# THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS® | Department of Architecture

**Strategic Priorities**

Department Mission

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

Degree Programs

*Architecture* – The Master of Architecture (M.Arch) is a terminal professional degree and is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). The Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Architecture (BFA in Architecture) is a pre-professional degree linked to the professional Master of Architecture degree (128 credit hours + 60 credit hours). This "4+2" sequence meets the education requirements of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) which regulates the practice of architecture in the USA.

*Interior Design (Interior Architecture)* – The Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Interior Design (BFA in Interior Design) is a professional degree recognized by the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ). The degree is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). *NOTE: The process to change the name of the major to Interior Architecture to better align with what is being taught has been initiated.*

Overall Goals

*Goal 1* – Achieve continuing accreditation from the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) for the Master of Architecture degree program. The next NAAB visit is in 2023.

Goal 2 – Achieve continuing accreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) for the BFA in Interior Design degree. The next CIDA visit is in 2021.

*Goal 3* – Increase the number of students in the Master of Architecture degree program.

*Goal 4* – Increase the number of students, retention, and graduation rate in the BFA degree programs while maintaining the high quality and academic standards of the programs.

*Goal 5* – Increase community engagement activities through engaged scholarship, academic and professional internships, professional practice, and research.

Goal 6 – Expand the capabilities of the University of Memphis Design Collaborative (UMDC), a formal partnership between the departments of Architecture and City + Regional Planning.

*Goal 7* – Increase awareness of sustainable design and sustainability in the community.

*Goal 8* – Increase external/internal support.

Student Success

*Engagement* – Continue the nationally-recognized "culture of engagement" within the Department. Community engagement is now a part of every design studio.

*Leadership and Recognition* – Continue the existing efforts and create new opportunities for students and faculty. Expand leadership training through Continuing Education for faculty and students and mentorship for students in all academic years through the partnership between the UofM Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

*Acceptance Rates of BFA Students into Master of Architecture Programs* – Continue the high standards and rigor to ensure the continued 100 percent acceptance rate of BFA in Architecture graduates into professional M.Arch programs other than at the UofM).

*Employment in the Profession* – Continue the high academic standards to ensure appropriate employment upon graduation. Virtually all recent graduates of the three degree programs within the Department are employed within their respective professional areas.

*Curriculum* – Continue to develop the curriculum in all three degree programs to ensure the courses and content meet accreditation standards and are relevant to the applicable professions.

*Retention* – Continue to conduct and expand activities to increase retention in the BFA degree programs (New Student Orientation, student-led workshops, faculty-led research and training, mentorship between AIAS and AIA, other activities).

Faculty

Continue to expand opportunities for faculty relative to tenure and promotion.

Continue adjunct faculty funding at a level necessary to maintain appropriate full-time faculty teaching loads and faculty-student ratios in design studios.

Seek and/or provide additional opportunities for professional Continuing Education for faculty.

Staff

Create the position of Business Officer in the Department to better reflect the duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Associate II position. Add additional staff as necessary.

Facilities

Secure the hardware and software necessary to teach the most current technologies in computer visualization, design and other applications.

Provide and maintain a high quality environment conducive to architectural education including design studios, "smart" classrooms, critique space, exhibition space, wood and metal shops, model-building spaces, and support facilities.

Challenges

*Graduate Assistant Funding* – Increase funding for Graduate Assistant positions. The Department has been very proactive in seeking alternative funding for positions but the GA funding must be "made whole" if these alternative funding sources are decreased or disappear.

*Adjunct Faculty Funding* – Ensure adequate funding is available to meet teaching standards to ensure course content can be delivered and accreditation maintained as enrollment increases.

*Full-Time Faculty Needs* – Convert the existing Instructor position to Tenure-Track Position.