Amber Branham, RID, LEED AP

• Austin, TX • E-Mail: ab1390@txstate.edu

Education

Master of Science (M.S.) Major in Construction Management — 2025

Texas State University – San Marcos, TX

Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences (B.S.F.C.S.), Interior Design — 2007

Texas State University – San Marcos, TX

Dean's List 2005-2006

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, Minor in Kinesiology — 2001

University of Texas – Austin, TX

Accreditations

LEED AP | Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional — 2008

Registered Interior Designer — 2010

National Council for Interior Design Qualifications (NCIDQ) Certified Interior Designer

Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, TBAE Registered Interior Designer; Registration Number: 11108

Continued Health Safety Welfare Education of 12 hrs. per year for licensure

IIDA Professional Member — 2007-2015

- Sustainability Chair 2013-2015
- Startup team member for the IIDA Zerolandfill Program

Academic Professional Experience

Texas State University — 08.2018 – present

Experience in teaching Freshman to graduating senior level design students at Texas State University. Courses taught per semester are listed below; please note that some courses include two or three sections.

Fall 2018:

- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3322: Residential Interior Design Studio

Spring 2019:

- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID1310: Introduction to Interior Design

Fall 2019:

- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1

Spring 2020:

- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3322 Studio I: Residential Interior Design

- ID 4324 Studio IV: Contemporary Design Issues| Capstone Course

Fall 2020:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3322 Studio I: Residential Interior Design

Spring 2021:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 4323 Studio III: Research & Advanced Commercial Interior Design

Fall 2021:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3322 Studio I: Residential Interior Design

Spring 2022:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Fall 2022:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Spring 2023:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3322 Studio I: Residential Interior Design
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Fall 2023:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1

Spring 2024:
- ID 4324 Studio IV: Contemporary Design Issues | Capstone Course
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Summer 2024:
- ID 4301 Internship in Interior Design

Fall 2024:
- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Spring 2025:
- ID 4324 Studio IV: Contemporary Design Issues | Capstone Course
- ID1310: Introduction to Interior Design

Summer 2025:
- ID 4302H Study America Chicago

- ID 4391 Independent Study

Fall 2025:

- ID 1320: Design Graphics 1
- ID 3323 Studio II: Commercial Interior Design

Curriculum Development Highlights include:

Graphics | ID1320

- Lead Faculty: Provide guidance, support, and mentorship to new faculty members.
- Curriculum Change Lead, Fall 2024: Directed curriculum updates for the incoming freshman class of 150 students; organized and mentored five faculty through implementation and facilitated a post-semester "lessons learned" review to enhance teaching strategies and support student success.

Studio 1 | Residential Interior Design Studio

- Coordinated site visit and secured access to as-built drawings for Residential Studio project: Parking Garage Conversion at the Perry Brooks Building, Austin, TX (adaptive reuse).
- Developed curriculum featuring projects such as: Habitat for Humanity (New Braunfels, TX), Multigenerational Housing (Austin, TX), Renovation Project (Austin, TX), and Family Compound/Aging-in-Place Housing (San Marcos, TX) utilizing WeeHouse Modules by Alchemy Architects.
- Organized student design experience at Round Top Antiques Market; secured sponsorship from Marburger Farms for entry tickets and lunch provided by local furniture sales representatives.
- Expanded student engagement through volunteer design experiences including Modern Homes Tour, Habitat for Humanity Build Day, and Bobcat Build.

Studio 2 | Commercial Interior Design Studio

- Developed the Project Cat Tree initiative on the Texas State University campus; coordinated with architects, developers, the Facilities Department, and EVP/CEO Eric Algoe to create student engagement opportunities, including interviews with all key project stakeholders.
- Created a design program featuring a non-profit community restaurant incorporating a Social Art component.

Studio 3 | Research & Advanced Commercial Interior Design Studio

- Developed and led a semester-long project at the Waterloo Central Building in Austin, TX; students collaborated with base building and interior architects (Runa Workshop), FMG, and regional Haworth representatives to design a new FMG Furniture Dealer Showroom and two full-floor tenant spaces.
- Coordinated student interview with Jean Pierre Trou of Runa Workshop.
- Organized Commercial Furniture 101 session with Caro Wilbanks of Haworth.
- Facilitated professional reviews of student work by FMG and Haworth; select students were invited to interview with FMG for internships.

Studio 4 | Contemporary Design Issues

- Co-developed the Social Justice Center Project in Austin, TX, utilizing AISD Pease Elementary as the project site.
- Coordinated interview with Gensler New York on the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice.
- Lead Instructor: Guided a mixed-use project incorporating a senior living facility and the adaptive reuse of an AISD school scheduled for closure; directed expert interviews, coordinated a historic preservation site tour, and organized archival research at the Austin History Center.

Texas State University Service includes:

Faculty Advisor & Student Mentorship

- Fall 2020–Present | Faculty Advisor, Interior Design Student Organization (1988); coordinate student leadership events (Design Like a Pro), manage communication with IIDA and ASID, and mentor student-led guest lectures and activities, including advising at IIDA Shift Conference (Spring 2024).
- Fall 2019–Present | Mentor and reviewer for student scholarships, including UCREW, and oversee portfolio and résumé reviews.
- Fall 2018–Present | Implement and participate in student proficiency and portfolio review exams.
- As Faculty Advisor, partnered with student leadership to secure funding for the annual *Design Like a Pro* event for five consecutive years, raising $5,000 to support this signature program.

Curriculum, Committees & Faculty Engagement

- Fall 2024 | Interior Design Course Curriculum Committee; contributed to new technology course development.
- Spring 2024 | FCS Committee Member for Faculty Evaluation updates.
- Fall 2019–Present | Develop continuing education opportunities for faculty and students with vendor-provided programming and lunches.

