

2022 ARE Scholarship Thesis Statement and Essay

In an essay of 300 words or less, please describe how you will take on the mantle of the Architect for the Future of our World, and how licensure will help you play that role.

Thesis Statement

A single designer, nor a singular licensed architect, could tackle the challenges of the future, alone. Instead, an intricate network of diverse voices from a variety of professions must unify to confront climate change, social inequities, global pandemics and more.

Essay

The shifting work environment for architects appears daunting. Knowing uncertainty in the future is inevitable, architects must prepare for forecasted challenges and plan for a better future: a future that prioritizes a high quality of life for the whole planet. Unexpected shifts to architectural work come about due to the volatility of the future. Meanwhile, progressive change to architectural work is welcome and encouraged by imaginaries and strong voices for change. Architecture must develop professionals from communities fighting for equity and justice. If architecture is to lean into difference and expand its collective history, architecture will become stronger at pushing through change.

The experience of a global pandemic provides clarity to the importance of community. While it can be difficult to find common ground, it is necessary to come together to support one another. The licensure process is a way to ground professions, it provides a common support and accountability that is needed for individual architects to progress. An architect alone is simply unable to tackle the pressure of climate change, inequality, and global pandemics. By becoming a licensed architect however, an empowering accountability network will follow, providing strength in numbers. Much like an architectural project, it is impossible to rely on one profession alone to get the job done. While I pursue licensure, I do not intend to limit myself to architectural networks: I will extend my connections so that I can be influenced by difference and strengthen my profession's adaptability.