



# 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 2013 & 2014

We pride ourselves in being a small but powerful program. In 2014 we graduated our largest BFA class with 12 students. We also saw 5 students earn the first certificates in the Historic Restoration Program. One student applied and has been accepted to graduate school at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Master of Arts in Sustainable Design. She also received a scholarship from the International Furniture Design Association (IFDA). In 2013 we graduated 8 students, and employment stats are in... 6 are working in the field, of which 1 is also pursuing an MBA, 1 is pursuing a Masters in Architecture, and 1 is working outside the field. In Fall 2013 we accepted 16 BFA students into the program. Three students did not return for the Spring semester. The 2014-15 class is looking promising with 14 BFA and 2 AAS students already registered with almost 2 months still to go!

## Distinguished Students of the Year

The Annual Interior Design Student Exhibit opened Friday, April 11, 2014, 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** - Harrison Walsh '14

Award - Humanscale Diffrient Task Light - Millington Lockwood

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - Jessica Foster '14

Award - Hon Motivate Guest Chair - Integrity Office Supply

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - Tara Clack '15

Award - Guest Chair - Buffalo Office Interiors

**Freshman Best of Show vote recipient:**

Ana Spanhake '18 Freshman Chair Rendering

Award - Drafting table - Seneca Blueprint

## New York Eleven Plus (+)



*Villa students and faculty with NY 11+ founder Ruth Lynford*

Villa Maria College was proud to participate once again in this year's New York Eleven Plus Exhibit entitled "Interior Design: Codes for Living" which opened April 7 at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The visit included a tour of The Egg, Center for the Performing Arts as well as a guided tour of the State Capital Building. On April 23 an opening reception was held in the GROHELIVE! Showroom in New York City. Kim Ewing, Jillian Schultz and Harrison Walsh, together with Professor Natalia Albul attended the Albany opening.

## Pecha Kucha at Grohe in NYC



As part of this year's NY 11+ Laura Wax '08 represented Villa Maria College as a guest speaker at the NYC opening night reception at the GROHELIVE! Showroom. Of the twelve participating New York State schools, graduates of four schools were honored as presenters. Laura's Pecha Kucha presentation was received with high acclaim, and she certainly did Villa proud. She is pictured at left with fellow presenters.

## IIDA Krug Showroom Event - Toronto



*Students, faculty and alumni at the Krug Showroom*

April was a very busy month at Villa. A group of 29 Villa students, faculty and alumni participated in an IIDA Buffalo City Center sponsored event, travelling to the Krug showrooms in Toronto for a CEU lecture by the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association on Level, the sustainability certification program for furniture.

This was a wonderful event for the students to become familiar with the Krug line of furniture as well as the Level program. Following the lecture was a bit of free time to explore and enjoy Toronto.

## Ronald McDonald House

The Interior Design Association of Western New York invited Professor Sandra Reicis and Villa Maria College Interior Design students to work on the design and installation of a guest room at Ronald McDonald House, in honor of a young woman, Julie Roberts, who lost her battle with cancer. Julie's family and friends had raised money in support of this effort. With the theme of Diamonds and Dogs provided to us, we set to work creating a space that would reflect Julie's special qualities. We began with a commissioned art piece generously donated by watercolorist Laurie Herrmann and Lynne Rider of Rider Frames and Gallery. With a whimsical portrait of Julie's dog Opal, we had our inspiration and color palette. The final result was a sophisticated, comfortable and practical guest room intended for young families. The dedication and ribbon cutting occurred on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to the sponsors who donated to the space, including Creative Storage, Anzalone Lighting, Calico Corners, Interior Design Resources, Custom Drapery and Reicis & Associates.



*Water color of Opal by  
Laurie Herrmann*



*Jillian Schultz and Professor  
Sandra Reicis*

## ASID Re.Style Design Competition

Constance Strother '15 took the Third Place Award for her luminaire fabricated from pennies. Participants in the competition were challenged to repurpose everyday objects or discarded items as part of a sustainability initiative. Connie's luminaire was a design for Professor Paul Brinkworth's Introduction to Lighting and Acoustics course.

This competition was open to both professionals and students. How wonderful that Villa graduate Caroline Barr took home First Place!

## Universal Design Symposium

Villa Maria College will be hosting a Universal Design Symposium October 22 and 23, 2014. Universal Design expert Cynthia Leibrock will be the Keynote Speaker. Numerous presentations, demonstrations and panel discussions are planned. Additional confirmed participants include Professor Beth Tauke, University at Buffalo and Jonathan White, Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access. The symposium will be open to all students, educators and design professionals.



*Luminaire by Constance Strother '15*

## Faculty News

Professor Natalia Albul attended the Healthcare Design Academy in Washington D.C. in February. This is in support of her work with students in Studio 6 as well as her scholarly work with Roswell Park Cancer Institute. She has submitted a proposal for a research study entitled “Investigation of an Open Laboratory Layout Impact on Productivity and Collaboration Levels of Biomedical Research Staff”. She is currently serving as Chair of the Curriculum Committee and is the Coordinator of the new Honors Program.

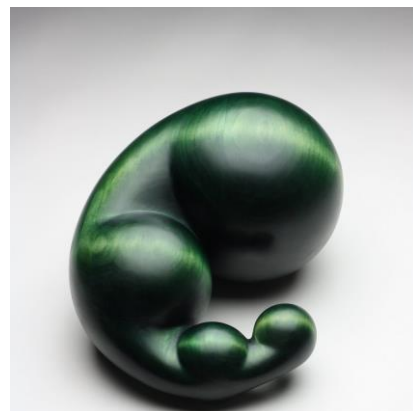
Professor Sandra Reicis attended the IDEC National Conference in New Orleans. She was awarded the Interior Design Educators Council 2014 Teaching Excellence Award at the awards banquet. Only one award is presented annually from within the entire IDEC membership which includes Canada, US and several countries in Europe and the Middle East.

Professor Reicis is also one of four recipients of the Green Mountain Ranch Fellowship. She will be a guest at the Ranch in Northern Colorado June 23 - 27 where she will participate in a Universal Design Training Week. The fellowship also includes the speaking fee for Universal Design expert Cynthia Leibrock to come to Villa to work with our students.

Professor Jesse Walp had a solo exhibit entitled “Life Forms” at the Buffalo Arts Studio in January. He has been invited into the Burchfield Penney’s Living Legacy Project. As a recipient of the prestigious Langley Kenzie Award, he will have a solo exhibition at the Burchfield Penney in August.

Sister Anne Therese Kelly was appointed treasurer of the Stained Glass School of America.

Professor Sandra Reicis completed the Western New York Academic Leadership Institute receiving a certificate in April. She continues to serve on the Advisory Council for ECC.



*Work by Jesse Walp*

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*“Cynthia Leibrock, MA, ASID, Hon. IIDA is an award winning author, an international lecturer, and a designer with over thirty years of experience. Her mission is to improve the lives of older and disabled people through design”*

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### Interior Design

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## Upcoming Events

Faculty Exhibit  
August 20 - September 20, 2014

First Day of Classes  
August 25, 2014

Universal Design Symposium  
October 22 -23, 2014

Final Critique  
TBA

Travel Abroad - London and Paris  
May 18 - 28, 2015  
(5 seats still available...contact Sandra Reicis)