



BELLA HARTSIG

VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE

2024
2025



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LETTER OF INTENT

Cooper Moore, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA, GRP
Elections Chair and Past President

American Institute of Architecture Students
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20006-5292

Past President Moore,

As my Masters of Architecture comes to an end, I am extremely excited to pursue the candidacy of Vice President of the American Institute of Architecture Students for the 2024-2025 academic year.

My experience with AIAS thus far has been amazing. I have had the opportunity to explore many new possibilities within architecture through Detroit Mercy's chapter, the Midwest Quad, and the National AIAS events. One of the most effective ways to gain experience is by doing, and I have had the pleasure of participating in my university chapter of AIAS for multiple years now as well as being the social media manager for 2022-2023 and on the National Finance Committee for the 2023-2024 academic year. Through this role, I grew to love the outgoing, fast-paced organization.

I plan to continue my experience, education, and leadership goals through the position of Vice President. I have always had a strong connection to leadership and the connectivity of people through architecture. This interest in leadership will be put to good use through the many ideas that I have to better acknowledge, serve, and prepare the students of the AIAS community for the architectural world ahead of them.

I look forward to continuing my time with AIAS. With this in mind, I am confident that my education, experience, and developed leadership skills will allow me to produce great change as a member of the Board of Directors and as the Vice President. I am prepared to dedicate myself to this position in much the same way I was committed to completing my university studies.

I am eager to learn from the past and present position holders and the many professionals that I may encounter when serving as the Vice President of AIAS.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Isabella Hartsig, AIAS

ISABELLA HARTSIG

VICE-PRESIDENT CANDIDATE

Washington, Michigan 48094

bellahartsig@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/hartsig

EXPERIENCE

EARTH ENVIRONMENTS LLC.

2017 to 2021, INTERN

DESIGN TEAM PLUS

2017, INTERN The Well Project (2017)

AUGER KLEIN ALLER ARCHITECTS

2022, INTERN

F.A. STUDIO

2023, INTERN

JSN ARCHITECTURE

2023, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER

HKS - BRILLIANT DETROIT

2023, FELLOWSHIP

ACTIVITIES

**Advisory Board for Romeo High School's
Architecture Curriculum (2021-2023)**

AIAS Finance Committee (2023)

**Dichotomy Student Journal:
Social Media & Website Director (2023)**

MITES (2015-2019)

**American Institute of Architects Student,
University of Detroit Mercy Chapter
Chair of Marketing (2022)**

Integrative Technology Courses:
Teacher's Assistant (2022)

Engineering Co-op Advisor (2021-2023)

Student Ambassador

Landscape / Farming / Construction

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

B.S. ARCH

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

M. ARCH

VOLTERRA - DETROIT

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

ROMEO ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

ROMEO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS:

ARCH. I-III - INDEPENDENT STUDY

SUPPORTING SKILLS

Technical Skills:

AutoCAD, Rhino, Idea Spectrum, Sketchup,
Adobe Programs, Cove.tool, Revit, Lumion,
Twin Motion, Sketch, Graphic Design

Interpersonal Skills:

Adaptable, consistent, collaborative, leader,
time management, work ethic, imaginative

AWARDS:

MITES multi-award winner of the architectural
project selection (2015-2019)

Scholarship award recipient for the European
Cultural Society's "Sustainability in Architecture"
research abroad program

Selected to present Thesis research at the
NOLA National AIAS Conference

LETTER OF SUPPORT



25 November 2023

Support Letter for Bella Hartsig's Bid to become the next AIAS National Vice President.

I am honored to write this letter to support Bella Hartsig's bid to become the next AIAS National Vice President. My perspective is drawn from very clear and distinct weekly interactions throughout the past 4.5 years of Ms. Hartsig's academic and leadership journey. From day one of her first year, Ms. Hartsig engaged dynamically with all aspects of our School extending well beyond the classroom environment. Within her first 30 days at SACD, everyone knew of Bella Hartsig's thoughtfulness and her joyful approach to everything she pursues. Quite simply, she has not moved through our School in a passive and anonymous way. Instead, she is known for her leadership, which is connected directly to the needs of the student and the school. I hope this letter will illustrate that Bella Hartsig's prior and current work, positions her to be a dynamic and effective national leader.

Collaborative Leadership: Bella Hartsig is a leader that does not dictate. She collaborates in a way where all people know that they are a meaningful part of the process. I have witnessed her enter dialogues with other students and faculty with a demeanor of genuine interest and openness, and always with a dash of humor. Most importantly, Ms. Hartsig does not shy away from controversial or complicated issues. For example, last winter term she was a member of a hand-selected studio that worked on a series of proposals for an award-winning university building slated for demolition. Unfortunately, the university backtracked on their commitment to this new approach and began to promote misinformation regarding the building's future viability. Bella co-led the charge to push back on this decision. She printed and posted 500+ posters, instigated several media articles, etcetera. Her dedicated work led to reopening the dialogue.

