

DesignIntelligence 30 Most Admired Educators for 2015

Each year, *DesignIntelligence* honors excellence in education and education administration by naming 30 exemplary professionals in these fields. The 2015 class of education role models was selected by *DesignIntelligence* staff with extensive input from thousands of design professionals, academic department heads, and students. Educators and administrators from the disciplines of architecture, industrial design, interior design, and landscape architecture are considered for inclusion.

DOUGLAS ALLEN*

Georgia Institute of Technology

Doug Allen was a highly respected professor known for his brilliance in urban planning and historic preservation. He was an outstanding speaker, even in daily classroom settings, with an ability to tell the story of design through history. His passion for the industry, vast knowledge on a variety of topics, and devotion to his students made him an inspiration to all.

RYANN AOUKAR

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

With a background in interior and product design, Ryann Aoukar brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his classes. He is a “practicing professional who strives for excellence and expects it from his students.” Open-minded and incredibly honest, Aoukar pushes his students to think outside the box, improve their work and be their best.

MOHAMMED BILBEISI

Oklahoma State University

Mohammed Bilbeisi is a true inspiration to the next generation of designers. He is a knowledgeable and talented architect who constantly challenges his students to think more deeply about design, encouraging their success in a unique way. His passion for architecture and education shine through his enthusiasm and dedication to students.

MARLON BLACKWELL

University of Arkansas

Marlon Blackwell is an “exemplar as a practicing architect and academic leader.” He balances a career as an accomplished architect who creates memorable work with the role of a dedicated educator. He brings a strong design orientation and always provides good criticism; it is evident that he is truly interested in advancing design through both teaching and practice.

* Deceased

TOM BURESH**University of California, Berkeley**

An open-minded, creative leader, Tom Buresh is the “heart of the architecture program” at UC Berkeley. As chair of the program, he takes the time to make a personal connection with students. His sense of humor and warmth can lighten an often serious studio mood, yet he also provides a critical and keen eye during reviews.

HANS BUTZER**University of Oklahoma**

Hans Butzer is a knowledgeable and successful architect and educator. He is engaging in the classroom, interested in his students’ success, and makes critical improvements to the program. He is a thoughtful designer, having done work in the community, connecting with his students in a meaningful way. Communication is encouraged and Butzer makes himself approachable, showing a true passion for the program.

A. JACK DAVIS**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State U.**

Jack Davis’ quiet leadership and strong vision has moved Virginia Tech’s School of Architecture + Design steadily forward, placing it among the best schools in the country. Davis has “nurtured an environment of intense student driven exploration within a framework of academic and intel-

lectual rigor.” Students enter the workforce with a high level of education; they are well-versed in theory as well as practice, displaying rarely matched skills in self-motivation and critical thinking.

EVAN DOUGLIS**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

A personable, design-oriented dean, Evan Douglis is an inspirational leader, pushing for the advancement of the school. He is forward thinking and open minded, encouraging students to engage their “interests and objectives with integrity.” He is dedicated to the simultaneous advancement of students’ careers and studies.

WINKA DUBBELDAM**University of Pennsylvania**

As the founder of Archi-Tectonics who focuses on sustainability and technology in buildings, Winka Dubbeldam brings a fresh, new vision to PennDesign, as well as a great new attitude. She is forward-thinking and leads with “clarity and intent, with the purpose of promoting the profession.”

JOHN FOLAN**Carnegie Mellon University**

John Folan is praised for his no-nonsense method of teaching. A rigorous instructor, he teaches the profession rather than a focus on architecture. He brings real-world experience

and real aspects of the industry into his studio, which his students appreciate. Inspiring and hard-working, he motivates his students to go after their future and beat the odds.

OWEN FOSTER

Savannah College of Art & Design

As chair of the industrial design program at SCAD, Owen Foster is a great leader who completely transcends his title to become a mentor and inspiration to each of his students. Helpful and friendly, he creates a great atmosphere both in and out of studio, pushing his students as well as giving them confidence and the tools that each one of them needs to succeed.

ANDREW FREEAR

Auburn University

Andrew Freear is the director of Auburn University's Rural Studio, an off-campus program that gives students a hands-on opportunity to give back to the community through good design. Freear is a humble, dedicated leader, both to the students and the community, and receives great praise for his work.

GLENN GOLDMAN

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Cited as the "most helpful and involved professor," Glenn Goldman receives admiration for his motivational style of teaching. He has found the perfect teaching style;

pushing students to think for themselves yet also being readily available with good design suggestions to help steer them in the right direction. He is focused on the future and technology, and is dedicated to the growth of the program.

KAREN KENSEK

University of Southern California

Karen Kensek is a co-founder of the "NotLY" (Not Licensed Yet) program, a fantastic concept for architectural licensing education. Kensek is also well known for her BIM conferences, which she has been organizing with great success for years. These two incredible efforts have positioned Kensek as a leader in education who provides "a solid link between school and professional practice."

PERRY KULPER

University of Michigan

A methodical and careful observer of the world, Perry Kulper is a supportive and equally critical professor. An exceptional architect, he "understands architecture better than anyone" and pushes his students to think on higher levels. His studios challenge students with unusual topics that force them to think about architecture in unconventional ways. His commitment to technique and teaching are evident.

