

BOSTON
ARCHITECTURAL
COLLEGE

SINCE 1889

BAC Alumni & Friends
Awards

April 8, 2026

Congratulations to our esteemed 2026 Alumni Award honorees!

It is with great pride that the BAC community and I celebrate the inspiring individuals recognized in this year's Alumni Awards.

Drawn from across our diverse community, this year's honorees have made a lasting impact on the BAC and the design community. As educators, practitioners, and leaders, they have mentored generations of designers, advanced programs like the Practice Curriculum, Summer Academy, and the Master of Design Studies in Real Estate Development, and strengthened the BAC through Board leadership and endowed funds—reflecting dedication to the College, the profession, and the communities they serve.

Beyond professional achievements, these remarkable individuals share a heartfelt commitment to education, inspiring generations to pursue excellence and meaningful impact. Equally important is the personal way they have touched those around them—leaving a lasting impression that extends far beyond their work. We express our gratitude to Don, Chandra, Janet, Judy, and Steve, whose award is being presented posthumously to his family.

The achievements of our honorees mirror the success of our graduates. According to the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard, BAC ranks #1 nationally for Bachelor's Architecture median earnings (\$90,996) and #2 for Master of Architecture (\$91,274), surpassing peers such as Yale, MIT, and Harvard. Other accolades highlight this excellence: GradReports recognized BAC as #4 Best Architecture School and #1 for Graduate Earning Potential, and Niche placed us among the Top 10 architecture schools in America two years in a row. This spring, BAC proudly celebrates becoming a Hispanic Serving Institution, reflecting our commitment to diversity, growth, and student success, while upholding the highest standards in design education.

Our community thrives because of you—students, alumni, faculty, staff, partners, and friends—whose generosity, guidance, and entrepreneurial spirit sustain the BAC. Thank you for joining us today to celebrate these contributions and carry forward more than a century of impact, innovation, and service.

Best wishes,



Dr. Mahesh Daas, DPACSA
President, ACSA Distinguished Professor

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Bringing our Community Together

2026 Hive Week Homecoming Events

April 8 - April 10

Join us April 8-10, 2026, for the BAC's second annual Hive Week Homecoming, where community members worldwide will come together for these flagship events, offering a unique opportunity for learning, inspiration, and celebration.

REGISTER FOR EVENTS HERE

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

12PM-4PM | BAC Talks: Entrepreneurship & Innovation by Design featuring:

12:00PM | "An Inconvenient Education" with Dr. Mahesh Daas, President, Boston Architectural College and ACSA Distinguished Professor (0.5 AIA CEUs for this session)

1:00PM | "Reengineering Building Envelopes" with Anas Kassas, M.Arch'17, Founder & CEO, INOVUES (0.5 AIA CEUs for this session)

2:00PM | "AI and Cities: Building Tools, Knowledge, and Community for Urban Intelligence" by Haozhuo Yang, Co-Founder, TangibleEmpact & BAC Adjunct Faculty Member

3:00PM | "Designing Innovation for Real-World Impact" Interactive Workshop

5:30PM | Celebrating our Champions – A reception honoring the BAC's loyal supporters—who form the foundation of our thriving community.

6:45PM | Hive Week Keynote Speaker – Taniya Nayak, Principal, Taniya Nayak Design and Television Host

7:30PM | 2026 Alumni and Friends Awards Ceremony – Celebrating distinguished alumni and friends for their achievements in the design community.

Thursday, April 9, 2026 (In-Person at the BAC & Live Streamed)

11:30AM | Presidential Luncheon and Presentation "Entrepreneurship Through Design"

(0.5 AIA CEUs)

Dr. Stephen Spinelli Jr., MBA'92, PhD, President, Babson College

Dr. Mahesh Daas, President, Boston Architectural College and ACSA Distinguished Professor

1PM - 5PM | | BAC Talks: Entrepreneurship & Innovation by Design

1:00pm | Women's CEO Roundtable: Partnerships that Drive Change (0.5 AIA CEUs)

2:00pm | From Idea to Enterprise: Stories from BAC Innovators (0.5 AIA CEUs)

3:00pm | Designing for Impact: Social Innovation and Community Entrepreneurship (0.5 AIA CEUs)

4:00pm | Industry Disruptors: Innovation, Emergent Tech & AI (0.5 AIA CEUs)

5:30pm | Hive Week Happy Hour at Dillon's, 955 Boylston St., Boston

Friday, April 10, 2026

Firm Tours for Alumni & Students

Join a firm tour at the following women-led firms. Locations and time vary. To learn more, email alumni@the-bac.edu.



