

Enid Huang
BAS 2021 Graduate

Hello, class of 2021. After a wild four or five years of school, we finally made it to another Zoom meeting. But actually, we have finally reached the end of our undergraduate degree.

So, let's start with a little throwback of our graduating class, which all started with our Facebook group chat back in May of 2017 when many of us got our acceptance letters! From then, that group grew and grew within the next couple of months.

And the next thing you know, we were all scrambling around in studio trying to figure out what desk or locker to snatch, and then, we were wondering how we would lug the drafting table back to school from Deserres. And from then on, it was the beginning of a wild ride where we all tried to be the best designer to get a lil yellow sticky note. Little did we know, it just took a dried banana peel to shake Federica and the TA's minds – shoutout to Landers Gordan for teaching us that maybe less is more.

First-year was a super confusing and exhilarating time. I'm pretty sure we all had a different mindset of what architecture school would be.

Our studios throughout the years weren't just a place for work, but a barbershop, a music festival, thanks Colton, an excavation site, a place that held the world's most expensive snowflakes – apologies Steve and the Fab Lab again – we had no idea about how much it laser cutting cost in first year. It was also a gymnastics gym, and sometimes it was a party venue where we had a bit too much fun that some years had to tell us to be quiet.

But at last, we've finally crossed the finish line of never having

- to anxiously wait at the printshop for our panels and laser-cut fumed files
- to never have to hope that we have enough printing money
- to hopefully never have to worry about our super glued fingers
- to never have to post about our lost UBS & SD cards

And we have successfully been the first class to finish housing virtually – we should all be so proud, not only because we were all able to screen share properly, but because we've done so much and spent countless hours on our projects. So much so that we would often forget to update our friends and family on our existence – I'm sorry I didn't answer your texts sometimes, Mom. The answer was always studio.

We have all made so many memories and friends through the years. Many often sprouted from our all-nighters in studio that generally left us very unalert during our crits and lectures. We all know the feeling of presenting while you're sleep-deprived and trying your absolute hardest to sound professional. Whether we had a good crit or a bad crit, we knew that was no better feeling than falling into your bed after crit.

Nevertheless, these all-nighters definitely deepened a lot of friendships – when you had an all-nighter buddy, it was like those late-night parking lot hangouts. Some pretty deep convos happened there with various Uber eats dishes powered by Cad, Rhino, Revit, or whatever program we had.

Our friendships are what helped us through the years and made school so worth it. I hope in the years to come, wherever we are and whatever we're doing, we can look back at our architecture years and know that it was mainly filled with happy, funny, and weird moments that we had inside or outside of studio. So, here's a thank you to everyone who was ever in studio and helped each other out by either lending an X-ACTO knife, shared their printing money, or helped pinup or pin down during crits, or just in general, made studio more of a playground than a classroom!

Thank you to true sponsors: our family and friends who supported us throughout the years either financially, emotionally, and or virtually. You kept us present in the real world and reminded us there was actually life outside of architecture.

Thank you to our profs who shared their insane knowledge that built us into who we are today. A special thanks

To Ando for teaching us about the important of colour and its meaning.

To Adriana for making Multimedia an iconic class

To Mark and Rob for helping out all the time and keeping us alive at the shop – I know for me, if it weren't for them, I would probably have a missing finger.

To Steve and the Fab Lab for dealing with our chaos.

Of course, to our cool studio mom/undergrad director during our first three years – Janine. Janine, thank you for bringing us food during our all-nighters in second year, for remembering where our jackets are and reminding us to do whatever it takes to experience architecture. Here's a little quote from a student – Juan Ramirez, to hype you up.

And to Johan, our current undergrad director – I had to opportunity to have him as my prof during my last semester, and he's the first prof who ever really seemed to want his students to find time to sleep – thank you for caring about the impossible!

Thank you to the rest of the faculty and all our profs to dealt with all our problems – either school or life-related. It's already so wild to be a student in architecture, so I can't imagine what it's like to run a school for architecture students. Thank you for helping us get to this point and teaching us all your knowledge and wisdom with us – although sometimes we didn't listen and decided to put the entry somewhere else, but

nonetheless, we definitely wouldn't be here without all your support, courage, faith and trust you all had in us. We will do our best to carry what we learn into the real world!

Hopefully, we can all have some sort of reunion soon. If not, maybe the school will invite our class to Forward 75!

Until then, here's a grad pic of all of us – please message me if you're not in this!

And shoutout to Sediqa and Fed and faculty who worked their butts that organized this event – give them a thanks!