

# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & PRODUCT DESIGN

## IAPD ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Sarah Swaim is a 2015 K-State IAPD graduate.** After graduation she moved to Kansas City to begin her job with Hufft Projects. She is one of five interior designers at the firm and works on a variety of projects from high-end residential, to corporate, to hospitality. Hufft has design, fabricate and build divisions separated only by a glass wall, which encourages everyone to collaborate and be involved in the process from beginning to end.

**“Very few jobs exist that encompass all that IAPD has to offer but I feel like my education I received allows me to push the boundaries of my actual job description.”** About a month after Sarah started at Hufft, the interiors director came to her desk and said “Okay Sarah, this is YOUR project.” She could not believe they were entrusting her with such a large task at the very beginning of her career. “I am incredibly thankful for learning opportunities and responsibilities which continually shape who I am as a designer.”

During her time as an IAPD student Sarah said she was extremely appreciative of the **Production Furniture for the Contract Market class**. She felt it pushed her in ways that no other class had throughout her entire education at K-State. She was continually challenged and encouraged by some of the best professionals in the business, while working with one of the top furniture manufacturers. “I am able to appreciate and understand the processes that go on behind the scenes months and years before I look at specifying a product. **And I have great connections all around the US as a result of that class!**”

Sarah's favorite experience while an IAPD student was the travel that was encouraged by the college. “If I were to pick a favorite, it would be **studying abroad in Orvieto**. While it never seemed convenient to take out extra loans and forego an extended internship, I will never regret those four months! I would encourage ANYONE to study abroad, no matter their degree.”



**Sarah Swaim**  
2015 IAPD Grad

*“I am so thankful to the IAPD faculty and board who constantly evolve the program to what it is today! I truly feel I entered the workforce with the best education available.”*

### SARAH'S WORDS OF WISDOM FOR CURRENT IAPD STUDENTS:

1. Spend as much time as possible refining your design process and design language throughout the course of a project! Employers love nothing more than someone who is humble but confident in their design abilities and can be introduced to a project at any phase to add value and detail where it is lacking.
2. Make design a part of your everyday life! This was advise I was given during one of my internships, and I am so thankful for the wisdom. Follow photographers, florists, baristas, really whatever inspires you and learn from them! Design is not just a 9-5 job.
3. Make connections everywhere you can and don't be scared to reach out to them when you need help or advice!



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