IIT INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
ACADEMIC UNIT CEREMONY

DENIS WEIL
Dean

Saturday, May 16, 2020
12:00 pm

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
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

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

STAFF
Steve Hammond
Eric Hausman
Yuli Patrick Hsieh
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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*

* ID alum
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.

1937
German Bauhaus luminary László Moholy-Nagy arrives in Chicago to head a new school he named The New Bauhaus

1944
The school is renamed the Institute of Design

1949
The Institute of Design becomes part of IIT

1955
Director Jay Doblin introduces design theory into curriculum

1965
Systems and systematic design introduced into curriculum

1993
Design planning and ethnographic methods introduced into curriculum

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

2003
ID launches Master of Design Methods degree for mid-career designers and product managers

2006
ID introduces the first MDes/MBA dual-degree program

* Degree awarded Fall 2019
** Awarded both MDes + MBA
*** Degree to be awarded Summer 2020
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](#)

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.