



THE BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND, 2026

BERKLEE PERFORMANCE CENTER
136 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
BOSTON, MA 02115

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COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Processional	Pomp and Circumstance
Convening of Commencement and Congratulatory Remarks	Mahesh Daas, DPACSA President
Welcome from the Chair of the Board of Trustees	Marilyn Swartz-Lloyd Chair, Board of Trustees

GRADUATE REFLECTIONS

Introduction	Bethany I. Lundell Garver, AIA Dean and Faculty, Practice
Student Speakers	Rylee Beauvais, B.Arch. Alyssa Gibbons, M.Arch.

HONORARY DEGREES

Presentation Honorary Degrees	Mahesh Daas, DPACSA President
Alumni Excellence Doctor of Design Honoris Causa	Taniya Nayak, MSIA'03
Congratulatory Remarks	Taniya Nayak, MSIA'03
Public Service & Leadership Doctor of Design Leadership Honoris Causa	Lee Pelton
Congratulatory Remarks	Lee Pelton
Service to the College Doctor of Design Leadership Honoris Causa	Judith Nitsch, PE, LEED AP

Congratulatory Remarks	Judith Nitsch, PE, LEED AP
Professional Excellence Doctor of Design Honoris Causa	Mario Schjetnan
Commencement Address	Mario Schjetnan
Conferral of Degrees	<p>Mahesh Daas, DPACSA President</p> <p>Kellie Bean, Ph.D. Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs</p> <p>Richard Griswold, M.Arch. Dean of Students</p> <p>Donald Hunsicker, M.Arch. Dean, School of Design Studies</p> <p>Margarita Iglesia, M.Arch. Director, School of Landscape Architecture</p> <p>Denise Rush, FASID, IIDA, IDEC Dean, School of Interior Architecture</p> <p>Karen Nelson, M.Arch. Dean, School of Architecture</p>
Charge to the Graduates	Mahesh Daas, DPACSA President
Recessional	Triumphant March

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Alumni Excellence

Doctor of Design Honoris Causa—Taniya Nayak, MSIA'03

Boston Architectural College (BAC) Alumna Taniya Nayak, MSIA'03, is an internationally recognized interior designer, entrepreneur, and television personality whose career reflects the creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning that define the BAC experience.

As principal of Taniya Nayak Design, she has built a nationally respected design practice known for its sophisticated and approachable work across residential, hospitality, and commercial interiors. Her ability to blend luxury, functionality, and personality has established her as a leading voice in contemporary interior design.

Widely recognized for her television work, Taniya has appeared on numerous nationally acclaimed programs including HGTV's *Battle on the Beach*, ABC's *The Great Christmas Light Fight*, Food Network's *Restaurant: Impossible*, and HGTV's *Designed to Sell*. She can next be seen on the newest season of HGTV's *Rock the Block*, continuing to inspire audiences nationwide through her energetic presence, creative expertise, and passion for transforming spaces. Her work in both design and media has expanded the public's understanding of the impact thoughtful design can have on everyday life.

Throughout her career, Taniya has remained committed to mentorship, creativity, and elevating the profession of interior design. Her accomplishments as a designer, business leader, and media personality exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit and global reach of the BAC community. Through her innovative work and public platform, she continues to inspire future generations of designers while making a lasting impact on the industry.

Public Service & Leadership

Doctor of Design Leadership Honoris Causa—Lee Pelton

Lee Pelton is the President and CEO of The Boston Foundation, one of the nation's leading philanthropic organizations with more than \$2.2 billion in assets. Recognized in 2024 by The NonProfit Times as one of America's 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit leaders, Lee joined the Foundation in 2021 after serving as President of Emerson College (2011–2021) and Willamette University (1998–2011). Across his career in higher education and philanthropy, he has been a nationally recognized leader in advancing institutional excellence, equity, and civic engagement.

At The Boston Foundation, Lee has centered equity as the organization's defining mission, positioning it as an active agent for social change across Greater Boston. Under his leadership, the Foundation has expanded its focus on addressing structural inequities, including through initiatives such as the Racial Wealth Gap Partnership, a cross-sector effort aimed at increasing homeownership and closing racial wealth disparities in historically marginalized communities.

