

11/15/18
Amelia Rosen
AIAS Past President,
1735 New York Ave.,
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Amelia,

I intend on running for AIAS National President for the 2018-2019 forum in Toronto. My first forum was in Boston, when Sarah Wahlgren was president and Rachel Law was Vice President. I remember the strength they had to what they were speaking about. It was confident and powerful. Most importantly, their work helped students all over the country. I knew after that conference that I'd run for national president one day. I ran for Quad director last year, which didn't turn out in my favor but I still knew I'd run for president regardless. I remember Sarah encouraging me to reach for it, even when I had so much doubt. Keshika was an inspiration as well because I finally saw someone that looked like me on the national stage. Not literally, but it showed me anything's possible! You were a big inspiration as well through your committed work with the organization. You made a lot of great changes during a difficult transition as well as illuminate your passion a mile away!

Something that we don't do in the organization as well as in architecture schools enough is discussed minority issues. It honestly never hit me that I'd have troubles in the field based on what I looked like. It wasn't till a year ago that I fully realized issues I'd face in the field. No one told me, I had to find out and educate myself. This is why I brought a NOMAS chapter to my school. I'm Co-founder of the club and it's something that I'm very proud to have started within my school.

The biggest question I'm sure I'll be asked is, why I'm running in the first place. Well, it's because I know what it feels like to be the quiet kid that's a ghost. I know what it feels like to feel like the world falling around you and no one could ever understand. I know what it feels like not to have a voice. I've been through so much in my life that I can relate to several experiences as well as help others get past them. I'm running because I want to speak for the voiceless on a national level. I've done a lot of local work at my school and I'm now ready to take it to the next step. No one should feel like their opinion doesn't matter. No one should have to think about their skin color when applying for jobs. We must break the social norms of the industry and that can just take one voice. Hopefully, it's mine as well as the thousands of others I want to stand up with me.

Sincerely,
Himesh Patel

Himesh Patel

 1855 Broadway, New York, NY, 10023

 817-680-2637

 Hpate131@nyit.edu

Skills

Revit



Rhino



AutoCad



Photoshop



InDesign



Illustrator



Power Point



Photography



Social Media



Languages

English



Guiurati



Spanish



Education

New York Institute of Technology— New York, NY

August, 2020

I was a strong student leader across the school while working every semester, in addition to being a full-time student. I used my platform to have a voice in my department to address student issues and increase student involvement.

Work Experience

Intern at Perkins Eastman—New York, NY

April 2019 – December, 2019

I received a wide scope of learning experiences and opportunities. This included getting to work with several architects and really learning the ins and outs of the field.

Intern at Hal Dorfman Architect—New York, NY

September 2018 – April, 2019

Worked in Revit and Autocad to produce construction documents and 3D models. The internship also included client meetings, site visits, and personal mentorship.

Intern at Baron Design Inc.—New York, NY

January, 2016—May, 2016

Baron Design Inc. is an Interior design company. Assisted principle architect with communications with engineers as well as clients.

Studio Professor Assistant—NYIT, New York, NY

September, 2016 – December, 2019

Assisted studio professors with critiquing design, work organization, and graphics.

Orientation Leader/First Year mentor—NYIT, New York, NY

July, 2016 – January, 2018

Student Advisor at NYIT School of Management—New York, NY

August, 2015—May, 2017

Volunteer/ Leadership Experience

AIAS Chapter President—New York, NY

Member since 2015

I've attended 6 conferences around the country as well as run for National President.

NOMAS Chapter Founder—New York, NY

2018-Present

I've attended 6 conferences around the country as well as run for National President.

UNICEF

2009-Present

For 8 years I've managed to raise thousands of dollars for UNICEF. Started a fundraiser Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF at my high school; it continues to raise money till this day.

New York, November 2019

RE: Recommendation Letter on behalf of Himesh Patel

To whom may this concern:

I am writing on behalf of Himesh Patel whom I consider to be a very diligent and motivated student, always eager to learn, and very active member of our NYIT community.

