



ERIN

INTERIOR DESIGN

ABOUT MY MAJOR

My major is Interior Design. What really interests me is the space planning part of it. We focus on how spaces are set up and how people function in them. It's lighting. It's making sure fabrics and materials are sustainable, and making sure they're clean and safe for everyone. It's the furniture too. My favorite is the structural part deciding where the walls go.

We don't have lecture days, we have workdays. There are times I'm working on my computer for like 6 hours, but I feel so peaceful because it's fun. We get the floor plans for each project and we take it from there, putting in all that we do like the zones, and then furniture materials. It's super peaceful to see it go from stage to stage, and then it's done. And you're like, wow, I did that!

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I want to go into hospital design to design clinics and long-term care facilities. My mom worked in health care for 30 years so I've heard all about the kind of things that need improvements and what could help patients in their day-to-day life in a hospital. I didn't originally view my major as helping people. I honestly saw it as, I get to make these decisions, and I get to be creative. But now I see I actually get to help people too.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

I have a Business Communications minor. People get a Real Estate minor, which is easy to do and pairs nicely. The Construction Management major is also an option. Even Psychology to help you think about how spaces work for people. Some students get a certificate in Sustainability, because it's only 12 credits and in the future, we want the products in our homes and in our buildings to be sustainable. I recommend everyone do the certificate in Sustainability.

INTERNSHIPS

I work for UNI at Facilities Management. I work with the interior designers, architects, and construction people on campus. I've worked there for two years and it's a lot of good experience.

I want to work at Envision Architecture in Waterloo, an architecture design firm. They have four designers and they hire summer interns. We all have to get an internship. So we've all been looking at places, but I'm specifically set on envision, because I've had 2 job shadows there, and I just really like their environment. And they work on health care projects and education projects. It's kind of similar to what I do now. It's like space planning. finalizing all the furniture and everything, and it's also the paperwork side of it, just a little bit where it's like invoices, for all the materials we have to get, and stuff like that. Our job is different every day. You won't be doing particularly the same thing unless it's a big project. Then you work on that in time increments.

I have a classmate who has an internship at a lighting place that focuses on specialty lighting.

CAREERS

Some of my classmates want to focus on residential interior design, like working with a firm that does things like specialty homes. There's homes. There's commercial. There's hospitals. And there's also the sales side of interior design. Being a sales rep for certain cabinetry or certain fabrics and then working with interior designers to try to get your products used in their projects. You can be very broad or you can be very specific on what you want to do afterwards. And there's a lot of jobs in the market right now, especially in Cedar Falls. So that's a plus for everyone!