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Professor

Thank you for the opportunity to be invited to speak at this important celebration of your accomplishments. What a year this has been! This is not just the year when the class of 2021 graduates from the Bachelor of Architecture Studies programs in Conservation & Sustainability, Design, or Urbanism. You have all proven yourself beyond the tasks of a final year in an architecture school. You have shown resilience, camaraderie, and the ability to support one another and yourselves through an unexpected challenge that has affected many of us, our friends, and families in many and different ways. We want to remember all those affected by this. And I mention this because I am sure these challenges have added to what you were asked to do — and you succeeded!!!

We, as a school are so pleased with your achievement, and I personally feel privileged to have had the opportunity to be on your educational path which will continue beyond the academic world, through practice, and for many additional academic studies too. I have known you from your first year in the architecture school — in the drawing class — a class whereas a core pedagogical concept is the individual right to freedom of artistic expressions.

I have witnessed your exceptional abilities in the program from this first beginning. Ethical ideas regarding academic freedom (which invests both faculty and students) is the core of education and the topic of a contribution in a book chapter on early years of design education that will be published this year in a book called *T-Squared: Theories and Tactics in Architecture and Design* edited by Samantha Krukowski. The work of Rubin de Jonge and Sideqa Haqani is part of this publication.

Having had the pleasure to also cross paths again with a smaller group of you in fourth-year studio it was an amazing opportunity to see the culmination of this four years path in a series of exceptional designs dealing with our capacity for adaptability – and quite specifically, the COVID19 pandemic and the re-conception of future hospital designs. And for this too I am working on a booklet, that will be ready soon and will be disseminated to the Ottawa Hospital experts who are planning for the new Carling Campus and the wider community.

Indeed, as you are ready to make your way into the world of architecture, conservation and urbanism, and other related design fields, the best way for us to remember you is to celebrate your work today and in the future.

My wish for you is that you be out there changing the capacity of architecture for quality design, compassion and inclusivity through and beyond architecture! I do wish you all the best! I sincerely hope to cross our paths again in graduate school, at future studio crits when you will return to support younger generations on many and all occasions – as our alumni.