Conferences, Events & Representation

- Fall 2024 & Spring 2024 | Faculty Representative, Bobcat Day for Interior Design.
- Spring 2024 | Attended IIDA Shift Student Conference.
- Fall 2021 | Attended IDEC and served as a key faculty member for the CIDA accreditation process.

Special Projects & Initiatives

- Spring 2020 | Scandinavian Spaces Student Design Competition; created curriculum and competition where two students won internships and the opportunity to design/attend a trade show booth at ICFF. Adapted to virtual showroom designs for ICFF and NeoCon due to COVID-19.
- Fall 2019 & Fall 2020 | Coordinated internship panels with managing principals from leading design firms.
- Fall 2019 | Women in Leadership Program; assisted with donor engagement and fund allocation.
- Fall 2021 | Awarded Study-In-America Grant.

University Engagements

The Art Institute of Austin

- Served as a Juror for student work, 2016

The University of Texas at Austin

- Career Fair Gensler Austin Representative for Interior Design Professionals, 2017
- Design Chats, Introduction to Gensler as a firm and recruiting opportunities, 2018

Texas State University at San Marcos

- Guest Lecturer for Texas State University's Interior Design Professional Practice Class, 2017, 2018, and 2019

- Guest Lecturer for Texas State University's Interior Design Studio III Class, 2018

Served as a Juror for student work, 2015-2016; 2023; and 2024

Professional Experience

Gensler
08.2014 – 12.2018

Operations Director, Design Manager; Client Relationship Manager

- Promoted to Associate 2015
- Promoted to Studio Operations Director 2016
- Business Development to include maintaining current local and global client relationships
- Develop and maintain relationships with real estate brokers and end users
- Supervisor for 25 interior design team members
- Collaborate with office wide management for 130 person staff including project alignment, promotions, and development of goals for the office holistically
- Design Manager on the following projects:
    - Yeti Headquarters, ~175,000 USF, build out of $75/SF
    - NSS Labs, ~30.000 USF, build out of $45/SF
    - Amherst Holdings, ~15,000 USF, build out of $120/SF
    - 515 Congress Coffee Bar and Exterior Canopy, ~10,000 USF
    - Everi Games, ~20,000 USF, build out of $50/SF
    - University of Texas Perry-Castaneda Library, ~8,000 USF
    - SXSW, 2 -3 full floor fit out of new building, ~42,000 USF, construction complete in June 2019
    - Visa, renovation of full building, ~135,000 GSF, design start date February 2018
    - IBM, multiple projects varying in scale, fee and construction cost

Sixthriver Architects
03.2013 – 08.2014

Interior Designer/Project Manager

- Develop and maintain relationships with real estate brokers and end users
- Lead Interior Designer on the following projects:
    - Saint Elizabeth's Catholic School
    - FSG Energy including FF&E
- Project Manager on the following projects:
    - Austin Title Stonebridge including FF&E
    - Chaotic Moon
    - Nature Conservancy including FF&E
    - Sage Recovery and Wellness Center at Los Arboles
    - Meritage Homes including FF&E

Parsons (Formerly 3D/I)
06.2006 – 03.2013

Intern/ Interior Designer

- Interior Designer on the following projects:

- U.T. Austin Biomedical Engineering Building, LEED NC – Involved in Design Development, Construction Documentation and Contract Administration phases of design. Generated construction documents, coordination of consultant drawings, finish and lighting selections for the lobby, FF&E package and Wayfinding Package.
- U.T. Austin Utopia Theater, School of Social Work Interior Renovation – Lead Interior Designer: Selected finishes and custom light fixtures.
- Lone Star College Nursing School, New Construction – Involved in all phases of design including FF&E package and lighting design. Developed Wayfinding Bid Package.
- City of Houston Mounted Patrol Facility, LEED NC – Assisted with Finish Selections, Consultant Coordination, LEED credit interpretations and calculations.
- UT Administration Building – Assisted with FF&E package as well as the interior wayfinding.
- DC Tillman Multipurpose and Office Building – Design concept team member, Project Interior Designer, LEED coordinator and building occupancy and code reviewer.

The University of Texas System Administration 09.2007 – 03.2013
Interior Designer/ Project Manager

- Contract employees with the Facilities Management department through Parsons. Communicate and worked daily with the client on site.
- General Duties – Project Manager and Owners Representative for several in house projects. FF&E specifications, space planning and office build out consultant. Generated and updated project schedules and budgets.
- U. T. System Administration New Building Pre-Programming Project – Assistant Project Manager and integral U. T. System team member for pre-programming phase. Documented and created program reports that were utilized for Board of Regent Approval.
- Managed Historic Restoration Projects for O. Henry Hall (constructed between 1887-1881) and Claudia Taylor Johnson Building (constructed between 1912-1914). Generated Contract Documents, which were presented to the Texas Historical Commission.
- Assisted Owner with a Miscellaneous Architectural Service Agreement IDIQ RFP. Aided with the selection process, interview questions, interviews and scoring.
- Created and implemented a filing system for all of UT System A&E drawing files and specifications.
- Assisted owners' representative with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) reports.

Presentations/Peer Reviewer/Awards/Publications

- Austin Energy Green Build (AEGB) Seminar Presenter: Parking Garage to Office Space Case Study, 2017
- IDEC Awards of Excellence Peer Reviewer, 2019
- Concrete Symposium Presenter: Design Responsibility in Sustainability, 2019
- Interior Sources Magazine Publication: Chaotic Moon Project
- IIDA Design Award: Yeti Headquarters