

BA (HONS) INTERIOR DESIGN DECORATION

It is our pleasure to welcome you to BA (Hons) Interior Design Decoration. The course teaching team look forward to meeting you in September when you begin your Welcome Week with us. In this document you will find enclosed:

1. Recommended Starter Toolkit
2. Suggested materials and reading list
3. Information for proposed residential and field trips for the year to allow you to budget and plan ahead
4. Summer Project

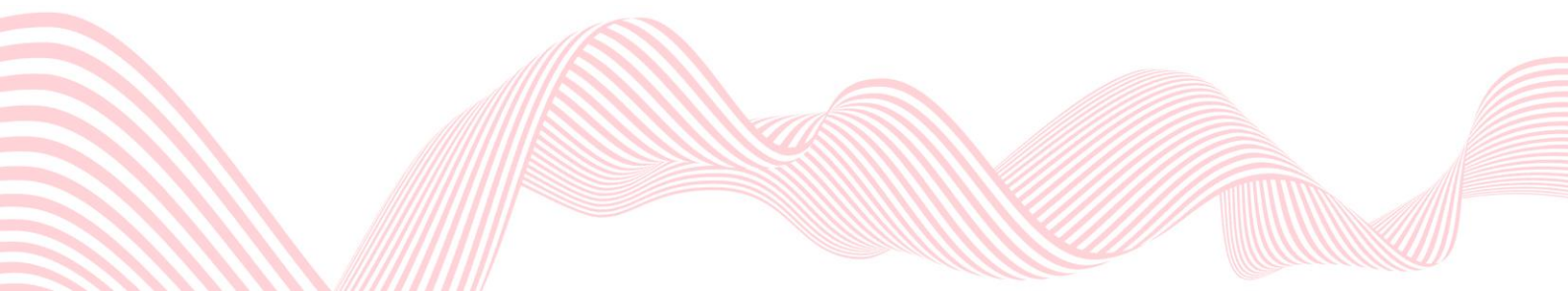
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

Lydia.Southwell@solent.ac.uk

In the meantime, we wish you all the best this summer and we all look forward to meeting you in the autumn.

Kind regards

Lydia.Southwell@solent.ac.uk



RECOMMENDED STARTER TOOLKIT

As a student at Solent University, you will have access to a range of facilities. However, we always expect students to work on projects outside of university within your own time. We therefore recommend that all design students purchase/budget for an **initial basic toolkit** that can be added to and built upon as you progress throughout the course. However, you may be eligible for compulsory course costs in relation to materials, printing etc. (please see the university web page for more details).

The list on the next page indicates a range of tools, materials and equipment that you will find useful, and in some cases essential. It is recommended that you purchase at least the basics before starting the course. Some of the drawing equipment can be purchased online, or at cheaper outlets like the 'The Works' or 'The Range' at discounted prices.

NB: This list below is indicative only, highlighting what would be considered more essential initially. As you progress through the course you will want and need to source additional materials that relate specifically to your chosen pathway.

You may also need to budget for the printing of your final visuals / fabric samples and key drawings to create presentation boards which can all be produced in the university at reduced costs.

	INTERIOR DESIGN DECORATION 2024-2025	Check
	Essential drawing and painting tools and materials	
1.	Scale ruler with 1/25, 1/50, 1/100, 1/200	
2.	Metal ruler 50cm	
3.	Colour wheel	
4.	Good quality synthetic brushes: 2, 4, 6 and 8	
5.	Mixing palette	
6.	Tape measure in millimetres – 5m long	
7.	Scalpel and blades	
8.	Scissors	
9.	Masking tape	
10.	Glue stick	
11.	Double Sides tape	

