

**IIT INSTITUTE OF DESIGN  
ACADEMIC UNIT CEREMONY**

**DENIS WEIL**

*Dean*

Saturday, May 16, 2020  
12:00 pm



**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

## LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Dear freshly-minted ID graduates,

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of IIT Institute of Design, I want to congratulate you on your graduation. You join a group of alumni that has a phenomenal history. Going back to the first people who entered ID, 83 years ago in 1937, the consistent characteristic of ID graduates is a passion for applying new ways of doing design always adapted to the particular social, cultural, economic, and technological forces of their time. This means that when you meet alumni who attended at a different time from yours, you will find friendship and understanding of what it means to be a graduate of ID.

We recognize that one of the main contributors to making ID a remarkable experience is our community, the students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Please know that wherever your career may take you, you will always remain a member of the ID community. We encourage you to stay in touch with the school, your peers, and to network with alumni from other times within the community that you are moving to, and the sector you will be working in. Please make sure to let us know how you are doing and come back to visit us at the school and at events near you.

We applaud you on your achievement, particularly in the current crisis, and are looking forward to hearing about your impact and contributions with the constant focus defined by our founder László Moholy-Nagy, “Not products, but people, are the end in view.”

Best Regards,



Denis Weil  
*Dean*

## INSTITUTE OF DESIGN FACULTY AND STAFF

### FULL TIME FACULTY

Jeremy Alexis\*  
Laura Forlano  
Tomoko Ichikawa\*  
Mark Jones  
Tom MacTavish  
Matt Mayfield\*  
Zach Pino  
Ruth Schmidt\*  
Carlos Teixeira\*  
Martin Thaler  
Denis Weil\*

### ADJUNCT FACULTY

Smiljana Antonijevic  
Santosh Basapur  
Bruce Bendix  
John Cain  
Jody Campbell  
Brian Casario  
Daniel Chichester  
Sarah Kelly Costello\*  
John Dominski  
Jereme Dumm\*  
Sari Gluckin\*

Steve Hammond  
Eric Hausman  
Yuli Patrick Hsieh  
Ben Jacobson  
Sara Johnson\*  
Adam Kallish  
Ali Karbassi  
Joel Kashuba  
Larry Keeley  
Jennifer Levin  
Mark Micheli  
Ruben Ocampo\*  
Mike Oren  
Mo Sook Park  
Charlie Smith  
Susan Stirling\*  
Brianna Sylver-Galvao\*  
Peter Zapf\*  
Robert Zolna\*

### STAFF

Rachel Dean  
Kristin Gecan  
Sha'Ronda Lewis  
Rashaan Meador  
Krista Roble  
Stephanie Smith\*

\* ID alum

## GRADUATES

### MASTER OF DESIGN

Ellesia Albert\*  
Tyler Adam Besecker  
Julia Chueke Rochlin  
Yuan Feng  
Ananya Garg  
John Gregory Gerber\*\*  
Xuning Guo\*  
Rachel Elise Huvad\*  
Matthew James Impola\*  
Divya Iyengar\*  
Sanya Karwani  
Kyung Tae Kim  
Cagla Kuzu  
Go Eun Lee\*  
Renjie Li\*  
Zhongyang Li  
Shuyi Liu  
Yuting Mao\*  
Ryan Michael Maus\* \*\*  
Pinakee Sudhir Naik  
Tanvi Ranka  
Adithya Ravi  
Prachi Saxena  
Brian William Siegfried  
Paolo Tanedo\*  
Xiaoqiao Tang

Cristina Tarriba\*  
Andreya Suzanna Veintimilla  
Diane Heejung Wee\*  
Xinrui Xu\*  
Yueyue Yang  
Yun Yang  
Jianing Zhong  
Yuqing Zhou\*

### MASTER OF DESIGN METHODS

Tania Louise Aldous\*  
Luciano Annes Nunes\*  
Jessica Bogart Kasper  
Dmytri Gouba  
Robert Grossman  
Amy Guterman  
Yoichi Kanayama  
Jeffrey Spetter

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Santosh Basapur\*\*\*  
Maryam Heidari Poursalehabad  
Andre Martins Nogueira\*

\* Degree awarded Fall 2019  
\*\* Awarded both MDes + MBA  
\*\*\* Degree to be awarded Summer 2020

## HISTORY

### Over eighty years of innovation and design education

In 1937, László Moholy-Nagy left Europe to found The New Bauhaus in Chicago as a school that experimented with new materials and media. Over the years, this experimental spirit has taken many forms.

Today, the methods pioneered at ID are finding a wider audience. Many leading corporations, consultancies, and schools are adopting our methods into everyday work processes. Other organizations seek stronger bonds with ID, choosing to recruit our graduates and sponsor our work. *BusinessWeek* has described ID as “a leader in developing innovation metrics and design strategy curricula.” Students come from around the world to be a part of this school, and they leave as alumni ready to make life better and more meaningful.

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1937

German Bauhaus luminary László Moholy-Nagy arrives in Chicago to head a new school he named The New Bauhaus

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1944

The school is renamed the Institute of Design

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1949

The Institute of Design becomes part of IIT

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1955

Director Jay Doblin introduces design theory into curriculum

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1965

Systems and systematic design introduced into curriculum

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1993

Design planning and ethnographic methods introduced into curriculum

ID creates America's first PhD program in design and introduces MDes degree

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2003

ID launches Master of Design Methods degree for mid-career designers and product managers

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2006

ID introduces the first MDes/MBA dual-degree program

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## COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

### FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

*End of Year Show opening*

[Click here](#)

### SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

*Opening ceremony livestream*

10:00 am

[Click here](#)

*ID virtual commencement ceremony*

12:00 pm

[Click here](#)

## COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

### WELCOME

Rachel Dean  
*Director, Graduate Admission  
and Student Engagement*

### DEAN'S ADDRESS

Denis Weil  
*Dean*

### PRESENTATION OF DEGREES

Denis Weil  
*Dean*

### STUDENT SPEAKER

Prachi Saxena  
*MDes 2020*

### CLOSING REMARKS

Denis Weil  
*Dean*

## About the student speaker

Prachi Saxena is an anthropologist at heart with a designer mindset. A recipient of the Peter W Cherry Design Foundation Fellowship, she has a master's in social science from the University of Chicago.

She is passionate about asking gnarly questions, flipping orthodoxies, and making the abstract tangible. She has consulted on projects ranging from service concepts to promote energy savings for low income families to proposing sustainable solutions for revitalizing brownfields in segregated regions of Chicago's South Side.

In her time at ID, she also headed IDSAB (2018–19) and supported conferences such as Design Intersections (2018).

As a strategic designer, she hopes to bring rigorous systemic thinking and methods to tackle complex social issues.