BACHELOR IPO

ELECTIVE TRACK

INTERIOR PRODUCT DESIGN

INTERIOR MEETS PRODUCT DESIGN

2026 - 2027

howest / hogeschool

» ON THE COVER

Second-year students Laura Smekens & Ine Bartok redesigned part of our building into a dust-free, circular, and flexible Circular Solution Lab. Their concept combines a thoughtful spatial layout with sustainable material use, reuse of existing elements, and a strong connection to Howest's visual identity. At the heart of the design is a self-developed multifunctional custom piece of furniture that supports the use of the space and connects all users, including students, researchers and external partners, within a single innovative making environment.

howest.be/interieurdesign
industrialproductdesign.be
/howestipo

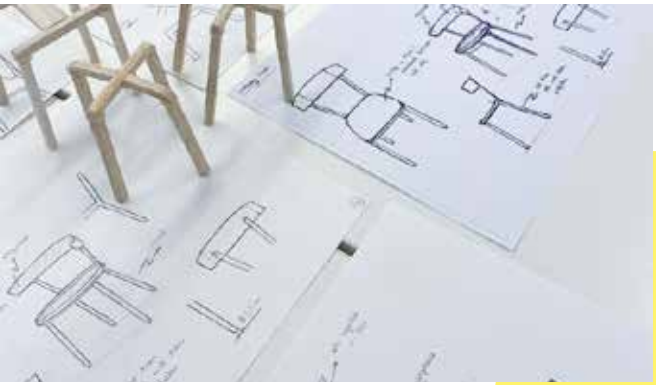
UNIQUE in BELGIUM

IPO howest university of applied sciences

INTERIOR PRODUCT DESIGN » YOUR FIT?

Do the check!

- Are you **creative** and do you enjoy **designing spaces**?
- Would you like to **design the interiors** of buildings, thinking about both use and **experience**?
- Are you passionate about **architecture, design, furniture, style, and color**?
- Do you want to **turn ideas into beautiful designs**?
- Do you enjoy working with your hands and **experimenting with different materials**? Do you have a sense for **technology** and practical execution?
- Is **sustainability** important to you?
- Do you enjoy **communicating**, both visually and verbally?
- Do you like collaborating with others and want to explore your own strengths in **teamwork**?
- Are you a **determined go-getter?**



Become an INTERIOR PRODUCT DESIGNER ...

In the Interior Product Design elective track, you will learn how furniture, interior elements, and space reinforce one another. A successful interior balances furnishings, materials, and functionality.

The Interior Product Design programme teaches you to create functional, aesthetic, and meaningful overall concepts. You will develop practical, sustainable solutions, experimenting with form, materials, light, colour, texture, and finishing, while designing through analysis, testing, and technical development.

You will design objects and spaces that are ergonomic, functional, and full of character, from custom pieces to flexible series production. Future-oriented living is key: you will learn to create smart, modular furniture and interiors that adapt to changing lifestyles, making spaces compact, flexible, and sustainable.

Ideal for those who want to combine creativity with technology, sustainability, and design, this elective track prepares you to design interior concepts for the living environments of tomorrow.

As of this year, this elective track is also available in English!

... or perhaps you'd prefer INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT DESIGN

Prefer to work on all-round consumer goods or industrial applications instead? Then choose IPO Industrial. Here, you develop all kinds of everyday objects, such as office solutions, transport or assistive devices, medical or safety equipment, wearables, energy solutions, packaging, material applications, or smart product-services. You think critically about problems and solutions, and you develop these products in detail, either from an engineering perspective or with a focus on an optimal, tactile user experience.

» STUDY PROGRAMME 2026-2027

The most up-to-date programme? Check the website

You enter a renewed, up-to-date program that responds to new trends in interior design and society. The program is built around listed jobs and design roles, linked to five design pillars, each with its own color. In the first year, you lay the foundation: develop your creativity, practice prototyping and drawing, learn to recognize materials, construction, and production techniques, and study form in relation to use and interior contexts. From the second year, you work more in teams. With a strong design methodology and growing set of tools, you tackle larger, more complex projects. Ideas are developed ergonomically, sustainably, and technically into well-founded, circular, future-oriented, and feasible solutions. In the passion project, you explore a personal interest or area of expertise alongside your internship search. In the third year, the focus is on practice, entrepreneurship, strategic and future-oriented thinking, project execution, and market launch of interior products. You work increasingly independently and interdisciplinary with experts from other fields, and refine your unique profile in an elective focused on spatial design or detailed product design.

