

## PROGRAM FEATURE: MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE + HEALTH

David Allison  
Director, Graduate Studies in Architecture + Health

The Clemson University Architecture + Health graduate program was created by George C. Means Jr. FAIA in 1968 as the Healthcare Facilities Planning and Design Studio. Means, a visionary in education and design, spent the studio's first decade working with the S.C. Department of Mental Health to pioneer and influence concepts in mental health facility design in South Carolina and beyond. Over the next 50+ years, the studio evolved into what is known today as Clemson's Graduate Program in Architecture + Health, which is consistently considered one of the country's leading programs of its kind by firms that practice health care design and in the fields of health care design at large. It remains the only professional degree program in the U.S. with a separate National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited degree with a concentration focused on the design of health care and health-supporting environments, and it is the most structured and comprehensive professional degree program of its kind in the country.

Today, Clemson faculty and students continue to advance the state of the art in health facility planning, design and research. The program now accommodates up to 16 Master of Architecture + Health students in the concentration at any one time along with up to eight Master of Science and Ph.D. students embedded in the studio. Our master's and doctoral students study relationships between architecture, human health and well-being, which include how health and health care delivery are shaped by spaces, buildings and entire communities. With more than 280 Architecture + Health graduates working around the world, together with the robust and rigorous research output of our Center for Health Facility Planning and Design, the program's footprint and impact on the design of health care environments is significant. Our program and students benefit from the generous support of our devoted alumni and others who value what we do through annual giving and a series of endowments including the longstanding Means Endowment and the recent Allison Endowment which will begin yielding support for our students in the next academic next year.

This 54th year of the Architecture + Health Program involved a series of transitions. First and foremost, we returned to a sense of normalcy after dealing at some level with the impact of COVID since Spring 2020. The 2022 graduating class began their studies during the pandemic and online learning. Faculty, staff and students worked together throughout the pandemic to adjust how we taught and learned to online and then hybrid formats. While we remain committed to the culture of shared time and space together in our atelier-like studio, hybrid learning did yield some opportunities, and we had already begun employing it in studio reviews and seminar courses. It allowed the participation of a wider range of distinguished guest critics in reviews and lecturers in our seminars from around the world who could not travel to Clemson for whatever reason. It also enabled us to return once again to the origins of the program and have post-graduate nursing students participate in two of our seminar courses online. We now support a School of Nursing Certificate Program in Leadership and Innovation in Health + Design, and we hosted the first cohort of four nursing certificate students this past year.

We now enroll on average 20 Master of Architecture students across both two- and three-year tracks with a class of eight students in each of the concentration years within the A+H studio space. We will begin the 2022-23 academic year with our largest class ever at 10 incoming Master of Architecture + Health students in their concentration years of study including five students from our current M.Arch I three-year track and 2 students who took a leave of absence following their M.Arch I general studies last year. In addition, we also currently have the largest cohort of Planning Design and the Built Environment Ph.D. students with a focus in the Built Environment and Health Focus in the history of the program working with Anjali Joseph and Dina Battisto.

A growing focus in the School of Architecture has been on student health and wellbeing, and the impact of the pandemic introduced additional stressors on student wellbeing. As a result, Dina Battisto led a critical study into student health and wellbeing in Lee Hall in her research methods course. Her work is continuing with a series of initiatives in the school, focused on improving student wellbeing and coping with the inherent stress of architectural studies. A visible and widely popular recent initiative has been the introduction of therapy dogs in Lee Hall. She was just recognized by the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities with a research award for her work on student health and wellbeing.

In returning to normal, we kicked off the 2021-22 academic year with faculty, staff and students participating in the annual AIA South Atlantic Regional Architecture + Health Conference in Atlanta. We also returned to taking the entire studio on our annual road trip to attend the Healthcare Design Conference in Cleveland with stops along the way at HDR in Charlotte, ICM in Pittsburgh and Falling Water. The Comprehensive studio worked in concert with the general architecture program on the comprehensive project this year for the United States Coast Guard base in Charleston, South Carolina. And finally, we once again held our annual end-of-the-school-year studio boat trip on Lake Jocassee for Professor Byron Edward's "Swan Song."

