

# CET DESIGNER OPENS AVENUES FOR **STUDENTS**

Since 2013, Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University (KCAD) has partnered with Configura to provide its interior design students with a new set of tools that they can use after graduation.

A fine arts and design college based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, KCAD offers such programs as interior design, architecture, photography, print making, art history and much more.

KCAD Assistant Professor Tara McCrackin, NCIDQ, IIDA, IDEC, LEED AP ID+C, was first introduced to CET Designer by a KCAD alumnus who noted CET Designer was the next big industry software that needed to be taught in the classroom.

## **Edge and opportunity**

Through Configura's CET Designer Education Program, professors and students at CIDA-accredited universities can receive free CET Designer licenses. Additionally, professors are given free CET Designer training and curriculum recommendations that they can easily add to their own lesson plans.

"KCAD decided to partner with Configura to implement the CET Designer Education Program because we wanted to give our students an advantage in the workplace. Here in West Michigan, we have strong industry relationships and our students often seek employment in the contract furniture industry. It just made sense for us to give our students that edge and opportunity as they emerge as interior designers," Tara says.

**Students learning CET Designer in Advanced Workplace Design at KCAD.**



## CASE STUDY: **KENDALL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN** OF FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

As a college within Ferris State University, Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD), located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA, prepares students for leadership in the visual arts, design, art history and art education; provides innovative, collaborative education that fosters intellectual growth and individual creativity; and promotes the ethical and civic responsibilities of artists and designers, locally and globally.

CLASS NAME

**Advanced Workplace Design**

PROFESSORS TEACHING

**2**

CLASS SIZE

**13**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS  
SINCE 2013

**89**

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'AH-HA' MOMENTS AND HOW EXCITED THEY  
ARE BY THE SOFTWARE'S INTUITIVENESS.

Tara McCrackin, NCIDQ, IIDA, IDEC, LEED AP ID+C, Assistant Professor of Interior Design.

As the professor for the Advanced Workplace Design class, Tara took it upon herself to roll out the program. In the summer of 2013, she went through Configura's CET Designer Beginner training to learn how to use and teach CET Designer. That fall, she began teaching CET Designer in the classroom.

"The most rewarding part of teaching CET Designer is seeing the students' 'ah-ha' moments and how excited they are by the software's intuitiveness. They don't have to take their drawing from one software program to another; it can all be done in CET Designer," Tara says.

**Partner with local manufacturers**

When implementing the CET Designer Education Program, the college or university chooses a sponsoring manufacturer and then is partnered with a local dealership that provides product knowledge, showroom tours, CET Designer support and more.

"There is at least one Advanced Workplace Design class each semester that's teaching CET Designer. With our various relationships with furniture manufacturers in West Michigan, we change which sponsored manufacturer we partner with each semester," Tara says.

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CONTRACT FURNITURE AND OPENED MY MIND  
TO THAT PORTION OF DESIGN.

Katelyn Boverhof, KCAD Interior Design Student and Steelcase Intern.

KCAD interior design student and Steelcase intern Katelyn Boverhof was first introduced to CET Designer during her internship, where she uses Steelcase's CET Designer Extension, SmartTools.

"At my internship, I'm on the Applications Design Team where we use CET Designer to create 'thought starters' that showcase new products. In the classroom, we're using CET Designer to create a workplace design project," Katelyn says. "CET Designer has helped me to understand contract furniture and opened my mind to that portion of design."

**Competitive advantage**

Since KCAD implemented the CET Designer Education Program, 89 interior design students have learned how to use the software. In 2017, five of these students entered the office furniture industry upon graduation.

"The biggest takeaway the students get from learning CET Designer in the classroom is the competitive advantage of being aware of the software and the avenues that open up due to their exposure to this space-planning technology," Tara says.

Katelyn Boverhof and Lauren Kas, KCAD Interior Design Students.