JOBS	innovation engineers, sustainability officers, product & process engineers ...	3D visual designers, product or interior visualizers, interior rendering specialists, craftsmen, prototypers ...	interior product designers, furniture designers, creative directors, service designers, scenographers, spatial designers, retail & hospitality designers ...	interior technicians, furniture engineers, project engineers, technical interior builders, interior or lighting advisor ...	product managers, interior project managers, interior & product entrepreneurs, startup founder ...
DESIGN ROLES	creator innovator facilitator	communicator maker	creator facilitator	creator maker	communicator facilitator
STUDY AREA	METHODOLOGY	DESIGN TOOLS	EXPERIENCE	TECHNICALITY	SOFT SKILLS
CONTENT	creativity design process sustainability innovation...	software toolbox prototyping...	concept design language user experience...	R&D engineering test & validation...	personal development professionality...

YEAR 1

SEMESTER 1
- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT I
- 3D CAD I
- DESIGN SKETCHING
- MAKER SKILLS
- MATERIALS & PRODUCTION
- PRODUCT & SOCIETY
- CREATIVITY

SEMESTER 2
- 3DCAD II
- VISUALISATION
- MAKER SKILLS
- INTERIOR FUNDAMENTALS
- PRODUCT & FORM
- METHODICAL DESIGN

YEAR 2

SEMESTER 3
- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT II
- 3D CAD III
- SPATIAL VISUALISATION I
- FURNITURE FUNDAMENTALS
- PRODUCT & ERGONOMICS
- SUSTAINABLE INTERIOR DESIGN

SEMESTER 4
- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT III
- VISUAL STORYTELLING
- SPATIAL VISUALISATION II
- PASSION PROJECT
- INTERIOR DESIGN & OBJECTS

YEAR 3

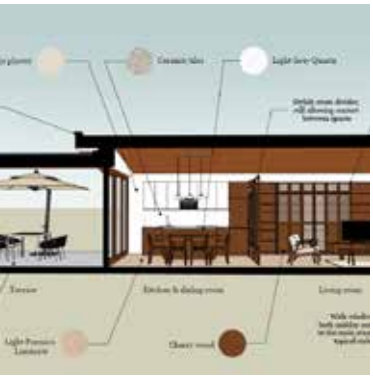
SEMESTER 5
- PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT IV
- SPATIAL DESIGN / PRODUCT DESIGN
- THE COLLECTIVE
- FUTURE DESIGN
- START - UP DESIGN

SEMESTER 6
- INTERNSHIP
- GRADUATION WORK

Kortlopende mobiliteit: binnen deze vakken kan je kiezen voor een kortlopende buitenlandse ervaring

Langlopende mobiliteit: in deze semesters kan je kiezen voor een buitenlandse studie of stage

Programma onder voorbehoud



» STUDENT WORK

semester 1,2,3 en 4

» PROJECT APPROACH

Interior Design of Studios

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

"We investigate how to best arrange new studios, a bio-lab, a plastics lab, and flexible work and presentation spaces within our Industrial Design Center. We consider what happens in each space, how people move through them, the lighting, accessibility, the relationship with the surroundings, and who will use them. Based on this, we set requirements and develop possible layouts."

CONCEPTS AND CHOICES

"We develop ideas for the different spaces and consider which best suit the users, the function, and the desired style. We use various design methods to arrive at a smart and well-considered choice."

PRODUCTDESIGN

"As an interior designer, you adapt the space to the needs of the user. This also means designing custom furniture and other interior elements, developing them technically, and making them suitable for repeated use. The design process runs from the initial idea to a feasible, buildable product."

FINISHED PROPOSAL

"In the final layout, we pay attention to light, color, style, and how original studio elements are integrated. Orientation, circulation, and navigation are also important, especially in public spaces. Ultimately, the space is divided into different zones so that everything is both functional and visually appealing."

Presenteren in werkzone

Werken met vacuumpers

Werken in Biolab

MACHINES
BIOLAB
OPBERGRUIMTE
AFVAL/ RECYCLAGE
WORKSHOP/ WERKTAFELS
PRESENTATIE
PERMANENTE EXPO
WASZONE
VESTIAIRE
OPBERGRUIMTE PER WEEK

» INTERNSHIPS, STARTUPS GRADUATION WORK

semester 5 and 6

scan this QR for more graduation work

The Sous for PJMARES

Vynil furniture for STUDIO CASTARD

Modular outdoor living for DEMAEGHT ZONWERING

MODO Modular storage furniture- Start-up

Internship - STUDIO CASTARD

Multifunctional furniture for STUDIO DAVEY VERDUYN

The Trest - Startup

Modular Outdoor Kitchen for SISTEM

Pendant lighting fixture for TAL

» WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE

With your diploma, you can pursue a variety of interior- and design-oriented careers, such as interior architect, furniture designer, set designer, project designer for commercial or residential spaces, concept developer for hospitality or retail, color and material consultant, or designer for tiny houses and container homes. You can also contribute to innovative workspaces, public buildings, exhibitions, hotels, and restaurants, or even start your own creative studio to bring unique living and working concepts to life.