As a college president for more than two decades, Lee was widely recognized for his belief that higher education must serve both intellectual development and civic responsibility. He emerged as a national voice on issues of equity in education, including affirmative action, access, and the role of universities in addressing society's most urgent challenges. His leadership was marked by a commitment to strengthening institutions while expanding opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds.

Lee began his academic career at Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D. in English literature and later served in faculty and leadership roles, including as a member of the Harvard Board of Overseers. He also held senior academic appointments at Colgate University, Dartmouth College, and Willamette University. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has received numerous honors, including the 2024 Harvard Medal, the university's highest alumni honor.

Widely regarded as a civic leader and public intellectual, Lee has been recognized nationally and regionally for his contributions to education, social justice, and the arts. He serves on several prominent boards, including The Boston Symphony Orchestra, WGBH, the Barr Foundation, and the Urban Institute, and continues to be an influential voice in philanthropy, higher education, and civic life.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Service to the College

Doctor of Design Leadership Honoris Causa—Judith Nitsch

Judith “Judy” Nitsch, PE, LEED AP, is the founding principal (retired) of Nitsch Engineering, Inc., a 130-person firm headquartered in Boston with offices in Richmond, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Worcester, and Lawrence, Massachusetts, with projects in 21 states and five countries. With more than 40 years of experience, she is a registered professional engineer in 27 states and a LEED Accredited Professional, and a Fellow of ASCE, ACEC, SWE, and SMPS. In 2011, she was named to the CE News Power List for her leadership in civil engineering.

A graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with a BS in Civil Engineering, Judy has dedicated decades of service to WPI through its Board of Trustees and other volunteer leadership roles. Her contributions to the profession have been recognized with honorary Doctor of Science and Doctor of Engineering degrees from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and WPI.

Judy has held extensive leadership roles across the industry, including President of CREW Network, President of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts, President of the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section/ASCE, and President of the Society of Women Engineers–Boston Section. She also serves on the Board of Advisors of Eastern Bank and as an outside director for Ayers Saint Gross Architects and Pennoni Associates.

At The Boston Architectural College, Judy has provided extraordinary leadership, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees (2021–2025), Vice Chair (2017–2021), Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, and in key roles across the Audit, Development, Governance, and Nominations Committees, as well as Overseer. She has been instrumental in advancing the College’s mission through philanthropy, including a lead gift in the Campaign for the Campus supporting the preservation of 951 Boylston Street, and the establishment of the James A. Magliozzi, R.A. and Judith Nitsch, P.E. Endowed Fund.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Professional Excellence

Doctor of Design Honoris Causa—Mario Schjetnan

Internationally acclaimed landscape architect and urbanist Mario Schjetnan—recipient of the 2025 Cornelia Hahn Oberlander International Landscape Architecture Prize—is a Mexican architect, landscape architect, and urban designer recognized for his exceptional contributions to environmentally responsible design and urbanism. He graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and later earned a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and Urban Design from the University of California, Berkeley, followed by the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard University in 1984 for advanced environmental studies.

Mario is part of a generation of designers who responded to the environmental impacts of urban development by advancing new approaches to city-building grounded in ecological awareness, human well-being, and a more ethical relationship between people and the environment. His work integrates landscape, architecture, and urbanism to promote sustainable, human-centered design and improved quality of life.

His firm, Grupo de Diseño Urbano—founded more than 40 years ago—has led major urbanism, landscape architecture, and architectural projects across Mexico and internationally in the United States, Chile, China, and Lebanon. His work has received numerous awards in the United States, Italy, Argentina, and Mexico, including the 2015 Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award from the International Federation of Landscape Architects, its highest honor recognizing lifetime achievement in the field.

In 2019, Mario received the Elise and Walter A. Haas International Award from the University of California, Berkeley, and in 2022 he was awarded the Medal of Merit in Arts by the Mexico City Congress.

He has taught and lectured widely at institutions including Harvard University, UC Berkeley, the University of Virginia, the University of Texas, UNAM, and others across the Americas, Europe, Australia, and South Africa. He is a member of the Academy of Arts of Mexico, Emeritus member of the National Academy of Architecture, Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and founding member of the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects (SAPM).

