured in many different ways, as represented by the blocks in this illustration. (Meichun Cai, Third Year)
This exhibition, staged from December 2015 to January 2016, was a chance for SVAID students to educate attendees about the nature of interior design. It’s not just about choosing paint colors, adjusting lighting, or making a space look beautiful—though interior designers also pay attention to those things. The work in this exhibition explored the creative and technical ways that designers contribute to the entire building process. Simply put, interior designers, working closely with architects and structural engineers, shape environmental experiences.

We are not decorators.
PHYSICAL ERGONOMICS
By studying the body in motion, this student was able to analyze and make decisions about proportions, directions, openings, and light in her design for the Mobius Urban Wellness and Recreation Center. (Meichun Cai, Third Year)
SENSORY DESIGN
Prospect Place is a residence for seniors that embraces the process of aging. It incorporates sensual gardens throughout the space in order to engage all five senses. This project brings contemporary design into senior homes, increasing well-being, encouraging visitors, and bringing different generations together. (Dina Reziapova, Fourth Year)
PLAYING WITH LINE AND COLOR
This interior from the Cultural Fusion Community Library shows the influence of Dutch painter Piet Mondrian.
(Anthony Pezzulo, Third Year)
INTENSE CONNECTIONS
This residential apartment in New York was inspired by the unusual couple—performance and body artists—who inhabit it. French windows fill the space with light and a water feature in the apartment’s stone gardens symbolizes the couple’s relationship.
(Hua Tayhee Tung, First Year)
UNITED IN LEARNING
The elevator tower and main building of the Saga Community Library represent two books, forming a multi-floor center dedicated to reading, studying, and education. The page-like concrete forms create a strong formal dynamic and an interesting interplay between light and shadow. The building also integrates communal spaces, such as a nutritional center, to unify local residents through common interests. (Stephanie Chan, Third Year)
“Our professors act more like mentors or professional colleagues than teachers.”

COURTNEY ROSS, CLASS OF 2015
AN INNOVATIVE REDESIGN
If the Adobe software company redesigned its offices, what would they look like? This was the inspiration behind first-year student Dina Said’s project. She used the Adobe logo to invent furniture, lighting, and finishes, all with the goal of creating a space suitable for a dynamic workforce. (Dina Said, First Year)

GOING WITH THE FLOW
This cross section from the Los Angeles Water Conservation Center project shows how the design replicates the natural structure of a canyon, with plants at the top and a rain-collecting pond at the bottom. (Hanna Kim, Fourth Year)
“Interior design is a blend of art and function.”

BRITTANY TENNISON, CLASS OF 2017
TOOLS FOR CHANGE
California recently had the worst drought in its history but the public was not given the education or tools to start conserving water. The Los Angeles Water Conservation Center addresses that problem by providing visitors with concrete conservation strategies, from analyzing one’s water usage to checking for leaks using a water meter. (Hanna Kim, Fourth Year)

FORCE OF NATURE
This art installation was designed for a science museum exhibition in Chelsea Piers in New York City. Second-year student Dolores Torti used ribbons to make the force and direction of the wind visible, creating a piece of work that conveys both emotion and practical information. (Dolores Torti, Second Year)
My client is a weaver who lived in Stockholm, Sweden. The footage of this project is 56 square meter. My concept is to bring “tread and line” from weaving method into the building structure, which is achieved by simplifying the weaving structure into a single continuous line to frame the building structure. Therefore, the building structure itself becomes a factor to inspire the weaver’s working environment, and this idea became a connection between working and living.

In order to bring this concept into the building, the space is divided into three areas, which are public, semi-private and private. And the stairs is a pivot to connect these three floors. Public space is located on the first floor for the weaver’s convenience to bring his client and company to his house, and multi-functional furniture is applied to this space, due to the limited footage of the building. The second floor is semi-private area which is for weaver to work and weave. The bedroom, served as a private area, is located on the third floor.

**HEAT AND LIGHT**
The client for this micro-apartment is a weaver in Stockholm, Sweden. The design features thread and straight lines and also incorporates a unique thermal heating system that takes advantage of Sweden’s long summer days.

*(Danyang Vicki Long, Second Year)*
SVAID FACULTY MEMBER RALPH OTTAIANO, AIA, LEED-AP, curated the department exhibition “On Sustainability,” which explores the issue of globalization and its relationship to planetary health. Participating students examined three pillars of sustainability: environment, economics, and equity. They also designed housing for populations displaced due to climate change and political instability. The exhibition showed how interior designers create solutions for global problems.
“After graduating and looking back on my work, I see how—little by little—I grew into the designer I am today.”

ERICA NORTON, CLASS OF 2015
PIECES OF THE PUZZLE
Sometimes you can only learn by doing. Such was the case for this project in which second-year students were challenged to design and then produce a modular partition system.
(Dina Reziapova, Third Year)
"BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP"

El Canto de la Esperanza is a training center in Nicaragua that teaches both traditional and sustainable building techniques. The workshop is located in the open center space and can be seen from every point in the building. Above is the mezzanine, which contains offices for staff, classrooms, and a library with a lounge along the perimeter. (Vanessa Lacayo, Fourth Year)
THE NATURAL CURE

A double-spiral staircase in the Eco-Therapy Wellness Center by Hanna Kim is surrounded by greenery and pathways where visitors can come to reflect, meditate, or run, in order to de-stress.

(Hanna Kim, Third Year)
THE SENIOR THESIS EXHIBITION, which takes place every April, showcases the final projects of our graduating class. Their work displays the depth and diversity of their conceptual ideas while demonstrating their technical and professional skills. The exhibition is designed and built entirely by the students and is launched with an evening reception attended by friends, family, faculty, and industry professionals looking for new talent.
“Studying interior design is not only about art, it’s about how to make our lives better.”

YINGSHAN FU, CLASS OF 2017
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THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS offers a four-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design. The program is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). After three years of professional experience, BFA graduates from SVAID are qualified to sit for the National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam (NCIDQ).

For more information on SVAID (School of Visual Arts Interior Design) or to schedule a tour or interview, please contact the School of Visual Arts Office of Admissions.

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(Please visit id.sva.edu for a full listing of current faculty.)