

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

# NEXT-GEN K-STATE

IAID STRATEGIC PLAN 2030



# KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE  
& INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

THE COLLEGE of  
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & DESIGN // K-STATE

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# IAID STRATEGIC PLAN 2030

## INTRODUCTION

The Department of Interior Architecture and Industrial Design (IAID) at Kansas State University is committed to fostering excellence in design education, research, and community engagement. This strategic plan aligns with APDesign's Next-Gen Strategic Plan and K-State's broader mission, emphasizing industry partnerships, student engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and wellness. IAID aims to strengthen its impact on students, industry, and Kansas communities while supporting the university's applied learning, research, and outreach goals.

IAID has structured its strategic plan to align directly with APDesign's three primary strategic priorities while clarifying the department's role in supporting the following college-led initiatives:

- 1. Design Research and Creative Works Innovation Hub
- 2. Design Innovation and Expansion for More Vibrant Professions and the Betterment of All
- 3. Recruit, Retain, and Support World-Class Faculty, Staff, and Students

## MISSION

IAID is dedicated to design education that advances user-centered design through innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and applied learning. We empower students to become creative problem solvers, ethical professionals, and leaders in design and design thinking by fostering a culture of experimentation, empathy, and sustainability. IAID contributes to shaping environments and products that enhance well-being, equity, and sustainability through research, applied learning, community engagement, and professional partnerships.

## VISION

IAID envisions a future where design drives positive change through innovation, research, and a commitment to well-being. By leading design thinking across disciplines, fostering applied design collaborative initiatives, and expanding designing for wellness as a core framework, IAID aims to set innovative standards in design education. Our graduates will be prepared to navigate complex challenges, adapt to evolving professional landscapes, and contribute meaningfully to society through impactful, user-centered design solutions.

## CORE VALUES



### EXCELLENCE

Striving for the highest quality in education, research, and creative practice.



### INNOVATION

Encouraging experimentation, critical thinking, and forward-thinking solutions.



### EMPATHY

Designing with a deep understanding of human needs and experiences.



### PROFESSIONALISM

Preparing students with the ethical and leadership skills to excel and lead in industry.



### COLLABORATION

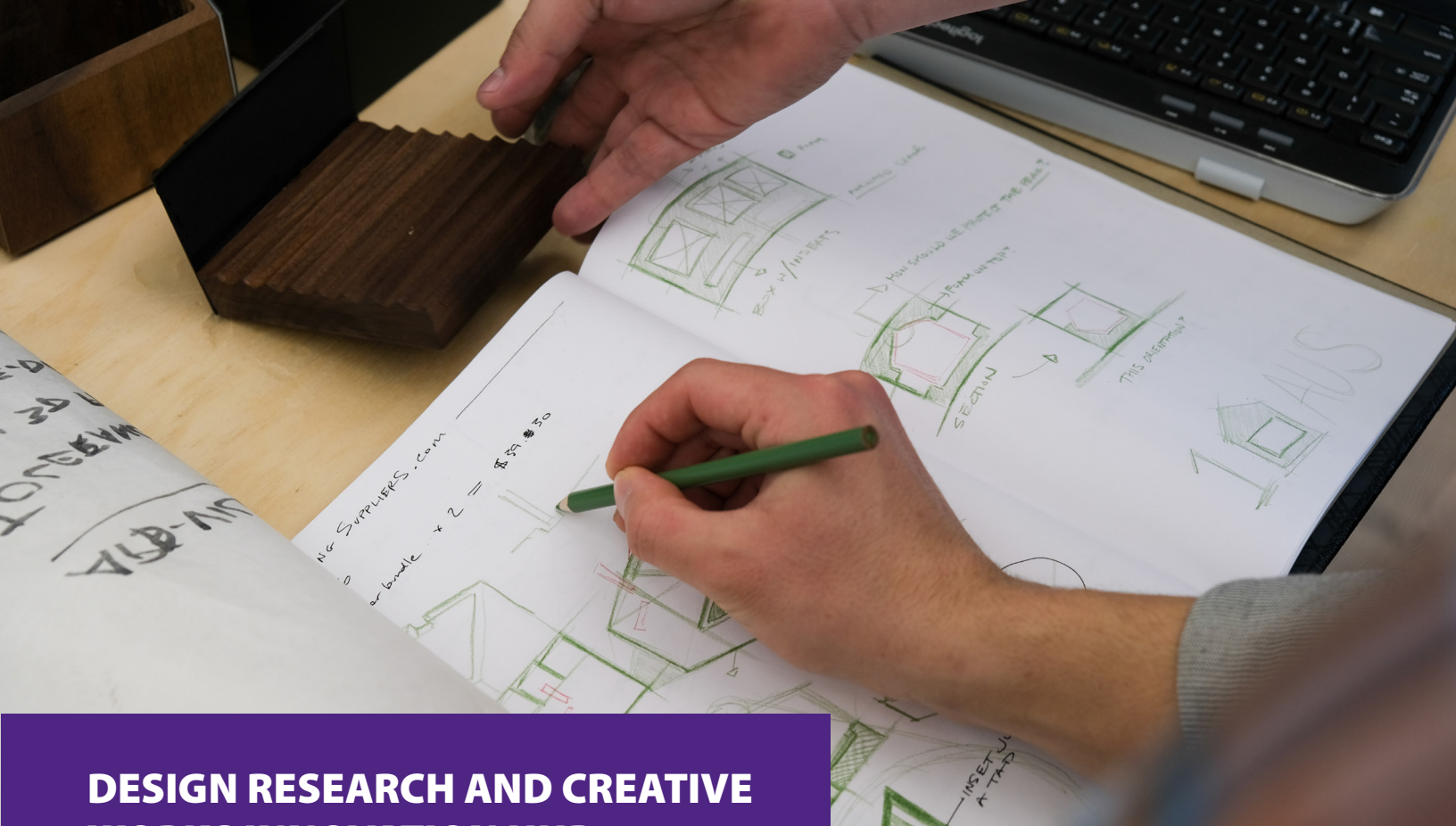
Promoting interdisciplinary teamwork, industry partnerships, and community engagement.



