

CENTER FOR REAL LIFE KITCHEN DESIGN

The Center for Real Life Kitchen Design opened in the fall of 1998 in a collaborative effort by both the university and the kitchen industry, and is the first of its kind in the nation. The Center is made up of five fully operational and very different kitchens, plus an Outpost Kitchen. The kitchens represent various price levels and space designs, and reflect the diversity of today's households. The kitchens also illustrate how to accommodate a kitchen to young children, the elderly, and the disabled.



CENTER FOR REAL LIFE KITCHEN DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Real Life Kitchen Design (CRLKD) Advisory Board serves as an industry advisory group for the undergraduate Housing Option and the Center's outreach and research programs. With the strong link between the Housing Option and the kitchen and bath industry, members of the CRLKD Advisory Board have been instrumental in developing the facilities of the Center and guiding the Center's programs to national prominence. Advisory Board members mentor students during visits to campus, provide field trip opportunities, advise faculty on curriculum, provide support for internships, and contribute to the Housing Program in many different ways.

CERTIFICATION

Students in the Housing Option can complete the requirements for the Accredited Program in Kitchen and Bath Design of the National Kitchen and Bath Association. A graduate of this program can sit for the Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer (AKBD) certification exam immediately after completing the program and can sit for the Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) or Certified Bath Designer (CBD) exams after two years of professional experience.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Students can receive awards and scholarships offered by the Housing Program and by participating in student activities of the National Kitchen and Bath Association and industry affiliates, such as design competitions and essay contests.

HOUSING DESIGN @ VT

Housing students can join the HD@VT, which is also affiliated with the National Kitchen and Bath Association. Students plan speakers, and field trips, and develop service projects related to their studies in Housing.

STUDY ABROAD

The Housing Study Abroad course is a three-credit class offered every other year (2012; 2014; 2016). Countries visited have included Germany and Czech Republic. Students learn about multifamily housing and its management, current and historic residential design, kitchen and bath product design, new ideas in housing technologies, and energy and environmental issues impact on housing and communities.



Germany Study Tour

Housing

Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences



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240 Wallace Hall (0410)
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ABOUT HOUSING



The Housing Option at Virginia Tech focuses on the residential environment, especially the design, selection, and marketing of residential spaces and products. Graduates of the option are well prepared to become certified kitchen and bath designers, to work in manufacturing and marketing of housing products, such as appliances and home furnishings, and to support residential construction.

The housing industry is always an important part of the U.S. economy. Trends suggest there is a strong, on-going need in the housing field for well-educated professionals with specialized knowledge in design and the ability to think and solve complex problems. The diversity of populations with differing needs, the range of available products, increase in regulations, growing concern for health, safety, energy and the natural environment, and rapid changes in technology are among the factors that lead to a very complex market place. Required courses in the Housing Option emphasize functional human needs, design, technologies, products, and business factors, including current issues and practices which influence the housing environment.

REQUIRED COURSES

- ◆ **Residential Drafting Laboratory—AHRM 1624** Principles of visual presentation of housing designs. Introduction to hand and computer drafting.
- ◆ **Housing Planning — AHRM 2604** Principles of space planning and housing design in relation to individual and family activities, needs, and preferences. Introduction to house construction. Reading visual presentations of housing designs.
- ◆ **Introduction to Residential Technologies and Laboratory — AHRM 2614/2634** Principles underlying the selection, use and care of equipment and lighting in the home and the infrastructure that supports home technologies.
- ◆ **Housing and the Consumer —AHRM 2644** Overview of housing as it relates to consumer needs, values, lifestyles, norms and constraints. Includes structural and tenure alternatives, financial and legal considerations, house design, neighborhood choices and the home buying process.
- ◆ **Housing Environments—AHRM 2654** Basic design elements and principles in housing products and spaces. The design process as used to explore the selection and application of these elements and products for specific user needs in the housing environments.
- ◆ **Housing Planning II — AHRM 3624** Principles of space planning, including activity analysis and user needs, as applied to residential settings. Graphic design solutions for specific areas of the home, including social, private, kitchen, and outdoor areas.
- ◆ **American Housing — AHRM 3644** Overview of the role of housing in family life and society throughout the history of the United States. Exploration of the impact of technology, resources, and societal values on the design and style of housing and products used in the home.
- ◆ **Advanced Residential Technologies — AHRM 3674** Residential technologies, their impact on home activities, and how they can be successfully integrated into the house structure and design.
- ◆ **Advanced Kitchen and Bath Design — AHRM 4624** Planning, design, and evaluation of residential kitchens and bathrooms, in relation to the total house plan. Emphasis on planning principles and technical requirements with attention to functional use of the spaces to meet the needs of people.



- ◆ **Universal Design and Laboratory —AHRM 4664/4764** Evaluation and design of commercial and residential environments with consideration for accessibility, adaptation, safety, and support of the users.

- ◆ **Field Study - AHRM 4964**

Other required courses:

- Housing Textiles
- Consumer Rights
- Resource Management for Individual and Families or Family Financial Management
- Residential Property Management I
- Principles of Economics
- Survey of Accounting
- Marketing Management
- Buyer — Seller Relationship

Recommended Courses:

- ◆ **Study Abroad—AHRM 3954**
- ◆ **Housing Study Tour—AHRM 4924**
- ◆ **Advanced Topics in House Planning—AHRM 4654**
- ◆ **Undergraduate Research—AHRM 4994**

HOUSING FACULTY

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