

## Strategic Plan

### Vision

The Department of Architecture will be a nationally recognized as a design school that enhances the quality of life within the region through community engagement, partnerships, and a commitment to environmental and social sustainability.

### Mission

The mission of the Department of Architecture is to prepare graduates to enter the professional practice of architecture and/or interior design and to serve the Memphis and Mid-South Region through research, engaged scholarship, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative expression that contributes to sustainable, equitable, and stable communities and enhances the quality of life for all citizens.

### Values

#### Student Success

The Department provides students with opportunities for leadership, recognition, advanced professional education, and employment within the professions of architecture and interior design.

#### Access

The Department partners with community groups and organizations serving a diverse population to maximize access to academic programs and to increase the representation of historically underrepresented groups.

#### Academic Excellence

The Department encourages academic excellence to ensure employment within the professions and acceptance to professional Master of Architecture degree programs.

#### Research and Innovation

The Department engages the community through professional practice, research, creative activities, and engaged scholarship to advance the role of architecture and design in large- and small-scale problem solving.

#### Diversity and Inclusion

The Department promotes and sustains an accessible, vibrant community of faculty and students that values diversity and cultivates a respectful and intellectually stimulating campus environment.

#### Collaboration and Partnerships

The Department uses collaboration and partnerships through its “Culture of Engagement” to provide students in all design studios the opportunity to engage with community groups to create a more livable environment through architecture, interior design, and urban design.

### Sustainability

The Department pursues actions and research that contribute to sustainable, equitable, and stable communities and enhance the quality of life now and in the future.

## **Goals and Objectives**

**Goal 1. The Department of Architecture provides a high-quality professional education through a well-rounded discovery-based curriculum in both the art and science of design with emphasis on processes, professional standards, and the practical application of design and technology.**

### Objectives:

1. Continuing accreditation is granted by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) for the Master of Architecture degree.
2. Continuing accreditation is granted by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) for the BFA in Interior Architecture degree.
3. The Master of Architecture degree meets the educational standards of the National Architectural Registration Board (NCARB) for registration as an architect in the USA.
4. The Master of Architecture, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture, and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture are programs of choice for a diverse population of students.

**Goal 2. The Department of Architecture offers students a rich environment that is conducive to learning, collaboration, and engagement.**

### Objectives:

1. Students have access to a wide range of opportunities and experiences outside the design studio and classroom that enhance their learning experience.
2. Students have access to participation in the activities of the University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC), a partnership between Architecture and City + Regional Planning).
3. Course content is relevant and is structured to provide multiple opportunities for collaborative learning.
4. Course delivery is timely to provide the opportunity to graduate within the prescribed two-year period for the M.Arch degree and four-year period for the BFA degrees.
5. Students are invested in the Department through participation in the various student professional organizations.

**Goal 3. Graduates of the Department of Architecture excel as practitioners, contribute to the architecture and design community, and positively impact the places in which they live and work.**

### Objectives:

1. Architecture students graduate with the required knowledge, skills, and values of the profession, as established by the Student Performance Criteria of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).
2. Interior Architecture students graduate with the required knowledge, skills, and values of the profession, as established by the Professional Standards of the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA).
3. Architecture graduates pass the NCARB Architect Registration Examination.
4. Graduates contribute to meeting community needs and provide service to the architecture and design community.

**Goal 3. Faculty in the Department of Architecture are recognized for advancing knowledge in architecture, interior design, and related fields through innovative research, creative activities, engaged scholarship, and professional practice.**

Objectives:

1. Faculty and students are provided with opportunities for “hands on” multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary projects through which students gain valuable professional experience while providing services to the citizens of the region.
2. Faculty are supported in their pursuit of research, creative activities, engaged scholarship, and professional practice by Department, College, and University resources
3. Faculty earn recognition for academic-related work as well as professional practice.

**Goal 4. The Department of Architecture builds upon ties to the greater Memphis community and engages in reciprocal community partnerships that address real architecture and design challenges.**

Objectives:

1. Faculty and students are valued and provide expertise in addressing design-related issues within the Memphis and Mid-South Region.
2. The Department maintains strong connections with local, statewide, and national practitioners and alumni, who contribute to and support architectural education and professional practice.
3. Students benefit from these partnerships that contribute to sustainable, equitable, and stable communities and enhances the quality of life for all citizens.

## Other Documents

The following Department of Architecture and other documents and plans are an integral part of the strategic planning process:

- Student Policies Manual
- Studio Culture Policy
- Entrance Evaluation Guidelines
- Candidacy Review Guidelines
- Drawing Standards
- Master of Architecture Thesis Preparation Guidelines
- Tenure + Promotion Guidelines
- NAAB Annual Report
- NAAB Architecture Program Report
- NAAB Visiting Team Report
- CIDA Self Study Report
- CIDA Visiting Team Report

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A **VISION** statement is an aspirational statement in future tense.

A **MISSION** statement succinctly describes the main purpose of an organization.

**VALUES** describe the principles of an organization and guide how the organization conducts business. The goals and actions can be checked against its values.

**GOALS** are written as "end state" statements in present tense.

**OBJECTIVES** are designed to be measurable, and for each objective there are a set of Performance Indicators and Benchmarks.