### USER-CENTERED DESIGN

Focusing on user well-being, sustainability, and empathy in all aspects of design.





# DESIGN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS INNOVATION HUB

## GOALS

### Advance APDesign's Applied Research & Creative Works

Promote interdisciplinary projects and multidisciplinary collaborations that bring non-design disciplines into the process, reflecting the complexity of our world.

### Champion Design for Good Community-Engaged Learning

Foster support for IAID faculty and students to play an active role in interdisciplinary research and community and industry-engaged learning.

### Design Thinking Leadership

Enhance IAID's role in shaping curriculum and systematic approaches to design thinking and its implementation.

## STRATEGIES

- Collaborate with APDesign on faculty and student research efforts in designing for wellness, sustainability, and user-centered design.
- Engage in industry-partnered research projects that align with our strategic objectives of preparing the next generation of designers.
- Utilize KCDC as a hub for interdisciplinary design research, professional engagement, and industry collaboration.

## METRICS

### Research & Creative Works Output and Engagement

Grow the number of faculty and student research projects contributing to APDesign initiatives.

### Grow Partnerships & Community Engagement

Build on IAID's strength of engaged projects within the industry and community.

### Grow Exposure

Increase the visibility of IAID research contributions in Kansas, nationally, and globally within the APDesign framework.

## TIMELINE

### 2025-26

Support the Design Thinking curriculum implementation.  
Support APDesign in the implementation of their Priority 1 timeline.







# DESIGN INNOVATION AND EXPANSION FOR MORE VIBRANT PROFESSIONS AND THE BETTERMENT OF ALL

## GOALS

- Strengthen Pathways**  
Improve student pathways into IAID degree programs, ensuring accessibility to design education.
- Drive Design Innovation**  
Foster and enhance curricula with future-ready courses, applied learning, professional development, and community and industry engagement.
- Designing Wellness Initiative**  
Advance this initiative to ensure that user-centered design solutions promote accessibility, resilience, and well-being.

## STRATEGIES

- Develop articulation agreements and dual-credit programs with Kansas community colleges and transfers within KBOR to establish a clear pathway into IAID programs.
- Develop new micro-credentials and certificate programs that support APDesign's educational expansion strategies and enhance our students' educational experience. While also promoting other micro-credentials that our students can obtain from other disciplinary fields, so our students learn how to build a unique resume that allows them to stand out and complement their design degree.
- Align service-learning, community engagement, and real-world project experiences to continue to support student professional readiness and provide a valuable service to the broader community.

