



Housing & Interior Design Curriculum

Board Approved: 02/19/2026

Course Information

High School Semester

Course Description:

This course explores housing and interior design through hands-on, project-based learning. Students will examine the fundamentals of interior design, such as furniture arrangement, home furnishing selection, and the application of design principles to create functional spaces. The curriculum also covers the history and styles of architecture and furniture, along with the personal, cultural, technological, and economic factors that influence housing choices. Students will analyze floor plans, evaluate design elements, and learn to make informed decisions for current and future living spaces.

Transfer Goals:

Students will be able to critically evaluate and thoughtfully design interior spaces, recognizing the influence of human factors, historical context, and practical considerations on the built environment.

Curriculum Standards: [National Family and Consumer Standards](#)

Curriculum Resource(s): Housing and Interior Design. G-W Publishers. 12th Edition. Lewis, Smith.

priority standards indicated in **bold*

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Unit 1: Foundations of Housing: Needs & Choices

Timeframe: 4 weeks

Unit Description:

This unit examines the foundational principles of residential architecture and design, exploring the drivers behind the development of human dwellings and their historical evolution. Students will analyze the multifaceted factors that shape housing decisions, including socioeconomic conditions, familial requirements, individual preferences, and contemporary trends.

Enduring Understandings:

- Homes are more than just buildings; they reflect our fundamental human needs and values.
- Housing design reflects evolving human needs and diverse personal, social, and economic factors.
- Architecture and interior design are tangible expressions of a society's values, technologies, and culture across history.
- Housing and interior design are constantly evolving in response to a wide range of influences.
- Understanding the past helps us design for the future.
- Thoughtful design considers both the human needs and practical realities of living.
- Architectural details and styles narrate the historical, cultural, and environmental influences that shape a home.

Essential Questions:

- Why do humans need and create specific types of living spaces, and how have those needs evolved over time?
- How do the values, technologies, and lifestyles of a society shape the homes and interiors built?
- In what ways do historical architectural styles and interior designs continue to influence modern housing trends?
- How do personal, family, community, and financial circumstances influence an individual's housing choices and design goals?
- How can understanding human behavior lead to more effective and impactful interior design solutions?
- What do a home's architectural details, including its overall style and roofline, reveal about the historical, cultural, and environmental factors that shaped its design?

Unit 1 Standards	
STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
11.5	I can analyze the design and development of architecture, interiors, and furnishings through the ages.
11.5.3	I can illustrate the development of architectural styles throughout history.
11.5.2	I can explain societal and technological trends in periods of architecture and interior design through the ages.
11.5.4	I can compare and contrast historical architectural details with current housing and interior design trends.

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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11.6.2	I can assess a client's community, family, and financial resources needed to achieve housing and interior design goals.
11.6.3	I can assess a variety of available resources for housing and interior design, such as evidence-based design that accounts for human factors and issues of human behavior.

priority standards indicated in **bold*

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Unit 2: Elements and Principles of Design

Timeframe: 3 weeks

Unit Description:

This unit provides an in-depth examination of the elements and principles of design, which form the foundational language of interior design. Students will analyze the core components—such as line, shape, form, color, texture, and space—and investigate how to effectively compose them using organizing principles like balance, rhythm, emphasis, and unity.

Enduring Understandings:

- Design uses a fundamental language of elements and principles to create impact.
- Design choices directly shape a space's usability and human experience.
- Responsible design integrates sustainability and universal accessibility.
- Color is a powerful, strategic tool for influencing mood and function.
- Evaluating design is essential for learning and improving design skills.

Essential Questions:

- How do the elements and principles of design work together to create effective and impactful spaces?
- Beyond just looking good, how do design choices fundamentally affect a space's usability and the feelings of the people within it?
- Why is it important to consider concepts like sustainability and universal design when applying the elements and principles of design?
- How do designers strategically use color to evoke specific emotions or enhance the function of a residential or commercial interior?
- How can evaluating existing interiors help us understand the success and application of design elements and principles?

