Interior Design in general:

Interior design is a creative practice that analyzes programmatic information, establishes a conceptual direction, refines the design direction, and produces graphic communication and construction documents. Folks in this field must be attuned to architectural detailing including: floor plans, home renovations, and construction codes. The field draws on aspects of environmental psychology, architecture, and product design in addition to traditional decoration (aesthetics and cosmetics).

Specializations:

Interior designers can specialize in a particular interior design disciplines such as residential or commercial design. They can also develop expertise within niche areas such as hospitality, health care and institutional design. In jurisdictions where the profession is regulated by the government, designers must meet broad qualifications and show competency in the entire scope of the profession, not only in a specialty. Interior designers who also possess environmental expertise in design solutions for sustainable construction can receive accreditation in this area by taking the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) examination. In addition, designers may elect to obtain specialist certification offered by other private organizations. ¹

Description of Major:

In preparation for a rapidly evolving, technology- and information-driven society, success as an interior design professional requires full understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, technical, environmental and economic issues pertaining to the built environment. The Program is grounded in the belief that interior designers should enter the global marketplace as articulate, creative, inspired designers and socially aware professionals. The Bachelor of Science in Interior Design provides an extensive education to meet these demands.

The program’s mission is to prepare designers to become innovative problem solvers, independent thinkers, and collaborators who can begin the professional licensing process upon graduation. We strive to instill in each student the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and excellence in design.

At the Program’s core are studios where students explore the creative process through varied and progressively more complex projects. The studios foster an interdisciplinary environment where material from other courses is synthesized through creative experimentation in the act of design. Functional and technical knowledge is introduced through courses focusing on such topics as sustainable design, construction, codes, lighting, acoustics and mechanical systems; as well as furniture, finishes and fabrics. Taught both using both analog and digital methods, students develop an extensive professional portfolio. The fourth-year Capstone Project is the culmination of all previous studies, integrating design ideas, history, theory, humanistic values and innovative materials in shaping interior spaces.

The program is fully accredited by the Council for Interior Design Qualification (CIDA).

Careers/Job titles:²

3D Computer Graphic Artist  Design & Planning Consultant  Intern Interior Designer  Project Analyst
Accessibility Specialist  Design Consultant  Interior Designer  Project Designer
Aircraft Interior Designer  Design & Materials Manager  Junior Designer  Project Manager
Architectural Renderer  Estimator  Junior Interior Designer  Resale Home Stager
Assistant Designer  Environmental Designer/Planner  Kitchen & Bath Designer  Residential Designer
CAD Operator  Furniture Designer  Lighting Design Assistant  Set Designer
Canvasser  Historic Preservationist  Marketing Director  Showroom Manager
Civil Drafter  Home Furnishings Coordinator  Merchandise Displayer  Stage/Set Designer
Color Coordinator  Home Restoration Supervisor  Model Home Designer  Staff Industrial Designer
Computer-aided Design Technician  Home Lightings Consultant  Museum Exhibit Designer  Vendor Specialist
Who employs PhilaU graduates?

Alexander Perry, Inc.  Daroff Design, Inc.  JBH3 & Associates  Rubenstein’s Office Plus
AOD Architecture Planning Design  Design & Development  Jennifer Krack  SOSH Architects
Avon Plumbing  Design Studio  Kanalstein Danton Associates  Studio Patneship
Bergmann Associates  Kosier Designs Associates  Malvern Design Workshop  STV, Inc.
BKT Architects  Douglass Interiors  Mertz Architects  Sugar Associates
Bloomingdale’s  Dyami Architects  Meyer Associates  TAO Design
Cassway Albert  Erickson Retirement Communities  Michael Shannon Designs  Tackett & Company
Charles King Architects  Faridy Viesz Fraytack Co.  Mitchell Wenitsky Interior Design  Tekion LLC
CitiFinancial  Francis Cauffman Foley Hoffmann  Minno & Wasko Architects & Planners  The Office of Charles King
Collaborative Design  Hellyer Berman Lewis  Oskar Huber Furniture  Vivian Golden & Associates
Commodore Kitchen & Bath  Herman Miller  Pennoni Associates  Wroolie & Company
Commonwealth Office Systems  ICON  Perkins Design  Crawford Interior Group
Corbett, Inc.  IEI Group  Rita’s Water Ice  River Rock Design
Covenant Life Church  Ignati-Lummis Architects & Planners, LLC  Rhoysmedre Design Group  Studio 63
Cubellis Inc.  InterArch  Ritter Design  Studio Patneship

Helpful websites:

- ASID: Choosing a Design Career -- http://www.asid.org/students
- Careers in Interior Design - http://www.careersininteriordesign.com/
- Interior Designers -- http://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-design/interior-designers.htm