

Virtual Reality and its Use in the Interior Design Classroom

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As an adjunct in the Communication Design Pathways Department, I will discuss my approach and procedures for creating relevant presentation techniques through the use of emerging technology. These practices are applied to the diverse disciplines within the Visual Presentation & Exhibition Design department (VPED) such as, Visual Presentation in In-Store Design, Merchandising Lab for In-Store Design, and Advanced Store Design. My discussion will include relevant technology and presentation techniques which has further enhanced the other disciplines in the Visual Presentation and Exhibition design department. One of the evaluation techniques used, is the viewing of student projects through three dimensional design software. Various virtual reality software, and equipment are used for this purpose. My case studies in the VPED classroom will provide further examples for the symposium attendees to view. Virtual reality headset will be available for demonstration at the expo for the participants.

With the assistance of Baptiste Martin the US Director of IWD my industry collaborator, I will demonstrate how the students use HTC VIVE to design and move fixtures and merchandise throughout their design projects in real time. I will show how the students transition from the basic VR headset to the use of high end virtual reality equipment.

We will examine the dynamics of viewing VR for the purpose of problem solving techniques applied to this students projects. This becomes a shared the experience with students as we discover how the designed spaces function, which are driven by visual merchandising principles. This gives the student and I the opportunity to have further discussion through mutual assessment, design development and analysis of research. The inclusion of the technology into the classroom has laid the ground work for expansion and utilization of Virtual Reality within Communication Design Pathways Department and interdepartmental collaboration.