GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY
INTERIOR DESIGN
Our Mission + Strategic Vision

- The Interior Design major at George Fox University strives to develop and nurture socially-conscious, innovative, and open-minded individuals who exhibit strong design skills for a successful career in the worldwide design industry.

- The Interior Design program is committed to providing an environment that allows all students to explore multiple design skills and pathways, innovate on a variety of project types, and interact with industry professionals in the field.

- We will ensure all students have the resources, opportunities, and experiences necessary to be skilled in their field, creating strong and empathetic designers who will thrive in their chosen profession.

- The Interior Design Program at George Fox will continue to support students looking to grow in a variety of design types, allowing students independence and personal instruction to create innovative design projects throughout their time in our program.
WHY ARE WE CHANGEMAKERS?

- Casey Martin, Assistant Professor of Interior Design, took over the Interior Design program at George Fox University in Fall of 2021.

- After the program had been without a leader for a couple of years, the curriculum was not cohesive and students were not being hired by the large commercial firms in Portland due to a lack of skillsets required for that field of design.

- Within 2 years, the program has more than doubled its incoming Freshmen class and numbers for upcoming semesters are looking even larger than that.

- For the first time in GFU’s Interior Design program history, the graduating class of 2022 got hired, months before they even graduated, at top tier commercial firms in Portland.

- Design education is a passion of Casey’s, who previously taught at the Art Institute in Portland and Portland Community College, and she feels it’s imperative to cultivate a new generation of designers who support each other and propel a new wave of design into the world with a sustainable mindset and an open heart to give back to our communities.
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: SLEEPING POD FOR THE HOUSELESS POPULATION

› Working in coordination with Portland State University's School of Architecture to provide concept and idea generation packages for new Sleeping Pods for the houseless population in Forest Grove, Oregon.

› The Forest Grove Foundation has been awarded funding to build a sleeping pod village and PSU’s Architecture Center for Public Interest will be working with Forest Grove on the design and implementation of the village. It is still in the very early stages and the foundation is currently trying to find a site for the village.

› PSU Architecture students designed a proposal for the village that would transition into a permanent park after 10 years - utilizing the infrastructure and site work of the village toward the future park.

› Taking the structures that the Architecture students designed at Portland State, George Fox Interior Design students designed the interiors of the pods to make these small spaces functional and feel like home for residents.
The goal with George Fox’s portion of this project was to explore issues of pod designs that include **trauma-informed design techniques**, as well as recommendations and application of **healthy building materials**.

**Important Items to Design for:**
- Trauma-Informed Design
- Sustainability, specifically in regards to ultra-healthy finishes
- Daylighting
- Anthropometrics
- Security and Safety
- Acoustics
- Storage Needs + Functionality
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: SLEEPING POD FOR THE HOUSELESS POPULATION

‣ We also reached out to finish manufacturers that the students specified and asked them if they would be willing to donate materials for this project once building starts and the majority of suppliers responded with a resounding YES!

‣ Once building starts on the Pod Village, GFU’s Interior Design program will be helping to build and assemble the pods as well as helping with procurement and installation of finishes.

‣ To measure success of this project, we have been in contact with the Forest Grove Foundation to offer assistance on this project. They have been overwhelmed by the support provided by both Portland State University’s Architecture students and George Fox University’s Interior Design students. They were also present at the students’ presentation of their work on this project and were able to give feedback directly to the students working on the project.
The George Fox Interior Design program is still small, but growing rapidly so marketing our students’ work to the Portland and greater Oregon demographic is ongoing.

For this particular project, we worked directly with Portland State University’s Architecture Program and the Forest Grove Foundation and will assist them in marketing the project as it gets built to bring awareness to the issues around homelessness and how designers have a large part to play in affordable and available housing for all.

Our main source for marketing has been Instagram on our account: @georgefox.id

We share our projects and upcoming events on our social media channel often.
The George Fox Interior Design program is well connected with our local IIDA Oregon Chapter and student events are well attended by GFU Interior Design students and faculty.

One of our students made it to the National IIDA Student Charette in Chicago in Summer of 2022, as well as having multiple finalists in the Regional Charette in 2022 and upcoming in 2023.

We also bring in IIDA members to serve as mentors on Studio projects, review student work and offer their expertise in several courses.

Our students often intern and get jobs at firms that are supportive of IIDA and have many IIDA board members working there like BORA, SERA, Ankrom Moisan and many more in the Portland area.

We have also partnered with Gensler in several classes to have our students work from the Gensler Portland offices where we have many IIDA board member ties.
As the Sleeping Pod Village is still attempting to find a site, we have yet to finalize a project budget or understand the entire scope of the financials for this project.
Todd Ferry at Portland State University’s Architecture Program was instrumental in this project and we’re so grateful for him allowing the George Fox Interior Design team to assist on the design of what will be amazing addition to the Portland Community!
Some other innovative programming in the George Fox Interior Design program include:

- Partnership with Nottingham Trent University in the UK allowing students to chat with design students abroad
- Utilizing VR technology in studio courses
- Working directly with industry such as partnerships with Gensler, allowing students to work from the Portland Gensler office on a project that Gensler designed
- The STUDIO at George Fox, a design studio within our program that allows students to work on real design projects for real clients and get paid for their work
- Students must complete at least 1 internship and all internships are required to compensate our students