Unit 2 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
11.2	I can evaluate housing and design concepts and theories, including sustainability and universal design, in relation to available resources and options.
11.2.1	I can evaluate the use of elements and principles of design in housing and commercial and residential interiors.
11.2.2	I can analyze the psychological impact that the principles and elements of design have on the individual.
11.2.3	I can analyze the effects that the principles and elements of design have on aesthetics and function.

**priority standards indicated in bold*

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Unit 3: The Process of Interior Design

Timeframe: 8 weeks

Unit Description:

This unit focuses on the practical application of interior design theory, guiding students through the process of developing a design concept from initial ideation to detailed documentation. Students will learn how to effectively translate abstract ideas into tangible plans and professional presentations.

Enduring Understandings:

- Successful interior design balances creativity with critical thinking about functionality, safety, and user needs.
- Design principles and practical guidelines (like safety and accessibility) are essential tools for creating spaces that are both beautiful and livable.
- Effective interior design begins with a strong concept and evolves through detailed planning and clear communication.
- Thoughtful selection and arrangement of furnishings can enhance usability, comfort, and aesthetics in a space.
- Communicating design ideas through documentation and presentation is a critical skill for success in the design industry.
- Design is a problem-solving process that balances creativity with practical needs and user-centered thinking.

Essential Questions:

- How do we ensure that a beautiful space is also a safe, functional, and accessible space?
- What tools and techniques do designers use to clearly communicate their vision to others?
- How can a designer balance aesthetics with the practical needs and constraints of a client or space?
- How do interior designers turn a concept or idea into a practical and functional design plan?
- How can furnishings and materials be selected and arranged to meet both aesthetic and functional goals?
- Why are safety codes and accessibility standards important in interior design?

Unit 3 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
11.4.2	I can evaluate floor plans for efficiency and safety in areas including but not limited to zones; traffic patterns; storage; and electrical, plumbing, ventilation, and thermal systems.
11.4.3	I can draft an interior space to scale using architecture symbols.
11.4.4	I can arrange furniture placement with reference to principles of design, traffic flow, activity, and existing architectural features.
11.4.6	I can demonstrate graphic communication skills (ex: CAD, Powerpoint, sketching).
11.7	I can apply design knowledge, skills, processes, and theories and oral, written, and

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	visual presentation skills to communicate design ideas.
11.7.2	I can prepare sketches, elevations, perspectives, and renderings using appropriate media.
11.7.5	I can utilize applicable building codes and universal design regulations and guidelines in space planning.
11.7.6	I can create floor plans using architectural drafting skills and computer aided design software.

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Unit 4: The Planned Environment

Timeframe: 3 weeks

Unit Description:

This unit provides an in-depth examination of the practical aspects of creating well-designed residential environments. Students will learn to interpret architectural blueprints, understanding how to extract and analyze critical spatial information.

Enduring Understandings:

- Architectural documents are the fundamental tools for precisely planning and communicating safe and functional interior spaces.
- Effective space planning strategically organizes zones, traffic patterns, and storage to create efficient, adaptable, and user-friendly interiors.
- Interior space planning is linked to a home's exterior design and must integrate essential internal systems for functionality and safety.
- Thoughtful furniture arrangement, guided by design principles, maximizes a room's usability, aesthetic appeal, and natural flow around existing architectural features.

Essential Questions:

- How do designers use architectural plans to translate a concept into a functional, safe, and efficient interior space?
- What key strategies ensure that a home's layout, including zones and traffic patterns, maximizes both usability and safety?
- How does the strategic arrangement of furniture transform an empty room into a livable space that supports specific activities and enhances overall design?
- How do a home's exterior design and its integrated internal systems influence the possibilities and limitations of interior space planning?

Unit 4 Standards

STANDARD CODE	STUDENTS WILL KNOW, BE ABLE TO, AND UNDERSTAND:
11.4	I can demonstrate design, construction document reading, and space planning skills required for the housing, interior design and furnishings industries.
11.4.1	I can interpret information provided on design, construction, and other industry-related interior design documents.
11.4.2	I can evaluate floor plans for efficiency and safety in areas including but not limited to zones, traffic patterns, storage, and electrical, plumbing, ventilation, and thermal systems.
11.4.4	I can arrange furniture placement with reference to principles of design, traffic flow, activity, and existing architectural features.

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