Further study

In the final year, we give students insight into advanced master's programs, post-bachelor programs, professional courses, and specializations both in Belgium and abroad.

JARA FREUND - Graduate Designer @ BRAUN

Testimonial

I began studying at Darmstadt University in Germany, then enhanced my product design skills during an Erasmus semester at Howest, where I worked on team projects, conducted research, and built functional prototypes. Inspired by the hands-on experience, I stayed in Belgium to complete my Bachelor in Industrial Product Design. Thereafter, I returned to Frankfurt and joined Braun Household as a product designer.

JANWIT CHANGSURA - Graduate Designer @ VINCENT SHEPPARD

Testimonial

"I discovered Industrial Product Design by chance through brochures at a print shop where I worked. As a creative person, I learned many valuable skills during my studies. In just three years, you become a 'new young professional' with endless possibilities. Today, I design furniture for Vincent Sheppard, manage product photography, and create marketing videos, a diverse role that aligns perfectly with my education. My internship project even earned a Cera Award, one of many awards recognizing student innovation."

» AWARD WINNERS

Our students from the Interior and Industrial Product Design tracks, along with alumni and lecturers, have already won numerous awards.

In 2025, the student team Ditto Design Studio, even before graduating, won the AM Design Challenge organized by AGORIA, the employers' federation for the technological industry in Flanders. They developed a passive release mechanism for satellites for the aerospace company SONACA.

Alumni Louis and Guillaume, who today run their own company OPOGGI producing outdoor heating pads for hospitality terraces, were also nominated in 2025 for the Product Made in West Flanders Award.

Recently, Davey, a fresh graduate, received his SIT Furniture Design Award 2025 in Basel for his first furniture collection. Howest talent grows—and travels far.

Last year, our programme was recognized by The Rookies as the best Product Design school in the world!

Davey Verduyn
SIT Furniture Design Award 2025

Liesbeth Nilsen
OVAM ECO DESIGN AWARD 2025

Aeon Bonjé, Rune Vanhoucke, Tuur Verheule en Michael Moyson
OVAM ECO DESIGN AWARD 2025

Ditto Design Studio
AM Design Challenge 2025 - Agoria

Egon Lobbestael
OVAM ECO DESIGN AWARD 2024

Glenn De Backer
Product design Rookie of the year 2023

Roel Heyninck
Red Dot Award 2023
Henry Van De Velde Award 2024

Jeffrey Huyghe
GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2023

OPOGGI
nomination Product Made in West Flanders Award 2025

Jessica Schellekens
Award SILMO d'or Paris
IF DESIGN AWARD 2020

Thijn Van den Bosch, Amber Eghermanne, Dorian Asscherick and Moses ogundipe-
GLOBAL GRAD SHOW 2021

Sep Verboom
designer of the year 2020 by Knack Weekend

D4E1, Kim Jolie
The Object Becomes,
Salone Del Mobile, Milaan 2020

Janwit CHangsura
Cera-award 2018

Curtius Claudia
REDDOT AWARD 2017

» OUR CAMPUS IN KORTRIJK

Vibrant campuses

Howest University of Applied Sciences in Belgium offers innovative and industry-driven bachelor's programmess, including Industrial Product Design, Digital Design, Game Design, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, and Artificial Intelligence. With over 11,000 students, Howest focuses on practical, hands-on learning through strong collaborations with industry partners. The Kortrijk campus, located near the train station and the city center, part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as the "City of Design", features modern and comfortable classrooms, professional skills labs, and a welcoming atmosphere. Students receive personalized guidance and benefit from interdisciplinary collaboration with peers in Design & Technology and Business & Organization programs, particularly in projects like The Collective.

A top city for students!

Kortrijk offers everything for an unforgettable student experience: modern campuses, great restaurants and cafés, extensive sports facilities, and a vibrant cultural scene. It's a hub for creativity, innovation, design, and parties. Flemish education ranks among Europe's best, nearly everyone speaks English, and cities combine rich heritage, vibrant nightlife, and world-famous gastronomy. With Belgium's compact size and public transport, exploring nearby cities and Europe is easy!

The Industrial Design Center

The Industrial Design Center (IDC) in Kortrijk, near the train station, is Howest's hub for collaboration between professionals, researchers, and students. Belgium's largest makerspace offers tools for prototyping, testing, and refining designs for production. With green views, a terrace, and a firepit, it's also a space to relax and connect.

