## ELIZABETH A. SCHULTZ

## **Teaching Statement.**

As an educator dedicated to fostering critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and lifelong learning, my approach to teaching at the collegiate level is grounded in three core principles: student-centeredness, interdisciplinary connections, and continuous improvement. As a differently-abled woman, my commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in educational settings is paramount. Throughout my career, I have passionately advocated for EDI practices both in academic settings and through active advocacy. I believe that effective learning methods must be multifaceted, meeting students where they are and accommodating diverse needs to ensure high achievement.

I am dedicated to creating an inclusive learning environment where every individual has unhindered opportunities to share their unique insights, talents, and thoughts in meaningful ways. As a professor of practice, I view myself as responsible for shaping the culture and academic environment that lays the foundation for students' professional lives. By simulating real-world best practices in the studio, I prepare students to excel throughout their careers.

## Key Principles of My Student-centered Teaching Approach:

- Flexibility: I set a flexible schedule and adapt my teaching methods to accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities.
- **Collaboration:** I foster a collaborative atmosphere where peer partnering is encouraged to solve complex problems and inspire growth in each student's interests.
- Individualized Guidance: I provide personalized feedback and support tailored to each student's unique skill set and abilities.
- Accessibility: I prioritize prompt responses and being present for students, ensuring they feel supported and valued in their learning journey.
- Effective Communication: I emphasize thoughtful presentations and well-developed concepts over mere checklists, nurturing a deep understanding of architectural principles and professional standards.
- Empowering Next-Gen Innovators: My passion lies in empowering the next generation of architectural innovators through constructive design feedback, a robust understanding of design principles, and an awareness of the profession's evolving landscape. I aim to cultivate skills which equip students to thrive in their architectural careers.

**Interdisciplinary Connections:** Recognizing the interconnected nature of knowledge, I encourage students to explore interdisciplinary connections within and beyond their field of study. By integrating perspectives from diverse disciplines, students gain a more comprehensive understanding of complex issues and are better equipped to address real-world challenges. I facilitate discussions that encourage students to explore multiple viewpoints, challenge assumptions, and think critically about the ethical implications of their work.

**Continuous Improvement:** Both in and out of the classroom, I am committed to continuous improvement, I regularly seek feedback from students and colleagues to hone my teaching practices. I stay current with advances in pedagogy and technology to incorporate innovative teaching methods that enhance student learning outcomes. By reflecting on my teaching experiences and adapting to the evolving needs of my students, I strive to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment that prepares students for success in their academic and professional endeavors. Most importantly, I maintain a network of peer professors and practitioners.