



**AIAS**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Students, Faculty, and Staff,

It is with great pleasure that we officially announce that the AIAS will be hosting the 2019 South Quad Design Conference. Last April, a small group of AIAS members decided to place a bid to host one of the largest annual gatherings of architecture and design students in the southeast region. Since presenting the bid and being selected to serve as host to this regional conference, our board members have worked tirelessly to plan a conference that not only showcases our university and city but also explores a theme we are all passionate about - MAKER.

As students of AIAS, we are interested in being immersed in the architectural discourse and practice as it relates to Maker culture, especially within Knoxville. We are creating alliances within the area with those who also believe in the catalytic potential of local culture and the ability to enable and enrich a larger community through dedicated acts and open invitations to learn and grow. The South Quad Conference is an opportunity to showcase our university as well as the good work that is happening in and around Knoxville. The distinct culture, interests, and practices of Knoxville will offer new perspectives and experiences to those visiting from other areas.

From April 4th - 7th, we will be welcoming over 300 students from 66 chapters located throughout eleven southeastern states and Puerto Rico to experience the architecture and Maker culture in our campus and around Knoxville. Our conference will explore this culture in three ways: lectures, workshops, and tours. Occurring on Friday and Saturday mornings, our keynote lecturers will share their experiences of the intersection between architecture and Maker culture. Afterward, smaller groups will filter into the city, learning a number of skills as they hear from local Makers. Others will have the opportunity to tour locations of historical importance in and around Knoxville, such as Oak Ridge and Norris Dam. Together, these three types of experiences will contribute to educating and empowering design students across the southeast.

We are honored to have been selected by our peers to be this year's hosts, and with your support, we will present a conference worth remembering as we share our love of our university and city. Please feel free to approach any of us with questions about the conference in general or how to get involved in this initiative.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Bader  
Historian

Brooke Cunningham  
Grad Representative

Elizabeth Ott  
Freedom by Design Director

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