I will close with a few general observations. Ms. Hartsig has always been a key member of our community. She has true collaborative spirit and actively mentors all of our students, notably in our foundational years. She vigorously engages anything she pursues with intense intellect and joy. I can say personally that she is a true joy to work alongside, which she will bring to AIAS' national leadership role. I submit this Letter of Support without any reservation and look forward to supporting Bella in this nomination and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Pitera, FAIA, NOMA, Hon. FALA

Dean + Professor: University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture + Community Development

Vice President: 2024 AIA Michigan Board of Directors

2023 AIA Detroit Gold Medal

2017 National AIA Whitney M. Young Jr. Award for the Detroit Collaborative Design Center

2004-2005 Harvard University GSD Loeb Fellow



LETTER OF SUPPORT

November 25, 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for Isabella Hartsig as the National Vice President of AIAS. Isabella has always stood out to me as a very motivated member of AIAS who understands the benefits of the organization and its link between university and the workplace. She continuously takes initiative in her leadership positions and is always striving to become more involved. Her participation in AIAS has helped the schools chapter find lots of success, and she routinely models what it means to be a standout AIAS member. I commend her determination to be involved in AIAS at the national level.

As the National Vice President, I am certain Isabella will continue to shape the present and future of AIAS with her creative spirit. I have witnessed her collaboration skills and team involvement as an AIAS Executive Board member, and strongly recommend her for the Vice President position. I truly believe she would do an exemplary job of promoting excellence in architectural education, training, and practice at the national level.

