

IDEC SOUTH

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Insights from the chair

By Jerome Gomez, IDEC South Regional Chair and Program Coordinator of Interior Design at Converse University

Hi all! It has been a whirlwind of a year, and with graduation behind us, it's time for a well-deserved summer break and a pause to reflect on the exciting events of the past year. Most notable was the 2024 IDEC Annual Conference in New York City, March 6-9. Thank you to 2023-24 IDEC President Stephanie Sickler and the Board of a Directors for envisioning a dynamic conference that highlighted several locations around the city, including the New York School of Interior Design. A special thanks goes out to Ellen Fisher, VP for Academic Affairs and Dean at NYSID, for the gracious hospitality.

In this issue of the newsletter, you'll learn about a new initiative introduced at the conference, the "Minute Mentoring and Inspire Initiative," developed by our very own IDEC South Ideas Committee and spearheaded by Daniel Ronderos, a new international member from Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, SA. You'll also read the personal stories of two of our IDEC South members through our Spotlighting feature and be introduced to a proposal to explore the potential benefits of using AI as a means of quickly accessing the IDEC website's roughly 2500 pages of scholarly content.

Finally, you'll learn about this year's new approach to the traditional regional conferences, envisioned as a two-part Virtual Symposium named "Unmasking, Provoking, and Transforming Design." Enjoy this summer issue and I look forward to another exciting year for the IDEC South Region!

Jerome



THIS ISSUE

DESIGN TO THRIVE

A recap of the 2024 IDEC Annual Conference in NYC

THE MINUTE MENTORING AND INSPIRE INITIATIVE

Help nurture the next generation of Interior Design Educators

EXPLORING AI WITH IDEC.ORG

Learn about a new proposal to facilitate navigation of IDEC's 2,500 pages of written and graphic content

MEMBER AND PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

Highlights from featured educator and graduate student members plus the latest news from one ID program

FALL 2024 ALL-REGION VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

DESIGNED TO THRIVE

The **2024 IDEC Annual Conference** recap by Tony Purvis, IDEC South Regional Communications Coordinator and Associate Chair of Interior Design at SCAD

The bustling metropolis of New York City was taken by storm this past March 6-9, as more than 300 brilliant minds and visionary spirits of interior design education united in our shared passion for design excellence! The return to an in-person IDEC Annual



Conference following the pandemic years was a rousing success, and featured activities coordinated throughout the city. Highlights included a Welcome Reception co-sponsored by Fairchild Books and Wolf-Gordon; a Keynote Address by innovative and celebrated textile designer Aviva Stanoff; an emotional Awards Ceremony at the New York School of Interior Design; a Keynote Address by Jessica Bantom, Global Leader for



Equity. Diversity, and Belonging at the DLR Group; a special happy hour reception hosted by Kravet at the NYDC; and of course, dozens of remarkable presentations, panels, and posters showcasing the exciting work of our IDEC members nationwide! We hope to see everyone in 2025 in Chicago!

CONGRATULATIONS TO BOSTROM, OUR NEW NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY, FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL, FIRST-EVER IDEC ANNUAL CONFERENCE!



The Minute Mentoring and Inspire Initiative

By Daniel Ronderos, Ideas Committee and Associate Professor of Architecture and Design at Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

The *Minute Mentoring and Inspire Initiative* invites our members to create and share short videos or audio interviews that delve into their personal mentorship journeys. These stories highlight personal growth, professional achievements, and the profound connections developed through mentorship. We aim to inspire, educate, and connect our community by bringing these often-untold stories to the forefront. This initiative is a testament to our belief that **mentorship is key** to nurturing the next generation of interior design educators and professionals.

You can find these compelling stories at the Ideas 4 Interior Design website (<https://ideas4id.com/>), on YouTube [@Ideas4InteriorDesign](#), on Instagram [@ideas4id](#), and on LinkedIn at [Ideas 4 Interior Design](#).

Join in the excitement and share your mentorship story! Simply fill out this [Google Form](#)!

If you are interested in participating in a live Q&A session with contributors to gain deeper insights into their experiences, use hashtags **#MinuteMentoringInspire** and **#IDECMentors** to share your thoughts and connect with other members. For technical assistance, email Daniel Ronderos at d-ronder@uniandes.edu.co.

Need credit for Service to the Profession?

