

**THE**

2034

**VISION**

*of*

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

**GREAT**

**NESS**





ARCHITECTURE  
+ DESIGN

MISSION

WE CULTIVATE IMAGINATION,  
CURIOSITY, AND EMPATHY,  
AS WE ADVOCATE FOR THE  
POWER OF DESIGN.

VISION

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**IT'S THE BEGINNING** of the school year, 2034. We are passionately engaged in our work. The expansion of our student body, faculty, and staff over the past 10 years has culminated in an amplification of educational experiences, impressive facilities, and new college research initiatives. The College of Architecture and Design cultivates imagination, curiosity, and empathy, as we advocate for the power of design. We've worked hard to create a profound, meaningful, and vivid design education for our students. We see our greatness when we take stock of our culture, our place, and the new structure that has resulted from our growth and change.

OUR CULTURE:

# JOYFUL

Momentum built over the past 10 years has engendered a healthy and vibrant educational community. Students and faculty appreciate working within and beyond disciplinary boundaries and deeply impact the academic, professional, and community audiences with whom they share and discuss their work. All graduating students possess the progressive common language necessary to make immediate professional impacts and to assume leadership roles as they mature in their fields.

PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS EUROPE, ASIA, SOUTH AMERICA, AND AFRICA HAVE ENHANCED CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN OUR PROGRAMS WHILE BRINGING TANGIBLE MEASURE TO OUR COMMITMENT TO **GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**.

Our culture supports students while intellectually challenging them. Courses, projects, and workshops strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration.

HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES HAVE EXPANDED CONSIDERABLY THROUGH OUR EMPHASIS ON **CONSTRUCTION EXPLORATION**.

Our learning culture is immersive. We collectively focus on the urgent task of launching a new generation of designers who are willing and able to put their disciplinary and professional knowledge to the task of inventing a better future. In-depth dedicated studio projects turn into a win-win career foundry for our students and faculty. Across our extended social network there is a palpable commitment to lifelong learning.



The college continues to be known for producing graduates with strong professional capacities and competencies along with a commitment to the power of design to effect change in the world. Students relate to peer and professional mentors who help them navigate multiple pathways within the allied design professions. The college connects students to resources that empower holistic well-being, preparing all for meaningful professional lives. Connections to creatives in the South are stronger and drive the desire for our students to learn more about who they are, where they come from, and the region, cities, and places they will transform throughout their professional careers. Through a culture of collaboration, diversity, and joyfully human-centered design, the college engages humanity's grand challenges with a high capacity for embracing change. We empower one another to experiment towards broad social and environmental transformation. Graduating students feel inspired, empowered, and encouraged to go forward in their careers as they join an engaged and active alumni network.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and industry partners alike are ready and eager to volunteer, be present, and participate. Social bonds are continually being formed with an inclusive focus on making everyone feel supported. This fosters a practice of experimentation and open-mindedness, as well as a confidence in risk-taking.

**POSITIVE ACCESS AND INCLUSION**  
INITIATIVES HAVE ENCOURAGED MEMBERS  
OF THE COLLEGE TO EMBRACE CHANGE  
AND DEVELOP A CULTURE OF CURIOSITY,  
IMAGINATION, AND EMPATHY.

All members of our community now feel empowered and valued in our culture and that has changed what we work on and how.

OUR PLACE:

# INSPIRING

The university's 2023 Master Plan forecasted this moment, and a decade later it is great to be preparing to occupy our own dedicated building on campus, the \_\_\_\_\_ Hall of Architecture and Design – a new structure and space named in honor of our generous benefactor and built around the core of the award-winning Art + Architecture Building. This new ensemble is established as a next-generation nexus that provides comprehensive infrastructure for holistic education, research, dissemination, and engaged public and professional interaction between university and state leaders, professionals, alumni, fellows, scholars, residents, faculty, staff, and students from all walks of life and corners of the world. THE NAMED HALL SERVES AS A

**PLATFORM FOR 21<sup>ST</sup>C. DESIGN EDUCATION** BY  
ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY INNOVATION.

OUR PLACE HAS BECOME AN EMBODIMENT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO **RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY** IN THE BUILT WORLD, INSPIRING BEST PRACTICES OF HOW TO DESIGN AND BUILD IN TODAY'S CLIMATE-URGENT AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED SETTINGS.

Able to support a wide range of pedagogical formats, the named Hall is a forum in which teaching/learning engages a physical manifestation of our collective values. Studio Spaces work as scaffolding in support of experimentation towards biodiversity and purposeful ecological integration.

Maker Labs are proving grounds for hybridizing the relationships between materials, methods and urgent social causes. At the heart of it all, the new *Design Café* embodies the importance of both collaboration and rejuvenation. It brings faculty, staff and students together in an intentional moment of repose and creative communication. We recharge as part of our core commitment to doing great work.

Now in its ninth year, our Downtown Satellite maps directly onto all four school curricula, featuring meaningful engagement with the city of Knoxville, working directly alongside community partners, and launching substantial design+make projects. Student projects move in astonishing ways from the scale of the body to the scale of the city to the scale of the region and have bolstered the relationship between the Fab Lab, the Digital Futures Lab, and an Innovation Lab we have recently developed as an R&D think tank for industry partners.

INVESTMENT IN **NEW MEDIA EXPLORATION** HAS  
CATALYZED PROJECTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF DIGITAL  
CULTURE AND APPLIED RESEARCH.