STADESIGN



STUDIO ENÉE



Boston Architectural College

Hive Week

Keynote Speaker | Taniya Nayak, MSIA'03 Principal,
Taniya Nayak Design and Television Host

Taniya Nayak is featured as a host, mentor, and interior designer on HGTV shows including "Rock the Block," "Battle on the Beach" and "Build It Forward." She is a judge on ABC's primetime hit show "The Great Christmas Light Fight" and the spinoff "The Great Halloween Fight." Taniya served as a featured designer on Food Network's "Restaurant Impossible" for 23 seasons.

A native of India, this Boston-based, award-winning interior architect is known for creating memorable designs for trendy new restaurants, condo developments, marketplaces, and high end residential projects all over the US. Her latest design projects include Tuscan Market, Artisan Marriott Hotel, Yellow Door Taqueria, and numerous new Ruth's Chris Steak House and Fleming's Steakhouse restaurants across the country. She has designed for celebrities Ayesha Curry, Robert Irvine, Patrice Bergeron of the Boston Bruins, and more.

In 2025, Taniya launched her collection of tile and surfacing with Genrose Stone + Tile. Taniya has designed multiple lines of high-performance wallcoverings for Len-Tex and MDC Interior Solutions, which have become a standard in various Hilton and Marriott brand hotels across the United States. Taniya also has a new collection of hospitality-focused amenities with Erwyn.

Coming soon, Taniya Nayak will launch her first collection of lighting with Studio M.

Taniya is recognized for her appearances on Today, Good Morning America, The Rachael Ray Show, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and The View, as well as featured in Architectural Digest, Design New England, Design NYC, People magazine, Better Homes & Gardens, Good Housekeeping, HGTV Magazine, Real Simple, AARP Magazine, and The Wall Street Journal.

Taniya was selected personally by Ellen Degeneres as her brand spokesperson for her home product line, "E.D. On Air," featured on QVC.

Taniya supports the Boys & Girls Club, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Room to Dream Foundation, Smile Train, No Kid Hungry, and Akshaya Patra Organization, and Tommy's Place.

Taniya successfully owns her design firm Taniya Nayak Design, Inc based in Boston and is co-owner of several restaurants in the Boston area with her husband Brian O'Donnell including Lower Mills Tavern, Yellow Door Taqueria, Madre Osteria, Moonshine Alley, and Meribelle. In Taniya's free time she loves dancing salsa, cooking and entertaining. She is a dog mom to an adorable English bulldog named Flynn.

Alumni & Friends Awards Ceremony

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Sarah Howard | Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Strategic Relations

Alumni Awards Council Recognition

Isra Banks, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP, WELL AP, M.Arch'17, Boston Arch. Studio Manager, GFT | Co-Chair, BAC Alumni Advisory Council

Robin Willcox, AIA, M.Arch'11, Architect, Ebbrell Architecture + Design | Co-Chair, BAC Alumni Advisory Council

Student Testimonial

Alexia Seretean, B.Arch student

In Memoriam

Stephen McGovern, MDS'21

Marc Pelletier, Hon'16

Gail Cavanagh, B.Arch'04

Barbara R. Kapp

Award Presentations

Lifetime Achievement Award

Don Brown, Honorary '06, Former Practice Curriculum Director Emeritus | BAC

Distinguished Alumni in Practice

Stephen McGovern, MDS'21, Associate Director - Commercial Development and Investment | SAI Group

Chandra D. Robinson, M.Arch'08, AIA NOMA, Founder, chromatografica

Janet Roche, MDS-DHH'17, Owner | Janet Roche Designs, LLC and CEO | Trauma-informed Design Society

Selfless Labor

Judy Nitsch, PE, LEED AP, Member | BAC Board of Trustees and Founding Principal (Retired) | Nitsch Engineering

Closing Remarks

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is a distinguished honor presented to an individual whose career reflects extraordinary impact, leadership, and enduring contribution to the design professions. Reserved for rare and exceptional occasions, this award is not given annually, but only when a member of the BAC community exemplifies a lifetime of meaningful achievement and influence. Recipients demonstrate sustained excellence, innovation, and service that advance both their field and the mission of the Boston Architectural College. Through their body of work and commitment to the profession, they embody the highest ideals of the BAC.



Don Brown, Honorary '06, Former Practice Curriculum Director Emeritus | BAC

Don Brown, Hon. '06, is a distinguished architectural educator, practitioner, and leader who serves as Practice Curriculum Director Emeritus at The Boston Architectural College (BAC). With more than six decades of service to the College, he has played a pivotal role in shaping architectural education through the development of experiential, practice-integrated learning models.

He was the founding director of the BAC's Practice Curriculum and created the Summer Academy pre-college design program, initiatives that have influenced generations of students and helped define the College's distinctive educational approach. Over the course of his career at the BAC, Don has also served as a Practice Studio Instructor, CDC Studio founder, Thesis Advisor, and lecturer, mentoring countless emerging architects and designers. In recognition of his extraordinary dedication and lasting impact on the institution and its students, he was honored with the BAC Lifetime Service Award.