Facts & Figures

50% *Howest students gain extensive international experience.*

There are **86** *different nationalities at Howest*

1.054 *international studenten are from* **100** *countries*

proud member of RUN REGIONAL UNIVERSITY NETWORK EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

» GO INTERNATIONAL

Howest's Industrial/Interior Product Design program offers international experiences through study trips to top designers and companies like Lenovo, Boeing, Canon, IDEO and Panasonic, in Europe, the US, and Asia. You'll learn from guest lecturers and collaborate with international students. In your final year, you can spend a semester abroad (in Europe, USA, Mexico,...) or intern with any global company. Howest is part of the RUN-EU network, offering exchange opportunities with partners in Spain, Portugal, Finland, the Netherlands, Austria, and Ireland. Erasmus+ funding supports these experiences, and even if you stay local, Howest's global connections provide a multicultural experience.

More info **https://www.howest.be/en/go-international**

howest_international

» OUR STRENGTHS

Hands-On Experience: In our design studios and prototyping labs, you'll work with advanced tools and technology, refining skills in CAD, sketching, electronics, and VR. The Industrial Design Center is a fully equipped, modern space where you'll work on real-world industry cases.

Strong Industry Connections: Through labs, projects, and internships, you'll engage directly with companies, building a professional portfolio. Visits to companies, fairs, and exhibitions, plus design weeks with top designers, help prepare you for job security with industry leaders like Volkswagen, Samsonite, and Orange, ensuring great career prospects.

Teamwork: Working on projects together during the program builds your teamwork skills, helping you succeed in professional design settings and making you more secure in the competitive design industry.

Personalized Support: Small class sizes mean personalized guidance from instructors who know you by name, helping you reach your full potential.

» STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Services (STUVO): STUVO supports students with finances, housing, study assistance, jobs, mobility, sports, and cultural activities. More details: Howest STUVO.

Dining Options: Howest's cafeterias offer affordable meals, including vegetarian and salad options. Campuses are cashless; students pay with a bank or student card, which can be topped up on campus. Every Tuesday, free fruit is available.

Multimedia and Technology: Each campus is equipped with scanners, printers, Wi-Fi, and study areas. The main Kortrijk campus also provides a library and access to databases with thousands of publications.

IT Helpdesk and Laptops: Students in Industrial Product Design use their own laptops, with IT support available on-site. Optional group laptop purchases provide discounts and loaner devices if repairs are needed. Software is offered at academic rates.

APPLICATION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Application, Visas and Tuition Fees

Check out the 'Apply Now' section of our website for up-to-date information about the admission requirements, application deadlines, required application materials and tuition fees.
Students from non-EEA member countries may need a visa to enter Belgian territory. For questions regarding visas and related matters, contact the Belgian embassy or Belgian consulate of your country. Please note that you cannot enter Belgium on a tourist visa if you intend to stay longer than 90 days. You can find more information on the website of the Belgian Immigration Office at dofi.ibz.be

Accommodation

Students in Kortrijk often seek private rental rooms, and the city offers a wide range of options. The rooms are generally in good condition due to a city-wide evaluation system that ensures their quality and safety. Students can easily find suitable accommodation through www.kotwest.be. Howest also provides rooms in "The Wing," located in a former hospital. Additionally, Stuvo offers support to students in their housing search.

Mobility

Kortrijk is a fairly small city, and our campuses are within walking distance of the city centre and train station. For longer distances and getting to the other side of town, we recommend renting a bicycle or taking the bus.

» CONTACT OR VISIT US

Let's go!

Info Days

Howest University of Applied Sciences has regular open days, during which you can visit the campus, talk to staff and students, and get all the information about Industrial Product Design you could wish for. Check out the dates.

Online Webinars

For international students, it's not always easy to drop by in person. That's why you can learn more about IPO online and ask all your questions to our professors and International Office staff during our online webinars. For more information, please visit our website.

Contact

Address: Marksesteenweg 58, 8500 Kortrijk – BELGIUM

Telephone: +32 (0) 56 24 12 68

For all questions about applying to Industrial Product Design, please contact International Admissions Officer at
admissions@howest.be
For all other questions about the Industrial Product Design programme, contact Becky Verthé, Academic Director,
ipo@howest.be

howest.be/ipo
industrialproductdesign.be
/howestipo

good to know for a smooth start

howest
hogeschool

» INTERESTED?

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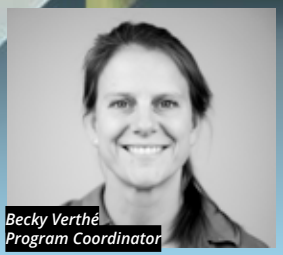

Becky Verthé
Program Coordinator

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