EUNSOOK KWON
University of Houston

EunSook Kwon founded the University of Houston's industrial design program in 2003 and has used insight to nurture and grow the program. The students graduate with an impressive level of education thanks to Kwon's vision and passion. She encourages each student to achieve their greatness and "motivates everyone whose lives she has touched."

LAURA LAWSON
Rutgers University

Laura Lawson has "transformed an already accomplished program into a great one" by adding faculty, a graduate program, and new facilities and structure to the landscape architecture program at Rutgers. Her vision for the program is driving some impressive positive changes such as linking students to professionals and modernizing the curriculum to better prepare students for the profession.

STEPHEN LEE
Carnegie Mellon University

Stephen Lee is a progressive, flexible thinker with a passion for education and a vision for Carnegie Mellon's architecture program. He has already initiated significant change for the school and is building a curriculum that is innovative yet practical. He views architecture as a problem-solving, and is

focused on connecting student education with the future needs of the profession.

WAYNE LI
Georgia Institute of Technology

Wayne Li is admired for his industry experience and invaluable advice he willingly shares. He brings energy to his classes and is passionate about teaching the next generation of industrial designers. As director of the Innovation and Design Collaborative at Georgia Tech, Li has made great strides in creating new opportunities for faculty and students from a range of disciplines.

ROBERT LIVESSEY
Ohio State University

A challenging professor but with a sense of humor, Rob Livesey holds his students to "a high standard in all aspects of their education." With an effective overview of the profession, Livesey has the ability to bridge the gap between the profession and academia; he knows what education new grads need to excel in the workplace.

KIERSTEN MUENCHINGER
University of Oregon

Kiersten Muenchinger founded the product design program at the University of Oregon and continues to grow the program today. She is very knowledgeable in many areas of the industry such as materials, processes and design manufacturing. Muenchinger

drives students by being an incredible role model in design and leadership.

DOUGLAS NOBLE

University of Southern California

Doug Noble is a co-founder of the “NotLY” (Not Licensed Yet) program, as well as PHDiA, an association for doctoral students in architecture. In addition to leading these programs, Noble is an inspiring motivator who pushes students and alumni alike to earn licensure. He works tirelessly to link the alumni back to the school and promote their involvement in the profession and at USC.

JILL PABLE

Florida State University

Some adjectives that students use to describe Jill Pable include involved, dedicated, committed, caring and inspiring. “She believes in all of her students and wants us all to succeed in life.” Always readily available with a smile, Pable goes above and beyond for every student. Her research and focus on design for social good is also inspiring to those around her.

STEPHANIE PILAT

University of Oklahoma

A positive, passionate professor, Stephanie Pilat’s enthusiasm is contagious. As a world traveler and study abroad professor, she appreciates all styles of architecture and en-

courages her students to keep an open mind in their work. Pilat takes a true interest in her students’ education, placing their needs before her own.

KATE SCHWENNSEN

Clemson University

Kate Schwennsen has brought renewed energy and focus to Clemson’s program. A strong advocate for the profession with a clear vision for the school, Schwennsen brings the practical world in the academic world for a more integrated educational experience. She has a very good personal connection with students; she is dedicated to helping them prepare for the profession.

HALE SELEK

Iowa State University

Admired as a caring, attentive and smart educator, Hale Selek is called a role model by many. She shows passion for industrial design and social responsibility. Always positive, Selek is always readily available outside of studio hours. Her students know that she is easy to contact with questions, and they appreciate her dedication to them and their work. “She is truly an inspiration.”

MARILYN JORDAN TAYLOR

University of Pennsylvania

Marilyn Jordan Taylor is a brilliant, inspiration leader. She is often cited for her efforts to integrate a variety of subjects in the design

programs of PennDesign, including design theory, sustainability and technical issues between architecture, planning and landscape architecture. Taylor is known as strategic and hardworking; she creates opportunities for everyone around her.

JOSEPH “PEPE” VELASQUEZ

Arizona State University

An esteemed “prac-ademic,” Pepe Velasquez owns his own industrial design practice in addition to being an instructor. He shares his experience and passion for industrial design with his students, keeping them up to date on what is happening in the industry. He is extremely devoted to his teaching, spending a lot of time during and outside of classes and studios to ensure he is providing the maximum amount of support and dedication; a great mentor who really cares about each of his students.

ROB WHITEHEAD

Iowa State University

Rob Whitehead is described as an enthusiastic, passionate professor. He is admired for his thorough and engaging method of teaching structures as well as his dedication as a studio professor. Whitehead’s ability to teach complicated information clearly as well as inspire design ideas through his lectures is admirable. He is open-minded, thinking outside of the box in a logical way, and encourages his students to do so as well.

SARAH WHITING

Rice University

Sarah Whiting receives high praise from faculty, students and professionals for her strong leadership and inspiration to students. She has a great vision for the school and is extremely knowledgeable while maintaining personability and genuine concern for every student in the program. She is insightful, brilliant, enthusiastic and open-minded- a “recipe for success across the board.”