As professor of Architecture and Urban Design in several European and American schools, and as researcher and practitioner in the field, I have spearheaded and coordinated a wide range of researches and design projects, including pro-bono work, which integrate architecture and landscape urbanism, within contexts as varied as the globe. I am currently Associate Professor and Chairperson at the School of Architecture and Design of the New York Institute of Technology, where I'm also Coordinator of the International Exchange Program with the School of Architecture of Politecnico di Milano, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, Co-Coordinator of the Summer Program Abroad and teacher and Coordinator of the final Thesis Studio and theory courses. I took part to several International Design Competitions and Lectures, receiving awards and honorable mentions, and organized Symposia and Exhibitions focused on urban issues - including understanding of transforming urban ecologies and adaptation of cities and post-industrial landscapes to climate change. Several of my projects and writings have been published in books and magazines. I have also served as guest critic in final juries at universities and institutions worldwide, and for several years I have been member of the Fulbright Committee. This background gives me a unique perspective on Mr. Patel's contributions to the field of architecture and design.

I met Himesh three years ago during our Summer Semester Program in Spain, but by then I was already aware of his commitment and hard work for our school as member of the AIAS, which he became Chapter President of. Since then he also co-founded the NOMAS Chapter, which clearly shows his full commitment in finding ways to help our community to grow and improve.

Himesh is a good student, who always actively participates to the discussion in class, he works hard on his assignments with a proactive predisposition towards research, which he pursues with maturity and dedication. During our Semester Abroad, Himesh was always prepared and participated with deep passion to conversations with faculty and invited guests in formal and informal working sessions. He was very collaborative with his classmates and able to perform at very good level despite the intense and sometimes stressful rhythm of work and schedule.

His design proposal for the development of an ecologically oriented waterfront of the Besos River in Barcelona, which explored processes of reclaiming and reusing of natural and built environments, was then appreciated during the final reviews with prestigious invited guests in the school abroad.

Himesh is currently part of my Thesis group for the two semesters studio at the end of the five-year B.Arch. program that he is part of in the School of Architecture and Design at NYIT. His interest towards processes of sustainable urban growth and resilient cities, led to the exploration of new possibilities for agricultural production towards a more balanced economic and social development of the city of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Prior to the individual design development, which will take place during the Spring Semester, this Fall 2019 Himesh has been working in team to understand the multidisciplinary and multiscale systems of cause/effects that have generated the current conditions of the city of Rio, understood in its projection within the global and territorial frames. Political, economic, cultural, social issues and their translation in spatial qualities regarding informal settlements and urban ecologies, have been investigated and decoded by Himesh and the team in a very mature way, leading to interesting and creatively original mapping and diagramming processes, which have been greatly appreciated during their midterm discussion.

Himesh's dedication to the work, his ability to consistently manage the production of the team and coordinate the high level of the results, underlines his qualities as leader and coordinator, also witnessed by his proactive participation to students and faculty meetings in which his presence in support of our students and of the overall academic community is crucial.

I support Himes Patel's candidacy for this position as AIAS National President, and I'm sure that this will give him the chance to keep working hard to make and be the difference.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information or comment.

Best,



Giovanni Santamaria, P.h.D., Chair
Associate Professor School of Architecture and Design
New York Institute of Technology
1855 Broadway New York, NY 10023
phone: 212-261-1779
email:gsantama@nyit.edu

Letter of Support
AIAS Nationals
1735 New York Ave.
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Nationals,

I'm a member of the AIAS club at NYIT-Manhattan. I'm not an officer of the AIAS club, but I am for the NOMAS club. Himesh is the president of both clubs. I honestly don't know how he does it all. He runs both clubs, is on a national task force for AIAS, does a lot of department work at our school (advocating for students), works 20 hours a week, has thesis, and is a full-time student. He also manages to go to the gym! He's always been involved every semester. He was an orientation leader, first-year mentor, student advisor, and has been in several other activities. Some people do positions to put on a resume, but Himesh truly loves the work he does. I'm his roommate also so I know how late he sleeps every night and the daily difficulties he goes through. He wakes up early and ends his day so late, yet brings energy for work or during one of our events. I've known him since first coming to college. He's completely transformed not just in losing a lot of weight but also in his work. He's always the most driven student in the class and is an inspiration for several underclassmen.