12.	Pencil Set (HB, 2B, 4B, 6B)	
13.	Eraser and sharpener	
14.	Drawing compass	
15.	Set of fine-liner fiber pens (0.1, 0.3, 0.5 and 0.7)	
16.	Tracing paper pads	
17.	Range of sketch books (good quality paper) These can be purchased on campus at cost price	
18.	Water colour paints	
19.	Colour pencils (recommended Faber Castell Polychromos)	
20.	Gouache paints small tubes – primary colours, black and white	
Desirable extras:		
21.	Tri-markers cool greys and blues 1 set	
22.	A3 cutting mat	
23.	Academic diary	
24.	A4 folder	

DESIRABLE:

During the degree, having access to a personal **computer/laptop** will facilitate and enhance your studies and will certainly make your life easier. There are many computer specifications available on the market, so this decision is essentially a personal one. It is your choice to opt for either a **Mac Book or a PC** as long as the capacity, memory, power and portability are compatible with the many spatial design programs the course uses. We appreciate that these are expensive items, but the quality, durability and compatibility with the CAD software you will use makes these a very valuable asset overall. They will prepare you for industry.

The Apple store offers a discount for students on both hardware and software. Please **click here for more information**. The software that you will mainly be using throughout your degree will be **Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, Microsoft Office, In-design and SketchUp**. Whilst it is not essential that these are installed onto your computer, it would certainly be useful so that you are able to practice outside of university sessions. We also use a 3D CAD program called **Nemetschek Vectorworks**, this is the preferred industry software and differentiates our course

from many others. **Students can download a free license of this software once they are on the course.**

RECOMMENDED READING

We also have an extensive library at Southampton Solent University, where you will be able to access the recommended books below.

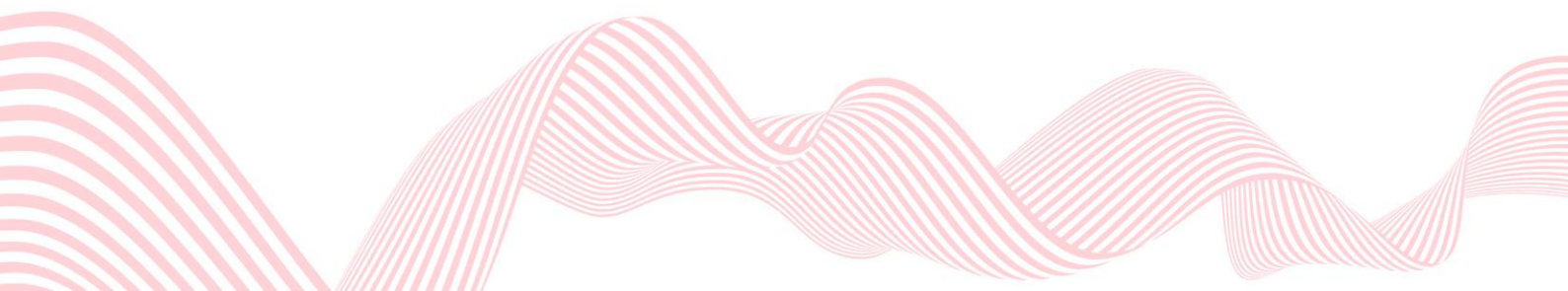
A History of Interior Design by John Pile & Judith Gura (2013) – This is a very good guide to the history of design and interiors. You will be advised to look at other books as well as this, but this is a good reference book to refer to throughout your degree.

Interior Design Visual Presentation: A Guide to Graphics & Models by Maureen Mitton (2012)

Construction & Detailing for Interior Design by Drew Plunkett (Portfolio Skills) (2010)

Metric Handbook: Planning and Design Data by David Adler

You may wish to purchase some of the recommended books suggested for your individual modules, so it is advisable to budget for some extra purchases on top of these.



PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL AND FIELD TRIPS 2026/27

We aim to add to your university experience by developing and enhancing your creative learning through a range of field and occasional residential trips which we organise throughout the academic year. Potentially these could include visits to museum and site visits in the UK or further afield such as Copenhagen, Berlin or other European cities. Naturally this is reviewed each year, and we would give as much notice as possible in relation to any proposed field trips with costs attached to encourage students to save in preparation.