We are losing Byron Edwards to retirement this year after a seven-year stint as the School of Architecture's first Professor of Practice. He graciously agreed to defer retirement an additional year during COVID to ensure the program was adequately staffed to continue serving students. He has been a dedicated, invaluable and much-loved teacher and mentor for the students he has touched, and he has been a valuable colleague and collaborator with those of us who teach in the program. During his time at Clemson, he went above and beyond teaching to lead numerous service-learning projects with his students and to initiate the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health Case Study Library based on a case study protocol developed in our studio courses. He plans to now travel the U.S. with his wife Hilda and their three dogs in their Airstream. We hope that between trips, he will continue to join us periodically as a guest critic, lecturer and collaborator.

His retirement led to the search for his replacement this past year. Our goal was to find another licensed architect with practice and teaching experience who could also contribute to our research enterprise. The search identified a series of finalists, each with diverse and strong backgrounds and experience. We are very happy to welcome Lyndsey Deaton as our new tenure track associate professor in Architecture + Health. She is a licensed architect and "urbanist" who has spent the past decade specializing in healthy communities and buildings." She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, a Master of Building Science Construction from Auburn, and a BS in Architecture from Georgia Institute of Technology. In addition to her practice, she serves as an adjunct professor and director of the Urban Design Lab at the University of Oregon, as well as a primary instructor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Another impact of the pandemic resulted in the deferment of what had become our bi-annual Architecture + Health Summer Study Abroad program for two years. We expect to offer our three-week traveling study program once again in 2023 with 5-6 days based out of the Villa in Genoa, Italy, followed by travel to Milan, Florence and Venice. From Italy we are looking to return to Berlin followed by visits to contemporary health care architecture and firms in Denmark and other locations in northern Europe and Scandinavia. The goal of this program is to expose our students to historical and contemporary health care settings and design practices outside the United States. This study program is open to our students, as well as students from other schools seeking an elective course and others interested in post-graduate study.

Once again, our graduates and rising students were aggressively recruited and received numerous very impressive offers, however the hiring market was particularly aggressive and began very early this year. All received, accepted and turned down impressive opportunities and offers from around the country. One of our graduates received a post-graduate fellowship with Perkins & Will and another one is going to be working part-time in architecture while furthering her education by pursuing a nursing degree. Maria Virginia Matiauda Schneider, a Master of Science and Fulbright student from Paraguay, will graduate this August, and her thesis involved developing design guidelines and a prototype primary care center in her home country. Master of Architecture student Kassandra Landvay was a finalist for the School's AIA Medal, and Bing Xue received the SoA McClure Design Award for his Comprehensive Project for a Medical and Dental Facility at the new U.S. Coast Guard base in Charleston.

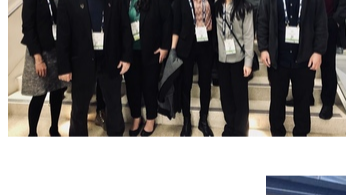
The program's commitment to public service projects and service learning continued with several initiatives for the Clemson Area Retirement Center on updating their campus master plan, programming and design studies for a proposed memory care facility, and converting their existing drawings to digital format. Faculty and graduate assistants in Architecture + Health are also continuing to support the standardized documentation of the National AIA Academy of Architecture + Health Case Study Library. We also help plan and organize the Annual AIA Academy of Architecture + Health Regional Conference each August that rotates between Greenville/Clemson, Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta. A+H also sponsored Michael Murphy, the founder of MASS Design Group, as a keynote speaker for the School's AIA Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students JEDI conference, "Addressing Erasure - Designing our Future" this past March at the Charleston Design Center.

