

STUDIO CULTURE POLICY

PREFACE

The *Studio Culture Policy* of the Department of Architecture, College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, establishes guidance for a positive and respectful learning environment in which the students, faculty, staff, and administration within the department are able to reach their full academic potential. The Department of Architecture fully understands that fostering a community of academic scholars is of utmost importance. The goal for the learning environment of the department is to foster a high degree of collaboration that emphasizes the need for group and individual growth within each member of the department. The Studio Culture Policy outlines the criteria for such a learning environment within the department.

THE STUDIO

The studio is the place where learning, researching, innovating, and discovering spark the imagination within an architectural education. In order to create a successful studio learning environment, five values are incorporated into this policy: Respect, Time, Responsibility, Tradition, and Innovation. These five values allow the department to sustain a positive learning community for the students participating in such a rigorous program.

RESPECT

The department has the right to expect that all members will benefit from and value the diversity brought by each individual within the department. This diversity may stem from differences in experiences, ideas, cultural values, formal education, religious beliefs, and/or family background.

Students and faculty are expected to treat each other in a positive and constructive manner. Faculty members are expected to ensure that each student in a class is reaching his or her full potential to the extent reasonably possible. Students are expected to respect the goals and initiatives established by the faculty in the studio.

Students are to respect each other; understanding that different students take different paths in order to reach their individual potential. Students should respect and treat each other's studio space, materials, time, and ideas in a constructive manner.

TIME

One of the most important skills needed in the program is time management. Toward this end, students and faculty will endeavor to value each other's time. Attendance, full participation, and an adequate amount of work outside of scheduled class time are expected. Becoming a professional requires a passionate commitment of time and effort in a learning environment that enables the transformation of self.

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for a successful studio rests upon the collaboration of the students, faculty, staff, and administration of the Department of Architecture. The staff and

administration are responsible for providing an adequate learning space with the necessary resources to permit a student's maximum potential to be reached.

The faculty are responsible for providing problems, assignments, questions, and conversations to inspire students. The responsibility of the students lies in the effort, passion, enthusiasm, open-mindedness, and willingness to work hard that will allow them to develop into consummate professionals.

TRADITION

The history of the College of Architecture and Planning provides a long-standing commitment to excellence in architectural education and the preparation of design professionals. This tradition has become the backbone of studio learning for the students, faculty, and staff.

It is expected that students and faculty alike receive equal opportunity to partake in this learning environment. Students are expected to engage with professionals in the community to allow for an understanding of the requirements beyond graduation. Faculty are expected to allow students to partake in these engagements, knowing that such interactions will only further enhance the learning experience.

Individual within the department is expected to provide a well-rounded atmosphere in which students are given exposure to every aspect of architecture. The studio atmosphere should allow students to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that provide enhancement of studio learning.

INNOVATION

The evolution of each scholar within the department to produce a well-rounded professional is achieved through a variety of processes. These processes might vary from student-to-student, professor-to-professor, and from project-to-project. Students are expected to accept these challenges and take risks in the design process, while faculty are expected to provide opportunities for success, exploration, and creativity.

SUMMARY

Respect, time, responsibility, tradition, and innovation are the five values that enable a positive and nurturing experience for all involved with the diverse process called an architectural education. The successes of such a learning environment are derived from the commitment of the students, faculty, and staff to architecture and to learning. As architecture evolves, and as the learning environment evolves with changing times, this studio culture document will evolve on an annual basis.

Updated: January 9, 2013