



UNIVERSITY OF  
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May 1, 2020

Dear Students,

Let me begin by saying that the College of Environment and Design wishes that you and your family and friends remain healthy and optimistic throughout this unprecedented time. Graduation excites us every year because it marks your collective transition from students to successful colleagues in the environment and design professions who are *Prepared to Shape Our World*. Though this year circumstances prevent us from celebrating in person, I want you to know that the CED is proud of your achievements.

I am deeply impressed with the many ways in which our students have risen to this semester's unique challenges. Students handled multiple theory classes and studios entirely online, defended theses over video meetings, and balanced work, study, and personal well-being while social distancing. New stories emerge every day of the remarkable creativity and resilience of our current and former students. I know the Class of 2020 will push the boundaries of design, planning, and preservation even further.

Though we cannot hold our traditional ceremony, we are excited nonetheless to give our graduates the recognition they deserve. On Friday, May 8 at 3 p.m., we invite you to join us in viewing a short video presentation online. My message will be followed by our Commencement Speaker, Chris Hite (BLA '87; President of Dix.Hite+Partners), and the program coordinators, who will also read the names of our graduates. We look forward to sharing this experience with you and your loved ones.

We hope that this letter and the accompanying artwork will serve as enduring reminders of your time with the CED. As an alum of the CED, you are automatically a member of our Alumni Association. I trust you will remain involved through our many alumni events nationwide. If possible, we would love to reconnect during the rescheduled university commencement ceremony on Friday, October 16.

Sincerely,

Sonia Hirt  
Dean