

# AIAS SOUTH QUAD DIRECTOR

## CANDIDATE PACKET



**shillpa kumar** 2023-2024

214.282.7365

[sbk9560@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:sbk9560@mavs.uta.edu)

[shillpak28@gmail.com](mailto:shillpak28@gmail.com)

## contents

<b>03</b>	letter of intent
<b>04</b>	resume
<b>05</b>	letter of school support
<b>06</b>	letter of aias member support
<b>07</b>	candidate questionnaire
<b>09</b>	intern compensation policy
<b>10</b>	aiaa elections code of ethics
<b>11</b>	completed contact info sheet

Scott Cornelius, AIAS

AIAS Past President

1735 New York Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20006

Past President Cornelius, AIAS, Assoc. AIA,

Joining AIAS both locally and nationally has changed my perspective of the architecture field, and certainly has changed my outlook on my role as a student, a leader, and a future architect in the world. This organization has given me the opportunity to give back to my school and my community by leading and getting both students and faculty involved. Seeing the impact of my role as Director of the CAPPA Architecture Mentorship Program (CAMP) here at the University of Texas in Arlington has made me realize my impact as a leader is not only a privilege but it is my duty.

**I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to participate in this year's elections and would like to inform you of my intention to run for the 2023-2024 American Institute of Architecture Students South Quad Director Position on the National Board of Directors.**

I began my journey in AIAS by doing promotional management for my chapter's mentorship program during my sophomore year. I enjoyed being connected with upper class students and took the initiative to come to my first AIAS conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Stepping outside my comfort zone to meet new people was daunting, but I found a real sense of belonging among my fellow peers and found that my intelligence and passion was valued amongst other members.

Serving as both CAMP Director as well as Chair of the Ethics Committee has allowed me to take on leadership positions where my organizational and my speaking skills have been my tools for success but has also provided me with the resources to be a public servant for my community and be the point of outreach for many of my peers at school. The most important thing I have learned from my architectural education so far is how lucky I am to be part of a small percentage of people in the world who are allowed access to the type of education and resources I have been given. There is nothing I have done differently to deserve the access to independence and education I have, yet there are many lacking that and far more. It is my duty to serve as a supporter, provider, and leader for the students in my community and AIAS. As a first-generation Indian American woman, I can only hope to be a resource for people that come from backgrounds like mine and be a bridge for a more diverse involvement in our organization.

Past President Cornelius, I believe this newer generation of architects entering the field have a radically different take on the world and our place in it. Our future architects are no longer tolerating unethical treatment of themselves and those around them. They are far more educated in the social justice of infrastructure and cities, and the severity of its impact on the quality of life of its inhabitants. We are digressing from everything we have been previously taught and looking for answers and change in our line of profession. It is our duty to empower this generation of young architects and give them the tools they need to make an impact on their schools, city, and community. Thank you for taking the time to review my candidacy packet and thank you for all the selfless effort and time you have taken to improve this organization. I look forward to being given the opportunity to serve South Quad on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shillpa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shillpa Kumar, AIAS  
CAPPA Architecture Mentorship Program Director  
Chair of Ethics Committee

# resume

## Shillpa Kumar, AIAS

sbk9560@mavs.uta.edu

214.282.7365

### Skills

Rhino  
AutoCAD  
SketchUp  
Graphic Design  
Illustrator  
Photoshop  
InDesign  
Premier Pro  
After Effects  
Microsoft Suite  
Excel  
Portraiture and Oil Painting  
Urban Sketching

### Strengths

Organization and Documentation  
Team Leadership and Involvement  
Public Speaking  
Presenting  
Initiative

### Involvement

AIAS UTA Mentorship Program  
*Promotional Manager*  
2021-2022  
AIAS UTA Mentorship Program  
*Director*  
2022-2023  
AIAS National Ethics Committee Chair  
2022-2023