Public/private collaborations across all schools emanate out of a willingness to dialogue, listen, and act. This delivers a design education that is equally vivid and transformative.

Our spaces and cultures are woven together. Our own environment ennobles an inclusive culture of shared governance, binding the work of our allied disciplines together while cultivating and encouraging a daily mindset of being invested in an innovative design environment.

# OUR STRUCTURE: EVOLVING

Our greatness is grounded in core values and ethical perspectives that have developed over the past 70 years, dating back to 1965 and the founding of the “New School of Architecture.” The ethos of newness, freshness, and relevance to the mission of a leading modern R1 land-grant institution is still a defining characteristic of the college, perhaps even more so in 2034. The newest era in the evolution of the college has been used to define initiatives and modes of engagement that honor the rich histories of our disciplines while embroidering those histories with contemporary energies and possibilities that elevate communities across our region. Local, regional, national, and global audiences have engaged the college in new ways through robust publications, symposia, workshops, and collaborative partnerships. Our collective design innovation moves from concept to analysis while it develops toward impactful implementation. Our commitment to design excellence is unmistakable. Our structure has evolved towards clarity and accountability, as we have actualized our values and seamlessly married how we work and what we work on.

Research labs grounded in the themes of *South x Design*, *Design + Health*, and the *Tennessee Cities Initiative* weave together students and faculty, coursework and creative scholarship.

Implementing an effective lab-based system has allowed us to initiate, execute and administer important complex projects. This has also enabled faculty and students to study unique interests within these specific research labs while being supported by a strong diversified infrastructure of internal and external funding sources.

WHAT STARTED 10 YEARS AGO AS  
AN EMPHASIS ON BUILDING A  
**ROBUST RESEARCH CULTURE** HAS  
CATALYZED A NEW STRUCTURE FOR  
THE COLLEGE.

Alumni and corporate partners add fuel to the college's forward-thinking agenda, creating a rigorous mode of exploratory research that has propelled us to become a premier research collaborator within and beyond the university.

While we celebrate our accomplishments and their impacts, we feel challenged to do more for the next decade, expanding on our achievements, shaping increasingly diverse projects, and convincing new partners to join us in uncharted terrain. We are excited to be here – to collaborate and be present in this moment, grounded in shared responsibility, curiosity, generosity, and empathy for others. But above all these commitments is the commitment to design excellence and fostering the next generation of leaders in the allied fields of design.

SEVEN  
STRATEGIC  
AREAS

|| **ACCESS AND INCLUSION**

Making a meaningful difference in accessibility for students while establishing a strong sense of belonging for all.

|| **BUILDING AS 21ST C. PLATFORM**

Investing in the award-winning Art & Architecture Building, readying it for the next 50 years of openness, creativity, and collaboration.

|| **CONSTRUCTION EXPLORATIONS**

Amplifying hands-on learning through prototyping, materially specific investigations, study of building assembly, digital fabrication, and design+make projects.

|| **GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

Creating a student experience with multiple opportunities to encounter and explore cultural differences through travel.

|| **NEW MEDIA EXPLORATION**

Providing leadership at the intersection of new digital technologies and emerging design fields.

|| **RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Engaging in meaningful exploration of sustainability and resilience in the cities and communities in our state and region.

|| **ROBUST RESEARCH CULTURE**

Cultivating opportunities for faculty and students to be engaged in cutting-edge research, giving them a deeper educational experience.

OUR  
SHARED  
VALUES



|| **WE MAKE DESIGN EDUCATION AS VIVID AS POSSIBLE.**

We know the power of good energy.

We strive to produce excellence.

We want to astonish.

|| **WE CREATE PATHWAYS TO JOY.**

Pleasure from our culture of continuous improvement.

Satisfaction through a job well done.

Celebrate accomplishments and milestones.

|| **WE ASPIRE TO BE A CENTER OF GRAVITY.**

We take a leadership position in each of our disciplines/professions.

|| **WE WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.**

We care about everything we do and how we do it.

We have an ethos of agency and ownership.

We engage.

|| **WE THRIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF SUPPORT**

Collaboration is support.

Clarity is support.

Kindness is support.

|| **WE STRIVE FOR CONNECTION**

Connection between team members.

Connection between what we work on, how we work, and why we do that work.

Connection between tasks, projects, and the mission/vision driving the college.

OUR CREATIVITY IS FRAMED  
WITHIN THE STRATEGIC VISION:

# IT TAKES A VOLUNTEER

A world enriched by our ideas, improved through our action, and inspired by the Volunteer spirit of service and leadership

As the flagship land-grant university of the state, we are dedicated to amplifying the Volunteer spirit of selfless leadership in every life we touch. We listen and learn from one another—an ongoing, ever-expanding conversation fueled by a wealth of perspectives and experiences. We know how much is possible when we unite our individual talents and aspirations, put compassion front and center, and step forward together as Volunteers.

We are a diverse community with a shared commitment to discovery, creativity, learning, and engagement.

CULTIVATING THE **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**  
CONDUCTING RESEARCH **THAT MAKES LIFE & LIVES BETTER**  
ENSURING A CULTURE WHERE **VOL IS A VERB**  
MAKING OURSELVES **NIMBLE AND ADAPATABLE**  
EMBODYING THE MODERN R1, **LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY**



