

RAISING THE BAR WITH A BRIDGE

INTERIOR DESIGNERS CAN TRANSITION INTO HIGHER LEARNING AT SHERIDAN COLLEGE

Sheridan's bridging program was created to allow interior designers with a diploma or other credentials to quickly transition into the BAA program and obtain their degree, which is fast becoming a standard requirement in the industry.

Erin Jenner is program co-ordinator for the Interior Design Degree Bridging Program. "There appears to be a vast interest within the industry, as there is a push coming from within the discipline to raise the bar in the current education system in order to produce knowledgeable, qualified students and future designers. Sheridan has thus responded with the Bridging Program, which is set to launch in the fall of 2012," she says.

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario is leading the way in the move towards accreditation. Tess Van Groll is co-ordinator of the degree-granting

interior design program. "ARIDO is asking in the future that people entering the profession have a bachelor's degree in interior design. I think people across North America are seeing professional organizations asking for higher levels of education and this is simply what ARIDO is doing and we realize, that for most people in the past in Ontario, this hasn't been possible. We are one of the very few colleges offering a bachelor of interior design."

The Bachelor of Applied Arts-Interior Design Bridging Program is designed for graduates of a qualifying three-

year Interior Design Diploma program who are looking to further their education and develop the additional skills and knowledge required to enter the fourth year of Sheridan's Bachelor of Applied Arts (Interior Design) program.

"The bridging program is a way that people from previous years, whether it's a graduate from Sheridan or a graduate from another college, can obtain an undergraduate degree in interior design. So this allows people to get a bachelor's, which is being demanded more and more in the profession today," says Van Groll.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

With Sheridan's Bachelor of Applied Arts (Interior Design) program you will learn:

- 2-D and 3-D computer software, including AUTOCAD and SketchUp.
- Project management.
- Sustainability and socially responsible practices.
- Architectural standards.
- Lighting and HVAC systems.
- Residential, corporate, commercial, hospitality, and other related sectors.
- Fire, safety and local building codes.
- Professional business practice.



SHERIDAN COLLEGE PHOTO

"AT TRENT, I LEARNED HOW TO RESEARCH, HOW TO WRITE, HOW TO LISTEN, AND HOW TO ARGUE PERSUASIVELY FOR THE ISSUES I BELIEVED IN – ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ANY DIPLOMAT."

Lucie Edwards
Trent alumna and Ashley Fellow 2011/12



Lucie Edwards earned her Honours B.A. in History and Economics at Trent University. She went on to become High Commissioner to Kenya, South Africa and India. Today, she can be found working at the crossroads of science, the environment, and international development. Among the most research-intensive universities of its size in Canada, Trent is renowned for creating opportunities for students to flourish and develop as individuals and as global citizens. This made all the difference to Ms. Edwards who says, "Trent helped me develop the tools in public policy to deal with the big 21st century problems, like climate change and development."

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