

Historic Interior and Design (A005291)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Sterckx, Marjan

LW17

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Bachelor of Science in Engineering: Architecture](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture](#)

5

A

[Master of Science in Industrial Design Engineering Technology](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Art Studies](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Interior design history and theory, Design history, History of decorative/applied arts, Furniture history

Position of the course

This bachelor course wants to provide a basic knowledge and insight into the history and theory of the interior and design in western Europe.

Contents

The course provides an overview of the history of interior design and design/applied arts in Western Europe from the Middle Ages to the present day. The course prioritises an integral approach, focusing on spatial layout, utilities, floor and wall coverings, furniture, decorative and utilitarian objects. The emphasis is on the domestic interior and the period after c. 1750. It covers aspects such as lifestyles, design, function and significance of the interior and the applied arts. Theoretical and methodological aspects as well as the history and topicality of the field are also discussed.

Initial competences

- Basic knowledge of the history of the fine arts and architecture
- Passive knowledge of French, English and German

Final competences

- 1 To have a basic knowledge and insight into the history and theory of interiors and design/ crafts.
- 2 To have a basic knowledge and insight into the history and actual relevance of the discipline of interior and design history, and its methods.
- 3 To be able to recognize and situate the main historical styles.
- 4 Develop attention and sensitivity to this matter and the associated issues of heritage and sustainability.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures: richly illustrated with some integrated exercises
- Excursion: guided group visit and independent visit to historic houses, exhibition(s), museum collection(s)

Study material

None

References

Hazel Conway, *Design History: a Student's Handbook* (Routledge, 1995).
Charlotte Fiell & Peter Fiell, *The Story of Design* (Carlton, 2013).
Willemijn C. Fock, ed., *Het Nederlandse Interieur in Beeld 1600-1900* (Zwolle, 2001).
John Heskett, *Industriële vormgeving* (Sun, 2003).
John Pile & Judith Gura, *A History of Interior Design* (Laurence King, 2013).
Katarina Serulus & Javier Gimeno Martinez, *Panorama. A History of Modern Design in Belgium* (ADAM-CFC Editions, 2017).
The course information document includes a selective bibliography.

Course content-related study coaching

Before, during and after the lessons, questions can be asked.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam: questions that test knowledge, insight and applicability, using text and images, based on the entire course programme, required reading and excursions.

Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 100%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Student attendance during educational activities is not obligatory but advised
2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
3. Alternative time for feedback

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy or see <https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>