The mural was designed for the BAC by American muralist Richard Haas in 1976.

Boston is one of the top three most walkable cities in the country.

The BAC’s campus is located in the historic Back Bay, just four blocks from the Esplanade and Charles River.

THE BAC PROVIDES EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN EDUCATION EMERGING FROM PRACTICE AND ACCESSIBLE TO DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.

The Boston Architectural College (BAC), an independent, professional college located in Boston’s Back Bay, provides excellence in design education, which emerges from combining classroom learning, practice, and accessibility to diverse communities. We offer professional and accredited degrees in architecture, interior architecture, landscape architecture, and design studies.

Founded in 1889 as a club for practicing architects in the local Boston area, the BAC has remained closely tied to the professional design community throughout its history. These connections have allowed us to uphold our founding principles of integrated design education: a faculty of practicing professionals and a commitment to concurrent academic and experientially practice-based curricula.

Through the BAC’s dynamic learning model, students acquire intellectual and academic knowledge in the classroom, and at the same time receive applied learning through practical experiences in the field. This trajectory facilitates connections between theoretical and practical approaches and equips students with the necessary tools for solving complex projects and design parameters for today’s global communities.

The BAC’s commitment to diversifying the design professions is manifest in a policy of accessible admission. Alternative admissions permits an exceptional design education for many talented students who would not otherwise be afforded such an opportunity. Beneficiaries include a large population of first-generation college students as well as members of under-represented groups, fostering a rich and inclusive learning environment.

We hope you explore the exciting opportunities the BAC has to offer.
The BAC’s Foundation Studies program invites graduate and undergraduate first-year students from architecture, landscape architecture, interior architecture, and design studies to establish a fundamental and collaborative language of design that transcends the formal disciplinary boundaries and propels flexible and meaningful explorations within the future of the design professions.

Students are exposed to relevant design ideas through an integrated and multidisciplinary framework where progressive design concepts, tools, and skills are studied and tested. These are then applied toward meaningful spatial solutions with the potential to influence the well-being of diverse communities around the globe. We believe that the Foundation Studies year provides a firm basis for students to develop future projects that exist within real social, cultural, and political contexts.

Foundation Studies includes conceptual design studios as well as courses in theory and inquiry, analog and digital design media, sustainable principles and applications, community engagement, and practice readiness. The Foundation Studies program can be completed in two semesters by a student who is taking a full-time academic course load. Beginning with City Lab, which is a unique introduction to the BAC and to Boston, the student in the first-semester Foundation learns to integrate design and thinking skills in the areas of collaboration and community, critical reading and research, design representation, and application of design methods and creative problem solving.
City Lab is a two-week intensive when first-year students get to explore the city of Boston.

Foundation is a one-year program that allows students to study across disciplines.
The School of Architecture has students and faculty learn from and engage with communities through projects that serve the community. For a BAC student, the ways that architecture shapes people’s lives and contributes sustainably to the local ecology are always close at hand.

“Architecture at the BAC joins two endeavors – learning from design practice in the field and learning in studios and classrooms. Students build their visual imagination and capacity as citizen-designers through their academic experiences while they join design practice to learn from the inside how architecture happens in the ‘real world’ and to have a professional impact while they are still students. Students develop diverse and highly individualized points of view. Graduates complete their degrees fully engaged in their careers,” says Karen Nelson, Dean and member of the Faculty, School of Architecture.

The BAC offers three degrees in the discipline of architecture.

• The Master of Architecture (MArch) degree is a first-professional degree, encompassing the requisite knowledge to continue on the path of internship, examination, and registration. The MArch builds upon a student’s prior college degree, whether design-related or not.

• The Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) is a first-professional degree for students just out of high school or transferring from community college that leads to qualification for licensure.

• The BAC also offers a non-professional degree, the Bachelor of Science in Architecture; this non-professional degree can lead to advanced standing into the BAC’s accelerated MArch program.
Students have access to state-of-the-art 3D printers to bring their ideas to life.
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The BAC difference begins with the designer’s role as steward of the world’s resources and as agent in the creation of spaces supportive of people’s health, safety, and welfare. The object of the student’s work is the design not merely of place but of user experience.

