

# LOOKING BACK FORWARD

## An open letter from the Editorial Board

Dear Reader,

As you may have heard already, last May the BSA Board of Directors put *ArchitectureBoston* on pause through the end of 2020 due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which necessitated laying off, among others, the magazine's editor and staff who supported its production. For further information about the circumstances leading to the BSA's decision, please read BSA Executive Director Eric White's [announcement](#) from May 13, 2020, and BSA President Natasha Espada's and BSA Foundation Chair Ted Touloukian's [letter to the BSA community](#) from May 20, 2020. As the *ArchitectureBoston* Editorial Board, we are writing to update the AB readership on our hopes for the future of the publication in these uncertain times – indeed, “Hope” was the magazine's planned theme for the last quarter of 2020.

First, we wish to recognize *ArchitectureBoston* Editor Fiona Luis' many years of dedication and substantive contributions to the magazine. Starting in 2013 as Deputy Editor under the previous editor, Renée Loth, Fiona directed the magazine's graphic design, worked with writers to hone their stories, and occasionally contributed articles herself. Succeeding Renée in 2018, Fiona guided the magazine's transition from print to digital (which included a daunting publication schedule) while maintaining AB's high standards of quality – all with seeming effortlessness. While many of us were apprehensive about the magazine going digital, we couldn't be more pleased with the new incarnation of *ArchitectureBoston*, thanks in no small part to Fiona's advocacy and stewardship.

*ArchitectureBoston* launched in June 1998 under the helm of its first editor, Elizabeth Padjen, who guided its development for over a decade. Conceived as part of the BSA's strategy to better connect architects with the general public, the magazine embodied several key principles that remain touchstones for the magazine's production to this day: editorial independence, idea-driven writing, and inclusiveness. AB serves not only the interest of designers and allied professionals. It provides thought leadership on how design impacts society and culture. As an extension of the BSA's motto, “Architecture is for Everyone,” *ArchitectureBoston*'s mission is to speak to a wide audience. Unlike a trade journal or an academic publication, both of which would be written and read exclusively by experts, AB seeks to reach the BSA membership and beyond – to anyone who has curiosity, interest, and concern about the built environment. The smart, critical writing – writing that is thoughtfully curated, rigorously edited, and boldly illustrated – strives to showcase diverse points of view and an extensive range of ideas. The body of writing collected in the magazine over the years articulates the multidimensionality and omnipresence of architecture and design, that we are all in it together.

*ArchitectureBoston* hopes to emerge from its hiatus in a position to be an incisive voice for addressing the numerous issues that we as a society are struggling with during this most unusual year: racial injustice, power structures, and the role of the built environment in perpetuating inequity; work-life imbalance during the pandemic; the palpable imprint of climate change on both urban and rural

landscapes; to name just a few obvious examples. As individuals and as a group, we remain dedicated to the concept of *ArchitectureBoston*, and we are actively discussing the magazine's future with the BSA's leadership.

What can you do to help? The BSA needs to hear from its members who value *ArchitectureBoston* for its rich content and as one of the hallmarks that makes the BSA unique among AIA chapters. The BSA also needs to hear from non-members who miss the magazine as a source for jargon-free exposition about ideas, culture, and design.

With everything going on in the world these days, the loss of *ArchitectureBoston* is, paradoxically, both trivial and significant. As the publication of a robust professional society that prides itself on cultivating deep and lasting connections with society at large, *ArchitectureBoston* has the opportunity to elevate the BSA's relevance at a time when the power of design is most needed, and needs to be articulated clearly. We look forward to the rebirth of *ArchitectureBoston* and rely on your voice and support in that effort.

Keep well,

[Members of the \*ArchitectureBoston\* Editorial Board](#)