PAST HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

2025	Benedetta Tagliabue James Ansara Frank Vitiello	2014	Polly Flansburgh Antonia Pollak Malcolm Rogers
2024	Tatiana Bilbao Richard Snyder	2013	Stephen Ayers H. Morse Payne Carl Sapers
2023	Daniel Libeskind Richard L. Martini, AIA, B.Arch'84	2012	Ada Huxtable Diane Kostial McGuire Henry Moss Alan Webber Vicente Wolf
2022	Billie Tsien	2011	M. David Lee Wilson Pollock Donald Stull Jane Thompson
2021	Balkrishna Doshi Francesco "Chip" Piatti	2010	Robert Campbell Ruth Ganong, '54 William Houseman Thomas Menino
2019	William J. Bates Harry Milton Falconer Susan Lewis Marion Pressley	2009	William Hodgkin Carol Johnson Marshall Purnell Frederick Stahl
2018	Susan Rodgerson Renata von Tscharnern Martha Schwartz	2008	Richard Fitzgerald Sarah Harkness Melvin King Robert Scagliotti, '69 Hugh Shepley
2017	Howard F. Elkus Kathleen Cown Rood Robert J. Vila	2007	Maurice Finegold Bernard Goba, '69 Paul Grogan Elsie Hurst Frederick Noyes Peter Steffian
2016	G. Neil Harper Marc Pelletier Moshe Safdie	2006	Lisa Bonneville Don Brown Carole Wedge, B.Arch '90 Jane Weinzapfel
2015	Arthur J. Hurley III Jeanne Pinado Gianfranco Zaccai, B.Arch '78	2005	Edward Allen George Terrien David Wexler

2026 ACADEMIC HONORS *and* AWARDS

You can access a full listing of the 2026 Academic Honors and Awards Recipients Below.



GRADUATES *of* 2026

Congratulations to the graduates of The Boston Architectural College!

BAC COMMENCEMENT HONORS

The BAC is proud to recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its students with the following commencement honors. Honors will be announced during the ceremony and later reflected on the students official transcript.

Undergraduate Students

Cum laude – designates students graduating with honors; grade point average of 3.25-3.499

Magna cum laude – designates students graduating with great honors; grade point average of 3.5-3.749

Summa cum laude – designates students graduating with highest honors; grade point average of 3.75-4.0

Graduate Students

With Distinction – designates students graduating with honors; grade point average of at least 3.75

MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES
Design for Human Health

Britney Bullock ◊
Fiona Dutta Δ
Anna Jackson
Krista Jimenez Δ
Christopher Whitcomb Δ

MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES
Historic Preservation

Mindy Chapman Δ
Jennifer DeRose Δ
Graham Foreman Δ
Ahmed Madani
Elizabeth Nicholson
Tiffany Pelzl-Grew
Whitney Robinson Δ
Maureen Studniarz Δ

MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES
Real Estate Development

Neslihan Atatimur Tanrikulu ◊
José Castillo-Pilcol ◊
Samira Drennen Δ ◊
Andrea Van Soest Δ ◊
Elyse Vilinsky Δ

MASTER OF DESIGN STUDIES
Sustainable Design

Sydney Adams Δ
Anika Childs Δ
Mary Doctorian Δ
Mayra Flores ◊
Michelle Hadorn Δ
Emma Hodges Δ
Joyeeta Iqbal
Valerie Morris Δ

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

Ziyuan Cao
Olivia Feldman
Julianne Gearhart ◊
Katie Johnson Δ
Hannah Osborn Δ
Zijie Zhou Δ

BACHELOR OF INTERIOR
ARCHITECTURE

Gianella Moyano #
Ian Setzer ◊
Berna Sevgi ◊

SumaCumLaude* MagnaCumLaude# CumLaude+
WithDistinctionΔ Valedictorian∞ Salutatorian·
IPALGraduate× DecemberGraduate◊

