

# The Division of Architecture

# STUDIO CULTURE POLICY

UPDATED: 07.24.2017

## WHERE IT BEGINS:

“The program must demonstrate that it provides a positive and respectful learning environment that encourages optimism, **respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation** between and among the members of its faculty, student body, administration, and staff in all learning environments, both traditional and nontraditional.”

Excerpt from the 2014 NAAB Conditions for Accreditation

## WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO:

In 1947, Bruce Goff brought a distinctive teaching philosophy to our program, in which students’ creative development was fostered within the framework of a professional curriculum. Both practical and theoretical in nature, this approach prepared students to succeed as innovative professionals.

Today, more than seventy years later, the Division of Architecture pedagogy is centered on ideals inspired by the Goff legacy. As such, the Creating\_Making curriculum emphasizes the value of tangibly connecting the realm of imagination to reality through designs grounded in context and experience.

The Division of Architecture dovetails its curriculum with its mission statement, aspiring “to actively engage in an ever-evolving global community while remaining grounded in the context of the American heartland.” We prepare students to become architects through intellectual exploration, craft, collaboration, design, and research, with an ethical commitment to the profession, society, and the environment.

We in the College of Architecture are currently in a unique position. The renovated Gould Hall offers state-of-the-art educational facilities and support while uniting all of the College’s five divisions (Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Interior Design, Construction Science, and Regional and City Planning) under one roof. Our Creating\_Making Lab allows for the discovery and mastery of modern fabrication technologies as we make our designs reality.

Our College Dean, Hans Butzer, AIA, and Division Director Dr. Stephanie Pilat encourage interaction among faculty, students, administration, and staff with an open door policy. All students are welcome to discuss issues and concerns with the Dean, Director, or faculty at any time.

In order to foster a creative design environment, interaction among students and professors outside the structured classroom context is highly encouraged. Whenever possible, interaction among our five disciplines is also highly encouraged.

## HOW IT’S DONE: STUDENTS:

**Attend** studio on time, prepared to do your best to produce relevant, creative, and innovative ideas.

**Show** a passion for craft in your work.

**Maintain** a tidy workspace in order to foster a productive work environment for all.

**Contribute** to creating a constructive and supportive studio culture, knowing that our professions are built upon the ability to understand a problem from many different perspectives.

**Work** in the studio space to allow for opportunities to learn from others, and also to teach others, knowing that informal interaction among peers is of critical importance to learning.

**Abide** by the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Be courteous and respectful of others’ needs within and around the studio environment.

**Manage** your time wisely. If you find yourself falling behind on your school work, take responsibility by letting your professors know in a timely manner. Be proactive.

**Develop** life skills like good time management, healthy eating and other forms of personal care, and a heightened appreciation for details in order to better prepare yourself for a successful and happy life, professionally and otherwise.

**Seek** balance of mind, body, and spirit in order to maintain a life-balance. Personal health and well-being comes first, the same of fellow students, friends, and family comes second, and professional/academic performance comes third.

## CONFLICT?

Stay calm and remember to be respectful in the situation, while communicating your feelings clearly. By working together, we can maintain a supportive learning environment. If a disagreement cannot be resolved promptly, seek a neutral third party, such as a member of the faculty or staff, to mediate.

## OVERWHELMED? NEED HELP?

It is recommended that a student first go to their advisor or professor to express their concern. If a student ever feels overwhelmed on a grander scale, it is recommended that they seek help from the counseling center at Goddard Health Center (405.325.2700). The following is a list of relevant hotlines:

Disability Resource Center.....	405.325.3852
OUPD Emergency.....	405.325.1911
OUPD Non-Emergency.....	405.325.2864
Number Nyne (crisis line).....	405.325.NYNE
Sexual Misconduct.....	405.325.2215
Norman Rape Crisis Center Hotline.....	405.701.5660
OU Advocates (aka SART).....	405.615.0013
OU Behavior Intervention Team (BIT).....	405.325.7700
SafeRide.....	405.325.RIDE
SafeWalk.....	405.325.WALK

## PROFESSORS:

**Be available** and prepared during scheduled studio class time.

**Bring** a positive attitude and an understanding of the learning process, along with a willingness to share your personal expertise within the profession.

**Continue** to actively learn so that we can keep up with changes in the ever-evolving profession.

**Remember** that students have commitments beyond studio when setting goals for assignments.

**Collaborate** actively and effectively with other professors as outlined in the Creating\_Making curriculum to provide the best possible education to students.

**Encourage** students not only to work in the studio space, but also to spend time outside of studio experiencing the world and life for which they design - developing better ways to process experience by sketching, reading, traveling, and observing.

**Understand** that the critical evaluation of design that is learned in studio will carry over into the professional setting.

**Challenge** students to produce the finest work possible by providing guidance through the design process.

**Be mindful** and inform students that professional and overall happiness and success result from the development not only of academic skills, but also of life skills like good time management, healthy eating and other personal care, and a heightened appreciation for details.

**Support** students as they seek balance of mind, body, and spirit in order for them to maintain a life-balance. Personal health and well-being comes first, the same of fellow students, friends, and family comes second, and professional/academic performance comes third.

## OVERVIEW:

Remember time management, communication, and respect are the keys to success in all your endeavors.

Respect diversity, as it enriches design education with added perspective. The golden rule applies to everyone, regardless of race, gender, religion, age, or sexual orientation.

Take pride in your work, the culture, and the learning environment of the Division of Architecture.

## STUDIO EVOLUTION:

The AIAS OU chapter, with the support of the Division of Architecture, is charged with keeping the studio culture policy up to date with the voice of the student body.

The student body of the Division of Architecture realizes the importance of an ever-evolving studio culture policy - one which is modified to address the concerns of a dynamic student body.