

IA Collaborative is a combined campus center representing both IIDA and ASID at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, founded with a mission of providing an environment for professional development and facilitating an exchange of knowledge. In our three short years of existence, we have fundamentally changed the culture of the Interior Architecture program at UTK by fostering a collaborative community across all cohorts through creating opportunities for engagement with each other, as well as the design community and the greater Knoxville community through philanthropic efforts. Our crowning achievement from the past year has been our involvement with the Public Interiority Symposium at UTK. This effort was in partnership with our faculty advisor, Liz Teston. The exhibition was the consummation of years of research by Liz Teston on public interiority all over the world. The exhibition was open from mid-January to mid-February, culminating in a day-long symposium event. This event engaged the world's leading researchers in interior design, professionals, and students alike in a conversation regarding the boundaries of interiority. The research being presented investigates outdoor urban conditions of interiority - a condition provisionally generated by stimuli such as atmospheres, programs, politics, and psychological factors. IA Collaborative had the privilege of engaging in preparation for the exhibition and symposium in a multitude of ways including exhibit design and set up, event coordination, creation and distribution of marketing materials, chauffeuring and entertaining out-of-town guests, coordination of technology and equipment, greeting and directing during the symposium, catering coordination, and clean up. These duties spanned over a three-month period and taught our members invaluable skills and insights, such as the exhibition design process, marketing and graphic design, networking and communication, research methodology and the world of academia, and many more. Our members had the unique opportunity to have direct access to scholars and professionals from across the globe. A group of four students worked with Liz for the design and setup of the exhibition, as well as for the curation of certain aspects of the symposium. Other students worked on graphic design for marketing and running social media and other advertising methods. A majority of member involvement was as volunteers on the day of the symposium in the sectors previously mentioned. Many others came as guests. All members involved had the opportunity to learn from the guest speakers at the event and to engage in discussions. This event brought the world of interior design to the palm of our hands, encouraging our members to become better designers, volunteers, students, and well-rounded individuals.