The Center for Health Facilities Design and Testing led by Professor Anjali Joseph, who is the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Endowed Chair in Architecture + Health Design, continues to be a highly productive academic research enterprise. Coming off our four-year RIPCHD.OR prototype operating room study, the Center has generated and is wrapping up a robust number of publications from its work on the OR study, a subsequent investigation focused on the anesthesia workspace in the OR with MUSC, John's Hopkins and numerous other research projects and recent Ph.D. dissertations.

They have also lead a herculean effort with Center staff and graduate assistants to host and organize the national 2022 EDRA Conference titled "Health in all Design" that was held June 1-4 in Greenville. The conference brought together architectural researchers and practitioners from around the world and across a variety of design disciplines.

Looking to the future, we are implementing a few curricular and course adjustments to align with changes in the overall Master of Architecture degree curriculum, accommodate the Nursing Certificate Program, eliminate our health facility internship summer course which is, unfortunately, becoming impossible to implement for all students, and expand our focus in broader issues of health, sustainability and resilience. At the same time, we remain committed to retaining our commitment and focus on health facility design and planning. We will also be looking at how our new faculty member can bring new dimensions to our studio courses building on her background, experience and practice in healthy environments.

We welcome our alumni and potential applicants to visit us on campus, join us at the regional SAR AIA Academy of Architecture for Health this August 26th in Greenville, and meet us annually at the Healthcare Design Conference. We want to thank our students, faculty, alumni, donors and other supporters for all that you do to help make our program what it has become, to allow us to continue our efforts toward understanding how the built environment impacts human health and health care, and to promote the healthful design of settings that support health care delivery.



## News



### School of Architecture Golden Tiger Reunion

Are you attending the Golden Tiger reunion? Alumni of the Classes of '70, '71 and '72 are invited to be on June 9 from 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. in the Lee Hall III Wedge.

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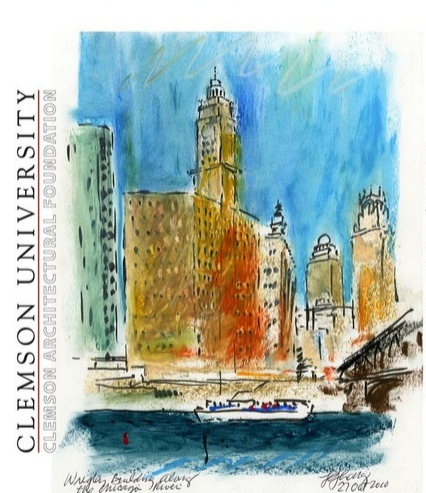


### Clemson student discovers the architectural link between South Carolina and the White House

A Clemson University graduate student is making his mark on Charleston's historic landscape with a discovery that connects Charleston to the design of the White House.

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### 2022 AIA National Convention



Chicago

### Clemson School of Architecture, AIA South Carolina and Clemson Architectural Foundation to host reception at upcoming AIA Convention

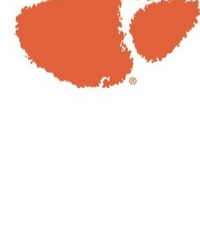
Are you going to the AIA Convention in Chicago? Please join us for our Alumni + Friends Reception.

Clemson University School of Architecture, AIA South Carolina, Clemson Architectural Foundation

Thursday, June 23, 2022  
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

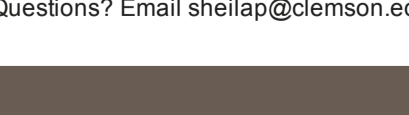
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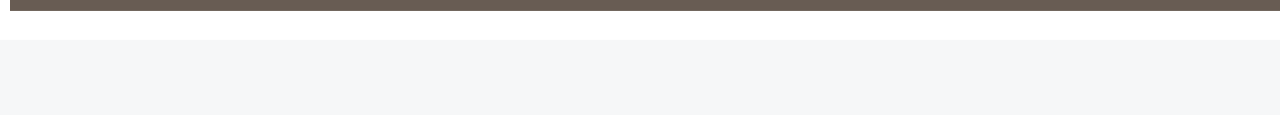


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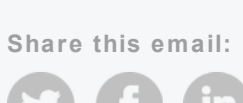
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