

# Alumni Awards

December 9, 2021





## **Congratulations and thank you to our 2021 BAC Alumni Award recipients!**

On behalf of the BAC's distinguished global community of students, alumni, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends, I am thrilled to recognize and celebrate the achievements of the outstanding leaders featured in this year's BAC Alumni Awards ceremony. Our honorees have distinguished themselves in the design professions as well as through service to community and to the BAC. By providing design education and resources to underserved youth and communities, designing inclusive and affordable housing, educating the next generation of design leaders, and much more—Prasanna Lachagari, Christopher Novelli, Adrienne Ott, and Joseph Porter have all found ways to make our society better.

In the wake of these world-changing times, I see the BAC emerging stronger and more resilient in every respect. This spring, we enrolled the largest incoming class in a decade, proving that more students are actively seeking the BAC's distinctive educational experience on-site and online. And employers continue to keenly pursue our students and graduates. The BAC is now ranked #1 in the country, ahead of Yale, Columbia, Berkeley, MIT and Harvard graduates for graduate earnings.

Our success is reflected in the success of our global alumni community. Thank you, BAC alumni, for your love for your alma mater and for working together with our amazing students, faculty, and staff to advance the BAC to the future.

To our honorees, you are absolutely awesome! Thank you!

Dr. Mahesh Daas, DPACSA President, ACSA  
Distinguished Professor

## BAC Alumni Advisory Council Message

The true measure of a college's greatness can be found in the achievements of its alumni, and The Boston Architectural College is honored to count tonight's extraordinary leaders as members of the BAC alumni community.

The 2021 BAC Alumni Awards recipients have all earned unique distinction through success in their professions, service to the College, and contributions to their community. On behalf of the BAC Alumni Advisory Council (AAC), I want to congratulate you and thank you for advancing the College's legacy of social justice and design excellence!

Beyond this evening's celebration, there are many ways to get involved and show your commitment to the BAC! Whether donating to the College, participating in a networking event, or mentoring students, you can make a difference at the BAC.

To Prasanna, Christopher, Adrienne, and Joseph: congratulations and thank you for your service to the architecture and design professions, our society, and to the College!

### **Janet Roche, MDS'17**

Chair, BAC Alumni Advisory Council

## BAC Alumni Advisory Council Members

- Janet Roche MDS'17 (Chair)
- Jacqueline Padilla-Perez MDS'17 (Co-Chair)
- James Vaseff B.Arch'71 (Co-Chair)
- Isra Banks M.Arch'16
- Asli Baran M.Arch'16
- Josh Barnett B.Arch'14
- Anddie Chan MIA'18
- David Deininger B.Arch'84
- Luis Perez Demorizi BLA'16
- Christopher Kurland M.Arch'12
- Anthony Frausto-Robledo M.Arch'96
- Rand Lemley B.Arch'17
- Charles Pelini M.Arch'17

### **Alumni Awards and Recognition Working Group**

The members of this Working Group reviewed all 2021 BAC Alumni Award nominees and selected finalists for the Council to approve.

- David Deininger B.Arch'84
- Christina Oliver '90 (BAC Alumni Ambassador)
- Janet Roche MDS'17

