UTSA STUDIO CULTURE POLICY   **2010**

Today's design studio is a laboratory for experimentation, discovery, and expression that, in the case of constructions of human accommodation, transcends the predicted in the name of bettering the greater environment and society as a whole. In light of the critical responsibilities that architects must bear in working to improve on the human condition, while striving to lessen the impact that the building industry has on natural resources, the Department of Architecture is committed to the following tenets of a vital, productive, and socially responsive studio culture.

Studio Culture Policy Tenets:

• Within the design studio, students and faculty share in the responsibility of contributing to a community that is respectful of individuals and their creative abilities.

• The studio should be an environment in which multiple facets of the student's formal education are brought into discourse with one another.

• The Department of Architecture recognizes the need to allocate adequate time and resources for students and faculty to commit to investigating the inherent issues and complexities of design projects.

• Students are encouraged to view the entire faculty, not simply their individual studio instructors, as resources and learned guides in pursuit of a varied education. Interactions between students in separate studios and year levels are likewise encouraged in the belief that students have much to learn from one another and that everyone can be a teacher.

• Architectural education requires students to think, form opinions, and make sound judgments that can be well demonstrated in the student's abilities to write, discuss, represent, and produce relative to design convictions.

• Students are expected to maintain an open-minded attitude toward constructive criticism and guidance from instructors. This said, students should discipline themselves to work hard, give great attention to the quality of their work, and to adapt to different studio atmospheres and faculty teaching methods.

• Students and faculty should recognize that the values of decisions that emerge during the design process are as important as the judgments regarding final products coming out of studios. Failures from which one learns lead inevitably to success.

• Every student's work has the capacity to rise to an innovative level of influencing the ever-evolving development of the discipline and profession of Architecture. Engaged in high ideas as a student, it is our intention and hope that a trajectory of inquiry and commitment to quality professionalism (established

while attending University) will be sustained by its graduates over the course of their lives.

This Studio Culture Policy is an evolving document. If you have comments or constructive suggestions on its development, please contact the Chair of the Department of Architecture.

For more information on the nationwide discussion on "studio culture," please see the following publications by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS):

"7 Ways to Transform Studio Culture & Bring It into the 21st Century" (2014)
"Toward an Evolution of Studio Culture" (2008)

"The Studio Culture Summit" (2004)

"The Redesign of Studio Culture: A Report of the AIAS Studio Culture Task Force" (2002)