Interior Architecture at the BAC combines classroom learning and practical experience in creative, collaborative environments. The student’s orchestration of these experiences can employ environmental graphics, brand identity, furniture, and functional objects. Added to more traditional tools of color, light, acoustics, and thermal comfort, this updated palette of design materials enables the BAC student to address interiors in the context of social and technological change.

The BAC curriculum focuses on the character and use of spaces rather than on solely aesthetic or structural approaches. The combination of academic courses and professional practice will prepare students to enter the market as full members of the design team, able to assess and shape spaces for living, learning, working, and healing. Instructors are professionals in the field and bring current perspectives on design practice to the classroom.

The BAC offers three degrees in the field of interior architecture:

• The first-professional degree Master of Interior Architecture (MIA) is for students with a bachelor’s degree in another field and can be completed in approximately three years.
• The first-professional degree Bachelor of Interior Architecture (BIA) can be completed in approximately five years.
• The Master of Science in Interior Architecture serves as a post-professional degree for students with a bachelor’s degree in interior design or architecture, is delivered in a low-residency format, and can be completed in two years.
Our materials library houses samples of fabrics, versions, flooring, and sustainable materials.

The BAC boasts an average class size of eight students.

The BAC’s hands-on learning environment uniquely prepares students for their careers.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture today is an enticing profession attracting creative minds to transform the globe through public action and innovative design. We are looking at cities, energy, sea-level rise, and green, adaptable landscapes. With our students’ ingenuity and ambition, we are creating meaningful public spaces and helping shape healthy and livable cities for generations to come.

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) program is a three-year first-professional degree that invites students to explore spatial design through a combination of academic and professional experiences. Students applying to the MLA program may reduce the program duration and receive advanced standing with transfer credit from prior academic work.

The MLA program provides a concurrent academic and practice curriculum as a method of delivering applied, integrated learning, where academic and practice requirements are stimulated and mutually reinforced with comprehensive design thinking and professional practice skills. Design studios, design media and technology, and topics in ecology, policy, and professional practice prepare students to imagine and resolve spatial issues that will strengthen the performance of new urban landscapes and cities around the globe.

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) program is a five-year first-professional degree that welcomes energetic students to the discovery and production of original and meaningful new urban landscapes. Playgrounds, public parks, schoolyards, civic plazas, and waterfronts are a few of the projects being explored through academic and professional practice courses. With a rich combination of design studios, design media, science, and technology as well as a professional practice curriculum that includes work in offices, in the field, and in the community, our students are well-rounded and effective professional design leaders who are often employed upon graduation. Students applying to the BLA program may reduce the program duration and receive advanced standing with transfer credit from prior academic work.
All of the BAC’s instructors have professional experience in their fields.

The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates a 20% growth in the landscape architecture job market over the next five years.
DESIGN STUDIES

To study design is to explore the imagination and to see beyond the obvious. To be a designer is to be an explorer and an innovator. While firmly committed to developing practical skills students need to pursue challenging and rewarding careers, the Design Studies curriculum seeks to inspire students to cultivate their creativity, resourcefulness, and talent.

The Disciplines. Programs of study in the Bachelor of Design Studies (BDS) curriculum include Architectural Technology; Digital Design and Visualization; Design History, Theory, and Criticism; Historic Preservation; and Sustainable Design.

The Master of Design Studies (MDS) curriculum is an online, low-residency program which allows students to complete their degree while continuing to work and without having to relocate to Boston. Programs of study in the master curriculum include Design for Human Health, Historic Preservation, and Sustainable Design.

The Numbers. The Bachelor of Design Studies requires 120 credits, which includes a minimum of six credits of hands-on Practicum experience in the student’s program of study. Students are able to earn this degree in eight semesters (four years).

The Master of Design Studies in Historic Preservation (MDS-HP) and Sustainable Design (MDS-SD) require 33 credits and may be completed in four semesters (two years). The Master of Design Studies in Design for Human Health (MDS-DHH) requires 45 credits and may be completed in five semesters (two and a half years).
Part of the BAC’s campus is located on 951 Boylston Street, in a 19th century building that historic preservation students are helping to renovate.

In the Design Studies program, students cultivate creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills applicable to many careers.
“I was intrigued by the BAC based on the practice-driven program that enabled me to experience a more dynamic approach to interior design. Through various gateway community projects, I had the opportunity to design facilities that fully engage my community while learning and improving upon my skills.”