# BAC Alumni Awards Ceremony

## Welcome and Opening Remarks

### Alumni Awards Council Recognition

Janet Roche, MDS'17 | Chair, BAC Alumni Advisory Council

### Presidential Update

Dr. Mahesh Daas, DPACSA | President, ACSA Distinguished Professor

### BAC Board of Trustees Greetings

James A. Barrett, AIA, LEED BD+C, B.Arch'87

### Student Testimonial

Margarita Calhoun, B.Arch student

## Award Presentations

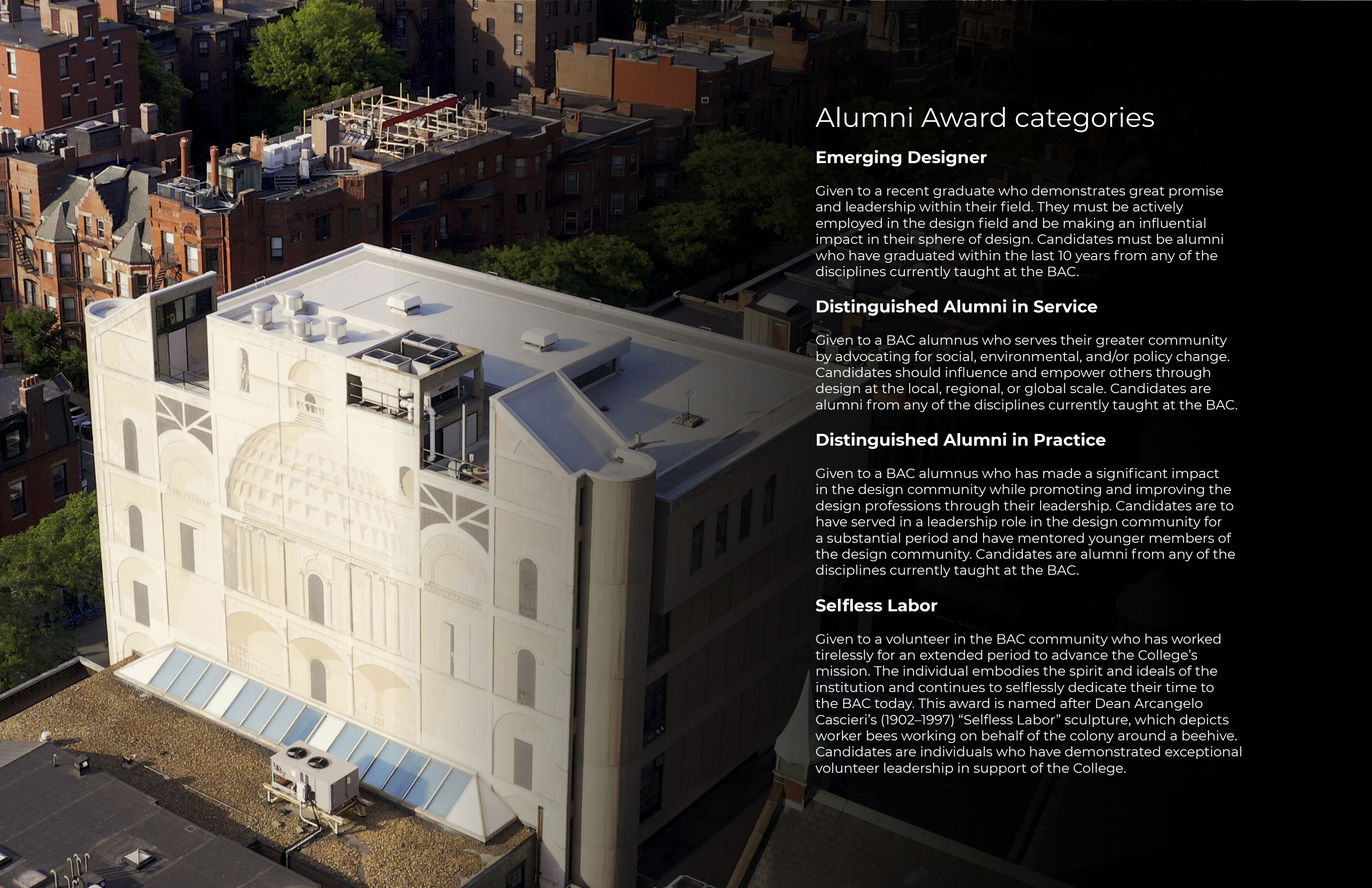
- Emerging Leader
- Distinguished Alumni in Service
- Distinguished Alumni in Practice
- Selfless Labor

## A Moment of Remembrance

## Closing Remarks

CASCIERI HALL





# Alumni Award categories

## **Emerging Designer**

Given to a recent graduate who demonstrates great promise and leadership within their field. They must be actively employed in the design field and be making an influential impact in their sphere of design. Candidates must be alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years from any of the disciplines currently taught at the BAC.

