Our famed Parsons Interior Design certificate is known for expert faculty practitioners, hands-on experience in architectural software, and close connections to the current industry. You’ll gain skills in drafting and space planning while building or adding to your portfolio. Our small-class approach allows for closer collaboration with your peers and professors, sparking your creativity and individuality as an interior designer.

Continuing and Professional Education at The New School delivers courses and programs that give professionals and non-degree-seeking students the edge that can come only from our accredited university and the dynamic network of renowned faculty and industry-leading professionals at the #1 art and design school in the United States1—Parsons School of Design.

Learn the skills you need to advance your career in a changing world.

1 Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings (2020).
Color Theory

Color is the most abstract, expressive, and sensuous aspect in art, and exerting real control over its ephemeral properties can be difficult without a framework and criteria for its effective use. Drawing upon the great color theory texts by Albers, Itten, Munsell, Chevreul, and many others, this course offers an intensive survey into methods of grouping, organizing, and mixing color.

Basic Interior Space Planning

This course involves freehand drawing of floor plans. Students will complete at least one interior design project from beginning concept through a finished written and visual presentation. This is an introduction to planning interior spaces for students without drafting skills.

Basic Drafting

Basic Drafting will introduce students to the relationship between physical three-dimensional space and its two-dimensional representation. The course will develop the students’ understanding of design documents as tools of spatial communication and conveyors of design intent.

Interior Design Certificate Course Outline

Students complete six required courses plus minimum of two electives.

Basic Interior Space Planning

Week 1
Introduction: History of Interior Design

Week 2
Design Process

Week 3
Basic Space Planning: Phases of design, Programming, and Time management

Week 4
Basic Space Planning: Schematic design and Floor Plans

Week 5
Basic Space Planning: Furniture and Building Codes

Week 6
Lighting and Power Plans

Week 7
Orthographic Projections: Acoustics and Color Theory

Week 8
Professional Practices, Ethics, and Organizations

Week 9
Final Project

Basic Drafting

Week 1
Introduction: Syllabus Review

Week 2
3D to 2D: Orthographic Drawing

Week 3
Scale and Plans

Week 4
Drawing Sets

Week 5
Axonometrics

Week 6
Surveying

Week 7
Rendering

Week 8
Review and Work Sessions

Week 9
Final Project

Color Theory

Week 1
Course Overview: Introduction of key concepts

Week 2
Hue

Week 3
Saturation

Week 4
Simultaneous Contrast

Week 5
Color Harmony

Week 6
Close Value Palettes

Week 7
Advanced discussion of Perceptual Mid-Colors

Week 8
Optical Blending

Week 9
Bridget Riley’s grayscale works
Commercial Interior Design

Students explore the design process for a commercial project in a studio environment. They begin with a concept and develop their idea into a coherent interior space, exploring issues of spatial layout and significance, materials and finishes, lighting, and furniture. Students present their final projects, complete with rendered drawings and a materials board.

Drawing Interiors: Perspective

This course teaches students the mechanics of visual representation, the use of drawing and two-dimensional media to observe, document and reimagine interior spaces. Students learn to read and draw plans, sections and elevations in order to understand how to read and construct one-, two-, and three-point perspectives.

**Week 1**
- Introduction to Representation and Graphic Standards

**Week 2**
- Sketching and Seeing

**Week 3**
- One-Point Perspectives

**Week 4**
- Two and Three-Point Perspectives

**Week 5**
- Introduction to Color, Market Basics, and using Pen for Hatch

**Week 6**
- Rendering Texture and Materiality

**Week 7**
- Rendering Objects in Plan Elevation

**Week 8**
- Rendering Objects in Perspective

**Week 9**
- Drawing & Rendering: Putting It All Together

**Week 1**
- Introduction and Phase 1: Pre-Concept

**Week 2**
- Phase 2: Concept Design

**Week 3**
- Practical Advice: Materials and Finishes

**Week 4**
- Phase 3: Schematic Design

**Week 5**
- Practical Advice: Materials and Finishes

**Week 6**
- Phase 4: Design Development

**Week 7**
- Practical Advice: Working with Consultants

**Week 8**
- Phase 5: Construction

**Week 9**
- Phase 6: Student Presentations
**Residential Interior Design**

Explore the possibilities of residential interior design. During the course, participate in exercises that will guide you step by step in the basics of how to design a small residential project. Focus will be on project development, including client presentations, space planning, furniture, materials and lighting. You will have access to resources, industry insights and best practices.

**Electives**

After completing the Foundational Courses, students are expected to complete two electives from the following list.

- Rhino 1
- SketchUp
- AutoCAD 1
- Digital Imaging with Photoshop
- Digital Graphics with Illustrator
- Digital Layout: Adobe InDesign
- Introduction to Graphic Design
- 3D Modeling Fundamentals
- Consumer Behavior
- Medium of Fashion: Textiles
- Kitchen and Bath
- Showrooms: A Design Resource
- Furniture Design

**Week 1**
Introduction: Review Syllabus

**Week 2**
Course Project: 1 or 2 Bedroom Bungalow

**Week 3**
Limitations and Expectations

**Week 4**
Fabrics and Wallpaper

**Week 5**
Wood, Stone, and Tile

**Week 6**
Furniture and Lighting: Form and Function

**Week 7**
Construction and Uses: Custom vs. Ready-Made

**Week 8**
Specifications and Purchasing

**Week 9**
Final Presentation
Who Should Enroll

» Creative professionals who wish to develop skills that can be applied to space planning or decorative arts
» Architects who want to expand their portfolios to include interior space planning

What You’ll Gain

» An understanding of the effects of color, texture, and materials in interiors
» Proficiency in hand-drafting formal drawings including floor plans, elevations, and reflected ceiling plans
» In-depth knowledge of the core design elements of scale, proportion, balance, and ambience
» The ability to use the industry software tools Rhino, Sketchup and AutoCAD
» An understanding of trade information and project sequencing

How You’ll Learn

» Engaging video lectures and interviews with industry experts
» Direct interaction with faculty practitioners at the top of their fields
» Online collaboration in small classes, supported by video conferencing
» Project-based learning focused on developing real-world skills and portfolio assets

Get started today.
Register at cpe.newschool.edu.

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