



# Perspectives

...interior design news  
and views

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Villa Maria College Interior Design Program, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Buffalo, NY 14225, [www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

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*"The work was outstanding. It was a pleasure to spend time at VMC"*

*Barb Reformat, Advisory Council  
Member and Alum*

## The Spring Semester in Review

### Interior Design by the Numbers 2014 - 2015

The 2014-15 academic year for Interior Design was record setting at Villa. At our 51<sup>st</sup> Commencement exercises we graduated our largest IND BFA class with 13 students. We also saw 4 students earn their Associate in Applied Science degree, and 3 students earn certificates in Historic Restoration. Two students were accepted to graduate programs in the Architecture Department, at the University at Buffalo. And finally Tara Clack was honored with the Blessed Mary Angela Student Award. In 2013 we graduated 12 students, and employment stats are in... 10 are working in the field, one is pursuing graduate studies and 1 is working outside the field. In fall 2014 we accepted 18 BFA students into the program. Two students did not return for the spring semester.

## Distinguished Students of the Year

The Annual Interior Design Student Exhibit opened Friday, February 13, 2015, in the Paul William Beltz Family Art Gallery with a reception hosted by the In Club.

During a private review a panel of invited guests and faculty juried the projects in the main gallery and selected the three distinguished students of the year. This year's recipients are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** - Tara Clack '15

Award - Wrafter Built Salvage and Reclaimed Table

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Kirsten Smith '15

Award - Eaton Office Supply Stool

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Kaeli Bigelow '15

Award - Task Chair - Millington Lockwood

**Freshman Best of Show vote recipient:**

Jessica Harris '16 Freshman Perspective Rendering

Award - Drafting table - Seneca Blueprint



*Villa students at their display in Albany, NY*

## New York Eleven Plus (+)

Villa Maria College was proud to participate once again in this year's New York Eleven Plus Exhibit entitled "Interior Design: Counts for New York State" which opened April 13 at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. Tara Clack, Kirsten Smith and Kaeli Bigelow together with Professor Natalia Albul attended the Albany opening.



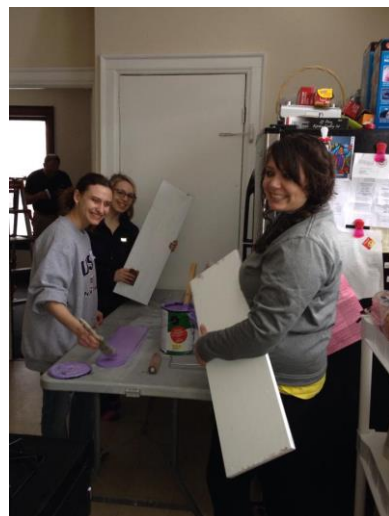
*Villa alum Harrison Walsh, top left, joined founder Ruth Lynford, Dr. Ellen Fisher and other panelists in NYC*

## Panel Discussion at Lapidica Showroom

As part of this year's NY 11+ Harrison Walsh '14 represented Villa Maria College as a guest panelist at the NYC opening night reception at the Lapidica Showroom. Of the twelve participating New York State schools, graduates of four schools were honored as presenters. Harrison discussed his career opportunity at Cannon and presented the projects he is currently working on which include an educational facility at SUNY Albany and a VA project in Arizona.

## Special Spaces

For several weeks a number of Villa students worked together with our alum Raegan Hardie to design and coordinate a Dream Bedroom Makeover for a young girl with a life changing illness. According to Raegan, the Villa students were "fantastic to work with; professional, responsive, prompt, able to communicate, and creative. It's few and far between I've come across students with such well-developed skill sets that are crucial in the workforce. It was great to see so many current students already possessing such important skills. I was thrilled to be able to have the students involved in the entire process".



*Students Kayla Alba, Emily Bolles and Kellie Gallagher-Christensen work on a bedroom*

The young girl spent a day being pampered and then was surprised with her brand new and very beautiful bedroom renovation. Special Spaces is an organization that seeks design volunteers to create these magical makeovers. Villa students earn both professional development hours as well as service learning hours.

## Junior League of Buffalo Show House

This year Villa was thrilled to be awarded a unique space on the third floor of the Edward H. Webster House which we transformed into an Art Studio. Taking inspiration from the angled ceiling and the Delaware Park Rose Garden the room featured a custom fused glass window depicting an abstracted rose. Custom built radiator cover and corresponding storage unit complimented the window. A splatter rug was a crowd favorite. The adjacent closet was transformed into a ‘Fresh-mini Gallery’, featuring the work of our freshman class. Students were fundraising for two years in order to purchase furniture and supplies for the space. We were also grateful for donations from Ferguson Lighting Gallery, Wolf-Gordon and Schuele Paint. This was our most challenging space ever and was met with much critical acclaim.



*The Artist's Studio*



*Kaeli Bigelow, Kirsten Smith and Elena Pellegrino creating the splatter rug*

## ASID UNY-CE Student Competition

Tara Clack '15 was the recipient of both the first and second place in this year's regional ASID student competition. She won first place for her restaurant design, which was called Inventor Bar and Lounge. This was a Studio 4 project, with Professor Paul Brinkworth. Second place was won for the Roswell Park Studio 6 project, under the supervision of Professor Natalia Albul.



*The Inventor Bar and Lounge.  
Tara Clack '15  
First place*

## IDA Cargotecture Student Competition

The Interior Design Association of Western New York hosted a student competition at this year's Buffalo Home Show. The challenge was open to students from interior design as well as architecture, to create a livable space from a cargo container. Kristine Perry '15 won both the juried competition as well as the popular vote for her design.



*Kristine Perry '15 Cargotecture Project*

## Study Abroad 2015 Paris & London

This year has marked the third Villa travel abroad opportunity. One very significant change is that students are able to earn 3-credits for this trip. We had 19 participants who enjoyed 5 days in Paris, seeing the Louvre, Versailles, Musee D'Orsay, the Arc de Triomphe, Montmartre, Luxembourg Gardens and more. After a train ride on the Eurostar to London we enjoyed another 5 days, seeing the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, a west end show which was Matilda and once again, so much more. Weather was a bit chilly, but that did not slow us down at all.

## Faculty News

Professor Sandra Reicis attended the IDEC National Conference in Fort Worth, Texas March 11-14, 2015. She was honored with a 2015 Service Award.

Professor Natalia Albul has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. She has also been offering NCIDQ workshops for students and practicing professionals through the Workforce Development Department.

Both the Albright Knox Art Gallery and the Griffis Sculpture Park have invited Professor Jesse Walp to create sculptures.

Adjunct Professor Robert Szudzik continues to offer Revit Workshops through Workforce Development. The workshops are open to practicing professionals, students from all schools and Villa alums.

Work from Adjunct Professor Sr. Kelly and students from IND 235 Introduction to Fused and Leaded glass is on display at Daily Planet Coffee from May 18 - June 22. Opening night including a poetry reading by Professor Joyce Kessel.



*Students and Faculty at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Day 1*

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*Plans are underway for the next Villa Travel Abroad opportunity.*

*Look for news on Venice-Florence-Rome and Sorrento for May 2017*

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### Interior Design

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## Upcoming Events

**Faculty Exhibit**  
August 20 - September 20, 2014

**First Day of Classes**  
**August 31, 2015**

**College Fall Holiday**  
**October 12 and 13, 2015**

**Last Day of Classes**  
December 14, 2015

**Final Critique**  
December 18, 2015