## **Distinguished Alumni in Service**

Given to a BAC alumnus who serves their greater community by advocating for social, environmental, and/or policy change. Candidates should influence and empower others through design at the local, regional, or global scale. Candidates are alumni from any of the disciplines currently taught at the BAC.

## **Distinguished Alumni in Practice**

Given to a BAC alumnus who has made a significant impact in the design community while promoting and improving the design professions through their leadership. Candidates are to have served in a leadership role in the design community for a substantial period and have mentored younger members of the design community. Candidates are alumni from any of the disciplines currently taught at the BAC.

## **Selfless Labor**

Given to a volunteer in the BAC community who has worked tirelessly for an extended period to advance the College's mission. The individual embodies the spirit and ideals of the institution and continues to selflessly dedicate their time to the BAC today. 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.

## Emerging Designer

Prasanna Lachagari, M.Arch'20  
Design Director | Partner | SDI Architecture

Prasanna Lachagari grew up in Hyderabad, India. While Pursuing her Bachelors of architecture at Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University, Hyderabad, India, Prasanna began teaching perspective sketching. In the span of five years, she taught and mentored more than 500 students, helping them navigate their plans, often revolving around getting into their dream architecture school. Prasanna still continues to mentor her students and assist them through their careers in Architecture.

Upon receiving a Bachelor of Architecture in India and becoming a licensed Architect, she moved to the United States to continue her education. In 2019, she graduated with her Master of Architecture and received commendations for excellence on her master's thesis from the Boston Architectural College. Prasanna's thesis investigated how architecture can help heal racism through self-reflection and promoting positive interactions.

Prasanna is now the Design Director at SDI Architecture in Boston, MA. In 2019, she became a Founding Partner of SDI's sister firm, SDI Design India in Hyderabad, transforming a Boston-based firm into an international company. Recently, Prasanna earned a spot as one of the Top 100 Leaders in Real Estate and Construction at the annual WRECONF (World Real Estate and Construction Forum) and was honored as one of the Boston Business Journal's 40 Under 40.

Currently, Prasanna is working on a non-profit effort to support the citizens of Kakinada, India by designing home accessories that can be made by the local residents, providing stable jobs and income. Simultaneously, she is designing a school for the same community to educate underprivileged children. In the US, Prasanna is working with the non-profit organization Hoops 4 Life to develop an educational and athletic complex in Waterbury, CT that will offer students options for career paths they may not have considered. She is also working with a developer to design a cultural center in southern Idaho, which includes a heritage museum, public market, and University of Idaho outreach center.

As a young, entrepreneurial woman of color in a male-dominated industry, Prasanna is grateful to be able to effect positive change. As she continues to grow within the industry, she is focused on finding new ways to express herself and continue to learn about the intersectionality of race and architecture.





## Distinguished Alumni In Service

Christopher J. Novelli AIA, NCARB, M.Arch'09  
Owner | Architect | n3 architecture

Chris Novelli, Owner and Principal Architect of n3 architecture lives in Hopedale, MA with his wife and three children. He received his Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2000 and then his Master of Architecture from the Boston Architectural College in 2009.

For the past twenty years Chris was a Project Architect at Studio One, Inc Architect-Planners where he completed more than 100 projects ranging from historical renovations, new construction, affordable housing and office buildings and educational facilities.

At n3 architecture, Chris focuses on custom single family residential and renovations to state affordable housing facilities throughout Massachusetts. He also is currently the host of the Home Design Academy Podcast, the Empty Lots Podcast and is also writing a book (to be released in late 2021-early 2022) to better help homeowners throughout all phases of their project.

Chris has also enjoyed being an educator as his career has flourished. He taught Advanced Studio / Thesis Studio and Degree Project Studio at the BAC and Construction Project Management at UMass Amherst.

Dedicated to his community, Chris is a volunteer serving on various committees including the Vision Task Force and the Vision Action Committee for Wilbraham, MA. Both of which are appointed committees serving under the planning board to analyze and lead community driven projects to make Wilbraham a better place to live and work. Chris is also currently a Board Member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of American Institute of Architects and a Board Member of AIA Massachusetts.