Sincerely,

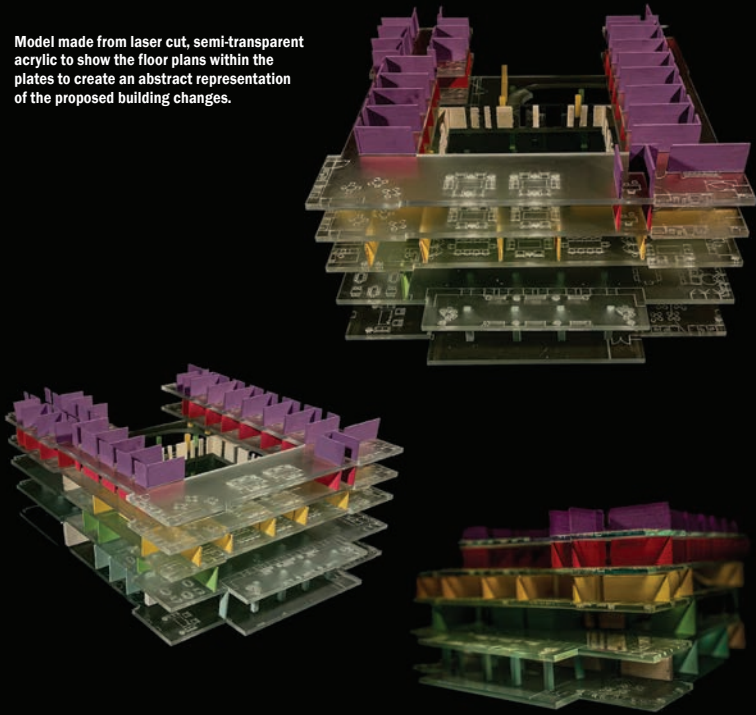


Jacob Lampi
AIAS Atlas Vice President
University of Detroit Mercy

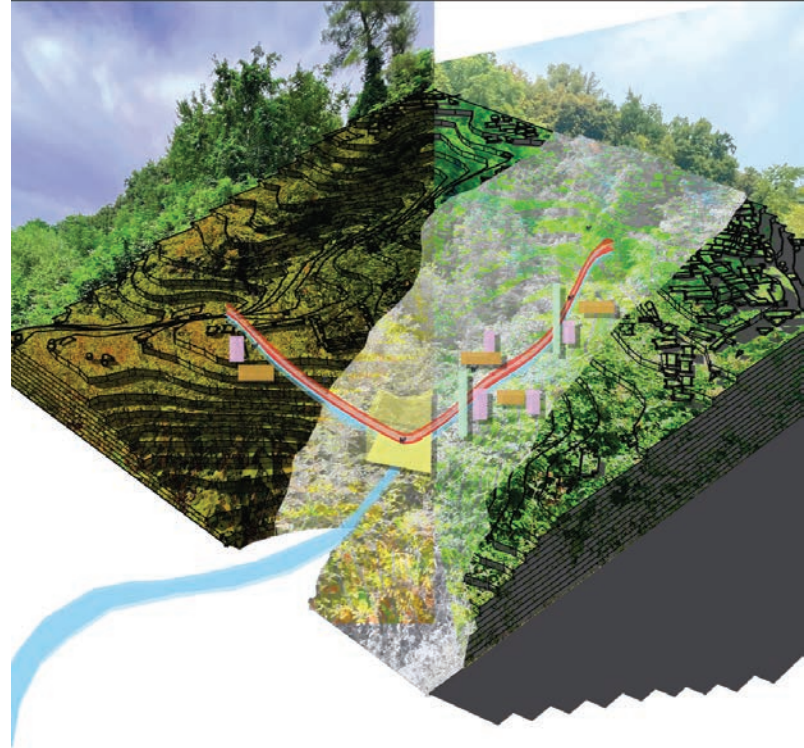


DESIGN

Model made from laser cut, semi-transparent acrylic to show the floor plans within the plates to create an abstract representation of the proposed building changes.



This project was designed and completed with the help of two other students as a group:
Credit to - Summer Hayes & Taylor Tomman



Water Element



Play Element



Designer's Choice
Bridge Element

THE WESTERN Y

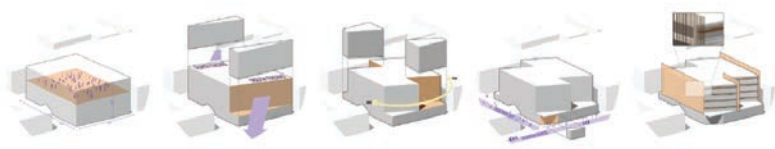
The goal of this assignment was to create a photo essay on an important view of the city of Detroit, Michigan. The class had full creative freedom to take on any view point and create a story out of the personally edited image taken. This perspective is of what Detroit is to the natives, versus, what the outsiders experience of the city may feel like. Through these images, many controversies are shown that come with the dense cityscape drawing emphasis on the disorientation that comes with viewing the city through an outside perspective.

THEATER CONNECTIONS

STUDY ABROAD STUDIO : VOLTERRA, ITALY

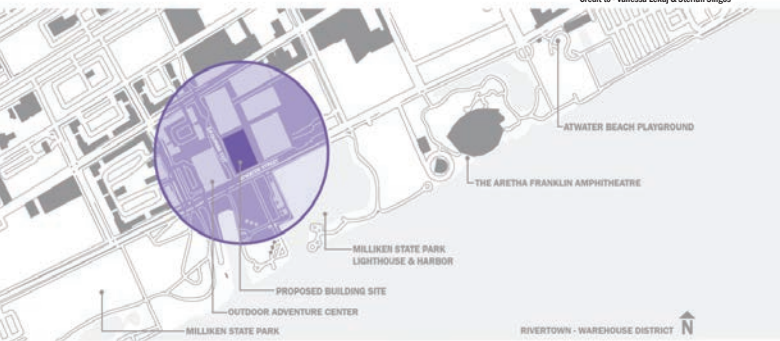
From the historical site of the Roman Theater to the excavation site of the Amphitheater the professors, Kirk Welsh and Noah Resnick, asked the studio to create a pedestrian pathway with six interventions. These programs include: water, waste, play, market, intimacy, and designer's choice. Through the whole design process the overarching goal was to create a space within the nature that speaks to the people, Relation of nature to persons. Along with this, is a general concept of connecting each intervention to keep both the tourists and locals interested through the whole walk. Most of the media used for this studio was a mixture of 3D modeling, photography and collage.

DESIGN



All perspectives done by Stephanos Singos

This project was designed and completed with the help of two other students as a group:
Credit to - Vanessa Lekaj & Stefan Singos



GLETA HEADQUARTERS

Located in Rivertown Detroit, there is an abandoned lot on the river front facing the Detroit River. For the Integrative Design studio, with Kristen Nelson & James Leach, we were assigned to design a sustainable building that took into account the climate and the context. My group decided to go with a very simple, vertical design with interest in shape added to the floor plates on the tower of the building. Our building was to include: Retail, auditorium, cafe, shipping, gallery, and office spaces. Along with all of this, we needed to have correct, working mechanical, ADA compliant, and structural systems.



The destruction. Only seeing beauty in new buildings and the hostility for the historic and rubbed ones.



The dissociative feeling of the big city, Detroit.