Our school is very diverse, especially being in the center of Manhattan. Bringing NOMAS to NYIT was a lot of work for him but he had a goal, and nothing was going to stop him. Once he has his mindset on something, I know he'll achieve it.

There are several students who work hard or say they do it for the people. But Himesh really goes the extra mile with everything he does. I asked him before why he puts so much on his plate. His response was because it was his passion. He wanted other students to realize how great AIAS was, for which he promotes all the time. You can tell that it really comes from a place of passion. He has a million other things to put on his resume so he doesn't really need this, but he does it because he knows the huge impact that can be made. You won't find anyone nearly as driven, hard-working, or passionate as Himesh Patel.

I hope this helps his candidacy.

Sincerely,
Karen Guetat

Himesh Patel Election Questions:
AIAS National President Candidate

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?

I've been a student leader for almost 10 years. As a young colored person in Texas, I felt very separated from everyone. I didn't have a voice for so long and was one of those shy kids. I started to get involved in Junior High with the International club. They were involved with UNICEF and spread diversity. I wanted to try something new so I got involved with being in the club. I raised 200\$ on my own for UNICEF and this really boosted my drive for helping others. I knew the impact I was making and I was very resilient. I then ran for a lower leadership position the following semester. It was great to be a part of something special and to actually have a voice. Fast forward to today, I've been a leader in 15 organization and even started 3. I grew with each role, and so did my passion/resiliency. It wasn't easy because of school and other things I was involved in but it made me stronger. Most importantly, it gave me the voice I wasn't born with. I would recommend someone to simply just join a club. Actually going to events and meetings will make them realize how much more is out there. Also, I would advise the student to go for an organization they are passionate about. In this way, it's just not just putting something on a resume, but being part of a group of people that share the same interests and vision for what you want to grow from. I'm president of my NOMAS chapter and I have many students only join our club because of students wanting a place to feel represented. Lastly, I would tell them to not live life with regrets as well as take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself.

2. Describe your leadership style. Explain how previous experiences working with teams have helped you discover your leadership style.

My current leadership style has developed a lot throughout the years. In the beginning, I was just learning. My first president role was honestly really difficult. Many people in my school didn't have the same passion and drive as me. This meant me having to pick up a lot of slack which made me learn more but it also was unhealthy. It took me until just a year ago to think about my health. We normalize mental health too much in the world. Life is like a balance. I believe in shooting for the stars, but what's the point if you've reached your goal and that's the only thing in your life. I've used these principles to balance my leadership style. Not everyone also has the same experience. I'm the president of two clubs at school right now and I'm working from scratch. All the officers are new to leadership roles, so instead of doing all the work myself I learned not just deviate work, but also teach them how to do it properly. This way, they can do it the next time. It can be frustrating of course but I always make sure they're comfortable but also know they need to get the job done. Overall, my leadership style has grown to be able to communicate with others in a grounded way. I make sure they know what the task is, how to do it, and ask me if they have any questions. I will get tough when the task isn't done and it's past the deadline. In these circumstances, I have a professional conversation with them as well as check on them the day before the deadline to see how it's going. I also know when I don't need to be in charge and let others go for it. In general, I'll jump in if no one is able to but I like to now push others to take that leap like I used to.

3. 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, learning and teaching 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?

The biggest issue I want to address is students breaking the stigma of what it means to be an architecture student, within their own school. I don't say chapters because they're the ones who make studio culture policies, where funding comes from, and who is in charge of our education. I've personally done a lot of department work at my school. It's been really difficult especially trying to speak up as a student but it's important that students take their education in their own hands. We pay tens of thousands of dollars every year. Some people come from outside the country. Architecture students deserve the best education possible. This is also why AIAS chapter leaders are so important. They're the ones with the platform to talk to the department, and we need to take advantage of that more. I will use this power to first address the lack of sustainability classes within schools. Even schools with "sustainability classes" don't really teach it properly. I know implementing this criteria to NAB has been proposed, but I want to really push it through. There isn't usually contact with AIAS national and individual architecture schools so I also want to use the platform to push schools to pay for architecture students AIAS membership when entry into the school, having department meetings with students involvement, as well as improving studio culture. This isn't a regular duty, but it's something I feel should be the main way of changing the negative norms of studio culture.