## Distinguished Alumni in Practice

Adrienne S. Ott, LEED AP BD+C, M.Arch'11  
Architectural Designer | ECCO Studios Co-founder

Adrienne Ott, M. Arch '11, is an architectural designer at world renowned architect Frank Gehry's firm, Gehry Partners, in Los Angeles, California, and the co-founder of ECCO Studios, a non-profit dedicated to teaching underserved youth architecture and design. While at Gehry Partners, she has assisted in the design of notable projects including Facebook's Menlo Park Campus, Abu Dhabi's Guggenheim Museum, and Colburn's Dance School and Concert Hall.

In her off-time, working at ECCO Studios as a green building instructor and executive director, Adrienne and her colleagues offer studios, workshops and seminars teaching skills in design and construction technology, green building techniques, digital fabrication, and workforce development to aspiring architects.

Adrienne graduated with a Bachelor of Integrative Arts from Penn State University before coming to The Boston Architectural College (BAC) for her Master of Architecture. While at the BAC, Adrienne's thesis advisor David Silverman, B. Arch '94, introduced her to YouthBuild, an international organization that teaches low-income young people construction skills. She went on to work with YouthBuild programs in Chicago and Waukegan, Illinois as a part- and full-time instructor, and volunteered with youth green building programs such as Blacks and Green before moving to Los Angeles, California. In the spring and summer of 2017, Adrienne, a USGBC Certified Green Professional Trainer, completed a part-time teaching position at Compton YouthBuild before graduating with a Post Grad Design of Cities degree from the Southern California Institute of Architects.

When hired at Gehry Partners, Adrienne was unable to continue teaching at Compton YouthBuild because they only offered classes during the week when she was at work. In 2018, Adrienne and her colleague, Dana McKinney, decided to start their own nonprofit, ECCO Studios, to teach underserved youth in the Los Angeles area about architecture and design. Adrienne and her colleagues are excited to see how far ECCO Studios has come, as many of their students have gone on to pursue architecture and interior design degrees while helping to diversify the design field at large.





## Selfless Labor

Joseph R. Porter, AIA, NCARB, M.Arch'16  
Senior Associate | Isgenuity

Joe is an architect, planner, and educator who loves helping people imagine and make better places.

By day, he is a Senior Associate at Isgenuity who has planned, designed, and managed complex construction projects in a variety of markets including healthcare, higher education, research labs, the restaurant industry, and workplace design. He is a specific resource for design strategy, Lean processes, environmental graphics, neurodiversity in design, and sustainability, and has presented on these topics nationally. He's worked with hundreds of project teams but is currently focused on a 185,000+ sf clinical and research space at Boston Children's Hospital including the new Brain, Mind & Behavior Center in Brookline.

By night, he is an Instructor at the Boston Architectural College, where he has taught numerous courses on architectural history spanning from prehistory to the contemporary moment--both online and in person. He co-created Future Artifacts: a speculative design workshop, has presented faculty development initiatives, reviews portfolios, and served on the Presidential Search Committee, Employee Advisory Network, and Alumni Council as its Academic & Life-long Learning Chair.

