RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
America’s Best Architecture & Design Schools is conducted annually by DesignIntelligence on behalf of the Design Futures Council. The research ranks undergraduate and graduate programs from the perspective of leading practitioners. This 14th annual survey was conducted in mid-2013.

Selected professional practice leaders with direct experience hiring and supervising the performance of recent architecture and design graduates are invited to participate in the research. Survey participants, who are drawn from the Greenway Group database of leading firms throughout the United States, must verify they are currently responsible for hiring or supervising design professionals in each of the design fields for which they respond: architecture, industrial design, interior design, and landscape architecture. Surveys from non-qualifying individuals, including those not invited by DesignIntelligence to participate, are excluded from the results.

For the four professions surveyed, a total of 1,108 professional practice organizations participated in the research. (See page 154 for a list.)

The professional practice survey queried participants on the question, “In your firm’s hiring experience in the past five years, which of the following schools are best preparing students for success in the profession?” In addition, they are queried about additional issues, such as how programs rate in teaching various skills.

DEANS AND CHAIRS SURVEY
In addition to the undergraduate and graduate school rankings by professionals, deans and chairs from 119 academic programs participated in surveys, the data from which is presented separately from the practitioner rankings.

STUDENT SURVEYS
More than 4,855 architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and industrial design students completed satisfaction surveys about their education, and that data is also presented separately from the rankings.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE
Research assistance was provided by the AIA. Research is aided by information from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the National Architectural Accreditation Board, the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. DesignIntelligence and Greenway Group staff conducted each phase of research.
REGIONAL RANKINGS

TOP SCHOOLS IN EACH GEOGRAPHIC REGION BASED ON ALL RESPONSES.

TOP INTERIOR DESIGN SCHOOLS IN THE MIDWEST UNDERGRADUATE

1. University of Cincinnati
2. Kansas State University
3. University of Missouri
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

How they grade the quality of their program overall

- Excellent: 67%
- Above avg.: 33%
- Average: 0%
- Below avg.: 0%
- Failing: 0%

Believe they'll be well prepared for their profession upon graduation

- Yes: 100%
- No: 0%

What they'll do after graduation

- Pursue an advanced degree in interior design: 8%
- Pursue an advanced degree in something other than interior design/interior architecture: 17%
- Work in a private practice: 42%
- Work for a corporation: 8%
- Work in academia: 17%
- Work in government: 8%
- Self-employment: 0%
- Volunteer or work for a non-profit or community service organization: 0%
- Work in a field other than int. design/inter. arch.: 0%
- Undecided: 0%
- Other: 0%

Plan to take the National Council for Interior Design Qualification Exam

- Yes: 75%
- No: 17%
- Undecided: 8%

Plan to become a LEED accredited professional

- Yes: 56%
- No: 8%
- Undecided: 33%
- Already LEED: 0%