What is beyond the buildings? Recognizing Detroit as more than just the cityscape.



The gloomy, dark, and lonely sense of Detroit.

VIEWS OF DETROIT

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QUESTIONNAIRE

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?

Motivation to run for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors came from the **support and connections** I have created with my association in Detroit Mercy's AIAS chapter and the National AIAS teams. This organization, AIAS, has pushed me to become the best student I could be. With **constant opportunities to strive further** into the field as a student as well as a professional. Running for the position of Vice President of the American Institute of Architects Students would enable me to **spread my found knowledge** of architecture, collaboration, and the benefits that come with being an AIAS member.

Where do you see room for improvement or new areas for the organization to expand into?

One specific area of interest for improvement within the organization is the **connection between the geographically close chapters**. There has been talks within the AIAS National Organization about connecting chapters to other local chapters within their city or state. The issue has arose that these chapters can be spread too far, however, I believe that the **distance is no issue**. At the University of Detroit Mercy, our AIAS chapter has connected with many of our state's, Michigan, chapters, such as; Lawrence Tech., Faris State, and Michigan. Our most successful connection has been with LTU. Our chapters have **collaborated** together to host many events including the Beaux Arts Ball. The connection between all of these schools has opened up **unlimited possibilities** for our schools. Moving forward as the Vice President, **the network of chapters intertwining will allow for mingling of a wide range of student bodies, the shaping of new and informed ideas, and a larger impact for the AIAS community to be known**.

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?

An over encompassing issue within college education is cost. With the opportunity of being the AIAS National Vice President, I will push for **affordability in education**. Expand and explore resources for the AIAS students to utilize for education compensation such as; scholarships, fellowships, and many other forms of funding that help all genders, races, and architectural interests. In order to make progress on an issue as such, the National Board and Vice President will be presented with the challenge of accessing financial overviews of the schools with chapters in the AIAS and further incorporate **scholarship opportunities** that can be personalized to the students needs.

Along with this, another major topic of interest for my term would be **mental health of students** in both architecture school and moving into professional development. Many students struggle to find a break in such a fast-paced, intensive program that is architecture school. It is important to find a **balance** between school, work, and personal time. To address this issue, awareness of student mental health will need to be attended to first as many do not understand the severity of **impact** mental health can take on a student. Tips and tricks to solve or ease these issues can be spread by the AIAS National social media accounts, summits provided to the students, and outside sources of books, articles, and professionals.

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?

I believe that one of the greatest forms of connectivity in today's generation is the use of **all forms of social media**. When serving this position, engagement will be increased through connecting through social media. The most commonly used app through all areas of the world is Instagram. As the past Social Media Manager of UDM's AIAS, my following stretches from Europe, Africa, South America, and back to the United States. From experience, this form of interaction is the most **personable with images and conversation**.

For chapters leaders who are seeking to grow their chapters around the world, I would propose reaching out to other chapters, students, and schools through any form of contact available. **Access to the internet is a blessing of this generation and we should use it to the best of its abilities**. Chapters from around the world have the freedom to reach out to wherever they desire and they should not be afraid of spreading their name and making contact with others. It is important for students to understand their worth in situations of **connectivity**. Their want for connection is a **mutual** feeling amongst many of their peer chapters. I would advise for each chapter's individual members to connect with whomever they feel will benefit them during their time with AIAS and best gain the knowledge they need as a student and future professional in the field.

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.

When given the opportunity to serve as the AIAS National Vice President, I intend to strive for **member connectivity, generation informative idealization, as well as student financial benefits and mental health awareness**. These goals will be met with ease through an optimistic outlook on the organization. Starting with the member connectivity and outreach, it is important to formulate these concepts with the idea that **AIAS is a STUDENT organization**. Meaning that the way we approach the members should involve a **playful aspect** along with the information provided. This will form a connection between the Board and the students making the organization as a whole more approachable. With this, the Board will effortlessly be able to generate member contributions to new ideas and outlooks for the organization to better itself for **student prioritization**. Adding a **receptive** feel to the AIAS, **listening, learning, and informing** ourselves will finalize the goals with opportunities to help with educational finances and release stress from the struggling students. This approach will ensure that my roles will be fulfilled as the Vice President of the National AIAS.

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: ISABELLA HARTSIG

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: *I. Hartsig*

Date: 10/20/2023

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: ISABELLA HARTSIG

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: *I. Hartsig*

Date: 10/20/2023

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): ISABELLA HARTSIG

Chapter: AIAS - ATLAS UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Email Address: bellahartsig@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: 586.453.7491

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Bella Hartsig
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: bellahartsig
- o Other: Linkedin: Isabella Hartsig