## METRICS

- Increase Pathways**  
Increase student enrollment from other KBOR institutions.
- Professional Opportunities**  
Growth in professional workshops, applied learning experiences, and industry collaboration programs supporting APDesign priorities.
- Wellness Initiative**  
Integration of wellness-focused course content and projects into IAID's curriculum. Along with continued work on finding synergies within IAID for shared and evolving curriculum to better the student learning and its environment.

## TIMELINE

- 2026-27** Identify multiple synergies within the curriculum while maintaining student learning experience and program strengths.
- 2027-28** Launch IAID-specific micro-credentialing programs in alignment with APDesign's growth strategies.
- 2028-29** Assist APDesign in establishing multiple articulation agreements with other KBOR institutions.







# RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND SUPPORT WORLD-CLASS FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

## GOALS

### Recruitment and Retention

Support APDesign’s strategies by emphasizing IAID’s strengths in sustainability, wellness-focused design, and user-centered education.

### Promote the Society We Serve

Support APDesign’s broader recruitment and retention strategies.

### Community of Learning

Foster a learning environment that enhances staff, faculty, and student well-being and professional development.

## STRATEGIES

- Participate in APDesign-led faculty support programs, including research funding, sabbaticals, and mentorship initiatives.
- Enhance student recruitment and retention strategies by aligning IAID’s marketing efforts with APDesign’s outreach initiatives.
- Lead wellness and work-life balance initiatives that complement APDesign’s efforts in fostering a supportive academic culture that recognizes and celebrates faculty, staff, and student achievements.

## METRICS

### Retention and Graduation Targets

Meet or exceed K-State targets for retention and graduation rates.

### Program Capacity Utilizations

Regularly review existing programs’ capacities in relation to available facilities and faculty, mentorship, and staff capacity.

### Wellness initiatives

Implementation of work-life balance programs and wellness initiatives for faculty, staff, and students

## TIMELINE

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2026-27 | Develop a department mentorship program which supports the APDesign faculty support and mentorship initiative.                                     |
| 2027-28 | Identify multiple synergies within the curriculum to improve faculty workload while maintaining student learning experience and program strengths. |
| 2028-29 | Implement IAID-specific wellness and work-life balance initiatives in coordination with APDesign.  |





# PROGRAM-SPECIFIC UNIQUE STRENGTHS

## INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

- **Applied Research:** Engages in user-centered research that directly informs and enhances design practices, contributing to advancements in the field.
- **Interdisciplinary Studio Work:** Encourages collaboration across various design disciplines, fostering a holistic approach to interior architecture.
- **Design-Make:** Emphasizes hands-on creation, particularly in furniture design, to deepen understanding of materials, their assembly, and design at the human scale.

## INTERIOR DESIGN

- **User-centered Design:** Faculty and students lead in the discovery and application of design research that prioritizes the health and well-being of building occupants.
- **Environmental Resiliency:** The program emphasizes the impact buildings have on our natural environment as a fundamental consideration of each project.
- **Experience-based Learning:** Interior Design faculty seek out practice-based and experiential opportunities for students to gain learning experiences beyond the classroom.

## INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

- **Research, User-Centered Design and Innovation:** Development of innovative products by placing user needs at the center of the design process. Emphasis on the integration of functional performance, aesthetic quality, and creative problem-solving to ensure accessibility, usability, and alignment with real-world user needs. Emphasis on bridging academia with professional practice.
- **Visual Communication:** High-level digital and analog visualization skills used for design development and communication. Emphasis on digital rendering, 3D modeling, and presentation techniques to translate design ideas into compelling visual narratives that support decision-making and stakeholder engagement.
- **Design-Make:** Building an understanding of the design process through a strong focus on hands-on creation in both furniture and industrial design studios.

## CONCLUSION

The IAID Strategic Plan is now fully aligned with APDesign's three strategic priorities: Design Research and Creative Works Innovation Hub; Design Innovation and Expansion for More Vibrant Professions and the Betterment of All; and Recruit, Retain, and Support World-Class Faculty, Staff, and Students. Through this structure, IAID maintains its program strengths while actively supporting APDesign's vision of interdisciplinary excellence, industry leadership, and societal impact. By prioritizing wellness, sustainability, and accessibility, IAID will continue advancing as a leader in design education and innovation.



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