MASTER OF INTERIOR
ARCHITECTURE

Sarah Brouwer Δ
 Gurasees Dhingra ◇
 Elizabeth Frail Δ
 Trevon Hall Δ
 Kristina Nicole Mendoza Δ
 Isabella Niessen ◇
 Divya Sharma Δ ◇
 Hailey Smits Δ
 Madisyn Stearns
 Emily Wickstrom Δ

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
ARCHITECTURE

Joseph Kowalski + ◇
 Gregory Mateo +
 Richard McGinnis #
 Alana Montemayor ◇

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE

Tobias Albrecht #
 Zaina AlHajeri + ◇
 Rylee Beauvais * ∞
 Jharitza Cruz Lami #
 Shaojia Dan +
 Jack DiGeronimo # ◇
 Paula Galan #
 Aubrianna Hanlon
 Mack Mccarthy +
 Hussein Mohammed
 Donnie Nguyen + ◇
 Adetunji Okanlawon + ◇
 Leen Previlon ◇
 Constanza Reveco #
 Aye Ei San + ◇
 Alexia Seretean * ·
 Brooke Telfer #
 Winpichchormnimul Thun # ◇
 Cordelia Verge
 Saisha Voodi #

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

Katayoun Abbaschi
 Osama Abdelmaaboud
 Tarek Aboujaoudi ◇
 Oyeyemi Adeoye
 Stephany Altruda Δ ·
 Stefan Angelovski Δ ◇
 Ashley Apodaca ◇

SumaCumLaude* MagnaCumLaude# CumLaude+
 WithDistinctionΔ Valedictorian∞ Salutatorian·
 IPALGraduate× DecemberGraduate◇

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
 CONTINUED

Alyssa Baker ×
 Jacob Barbarossa Δ ◇
 Francesco Basile
 Ethan Baum Δ
 Uranbileg Bavuudorj Δ ◇
 Mauricio Bazan ◇
 Reginald Belgrave ◇
 Andrea Benitez Δ ◇
 Kristina Bodden
 Drusilla Brewer Δ ◇
 Connor Bruder Δ
 Trisa Bujard ◇
 Brandon Cassiday
 Kate Choo Chew Δ ◇
 Samantha Cozzi ◇
 Allen Crosnier Δ ◇
 Prathyusha Dammu ◇
 Akash Kumar Das Δ
 Anthony DeLisa
 Noah Dickey
 Julio Espana
 Mary Fahmy
 Reniel Fanini
 Camryn France
 Rodrigo Gallardo × Δ
 Sebastian Garcia
 Alyssa Gibbons Δ ∞
 Leanne Go Δ
 Margaret Green
 Angela Guillen
 Nandita Gupta ◇
 Vivian Gutierrez Δ
 Andres Gutierrez Albahari
 Sumaita Binte Habib Δ
 Andrew Hall
 Alexander Hellmann ◇
 Ashley Hlibok ◇
 Derek Holdge
 Bailey Hollingshead
 Chia Ching Hu
 Lupita Hurtado
 Charles Ireland ◇
 Achraf Issmail Δ ◇
 Kitty Jaldin-Wong Δ
 Tyler Johnson

SumaCumLaude* MagnaCumLaude# CumLaude+
 WithDistinctionΔ Valedictorian∞ Salutatorian·
 IPALGraduate× DecemberGraduate◇

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
CONTINUED

Taleasha Johnson
 Shriya Joshi Δ ◊
 Archit Karnik ◊
 Larsa Khatiti
 John Kowalik Δ ◊
 Nicholas Lager × Δ
 Hyebin Lim ◊
 Christina Madhat Δ
 Nayab Malik Δ ◊
 Giulia Mammi Δ
 Ashley Marino ◊
 Hayley Marsh ◊
 Santiago Mejia-Tejada
 Nisarg Ashok Mewada
 Anna Miles Δ
 Addison Mills ◊
 John Milne Δ
 Santiago Mogollon
 Stephen Mruk × Δ ◊
 Miranda Murphy
 Jacob Nagel
 Tanuja Naryal × ◊
 Amro Nial
 Hannah O'Brien
 Thomas Owens × ◊
 Juyoung Park ◊
 Shailly Karsanbhai Patel ◊
 Nidhi Jatin Patel
 Keval Patel
 Prajwal Sanjay Pawar
 Orea Plloci ◊
 Richa Prajapati
 Michael Pratt Δ
 Gabriela Quinonez Payan Δ
 Angelica Reyes-Miller
 Jace Rico
 Layla Ryan Δ ◊
 Francisco Saez Galvez
 Bennett Scheib Δ
 Laura Schmidt Δ ◊
 Peter Schoonveld ×
 Margaret Sharp Δ
 Atticus Shea Δ
 Derek Sneller ◊
 Berfin Sozer

