



Council
for **Interior**
Design
Accreditation

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June 30, 2022

Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Department of Interior Design
Virginia Commonwealth University
201 Pollak
325 North Harrison Street
Richmond, VA 23284

Dear Dr. Sotiropoulos:

Congratulations! Your interior design program leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree meets Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) Professional Standards and has been awarded accreditation for a term of six years, **effective May 2022**. The Accreditation Commission is pleased to recognize your program for this achievement.

The Accreditation Commission's decision was based on the program's achievement of sixteen accreditation standards, which are evaluated within the context and overarching purpose and intent of the program. CIDA accreditation standards broadly address the evolving components of graduate preparation for interior design practice, including:

- critical thinking, professional values, and processes that provide the framework of interior design practice;
- core design and technical knowledge that provide the historical, theoretical, and technical contents of interior design practice.

Award of CIDA accreditation attests to the quality of your interior design program and benefits your program in many ways. Parents, students, and employers of graduates can be assured that your program meets the rigor of peer review and develops the skills and knowledge required to practice interior design. Furthermore, the accreditation process provides your program with valuable input for continued development and assists the program in adapting to meet evolving professional requirements as CIDA updates standards.

The enclosed Accreditation Report contains the evaluation of your program's compliance with CIDA Standards. Program quality is assessed primarily through student learning evidenced in student work and interviews with students. In CIDA's Professional Standards 2020, performance criteria and expected levels of student achievement are clearly described by student learning expectations.

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A narrative assessment is provided for each Standard in the report and includes valuable information on program compliance with the Standard. In some cases, the interior design program may have fallen below or exceeded the requirements of an expectation. These expectations are considered to be strengths and weaknesses and are addressed in the narrative assessment.

In three years, **spring 2025**, the interior design program will be required to submit a Progress Report to CIDA addressing ongoing program development, as well as the following Standards:

Standard 1. Program Identity and Context. The interior design program provides a professional-level education that prepares graduates for entry-level practice and advanced study. The program has a mission, educational philosophy, and goals appropriate to its context. The program engages in on-going assessment and planning ensuring the curriculum and resources are structured to achieve its goals. The public is able to access understandable and reliable information about the program.

Standard 5. Collaboration. Interior designers collaborate and participate in interdisciplinary teams.

Standard 7. Human-Centered Design. Interior designers apply knowledge of human experience and behavior to designing the built environment.

Standard 12. Light and Color. Interior designers apply the principles and theories of light and color effectively in relation to environmental impact and human wellbeing.

A reminder notice is sent six months prior to the due date of this report. The program should be revisited in **spring 2028** to seek re-accreditation.

Published information regarding your accreditation status must comply with CIDA's confidentiality and disclosure policy as stated in CIDA's accreditation policy and procedure, Section VI. Accreditation, page 1 (also see Section VI. Accreditation, page 4, Program Announcement and Disclosure of Accredited Status). Accreditation policy and procedure is available for download on CIDA's website at <https://www.accredit-id.org/policyandprocedures>. It is important that all announcements of CIDA accreditation include the name of the program and the degree awarded.



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The members of the Accreditation Commission join me in extending congratulations to your program. We look forward to working with your program in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Holly Mattson, Hon. IDC, Hon. FASID
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: Roberto Ventura, Virginia Commonwealth University
Carmenita D. Higginbotham, Virginia Commonwealth University
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