



School of Human Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Interior Architecture Program Presents:

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AWARD COMPETITION

The *Exploring Opportunities Award Competition* is intended to inspire students in the Interior Architecture program at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, to explore career and professional opportunities in major US cities, opening these new professionals’ eyes to a future they may not yet have considered.

The *Exploring Opportunities Award* will be awarded to up three students in the Interior Architecture program who produce excellent portfolio, demonstrate superior communication/interview skills, and are interested in an informational interview at a prestigious design firm in a large city. The top three portfolios will be selected based on overall design ability, technical skills, graphic layout, cohesiveness, and sophistication of thought.

Eligible students are those that are graduating with a degree in Interior Architecture in the current academic year, interested in a career in Interior Design, and have submitted portfolios of their work for critique. Interested students will indicate their preferences (via a provided form) for which available major cities they would most like to interview in.

When award recipients are chosen, the students will be provided with contact information from Gensler, Perkins + Will, and Smith Group that they can use to request an informational interview. Each award recipient will receive up to a \$1,200 stipend that they can use for expenses related to traveling to and preparing for the interview.

Award recipients will be encouraged to prepare thoroughly for their interview experience, and the Department of Design Studies will provide opportunities to enhance resources for student preparation. Award recipients will also be encouraged upon their return to share with their classmates what they have learned through this experience about the city, firm, and career opportunities they explored.

Students get the chance to select their first, second, and third location preference for locations all over the US. It is highly recommended that they research each location to identify what the firm specializes in make sure that it is a good fit. This is an opportunity to “explore opportunities”. It does not guarantee a job but it does provide a “foot in the door” and a rare opportunity that one might not otherwise get right out of school.

Current locations to consider are: Atlanta Georgia, Austin Texas, Boston Mass, Chicago Illinois, Dallas Texas, Denver Colorado, Las Vegas NV, Los Angeles CA, Miami Florida, Minneapolis MN, New York, NY, San Diego CA, San Francisco CA, Seattle Washington, Washington DC