

NOOR UL AIN
CANDIDATE FOR 2019-2020 AIAS
NORTHEAST QUAD DIRECTOR



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NOOR UL AIN

2019-2020 NEQ DIRECTOR
CANDIDACY PACKET

Keshika de Saram, AIAS Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20006

16 November, 2018

Dear Past President de Saram,

The biggest takeaway for me from my first conference was that I did not have to wait until I graduate to be involved in the architecture community. I had no idea that within a few months I would go on to run for my chapter's leadership, bid for and host REACH Quad, and share a personal story of overcoming adversity at Grassroots.

With the American Institute of Architecture Students, I have had the opportunity to develop the most transformative and meaningful relationships of my life. My experience with the AIAS has been life-changing to say the least.

Please accept this as my formal declaration to run for the 2019-2020 Northeast Quadrant Director so I may empower others the way so many in the AIAS have empowered me.

While I am grateful for the opportunities the AIAS has opened for me as an architecture student, I know that there are many who have not felt included. In schools, we have made progress on the gender front, but we still have our work cut out for us if we want to create a racially inclusive profession.

I believe the value of the AIAS is in its diverse membership. We need to embrace this diversity and do all we can to champion the voices the architecture profession has historically ignored. Serving on the Advocacy Task Force and as Co-Chair of the Resiliency Task Force with my friend Chitika Vasudeva has given me a glimpse into the power our different voices hold. I recognize the importance of creating space at the table for different voices, and in instilling passion and confidence in my peers to speak. Through being compassionate and engaged listeners, we learn to become citizen architects that will create agency of the communities we design for.

Thank you for taking the time to review my candidacy. Your voice inspired the call to action at my first forum and it is exciting to see things come full circle this year.

Respectfully,

Noorulain

Noor Ul Ain

NOOR UL AIN
2019-2020 NEQ DIRECTOR
CANDIDACY PACKET



The City College
of New York

Keshika de Saram, AIAS Past President
American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20006

November 16, 2018

Re: Northeast Quad Director Recommendation for Noor Ain

Dear Keshika de Saram,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the candidacy of Noor Ain, AIAS, in the role of 2019 Northeast Quad Director. Her passion for architecture, resilience, equity, diversity, inclusion, and helping others has led her to be a role model amongst her peers. Over the years, I have seen many of our AIAS CCNY leadership come and go with a limited focus within the school and / or NYC. Noor's leadership here at CCNY has been unique, as it expands beyond the school. She has been active in collaborating with other local NYC AIAS chapters on student initiatives, and most recently it has been exciting to see her interest extend to Advocacy & Leadership beyond NYC, through the AIAS National Advocacy Task Force, and most recently the Resiliency Task Force.

I first met Noor, two years ago at the AIANY Center for Architecture at an AIA members town hall, where she addressed the room to talk about the importance of advocacy and engaging architecture students with the architecture profession. As a past AIAS CCNY member myself, I am thrilled to see the work done under her leadership on behalf of AIAS, in rebuilding the chapter to an active one that was able to host over 400 students in NYC for the Northeast Quad Conference this past spring.

As the student liaison with the CCNY Architecture Alumni she has been instrumental in connecting students to Alumni in a variety of Speed Mentoring Programs, Resume Workshops as well as Firm Tours. In addition to her work with AIAS and the Alumni, she is active with NOMAS, as Co-Founder of the NOMAS chapter here at CCNY, focused on programs related to equity, diversity & inclusion.

She has been one of the few active students engaged with the AIANY Diversity & Inclusion committee, and participated as a panelist in the Next Gen Arch Symposium, with faculty and school administration focused on evaluating the equity, diversity & inclusion of the academic pipeline. Too often in the academic conversation, the voices of the students are not heard, and it has been inspiring to see her share her story and advocate on behalf of students in these conversations.

She is always eager to assist in pushing forward new initiatives focused on supporting architecture students of all backgrounds and advocacy within the profession. I believe her efforts on behalf of supporting Students, promoting advocacy efforts in Architecture with a focus on resilience, equity, diversity & inclusion make her an ideal candidate for the 2019 Northeast Quad Director for AIAS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Venesa Alicea'.

Venesa Alicea AIA, NOMA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP
President CCNY Architecture Alumni Group | Alumni Association CCNY
CCNY Spitzer School of Architecture | Architect Licensing Advisor

NOOR UL AIN

Objective: To connect and empower the builders of tomorrow.

