

History of Interior Architecture I

This course offers a critical overview of the historical interior spaces in relation to their social, political, and cultural contexts and as the results of visions, necessities, and technical advancements. As the first in a series of three courses, History of Interior Architecture I will start with a global scale review of the built environment from the earliest known structures. The course has 3 main parts and a thematic component: Part 1 is a global scale narrative of architecture and interiors from the known beginning to the development of the cities. This part traces the relation between architecture as a lived-space with climate and local material on the one hand and life style and world view on the other. Part 2 focuses on the region around the Mediterranean Sea and discusses changes to architectural forms and concepts from the 5th century BCE to the 17th century CE. In addition to the distinct features of the traditions, their interaction is highlighted. At a more focused scale, this part also discusses space, form, surface, decoration and furniture/objects as tools of creating architectural concepts. Part 3 includes separate moments across the globe, which are discussed in isolation from each other. However, it is important to note that this temporal and geographical isolation is a method of study not the feature of the traditions under discussion. The last part is not a separate section, but a thematic component that runs along with above sections. Architectural history is messy; traditions and styles have no clear beginning or end; more often than not, historians have different narratives of the same building, styles etc. The lectures are intended to give you a linear narrative that bring this disarray into an apprehensible order. The thematic discussions, however, are the main venue of complementing or challenging the ideas offered in lectures.