### Awards

AIA Fort Worth Certificate of Appreciation 2022

### Education

University of Texas at Arlington  
College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs  
B.S. Architecture, Class of 2024  
Minor in Macroeconomics  
GPA 3.89  
Dean's List

Plano West Senior High School  
2017-2019

### Conferences

AIAS South Quad Conferenece  
2022  
AIAS Grassroots  
2022  
AIAS Forum  
2022

### Involvement

AIAS UTA Mentorship Program  
*Promotional Manager*  
2021-2022  
AIAS UTA Mentorship Program  
*Director*  
2022-2023  
AIAS National Ethics Committee Chair  
2022-2023

### Experience

Graphic Designer at Office of International Education  
University of Texas at Arlington  
2022-present

December 1, 2022

American Institute of Architecture Students

The American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington DC, 20006

RE: Recommendation Letter on behalf of Shillpa Kumar

Dear Nominating Committee,

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of Shillpa Kumar's application for the South Squad Director position for the 2023-2024 American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Board of Directors. As the faculty advisor of AIAS at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), I have had the privilege of working closely with Shillpa over the last 6 months in her role as an AIAS Board Member and Director of the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs' Architecture Mentorship Program (CAMP).

During her time of service, Shillpa has organized numerous student-led events that have had a tremendous positive impact on UTA School of Architecture undergraduate and graduate students. These programs include a quarterly professor/architect spotlight series that generates conversation between students and practitioners on timely topics relevant to the built environment and paired mentorship initiatives that connect new students to upperclassman and graduate students to professional mentors to help students acclimate to university and professional practice. Participation in these programs is always high and I have received many first-hand comments from students expressing how much these opportunities have helped them become stronger designers and urban thinkers. CAMP programs in particular, influence UTA's studio and learning culture and prepare students for academic achievement during their time in university and after graduation.

I know Shilpa to be an extremely dedicated and respected leader among her peers. She consistently generates and implements new creative ideas to support students as exemplified by a used book-barter system she initiated early this semester. Her organizational skills, ability to clearly communicate thoughts, and collaborative approach will serve her well as South Squad Director.

I look forward to following Shillpa's career progression and believe she will make a fantastic AIAS South Quad Director. I strongly recommend her for your consideration. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julia Lindgren  
*Faculty Advisor, AIAS + CAMP*  
*Assistant Professor, School of Architecture*

Jesse Avila  
(469) 733-7371  
jesseavila710@gmail.com



December 1st, 2022

Dear Past President Scott Cornelius,

It is an honor to submit this letter of recommendation of Shillpa Kumar for the AIAS Squad Director. I have known Shillpa since our second year in Architecture school. I have witnessed her grow, assimilate, and transcend in her academia and involvement in our AIAS chapter's community.

I have had the chance to collaborate with Shillpa in both academia and extracurricular settings; it is remarkable her capability to be both a team member and leader in our community. She demonstrates initiative, drive, creativity, and collaboration in her efforts individually and with others.

Furthermore, Shillpa has strived to provide services and opportunities for students to expand their awareness of not only AIAS, but as well that of the collegiate and local community of the Architecture field. She has demonstrated exemplary skills as a leader to captivate and lead individuals. In her time in AIAS, she has recruited dozens of new students to AIAS that has revitalized our chapter post COVID. In addition, she has been greatly involved in our chapter's CAMP Program, which serves as a mentorship program providing new students mentorship opportunities with upperclass students to learn and hone skill sets. To this day, she continues to pursue and establish new initiatives that entice students to involve themselves beyond the academia norm and to be greatly involved within our University community. Shillpa's capability to be both a student and leader demonstrates her never-ending drive.