CONTACT

Email: noor.cny@gmail.com
Phone: + (347) 421-0895
LinkedIn: noor-ul-ain
Instagram: noor_u_ain
Website: noor.space

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE
The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
City College of New York, Expected graduation, May 2020

ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING
Brooklyn Technical High School, Jun 2015

LEADERSHIP

AIA New York State I Student Director
National AIAS Resiliency Task Force I Co-Chair
CCNY NOMAS I Co-Founder
AIAS | Chapter Vice President
NCARB | Student Licensing Advisor
USG | Architecture Senator

SERVICE

CUNY Service Corps - Puerto Rico
National AIAS Advocacy Task Force I Member
NAAB Accreditation Team I AIAS Representative
Freedom by Design | Chapter Member
CCNY GREEN I Volunteer

EXPERTISE

Autodesk AutoCAD and Inventor
Rhinceros 3D and V-Ray
Adobe Suite
Microsoft Office
Revit Architecture and Sketchup

LANGUAGES

English, Urdu, and Punjabi
Arabic, Spanish, and French

EXPERIENCE

ATHWAL ENGINEERING | FROM JUL 2016 - PRESENT
CAD Designer

Produces and maintains complete sets of detailed, scaled CAD drawings of MEP systems in accordance with specifications and design drawings for residential and commercial projects
Assists in preparing construction documents and shop drawings

LOWLINE LAB | FROM FEB 2016 - APRIL 2017
Ambassador

Connects with visitors and educated them on the use of mirrors and optics to redirect sunlight to grow plants at the prototype of the Lowline, the world's first underground park.
Assists in facilitation of community events, hosted at the Lowline Lab as well as large public community design workshops

HIGH STANDARDS | FROM MARCH 2016 - JULY 2016
CAD Designer and Product Development Intern

Produced 3D Models of product as well as detail drawings to be used as template by jewelry caster
Worked to build an on-line presence through creating original images to be launched on High Standards social media channels

GREENPOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | FROM MAY 2015 - JAN 2016
Data Collection and Social Media Intern

Recruited volunteers and advertised for 4 clean up day events
Helped lead volunteer groups with collecting data on each clean up day and recording data
Conducted on the ground trash can census throughout the neighborhood
Developed social media proposal to increase online activity of the CWL campaign through the use of Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

GROUNDSWELL | FROM SEP 2013 - DEC 2016
Mural Artist and Program Intern

Collaborated with teens, artists, community organizations, elected officials and funders to research and implement fabrication of large-scale mural projects across 5 boroughs.
Researched and prepared presentations on social issues relevant to mural projects. Past projects focused on immigration history and reform, environmental justice, race, and gender violence.
Assisted with special events such as yearly Art Auction Benefit and serving as spokesperson for Groundswell.

NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | FROM SEP 2012 - DEC 2014
Stage Manager and Student Aide

Directed and coordinated 60 students as well as 8 staff members, supervising and assisting in duties of set design, construction, and painting, prop building, arranging costumes, lighting design, sound design and communication between the board and cast for shows.
Assisted in planning and facilitation of city-wide events and conferences.

1. Describe your origin story as a student leader. What prompted you to get involved? What advice would you give others who have yet to realize their potential for leadership?

My story can be traced back to being 16, feeling powerless against a biased justice system. There were a whole deal of things that were out of my control at the time, I was involved in two major court cases as a minor, I could be taken out of school at any time, and the media had spun my story in so many different ways. While I was studying architecture at the time, I found solace outside of the classroom, in a little art studio in Brooklyn. Working with other youth, we took on issues of race, sex, gentrification, economic inequalities and a myriad of other issues. For a few hours every day, I got an opportunity to focus on issues bigger than me. When I would go to studio, I got to take control of my narrative and fight for what I cared about. I realized that all the different issues we discussed were connected and we all had to work together to create collective change. With no intention of leading, but rather an intention to unite to create change, I found my voice. Since then I have held several leadership positions, but I have always led through listening. I am continuously working to create spaces where I can include as many voices as possible, and to learn about what I can do to empower. My intention is not to lead but to create a more just and inclusive world. My advice for others would be to recognize the value of your voice. Your voice gives you the power to build. Know what makes you different. Hone your difference, your individual experiences and understand the strength in difference. What makes you unique is worth fighting for, and once you do that, you will find a community that is standing right behind you. Every single one of us has had different experiences, but we all have a responsibility to ourselves and our communities to create a world that is better than the one we grew up in.

2. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, studio culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. What one issue do you personally find the most important? How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS National Board of Directors?

I am grateful that I entered the AIAS during such a pivotal time in the organization, when student voices are leading the conversations on diversity and equity in our schools and profession, on advocating for sustainable resilient planning, in combating climate change and numerous other issues. Serving on the Advocacy Task Force, as Co-Chair of the Resilient Task Force, and on the AIANY Diversity and Inclusion Committee has allowed me the opportunity to hear many of these voices and learn what they are passionate. They have shown me the immense power we have to shape the profession we are entering. However, there is one issue that I personally find the most important - health and wellness.