Don earned his B.Arch from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, an M.Arch from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and was a Fulbright Scholar at Delft University of Technology, studying urban and regional planning under Professor Jaap Bakema.

Don's professional career began at Hugh Stubbins Associates (1962–1965), working on projects including the Countway Library at Harvard Medical School and Princeton University Residence Halls, and passing the Architectural Registration Exam. He then served as an Architect/Planner at the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) (1967–1974), contributing to urban projects in Fenway, Back Bay, and Charlestown under Ed Logue. He also spent over 30 years as a part-time Architectural Lecturer at Boston area institutions, including Boston State, Brandeis University, Boston University, Tufts University, New England School of Art & Design (now MassArt), and Chamberlain Junior College (later absorbed by Mount Ida).

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN PRACTICE

Given to a BAC alum who has made a significant impact in the design community while promoting and improving the professions through their leadership. Candidates have served in a design-focused leadership role for a substantial period and have mentored younger members of the design community.



Stephen McGovern, MDS'21, Associate Director - Commercial Development and Investment | SAI Group, LLC

**This award is given posthumously to Stephen's family in his memory.*

Stephen "Steve" McGovern, MDS'21, brought more than fifteen years of distinguished experience in the real estate industry, with a career that spanned legal practice, development, investment, and academic leadership.

Stephen most recently served as the Associate Director of Commercial Development & Investment at SAI Group, LLC, where he played a key role in shaping commercial real estate strategy. He possessed expertise in portfolio building across acquisitions, development, brokerage, asset management, and strategic disposition of income-generating properties. Working on behalf of SAI Group, Stephen was very involved in identifying, acquiring, developing, managing, and planning the targeted disposition of commercial real estate assets. Alongside his professional practice, Stephen was deeply committed to education and lifelong learning. He was instrumental in shaping The Boston Architectural College's Master of Design Studies in Real Estate Development (MDS-RED) curriculum. After graduating with his master's degree from the program in May 2021, he contributed to curriculum reviews, developed course content, and taught Real Estate Law, Regulations, Transactions, and Project Approvals, first implemented in the 2022–23 academic year. He also served as a trusted advisor to faculty, prospective students, and current students.

In addition to his master's degree from BAC, Stephen completed advanced coursework in financial analysis, acquisitions, and development at Boston University, as well as a certificate in Construction Project Management from Wentworth Institute of Technology. He truly exemplified the professional and academic excellence to which students aspire.

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**Chandra D. Robinson, M.Arch'08, AIA
NOMA, Founder, chromatografica**

Chandra D. Robinson, M.Arch'08, AIA NOMA is a licensed architect in Oregon with 20 years of practice dedicated to creating beautiful, welcoming spaces that are accessible to everyone. Chandra's design philosophy is rooted in a deep commitment to community engagement and the authentic expression of culture in the built environment, working closely with clients to translate their unique vision and values into tangible design elements.

A recognized expert in her field, Chandra is a trusted voice in mass timber building technology and the integration of cultural narratives into design. Her ability to challenge the status quo and advocate for communities has led to significant professional recognition, including being honored by Architectural Record as one of the 2025 Top Women in Architecture for her significant contributions to design innovation.

Chandra's portfolio showcases her commitment to innovative and culturally resonant design. She led her team to win an international competition for the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine, and has successfully delivered an innovative mass timber art school, alongside two vital library projects within Portland, Oregon's Black Community.

Beyond her practice, Chandra is a dedicated civic leader, serving on the Portland Design Commission since 2019 and as the 2026 Vice President of the Oregon Black Pioneers. Her intellectual foundation is informed by her focus on Soft Space—the experiential, temporal, and imagined qualities of environment that define spaces. Qualities like temperature, color, energy, and sightlines continue to be central elements of experimentation and exploration in her work today.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IN PRACTICE

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Janet Roche, MDS-DHH'17, Owner | Janet Roche Designs, LLC and CEO | Trauma-informed Design Society

Janet Roche, MDS-DHH'17, is a nationally recognized leader in trauma-informed, inclusive, and human-centered design. As the Founder and CEO of the Trauma-Informed Design Society and Janet Roche Designs, LLC, Janet is dedicated to shaping environments that promote healing, safety, and dignity—especially for individuals impacted by trauma, neurodiversity, aging, and cognitive disabilities.

Janet is the co-author of *Trauma-Informed Design: A Framework for Architects, Designers, and Other Practitioners* (2024) and the architect of the Trauma-Informed Design Certification Program, the first of its kind in the field. She also created the Trauma-Informed Design Evaluation Tool for K–12 Schools (TiDEvalK12), which received the EDRA CORE Award for research excellence.

