

Interior Design I 60: Graphic Communication

DETACHED “RETREAT” COTTAGE**Project Rationale**

Graphic communication is the primary means of generating and sharing ideas. Like the art of writing, the art of drawing allows you to interact with yourself. It makes it possible to think of more than one thing at a time and allow two thoughts to interact. In this sense, drawing becomes more valuable than art. To learn how to draw is important, but learning how drawing is linked to the design process is what makes this studio different than a typical drawing studio. So, the project described here is designed to guide you through the process of developing and documenting a small-scale interior space, of a kind that you should be able to relate with your own experience. Because interior design is architecture, you will also be studying the exterior shell and the site on which it's located. To design interiors that are functional, effective, and meaningful, you must first be familiar with their context.

Project Objectives

- Deliver on the objectives and outcomes stated in INDES 160 course syllabus
- Design a detached dwelling – separate from a main house on the project site
- Examine basic considerations for dwellings, including food prep, sanitation, sleeping, storage
- Examine aesthetic and lifestyle considerations related to interior space planning
- Study patterns of interaction between interior spaces and their functions
- Learn how to make decisions that result in comfortable interior spaces
- Learn sketch techniques for developing and presenting ideas
- Learn how model building can help you visualize ideas as they're being developed
- Learn how orthographic drawings (i.e. plans, elevations) are used to test and document design concepts
- Learn how perspective drawings can help you visualize and present ideas
- Learn to create sketches, models, perspective and orthographic drawings using a variety of media

Project Description – “THE PROGRAM”

For most people, the word ‘cottage’ conjures up a compelling picture. Cottages are the stuff of fairy tales and country villages, of seaside, lake, and woodland – unassuming structures tucked cozily into their surroundings. Cottages are where generations have dwelt in modest comfort and where, today, people go to leave behind the cares (and often the pretensions) of modern living. *Cynthia Bix – Ideas for Great Backyard Cottages*

Design a detached dwelling on the site provided for a client of your choosing. The main purpose of the dwelling is for use by the client as a retreat house. Retreat could be defined as a haven, hideaway, sanctuary, or refuge. Think of it as a setting apart from the everyday – a place for contemplation, entertaining, or projects that require quiet and focus. You might consider personal activities such as art, reading, meditation/prayer, or yoga/exercise and activities involving from 2-4 people. Part of your imagining should include how the indoor space relates to the outdoors, not only for views, but for how the outdoor spaces might be used to expand the function of the interior.

Space restrictions will limit the type of activities the dwelling will accommodate. The primary purpose of this structure – according to the permit application – requires that very basic sanitation and food preparation be provided. How you integrate the structural and utility requirements of these spaces with the basic program requirements will be a major factor in creating an effective space plan.

On rare occasions, houseguests or relatives may sleep here when they visit. Even then, the primary food preparation, laundry, and other amenities usually associated with a “house” are more than adequately provided in the main house. In that sense, this is more “Spartan retreat” than “hotel.”

Beyond planning considerations, you must decide on the “style” you’ll use to design the cottage. The word, “cottage,” conjures up a wealth of images, depending on your experience and imagination. Regardless of the images that immediately come to mind, you’re required to gather imagery from books, magazines, and other sources to illustrate the stylistic choices you’re considering. From this process, you should open your thinking – and exploration of ideas – to concepts that differ from what you would “typically” think of as a cottage. Think first about the context. For instance, what are the design, style, and materials of the main house? What is the climate? What materials and colors are indigenous to the area? These questions can lead to fresh and responsive “new cottage” ideas.

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Program Considerations**Square footage and minimum requirements**

Total Square Footage and Height Restrictions

- Single Level: 416 SF – 16' x 26' *interior* footprint
- Maximum building *exterior* height of 20 feet

Sanitary 40-80 SF

- water closet
- shower or tub/shower
- lavatory
- linen closet – approx. 16-24 cubic feet
- 1/2-size water heater (for bath and kitchen)

Food Preparation 40-80 SF

- Sink and countertops for food preparation
- Refrigerator: may be full size or half size, under counter
- Range/oven: may be range only or less than full size, possibly built-in to countertop
- Microwave

Living Area Approx. 250-350 SF

- Sleeping accommodations: double-occupancy (approx. Queen size sleeping surface) 100-175 SF
- Closet for garment storage – hanging clothes requires 24" inside depth; may be "armoire" or other type
- Seating and other furnishings for conversation group: accommodate 2-4 people; approx. 100-175 SF
- Additional/custom furnishings as required for other client needs
- Combining sleeping/conversation/other needs may involve combining components that serve more than one purpose. For greater flexibility, DO NOT create a *bedroom*. Think *alcove*, or area. Designing for multiple functions in a single space requires flexible thinking, not just flexible furnishings. When is a bed not a bed?

Structural Considerations

- Wood stud wall platform framing: 2x4 studs 16" OC
- For planning purposes: Draw exterior walls and plumbing walls 6" thick and other interior walls 4" thick
- Concrete slab on grade w/ integral radiant heat system
- Roof: type, slope, material to be determined

Exterior Design Considerations

- How will it relate to the landscape? Visible from house? Blending in or standing out?
- Imagine the main house. What materials do you envision? Gather ideas.
- Climate? This helps determine the openings and overhangs.
- Connection with main house? Does it form a courtyard? Is there a covered walk?
- Given the height restrictions, what roof designs are possible? Practical?
- Construction method determines style options. Siding materials/finishes?
- What this space is NOT: the main house. Remember it's a retreat, so think differently.
- Exterior elements:
 - Roof: barrel, bell, flat, gable, gambrel, hip, or shed shapes; asphalt or wood shingle, tile, metal, slate, glass, sod, or thatched materials; use slope or pitch recommended for climate
 - Siding: wood, in board-and-batten, clapboard, or wood shakes; in paint, stain, or sealed wood finishes; masonry using stucco, stone, or brick facing; trompe l'oeil?
 - Doors: (wood with or without glass), patio (French or sliding) doors, barn doors, overhead awning-type or roll-up doors; Dutch style, plain or decorative, the door is an invitation and a connection.
 - Windows: Awning, casement, clerestory, decorative, double-hung, picture, sliding sash, or glass block; flanked by shutters, overhung with awnings, above a window box, floor to ceiling or small and private; wood, vinyl, metal, or fiberglass frames
 - Miscellaneous: interior/exterior trim; pathways, patios, decks; walls, fences, trellises; plantings; lighting

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