Wonnie Ru, BID ’14
The BAC’s 125-year Practice-based tradition synchronizes classroom and applied learning, holistically educating students to coalesce knowledge and skills, positioning them to be exceptionally competitive in the marketplace. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that between 85 and 90% of the students in each graduating class are employed in design on the day they graduate.

The BAC distinguishes itself as the only college or university among the several hundred nationally accredited degree-granting programs in design that requires its students to complete academic coursework while simultaneously acquiring vital professional skills and expertise through non-classroom instruction and discipline-specific employment. This hands-on, concurrent approach enables our students to jumpstart their careers while still attending classes.

The BAC’s Foundation curriculum provides students – particularly those with little or no prior design experience – with a deliberate sequence of core classroom instruction, combined with Practice-based initiatives that emphasize collaboration, critical thinking, and community engagement. Confident and equipped with portfolio evidence of technical and presentation skills, guided by BAC faculty and academic advisers, BAC students are now prepared to secure paid positions in a range of conventional and specialized professional settings. While the BAC does not identify or assign specific employment, the college’s remarkable connections and network of hundreds of design or construction-related companies throughout metropolitan Boston and New England make it possible for students to customize and manage their own employment campaigns.

Throughout students’ education they meet with the BAC’s Practice Department to gauge their professional progress and steady improvement. By the time they graduate, BAC students have developed the requisite knowledge, skills, and work ethic to contribute as emerging design professionals and talented citizen stakeholders, interested in contributing to the betterment of their communities.
Students complete over 3,500 hours of design practice a year.

The BAC is partnered with more than 370 firms in Boston and beyond.

Students work on projects ranging from local community engagement to projects of global significance.
“At the BAC, we are immersed in design, making us the most connected design students in Boston.”

Robert Henry, Student, Bachelor of Architecture
BAC faculty and staff work collaboratively with multinational institutions on a daily basis, and the college’s international community boasts students from over 35 countries on five continents. The BAC is also partnered with top tier schools in Pakistan, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Malta. International students are welcome in both undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture, Interior Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Design Studies. Design Studies graduate programs include low-residency degrees in Sustainable Design, Historic Preservation, and Design for Human Health.

International students applying for all graduate degree programs must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited US university or its equivalent. Students with a prior degree in architecture or interior design, and students requesting transfer credit from institutions outside the United States, must include a design portfolio and credential evaluation with application materials.

For more information on the BAC’s global commitment, as well as relevant admissions requirements, see the BAC website at: the-bac.edu.

The McCormick Gallery, located in the lobby of the BAC’s 330 Newbury Street building, hosts six to eight exhibitions every year.

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The architecture and building industries are busy again, and firms are hiring, looking for new hires who are not afraid to push the envelope and who take an entrepreneurial approach to their work... BAC students have the capacity to do that.”

Carole Wedge, BArch ’90, President of Shepley Bulfinch
APPLY TODAY!

The BAC accepts applicants on a rolling basis. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their application by the priority deadline each semester to ensure consideration for the maximum amount of financial aid. To apply, please contact Admissions at 617.585.0123 or at admissions@the-bac.edu.

Attend an Open House
The best way to learn more about each program at the BAC is by attending an open house and participating in a studio class. We invite all prospective students and their families to join one of our open houses, held on selected evenings throughout the Spring and Fall. Check out our events calendar for a list of open house dates at the-bac.edu, or contact Admissions at 617.585.0123 or at admissions@the-bac.edu.

Request More Information
Not ready to make a decision but interested in learning more about the BAC? Our admissions counselors are always available to help. Contact us at 617.585.0123 or at admissions@the-bac.edu to learn more about a specific program, important deadlines, and special opportunities such as scholarships, events, and more.

Financial Aid & Scholarships
Scholarships and financial aid are available for qualified applicants. The first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at fafsa.ed.gov. Please feel free to contact the office directly at 617.585.0125 or at finaid@the-bac.edu.

Accreditation
The BAC is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education and is chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Higher Education.

ARCHITECTURE The Master of Architecture and the Bachelor of Architecture programs are accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

DESIGN STUDIES The Design Studies Historic Preservation programs meet the standards for degree-granting programs established by the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE).

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture programs are accredited by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB).

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE The Bachelor of Interior Architecture and Master of Interior Architecture programs have been accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA, formerly FIDER) since 2002.

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