4. The AIAS has over 250 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?

Many students know about our international chapters. We have a task force for this but I want to push the marketing for AIAS more on the national level. There's plenty of American private schools all over the world. We should be taking advantage of this opportunity to increase membership. I want to install a plan for international chapters to receive funding for coming on the trip. We can financially secure this by having just one student trip paid for so that they can go back to their chapters and inform them how amazing the conference was. I've personally met chapters from Rio, Mexico, Egypt as well as other locations. They bring a rich diversity to the conversation as well as educate students on other experiences of being an architecture student. This widened network will help the organization grow and become even stronger.

5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term. The second portion is to have them more engaged in national competitions as well as conferences.

The role of the president of AIAS is the most important position. Students really look up to them and I hope I can do justice to the position. First, having a voice is important to own. As I discussed before, I was grown up to follow not lead. I took it into my own account on fighting for what I believe in as well as being the main leader in situations. I've talked to rooms full of people as well as consistently run meetings through the past 8 years so the position wouldn't be too new for me. It's at a much higher scale of being able to coordinate and speak adequately but I'm ready for it. I love talking to people and in front of people about major issues. I also want to make sure that everyone's voice is being heard around the table, not just mine. In roles, I like to make sure everyone has a say, even if they're shy to say something. This can lead to the best ideas. I also want the AIAS to have a bigger role in studio culture as well as national policies for education. We started this with going to capitol hill last year but I want to push the work further. We don't discuss mental health enough and it's time to change that stigma. Lastly, I will see to it that we create a universal studio culture policy that addresses diversity, inclusion, mental health, as well as professors' duties as educators.

6. 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.

First, social media needs to be expanded. I've run 5 accounts myself and know a lot about taking advantage of social media. There are websites we can go through to get more of a following as well as target architecture students. No one is on the website or really goes through the newsletters on their email. Although, they will read it on there Instagram. The organization does great with posting, although I want us to bring some diversity into the mix as well. Furthermore, with a bigger following of new and old architecture students, we can create a stronger community in this modern world. Another untapped potential is the AIAS's minority community. I'm currently president of my AIAS chapter as well as Co-founder of my NOMAS chapter. One of the duties of the AIAS President is to oversee Crit Live which we need to promote a lot more. This comes from quad directors to hub hangouts with chapter presidents. I want to be a little more engaged on the chapter level if time allows. I know that's more of the quad directors, but I still want to bring up new ways for students to fix problems in their schools, not just AIAS. Furthermore, I want AIAS chapter to engage within there schools in a more powerful way. They have the platforms to speak up about the general body issues and I want to push them to make that leap. In this way, we will see much higher numbers in membership. Lastly, I want membership domestically and internationally to increase. It's already expected to but we can think of new was such as small scholarships that pay for students' membership. Perhaps each president of every chapter is waved for membership fees. I will make sure this is all economically feasible for the organization first. In all suggestions, I will make sure they are good financial moves for the organization as well.



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: Himansh Patel

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: [Signature]

Date: 11/15/19



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 and Board 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: Himesh Patel

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: [Signature]

Date: 11/15/14

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): Himesh Patel

Chapter: New York Institute of Technology - Manhattan

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: Hpatel131@nyit.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 817-680-2637

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

o Facebook: _____

o Twitter: @_____

o Instagram: @Superasianindian

o Other: _____

A young man with dark hair, wearing a bright pink short-sleeved button-down shirt and white pants, stands smiling in front of the colorful mosaic walls of Park Güell in Barcelona. The background shows the city of Barcelona and the sea under a clear blue sky. The text 'YOUR NEXT NATIONAL PRESIDENT' is overlaid in large white letters at the top.

**YOUR NEXT
NATIONAL
PRESIDENT**

HIMESH PATEL