However, to help you engage with design culture and the many wonderful design exhibitions, museums and artistic culture, we would encourage you to visit the suggestions below in person. Where it is not possible to visit in person, you can access some of the digital resources below. We want you to start building a sketch book full of creative references to help you understand and appreciate the field you are now entering.

Please see some of the suggestions below of places to visit this summer:

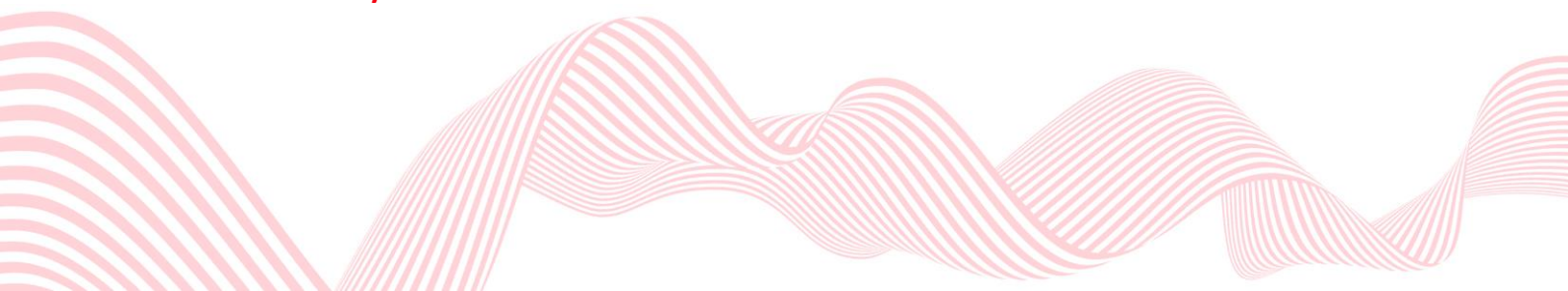
- **Tate Modern, London**
- **Design Museum, London**
- **Barbican, London**
- **British Museum, London**
- **Victoria and Albert, London**

Please see the many links below for virtual museum tours around the world:

- **Virtual tour of Museum of Modern Art**
- **Royal Academy of Arts**
- **Virtual tour of the Musée d'Orsay**
- **Virtual tour of architect Sir John Moane's Museum**
- **Virtual tour of Dominion Office Building by Zaha Hadid Architects**
- **Virtual tour of Hauser & Wirth of various exhibitions**
- **A range of virtual tours**

Design websites:

- **Archdaily**
- **Yellowtrace**
- **Dezeen**



BA (HONS) INTERIOR DESIGN DECORATION - SHORT SUMMER PROJECT 2026

The aims of the summer project are to:

- use your drawings and any other media, to communicate what you see and encourage you to discuss ideas
- make observations, collect and record detailed information, and propose an idea.

As part of your preparation for the Interior Design Decoration course, we would like you to collect information regarding your favourite eatery. This can be a restaurant, café or similar.

We would like you to record detailed information on the space by observing how the space is used.

In particular we would like you to consider.

Why is it a favourite place for you to go and eat/drink?

How does the space and interior style make you feel and why?

How does the decoration and materials communicate the type/style of food the eatery sells?