Shillpa is a leader, friend, and role model within our community. Her resolve in everything she strives for is remarkable. I am certain Shillpa is an exemplary and fit candidate for this new venture she shall embark on.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Avila  
3rd Year B.Arch  
Treasurer, American Institute of Architecture Students

**1 We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?**

I believe this organization can provide access to resources and tools that otherwise might not be available to architecture students and can create such a huge impact on schools and student's lives. I've seen firsthand how involved my local chapter has been in organizing career fairs, mentorship programs, portfolio reviews, as well as networking opportunities with firms in the DFW area. Many students at our school are first-generation Americans and first-generation college graduates. Most students don't come from families who are architects or contractors, including myself, and organizations like AIAS help provide accessibility for a more diverse generation of architects entering the field.

I intend on running for a position on the Board of Directors to stand as a voice for students that can benefit from our outreach and resources, as well as getting involved in their local communities through volunteering and educating. I want to expand national involvement, both in conferences as well as committees, and ensure all our chapters' members are knowledgeable about their ability to participate. I believe it is our duty as architecture students and academics to help those around us, and foster humility and servitude in our future architects.

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

One thing I have learned from my experience in leadership positions is how to lead with an invisible hand. As director of the mentorship program, I wanted to broaden my board's responsibility and participation in events. While director can be a heavy position to bear, I've found that relying on my team members to carry the weight helps me serve my position more effectively as well as providing leadership experience for my board members. I provided opportunities for my co-directors to speak at events and lead panel discussions, all while guiding them through the process and helping them by giving insight into my experiences.

One piece of advice I have given regarding public speaking is to project your voice, speak slower, and simplify anything you have to say. I have found the quickest way to say something is often the best, especially when speaking or presenting to a large group of people. I believe as my board's leader, they look to me for support, and I want to push my board members to gaining new experiences and setting them up with better skills later on.

**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 & 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?**

I advocate heavily for equity and leadership opportunities for students of all backgrounds, and hope that I can spend 1 on 1 time with student leaders at local chapters to help provide access for documentation, organization, and outreach to local AIA and firms in the area. All these resources provide more opportunities for a greater body of students and will help diversify the newer generation of architects. I believe students should be encouraged to use their voice to not only help their fellow peers but also speak out on ethical issues and abuses in power at their school and community. As architects, we should stand for communities that have been marginalized and discriminated against and learn to be self-aware and promote public servitude rather than self-interest amongst our students.



**4 The AIAS has over 250 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. 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?**

As a Board Director, I believe standardizing information in an effective way for all chapters to have access to is key for more national involvement as well as opening new chapters at architecture schools. From my experience as chair of the Ethics Committee, most people aren't aware of the Code of Ethics as a resource to speak out and instill moral responsibility in our members. Abuse of power and negligence often gets overlooked, and our organization would like to provide a way to check others behavior.

Members don't have to read the Code of Ethics to know it is a resource they, and anyone, can use in order to use their voice in the event of an ethical violation, but certainly a 2-minute animation can be played at chapter and quad meetings to help initiate the conversation of resources that are accessible through National AIAS (and subtitles can be an easy fix for language barriers for our global quads). Tools like this can help expand involvement as well as diversify our membership globally.

**4 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.**

Speaking with our current South Quad Director has given me more insight into our current mode of communication with our presidents, and the agenda at the monthly quad meetings. I admire Colt's outreach and initiative to meet 1 on 1 with presidents and help give them advise and resources to their chapter. I want to be able to provide documents and aid for chapters who do not have a lot of members and help expand membership of their chapters. I would also like to meet with the chairs of some of our committees and task forces to see what resources they can provide for local chapter General Body Meetings and Quad Calls. I believe more students should know about opportunities to get involved nationally, as well as accessing financial sponsorship through local AIA chapters and firms.





## 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: Shillpa Kumar

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employee 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: Shillpa Kumar

Date: 12/1/2022



## 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: Shillpa Kumar

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: Shillpa Kumar

Date: 12/1/2022

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): Shillpa

Chapter: University of Texas at Arlington

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): Director of Mentorship Program

Email Address: sbk9560@mavs.uta.edu

Mobile Phone Number: 214.282.7365

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook:
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @shillpakumar
- o Other: linkedin: Shillpa Kumar