

DIKSHA PILANIA

Interdisciplinary Creative

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"There's no better feeling than
living in your own drawing"

EDUCATION

MS in Architecture (Interior Design)

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)
(2021-2023)

MFA in Theatre (Scenic & Properties Design)

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)
(2018-2021)

B.Des in Accessory Design

National Institute of Fashion
Technology, New Delhi (India)
(2014-2018)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Panelist (Virginia Tech)

Enhancing a sense of belonging-
Featuring students from Asia

Honorable mention (Graduate Scenic Design)

SETC 2020, Louisville (Kentucky)

Best Garment Design Award

National Institute of Fashion
Technology, New Delhi

CERTIFICATIONS

Modern Art & Ideas

The Museum of Modern Art
(June 2020)

AFFILIATIONS

IDEAS

Student member

SKILLS

Conceptual Presentations
Adobe Photoshop
Vectorworks
Revit
Set Dressing
Mood Boards
Mixed Media Rendering
Product Design
Fine Art

SPATIAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Interiors, Sets & Virtual Reality

Interior Design Intern (June 2022 - Aug 2022)

Collins Cooper Carusi Architects (Atlanta)

- Worked on the preliminary design process for Jackson's healthcare Cafe renovation & Fort Valley state university renovation.
- Tasks included concept generation, design presentations, material sourcing, and floor planning.

Design Consultant (Sep 2021 - Present)

Reimagining Diversity (Virginia Tech)

- Designing innovative & functional virtual reality space along with a furniture/decor library.
- Creating brand identity documents including mood boards, font selections, color palettes, etc. to ensure a cohesive design language.

Assistant Scenic Design Intern (Jun 2021 - Aug 2021)

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey

- Assisted Props, Scenic art, and Set design departments by conducting research, design ideation, and attending meetings/rehearsals to understand the working of the theatre.

Set & Costume Design Volunteer (Mar 2021 - Aug 2021)

EnActe Arts (California)

- Designed, executed, and coordinated the artwork required for "The Jungle Book".
- Created multiple costume inspiration mood boards for the characters of the play.

Art Direction & Event Designer (Dec 2017 - Apr 2018)

DNA Entertainment and Networks (Bangalore, India)

- Formulated a theme-based set design presentation for corporate events by understanding client needs of companies like Unilever & Bosch.
- Assisted with on-set assembly and execution for events.
- Designed cheerleader costumes for IPL (Indian Premier League).

Visual Merchandising, Operations (May 2017 - Jul 2017)

Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Limited (Bangalore, India)

- Formulated a visual merchandising store manual for different stores across the city by understanding the working and layout formats of the same.

Scenic Designer

- Individually designed five fully-realized productions
- The process involved script analysis, mood boards, renderings, technical drawings, and set dressing.
- Selected and sourced materials to support the design concept
- Attended rehearsals, and production meetings to understand the director's
- Assisted in building the sets by working in the scene shop.

Scenic Artist

- Led the team of artists to paint the entire set as per the designer's paint elevations for 4 productions.
- The process involved color matching, and various paint techniques including wood graining, scumbling, texturing, etc.

Virtual Production Designer

- Designed visuals to support the background imagery for 2 virtual productions.
- Created conceptual and themed presentations to communicate the thought process.

OTHER DESIGN EXPERIENCE

Graphics, Props & Design consultancy

Graduate Assistant (Aug 2018 - Present)

Graduate Life center (Virginia Tech) (Aug 2022 - Present)

- Assisting the group with organizing, planning and building events catered to graduate students.

School of Public & International Affairs (Virginia Tech) (Aug 2021 - May 2022)

- Assisting the group with designing impactful events centered around civility discourse.

School of Performing Arts (Virginia Tech) (Aug 2018 - May 2021)

- Assisting the Scene shop with building, painting the set and teaching undergraduates.

Art Director (Jan 2021 - Present)

Art for Environmental Justice Club (Virginia Tech)

- Designing and implementing events focusing on sustainability and environmental justice.
- Creating graphics for marketing purposes.

Prop Designer

- Solely responsible for designing/sourcing/building the props for 3 productions
- The experience included welding a bed, specifying bar supplies, and recreating complete restaurants, football fields.

Founder (September 2020 - Present)

Van Vaasi (New Delhi, India)

- A design startup providing one-stop solutions ranging from Interior design, wall murals to graphics and videography.
- We actively participate in community service, mentor-mentee affiliations, and collaborate with NGOs for giving back to the community.