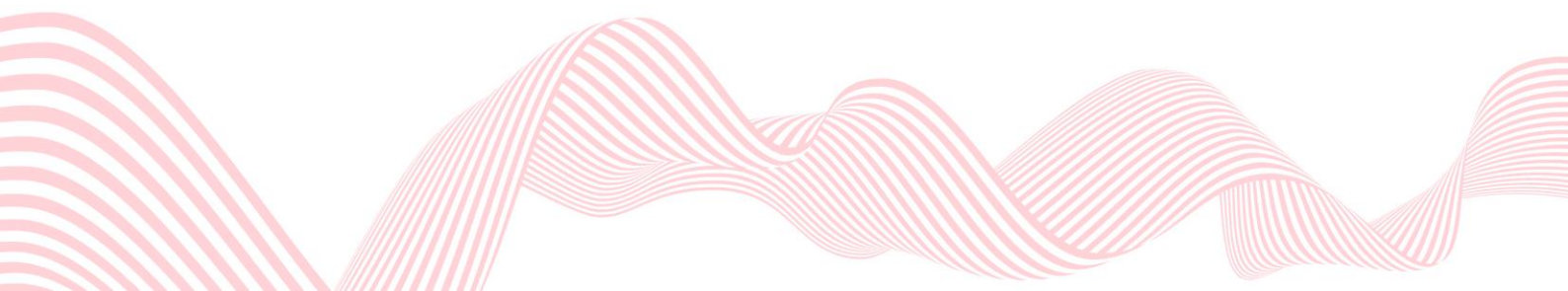
Does the eatery have an ambiance and if so, how is that created?

Who do you believe the restaurant has been designed for and how does the design appeal to those users?

Document your findings in a notebook or sketchbook and consider as a “designer” how would you now design it differently. Can you make the space work better for the users? Design is problem solving and it is your role as designer to improve the functionality, and user experience, whilst considering the aesthetics

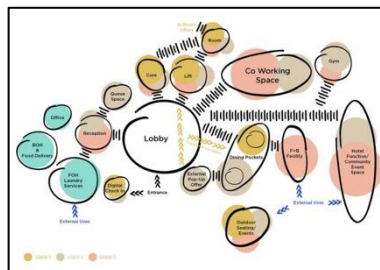
Page 1: A3 Page illustrating key information about the current space.

This should include

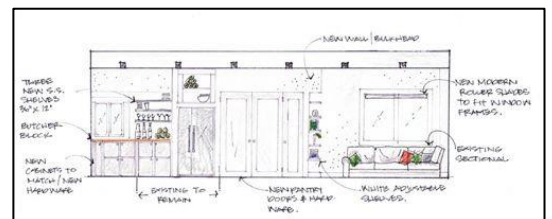


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Example of a plan drawing



Example of zoning and flow diagram



Example of a front-view wall drawing

- Using a Photo of the area, sketch your improved design or solution over it. You can also list your ideas and solutions as points.
- Consider looking for interior design inspiration on the websites and magazines listed below (please avoid using Google and Pinterest).

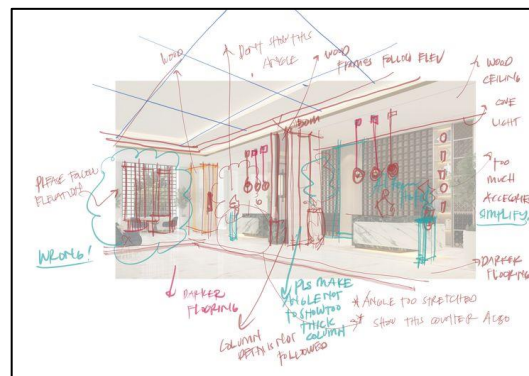
- Incorporate these inspirational images on your page, accompanied by the source of the image (the website link or the magazine edition).
- Explain how your idea will elevate the design or solve the design problem you've found.

Design websites:

- **Archdaily**
- **Yellowtrace**
- **Dezeen**

Magazines:

- **Architectural Digest**
- **Living Etc**
- **Frame magazine**



Example of photo overlay sketch/analysis

Don't forget to mention the name of your chosen eatery 😊

We will be reviewing your Summer Project during Welcome Week, so please remember to bring your work with you on **Thursday, 24 September 2026**. You will not require it on your first day.

For Reference:

Brereton, Richard, 2009, *'Sketchbooks The Hidden Art of Designers, Illustrators & Creatives'*, London Laurence King.

Lawlor, Veronica, 2016, *'The Urban Sketching Handbook, Reportage and Documentary Drawing (Tips & Techniques for Drawing on Location)'* USA Quanto Pub Group.

www.lookbetweenthelines.com