Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Bachelor of Architecture Program

Diversity is a fundamental component of AUD's mission and vision. Operating within this broader institutional framework, the Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.) is strongly committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, recognizing the pivotal role of the architect in shaping society.

The university values diversity and promotes tolerance by fostering a culture of respect and open-mindedness. The Bachelor of Architecture embraces AUD's values and its non-discrimination policy through its studio culture which emphasizes respect, collaboration, and community engagement. The studio serves as a safe and welcoming space where diverse perspectives are celebrated, thereby creating a nurturing and inclusive learning environment. The Architecture program, furthermore, is committed to enhancing students' global awareness skills. Such skills are fundamental when transforming architectural ideas into physical spaces that not only showcase cultural diversity but also actively cater to individuals from various backgrounds and abilities. AUD's diverse student body, both at the institutional level and in the Architecture Program specifically, is a major asset. This diversity is embraced across various student events, clubs, and activities, as well as through the variety of senior theses, project themes, and design briefs given to students throughout the program.

The university and, by extension, the Architecture program prioritize diversity and inclusion through strategic allocation of human, physical, and financial resources. Decision-making processes are in fact designed to ensure that all members of the community have access to and benefit from these resources. Through proactive recruitment strategies and professional development opportunities, the university and program strive to nurture a diverse faculty and staff body that reflects the diversity of its student body.

Furthermore, AUD is dedicated to ensuring equity for all students through robust financial aid support. Scholarships are available to provide equal access to education for all, and the Department of Architecture actively promotes and advertises these opportunities to its students. In collaboration with Center for Research, Innovation and Design (CRID), the B.Arch. program hosts design competitions that not only foster creativity and innovation, but also provide financial support for students through awards sponsored by external entities

The program promotes an inclusive environment by engaging actively with both internal and external stakeholders, including the program's advisory board. Moreover, in partnership with the AUD Health Center, the program supports students of determination by providing accommodations for individuals with diverse abilities. All members of the AUD community, regardless of physical or mental capabilities, are supported through the university's inclusive learning and working environment.

In conclusion, by holistically promoting and supporting diverse and inclusive curricular and extracurricular experiences, the Bachelor of Architecture at AUD is better positioned to graduate students who make meaningful contributions to the field of architecture and to society as a whole.