Here's an easy way to do it!

The IDEC South Regional Council is embarking on a membership drive to recruit new members and connect with former members! The pandemic impacted membership, but student volunteers from SCAD Atlanta have compiled a list of all interior design programs and their faculty in the South, including Community Colleges and Two-Year Programs. **We could use your help with outreach!**

Please contact Laura Kimball, IDEC South Regional Membership Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Department of Design at Radford University, at kimball@radford.edu; or, Tony Purvis, Communications Coordinator, at apurvis@scad.edu, to see how you can assist with the effort and get credit for service to the profession!

STUDENT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!



Annelise Mihopulos is an IDEC Graduate Student member who earned her M.F.A. in Interior Design at the Savannah College of Art and Design in June 2024. She was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease when she was 16 years old. Annelise's research on the challenges faced by autoimmune patients in accessing medical care was motivated by years of doctor's appointments and procedures to address her illness. She was inspired to study interior design so she can affect positive change by shaping healthcare spaces that impact patients like herself.

Annelise's research can help shape the future of outpatient clinic design for autoimmune patients and other groups such as pediatrics, mental health patients, and those being treated for chronic illnesses requiring lifelong care. Her research helps designers see new ways to address vulnerable groups through practical design principles.

EDUCATOR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

Emily Smith, NCIDQ, LEED AP, is an Assistant Professor of Interior Design at Virginia Commonwealth University and a practicing interior designer. She co-leads the VCUarts middle Of broad studio, an interdisciplinary, community-engaged design studio that creates opportunities for VCU students to work on teams with Richmond community members who need design concepts to address real issues. Her multi-year collaboration with a design historian, Patterns of Place, studies patterns of the built environment and nature to understand culture, time, and place. This work has led to the development of new VCU programs on the Eastern Shore of Virginia and abroad in Sicily, Italy, where pattern study provides a unique opportunity to understand the impacts of climate change and resiliency. Through an interdisciplinary research project, Material Being, she and other VCU researchers are creating an interactive materials database through which people can share and learn new methodologies for understanding materials. Emily's professional practice includes working with firms on the west and east coasts of the United States and with the US Green Building Council on LEED-certified project teams. She has an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BS from Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.



“(A) memorable moment came as... I was leading a study abroad program sitting with students after a long day and we were sharing our sketchbooks. The conversation wandered and soon the sharing became more vulnerable. I remember looking around and remembering my own study abroad experience when I was 21 and feeling a deep sense of gratitude that I was able to pay it forward in some way to help others have meaningful, impactful experiences as young designers and human beings... Try to appreciate the urgency of passion and the patience of faith and what both have to offer you at different times. Also, design is about people first and foremost. It is about you, me, and everyone else, so center that in your designs and also in your life.”

As designers and educators, storytelling is at the heart of what we do – so, **tell us your story!** Help strengthen the IDEC South community by sharing the meaningful moments in your life that made you the design educator you are today! Contact Holly Rodwick at rodwickh@seminolestate.edu to participate

The 2024 Virtual Regional Symposium: UNMASKING, PROVOKING, AND TRANSFORMING DESIGN

By Stephanie Sickler, IDEC Immediate Past-President and Associate Professor of Interior Architecture and Design at Florida State University, with updates by Tony Purvis, Communications Coordinator

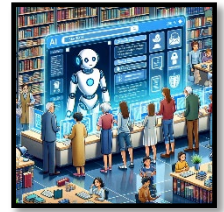
The IDEC Board of Directors has challenged the regions to prepare Fall programming that optimizes volunteer resources in collaborative ways. Working together, all IDEC regions will present a virtual symposium this fall, an exciting endeavor that invites members from all regions to participate!

IDEC Immediate Past-President Stephanie Sickler acknowledges the change from multiple onsite regional events, stating, "Although this represents a change from previous years, we believe that a collaborative event will optimize resource allocation at IDEC and help members manage travel dollars, too." We agree that this fall is the right time to collaborate on a virtual event - and we look forward to working with the other IDEC regions to showcase the great work being done across the country.

The symposium theme is "Unmasking, Provoking, and Transforming Design," a nod both to the dates (October 31 - November 1) and the critical role that strategic initiatives, such as diversity and inclusion, play in the work we do as interior design educators. The Submission Deadline for the virtual symposium was Friday, June 14, at 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time. The review process has started. For more information, visit this [link](#).