SumaCumLaude* MagnaCumLaude# CumLaude+
 WithDistinctionΔ Valedictorian∞ Salutatorian·
 IPALGraduate× DecemberGraduate◊

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
CONTINUED

Lily Stewart Δ
Anthony Tan Δ ◊
Jesse-Ray Taylor ◊
Mykael Tucker ◊
Andrew Turgeon ◊
Jhanvi Vakil ◊
Samantha Veldhuis Δ ◊
Justin Vicente ◊
Simran Walia Δ
Tyler Walker
Keatan Wheeling ◊
Abigail Williams
Alexis Winston ◊
Maurene Witherow Δ
Keyanna Yerry Δ ◊
Suhib Zaher
Yizhi Zhang Δ

SumaCumLaude* MagnaCumLaude# CumLaude+
WithDistinctionΔ Valedictorian∞ Salutatorian·
IPALGraduate× DecemberGraduate◊

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

Established as The Boston Architectural Club in 1889, the BAC was a broad, inclusive community not just for architects but also sculptors, painters, decorative artists, exhibitions; and critiqued each other's work. Novice draftsmen could take affordable classes in subjects like planning, modeling, watercolor, and French from practiced professionals.

In the 1940s, Dean Arcangelo Cascieri replaced the classical Beaux-Arts system of architectural training with a modernist curriculum emphasizing history, theory, materials, methods, city planning, and architectural practice. The Club's name was changed to The Boston Architectural Center in 1944, creating a system of combined applied and theoretical learning that evolved into today's Practice component. The Center also moved its campus from Beacon Hill to its present location at 320 Newbury Street.

In 1971, the BAC's certificate became the first professionally accredited architecture program with a structured work component in the U.S. The interior architecture program began offering a bachelor's degree in 1993; graduate degrees in both disciplines were added in 1996. A Bachelor of Design Studies was introduced in 2004 and a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in 2007, followed by master's degrees in 2009 and 2010, respectively. In 2005, the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited the BAC's pioneering online Master of Architecture program—the first NAAB accredited low-residency Master of Architecture in the country.

Renamed The Boston Architectural College in 2006, the BAC expanded in 2007 with a historic building at 951 Boylston Street, by 2009, had the largest architecture faculty and student body in New England. It offers bachelor's and graduate degrees in architecture, interior architecture, landscape architecture, and design studies, as well as continuing education and pre-college programs. Nationally recognized for its outcomes-driven model of education, ranking as the #1 Bachelor of Architecture program and #2 Master of Architecture program in the nation by the U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard.

BAC TRADITIONS: COLLEGE SEAL & BLACK BERETS

Dean Arcangelo Cascieri (1902-1997) was a beloved and influential figure at the BAC, serving as chairman of the BAC's Educational Committee from 1936–1953 and as dean of the BAC from 1953–1995. He is remembered as a supportive and strong advocate for students and as someone who consistently radiated warmth and positivity. Dean Cascieri left a lasting imprint on the College, and he is the inspiration for two notable traditions: the beehive as a symbol of the College's dedication to selfless labor and black berets at Commencement.

For many years, BAC alumni informally adopted "Cascieri's Beehive" as the College's symbol. The original beehive sculpture by Dean Cascieri, entitled "Selfless Labor," which depicts a series of worker bees selflessly working on behalf of the colony around a beehive. It symbolizes the importance of working together to reach a common goal. In 2014, in honor of The Boston Architectural College's 125 anniversary, the BAC formally adopted the beehive as its official seal. The original sculpture by Dean Cascieri resides in the first floor meeting space, affectionately known as "The Beehive," of the College's 951 Boylston Street building.

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BOSTON
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COLLEGE

SINCE 1889