This past summer I had a special opportunity to share my personal story of overcoming adversity, and the post-traumatic stress that followed, at the AIAS Grassroots Leadership Conference. I was terrified to share this, worried I would be perceived as weak or vulnerable. Immediately following the story share, I was floored with supportive messages along with many opening up to me about their own experiences. I could never have imagined the stories I would hear. I felt honored that people I had just met trusted me with their personal stories of hardship, especially in dealing with mental health issues in a society that has stigmatized the issues to no end. I also feel a responsibility to do something on account of these stories, to change a culture that allows these issues to be swept under the rug. There is a direct correlation between an education that has a reputation for being brutal and unforgiving, architecture students not seeing the light of day has been a narrative well known and encouraged for generations. Architecture professors went through the cycles of all-nighters and have no problem subjecting their students to the same. Anything for the sake of developing your talent to the fullest - which in turn leads to the normalization of toxic workplace environments. In a recent NY Times Op-Ed, an architect named Stella Lee argued "the acceptance of suffering easily slips into normalizing sexual misconduct and its suppression as simply part of the practice." When we are willing to sacrifice our values and self-care for exceptional design, the profession as a whole suffers. This is unacceptable. (Continued on next page)

The AIAS has started to address this issue with the Health and Wellness Task Force this year, as well as with the Studio Culture Policy. However, we must do more. We need to have more regular discussions on the issues of mental health in architecture schools and work together to destigmatize these issues. One way to do this would be through an online forum, to show students they are not alone, as well as to bring awareness to the culture of architecture schools that perpetuates unhealthy practices. We need to create resources for students to equip them with the tools they need to create a healthy environment for them to succeed in. This could begin with AIAS members and chapter leaders, who would bring them to their schools and eventually into their offices. Furthermore, healthy learning culture cannot just be a thought or a gesture, it needs to become an absolute requirement in our schools and something that is enforced along with our curriculum. Our generation will not be one to excuse injustices in our studios or offices.

3. The AIAS has over 160 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size from just a few students to hundreds. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?

One way to engage and connect our geographically and culturally diverse membership could be with an international mentorship program. Something Amy Rosen did when she was our Northeast Quadrant Director was pair chapters based on their strengths and weakness, each chapter got a mentor as well as a mentee. This mentorship is exactly what we should foster and grow. Each Quad also has different strengths and weakness, so it may be fruitful to do a global mentorship program, so we can support each other across different time zones. Not everyone can make it to our national conferences so this could be a way to keep connect and engage chapters in various regions throughout the year.

4. Describe one area in which you see an untapped opportunity for the AIAS to engage in a new way. Either with other organizations, with school faculty and administrators, with the profession, with the international design community, or any other audience or venue.

United through service. This past summer I had the opportunity to devote myself to recovery and rebuild efforts in Hurricane Maria affected areas of Puerto Rico. I was one of many other student volunteers selected to participate in the initiative, along with volunteers from Americorps, some Non-Profit workers and a few local volunteers. I was one of the only people who had any construction knowledge, and the only one who planned to pursue a career in building. Yet, teams of individuals who had no prior building knowledge were able to put roofs over hundred of residents. We were able to make a huge difference in the lives of people who had otherwise been ignored and left to fend for themselves following disaster. I can only imagine the impact architecture students could have if given the same opportunity.

Our network of architecture students and mentors has tremendous potential to create tangible change in the lives of the less fortunate. In recent years, many of us know, or have first-hand been affected by disaster. In our discussions, the Resiliency Task Force has explored different initiatives we could create for architecture students to give back. I think one of the best ways to unite our membership, celebrating its diversity, and bringing together people of all walks of life, is to unite through service. This could be through a design-build project in one of our local communities, or perhaps it could be done adjacent with one of our quad or national conferences, in the communities we would be visiting. For example, our spring quad conferences are sometimes around spring break. Let's say the conference was in South Carolina one year, maybe there could be a program in which some students arrived the week prior to the conference and dedicated it to rebuilding a home for a community member. There are several organizations that are already on the ground working and in need of volunteers, they could make meaningful allies. This could be an extraordinary initiative in advancing leadership in design, while uniting for service.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Noor UI Ain

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: Noorulain

Date: November 16, 2018



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates, Board members and elections committee members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Past President.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.

As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: Noor UI Ain

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature: Noorulain

Date: November 16, 2018

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): Noor UI Ain

Chapter: City College of New York

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Past Positions

Email Address: noor.ccnyc@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 347-421-0895

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- Facebook: noorain6
- Twitter: @
- Instagram: noor_u_ain
- Other:



NOORULAIN

2019-2020 NORTHEAST QUAD DIRECTOR