The regions look forward to hosting a thought-provoking conference.

Knowledge as a Service: Exploring AI with IDEC.org



By Daniel Ronderos, Ideas Committee and Associate Professor of Architecture and Design at Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Did you know that in IDEC's website in the Innovative Teaching Ideas Store, there are around 2,500 pages of written and graphic content, including conference proceedings, going back to 1992? At 5 minutes per page, it would take 26 eight-hour business days to review this wealth of information!

The IDEC South Regional Council's Ideas Committee is exploring the potential benefits of a new AI-driven chatbot that could help members and other interested stakeholders navigate IDEC's knowledge base. The intent of the system would be to provide immediate, easy access to IDEC's comprehensive resources through interacting with a chatbot using natural language and asking questions.

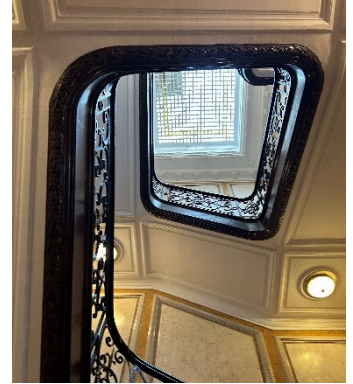
The development of the generative chatbot would be structured into several phases and ongoing enhancements based on user feedback. Theoretically, the application could transform how knowledge is managed and disseminated within the ID education community, ensuring that every member has immediate access to a wealth of information and expertise with the result being a more informed community aiming to enhance the quality of education and professional practice in the field.

We want to know your thoughts on this AI exploratory process!
Email us at inspire@ideas4id.com.

The Savannah College of Art and Design | SCAD

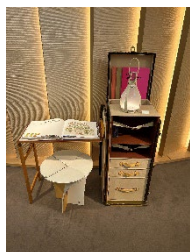
By Tony Purvis, IDEC South Regional Communications Coordinator and Associate Chair of Interior Design at SCAD Atlanta

Early last September, interior design faculty from SCAD's Savannah and Atlanta locations were invited by SCAD President and Founder Paula Wallace to experience the educational trip of a lifetime! Called "Luxes du Monde (Luxuries of the World)" the week-long trip was an immersive learning intensive exploring luxury design in the Hospitality, Retail, Furniture, and Product sectors, centered around Paris Design Week of Fall 2023. It also included a visit to Gensler's Paris office, where the professors were hosted by Gensler designer and SCAD alum Alejandra Castillo and Principal and Managing Director, Philippe Paré. With successful CIDA reaffirmation visits for both SCAD locations recently behind them, SCAD is expanding its curricular focus on the aesthetics of luxury interior design. What better way than by ensuring faculty experienced it themselves so they can speak to it in the classroom?



Curated events included a welcome cocktail reception at the Ritz Carlton Paris; full access tours of the Crillon (Rosewood) and Mandarin Oriental luxury hotels with special VIP access to the Presidential suites, spas, and Michelin restaurants; an inside peek at the famed Mériquet Carrere Atelier for historic preservation of the Beaux Arts style; tickets to the breathtaking La Galerie Dior fashion exhibition featuring pivotal creations from Christian Dior's storied career; admission to the LV Dream (Louis Vuitton) designer luggage and fashion exhibition; a guided tour of Tiffany's flagship Paris location; tickets to the historical French furniture exhibition at the Hotel de la Marine; and a full day's access to explore the 2023 Maison et Objét Show for first-looks at the newest furnishings and home products entering the market from this famous Design Week.

The trip was more than just sight-seeing, though: prior to the trip, each faculty member read a number of academic and economic papers on the global luxury design sector, and robust discussions explored what exactly constitutes luxury for an end-user, how this can be best shared with students, and where is the appropriate place for luxury to be incorporated in interior design education. As a result of the experience, SCAD interior design faculty identified a higher-level hospitality studio as one logical place to incorporate into the curriculum. Additional opportunities to introduce students to the luxury market were identified in materials and construction classes, and luxury-focused electives were envisioned in the future for interested students. Exciting happenings are underway at SCAD!



Want to participate with the IDEC South Regional Board? We have need of volunteers!
The commitment is only a handful of hours a month.
Email Jerome.Gomez@converse.edu to learn about opportunities!