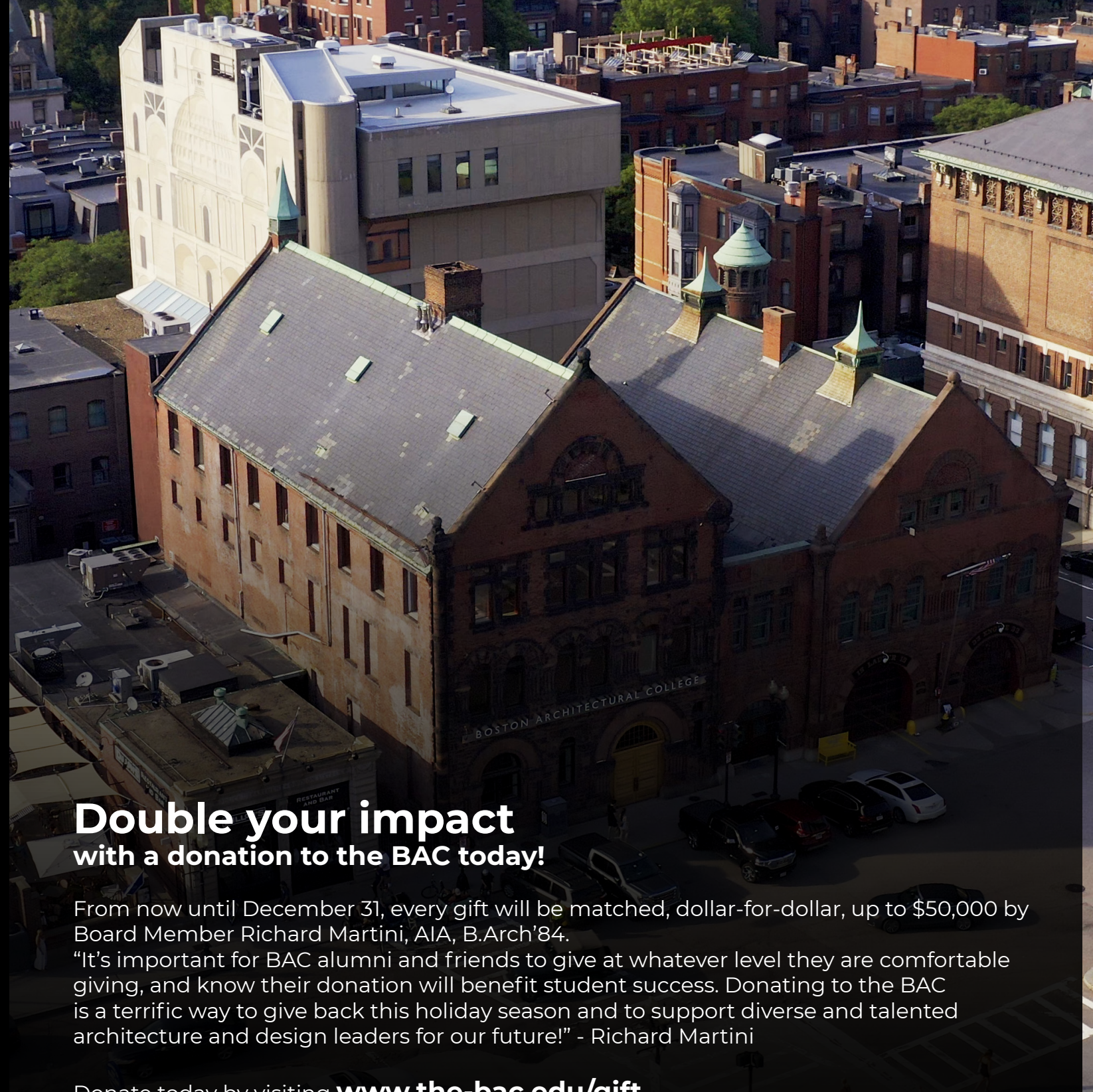
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Your gifts help lighten my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school: learning. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as your support helps me.

”



- Yasmine Badawi B.Arch'23



## Double your impact with a donation to the BAC today!

From now until December 31, every gift will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000 by Board Member Richard Martini, AIA, B.Arch'84.

"It's important for BAC alumni and friends to give at whatever level they are comfortable giving, and know their donation will benefit student success. Donating to the BAC is a terrific way to give back this holiday season and to support diverse and talented architecture and design leaders for our future!" - Richard Martini

Donate today by visiting [www.the-bac.edu/gift](http://www.the-bac.edu/gift)

## The BAC Fund

Unrestricted annual support to the BAC provides essential resources for the College's current operational expenses. While we are a tuition-driven organization, student tuition only provides a portion of the funds needed to run the BAC in the 21st century. Gifts to The BAC Fund immediately enhance our students' design education by funding resources for curriculum development, student academic services, technology, and investments in our faculty.

**Thank You  
for joining us tonight!**

With questions or to get engaged with the BAC,  
please reach out to the Office of Institutional  
Advancement at [alumni@the-bac.edu](mailto:alumni@the-bac.edu)