



Isabella Falche

Interior Designer
CannonDesign

Education

Illinois State University
Bachelor of Science Interior Design
Summa Cum Laude

Lagniappe:

A Little Something Extra

I started my design career in college with a lovely job as a kitchen designer in my hometown of Yorkville, IL. This position gave me the foundation I need to confidently present ideas to clients and sell ideas. I learned no client is the same and everyone has their own idea of what makes home, HOME! This was my first exposure to dealing with large sums of money and gaining the trust of clients, contractors, and of course learning to balance school and work all at once.

Interior Designer

Isabella Falche began her career journey as an open book, excited to apply her interior design education in a market sector that she knew nothing about (Healthcare). By putting herself in the mindset of a 'professional student', there were no limits to how much there is to learn, share, and innovate for the future of healthcare interiors. She feels that she has so much to share. Looking back on the past 2 years, she is glad she chose healthcare interiors as her first position out of college.

Uniqueness of Career Journey

My career is unique because every day I need to approach my work with empathy and compassion. I design spaces curated to support wellness and healing. I have to have a knowledge that considers many factors including varying patient populations, safety, nutrition, constructability, hospital staffing needs, materiality, opportunities for innovation, and of course, aesthetic.

Inspiration for Career Choice

From a young age I enjoyed analyzing what I like about spaces and how different environments made me feel. At the time, I did not know there was a word for it or even an entire career path waiting for me. My high school introduced a new elective within the FCS program during my junior year- interior design. I was inspired by how deeply I needed to know and connect with my "client" (fellow student) to design something they liked! I learned that interior design helps build human connection- something that I felt my other career interests were lacking.

Skills Vital to Success in Career

Successful interior design involves a balance of many disciplines and knowledge areas. Many days I switch between many areas of thought including, material analysis, science, psychology, and a deep knowledge of human behavior. These skills are definitely transferable and prepare me to approach any design field - not just healthcare interior design.

Best Advice to Someone Considering This Career

Be an open book! Be observant of how YOU feel in spaces! Observe others in spaces (people watch or ethnography). Gain a knowledge of what drives you. Gain a knowledge of what doesn't drive you. Shape who you are so you can confidently design for others.

Recommended Educational Preparation

I'd recommend enrolling in a CIDA accredited program. This education prepared me very well for the work I do today. Of course much learning takes place on the job, but the CIDA program allowed me to enter CannonDesign on day one with a working knowledge of how to perform as a competent designer.

How the Field Has Changed Over Time

My career field has been at the heart of innovations in materiality, construction, and understanding human behavior. I've seen companies invest in different technologies over time to keep up with the fast pace of the design field. I've also seen a blend of market sectors coming together and learning from each other! This is why office spaces and healthcare spaces seem to be taking on inspiration from hospitality and residential design.

Projected Changes in the Future

I think there will be a burst in technology aiding with design efficiency. I hope the interior design field engages with AI to quickly produce design documents so more time can be spent developing concept and researching responsible materials.