As co-host and producer of the award-winning Inclusive Designers™ Podcast, Janet facilitates conversations at the intersection of neurodiversity, accessibility, adaptive technology, and inclusive environments. She is a sought-after speaker, presenting at ASID GATHER, EDRA, NEOCON, E-Cornell, and other national events. Her work has been featured in ArchDaily, Greenbuild, Dayhouse Studio Magazine, and The Boston Globe.

Janet holds a Master of Design in Human Health from The Boston Architectural College (BAC), a certificate in International Marketing from Harvard Extension, and a B.S. in Social Work from Boston University. She serves on several advisory boards and volunteers with organizations focused on adaptive sports, environmental stewardship, and inclusive community development. Janet has stayed connected to the BAC since her graduation in many ways: as an adjunct instructor, mentor to BAC students in work/study programs, avid event attendant, and as the Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) for two terms.

SELFLESS LABOR AWARD

Given to a volunteer in the BAC community who has worked tirelessly for an extended period to advance the College's mission. This individual embodies the spirit and ideals of the institution and continues to selflessly dedicate their time to the BAC. This award is named after Dean Arcangelo Cascieri's (1902–1997) "Selfless Labor" sculpture, which depicts worker bees working on behalf of the colony around a beehive. Candidates are individuals who have demonstrated exceptional volunteer leadership in support of the College.



Judy Nitsch, PE, LEED AP, Member I BAC Board of Trustees and Founding Principal (Retired) I Nitsch Engineering, Inc.

Judith "Judy" Nitsch, PE, LEED AP, is the founding principal of Nitsch Engineering, Inc., a 130-person firm headquartered in Boston, with offices in Richmond, VA, Washington, DC, and both Worcester and Lawrence, MA, with projects in 21 states and five countries.

Judy is a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with a BS in Civil Engineering, where she dedicated decades of her time to the WPI's Board of Trustees and other volunteer leadership positions. She has 40+ years of experience, has been a registered professional engineer in 27 states, and is a LEED Accredited Professional. She received an honorary Doctor of Science from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 2010 and received an honorary Doctor of Engineering from WPI in 2015. In 2011, Judy was named one of CE News Power List professionals for her work in the civil engineering discipline. She is a fellow of ASCE, ACEC, SWE, and SMPS.

Throughout Judy's career she has served and volunteered her time to numerous organizations. She is currently on the Board of Advisors of Eastern Bank, was the 2014 national president of CREW Network (Commercial Real Estate Women), a past president of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts, the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE, and the Society of Women Engineers - Boston Section. She serves as an outside director for Ayers Saint Gross Architects in Baltimore, MD; and for Pennoni Associates in Philadelphia, PA.

In addition to being the BAC's Chair of the Board from 2021-2025, Judy has taken on many governance and leadership roles at the College, including: Vice Chair of the Board, 2017-2021, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, 2018-19, Audit Committee, 2021, Development Committee, Member, 2016-present; Co-Chair, 2019-2021, Co-Chair Nominations Committee, 2016-2018, Governance Committee, Member, 2019-present; Co-Chair, 2019-2021, Overseer, 2013-2016.

Judy has been instrumental in the BAC's Campaign for the Campus, where in 2025 she gave one of the lead gifts focused on the historic preservation of the 951 Boylston Street building.

Before her involvement in the Campaign for the Campus, Judy and her late husband, James Anthony Magliozzi, '62, established the James A. Magliozzi, R.A. and Judith Nitsch, P.E. Endowed Fund in 2012, which supports campus building and infrastructure projects. Judy continues to contribute generously to the BAC and dedicates her time and talent in countless ways that advance the BAC and our mission. Her commitment to the College has been an inspiration.

Support the Next Generation of Designers

Now through April 27, invest in access—and in the future of design!

BAC students embody determination, creativity, and purpose—balancing practice, life, and study, just as generations of BAC alumni have done, while already shaping the future of the built environment. With your support, they can go even further.

We are building momentum to strengthen our Pre-College Design Access and College Student Access programs—expanding pathways into the profession and supporting students as they advance and succeed.

Our goal: \$30,000 by April 27 in support of BAC students!

We invite you to be part of this collective effort—investing in the next generation of practitioners and in the future of the field.

**Make your
gift today.**



Your support provides flexible, immediate resources that help BAC students continue their work, deepen their learning, and carry their ideas into practice.

Together, we can build pathways into design.

Questions?

Contact Director of Development, Ayla Walker at giving@the-bac.edu.



Thank you for joining us tonight!

Want to learn more about BAC engagement opportunities?
Please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at
alumni@the-bac.edu