

***Rebecca Boles***  
***AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL***  
***CONTRIBUTIONS***  
***IN HONOR OF EDWARD J. ROMIENIEC,***  
***FAIA***



**Texas Society of Architects**  
**Honor Awards Program 2023**

**Submitted By:**  
**AIA Fort Worth**  
**June 2, 2023**

# **Nomination Letter**



May 24, 2023

**Marcel Quimby, FAIA**

Chair, Honor Awards Committee  
Texas Society of Architects  
500 Chicon Street  
Austin, TX 78702-2754

**Re: Nomination of Rebecca Boles, AIA for the Texas Society of Architects Award for Outstanding Educational Contributions in Honor of Edward J. Romieniec, FAIA**

Dear Chair and Honors Committee;

I am very privileged to nominate a colleague for twenty years, Rebecca Boles AIA, for recognition of her contributions to architectural education in the state of Texas with the Edward Romieniec Award. The impact of architectural educators on the future of the profession is profound, yet few awards outside academia recognize their contributions. The Romieniec Award is exemplary in celebrating the accomplishments of the best educators in the state of Texas.

Rebecca Boles is an unsung hero of design education in the state who has served in multiple roles--design teacher, Director of Interior Design, Assistant Dean-- at the University of Texas Arlington over her 3 decades in academia. I will call your attention to her resume for the details of her varied contributions to the College and School and note that she was the longest serving administrator in college history, much of it during the time I was Dean. These three decades were a period of intense change for design education in general and at UT Arlington in particular: rapid expansion in student enrollment with a significantly more diverse student population, broad professional and societal changes that required adjustment in the curriculum, the integration of digital tools requiring dramatic modification of facilities and academic infrastructure, among others. Throughout this period Rebecca provided the continuity and constancy that kept the College on track and on a continually ascending trajectory of excellence.

As a studio teacher, primarily within interior design, Rebecca has connected with hundreds of students in the upper level of the Interior Design Program directly contributing to their subsequent success within the profession. As Director of the Interior Design Program from 2006-2013, she oversaw the development and delivery of the curriculum in such an effective way that over 80% of the program graduates are immediately employed in the profession following graduation; a fact that the College and UT Arlington are justly proud. In leading multiple accreditation reviews, she insured that the program achieved both NASAD and CIDA accreditation and maintained that status through subsequent re-accreditation reviews. A noteworthy characteristic of the UT Arlington interior design program is the close relationship with the architecture program, sharing the same design goals, philosophy, and values, ensuring our graduates are effective contributors within a complex profession. As a licensed architect and interior designer, Rebecca personally demonstrated that any boundaries between these two disciplines are imaginary and truly sympathetic in their contributions to the profession and public. She was also a successful advocate for the ID graduates to continue into the M. Arch program achieving dual professional credentials thereby further bridging any disciplinary conflicts. Another contribution as an administrator, perhaps easily undervalued, was her role as chief facilities officer for the College. With the expansion of students, faculty and teaching infrastructure over the last twenty years, the need for quality education environments that support student outcomes and reinforce the link between design and quality of life has become critical to success. Rebecca successfully oversaw, managed, lobbied, and argued for multi-million-dollar enhancements of the Architecture Building that supported student success, faculty research productivity, and insured the reputation of the College of Architecture Planning and Public Affairs within the state and nation.

Without doubt Rebecca Boles has been a crucial agent in the education of design professionals in Texas and merits this recognition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Gatzke'.

*Donald Gatzke FAIA Professor Emeritus  
Dean of Architecture 2003-2014*

**The American Institute of Architects**

AIA Fort Worth  
T (817) 334 0155  
[www.aiafw.org](http://www.aiafw.org)

# **Biography/ Exhibits**



School of Architecture building. The impact of this space consolidation was a scarcity of studio rooms, computer classrooms, fabrication areas, dedicated research areas and faculty offices. Since 2015, Rebecca has been involved with 2.5 million dollars of incremental renovation and furniture procurement. These utilitarian projects have met the needs of CAPPA's increased enrollment and resulted in additional studios and a community design build laboratory. Each additional square foot of space was the result of dogged determination and continual negotiations between the College and the campus Office of Facilities Management.

### Section III

#### **SERVICE TO TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS**

Rebecca's involvement with the Texas Society of Architects started in 2008 when she joined the Publications Committee. Her service as Chair of the Design and Studio Awards Committee followed in 2017-2018.

As Education Member Director, she helped to formalize the dual credit high school certificate program in architecture endorsed by TxA. Those involved with university admissions are now seeing the results of this pipeline from high school to community college and ultimately to the university level.

**HISTORY OF IMPACTFUL TEACHING**

Rebecca Boles has been teaching within the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs at UT Arlington (CAPPA) for twenty-four years. Rebecca has taught across the interior design curriculum in classes such as Introduction to Architecture and Interior Design, Interior Materials, Detailing, and Furniture Design, but her passion is for the junior or senior level studio courses she taught. Student projects have contributed to the community through service-learning projects and have been recognized in campus initiatives and national competitions.

Student learning objectives are focused on preparing students to enter the interior design profession, as the Bachelor of Science degree is the first professional degree for interior design. University data has consistently shown that approximately eighty percent of CAPPA interior design graduates are employed following graduation.

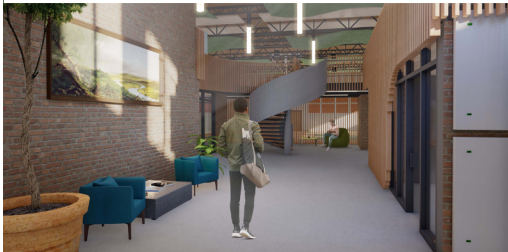
Rebecca served as Program Director of the Interior Design program from 2006-2013. She continued to be an important program facilitator after the leadership of the Interior Design Program was officially transferred to the School of Architecture Director of Architecture in 2013. Her knowledge of the program was essential in maintaining the quality of our program since then and she was an important guide in helping Barbara Marini, the current Program Director in Interior Design get established when that position was reestablished in 2020.

Accreditation of the Bachelor of Science degree is critical for our interior design graduates seeking registration. Rebecca prepared the Program Analysis Report and set up the site visit for the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) reviews, 2009 & 2015. She also submitted Interior Design documentation for the initial National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) accreditation of UT Arlington in 2008 and re-accreditation in 2014. Additionally, Rebecca staged the 2022 exhibit of interior design student work that contributed to the program's latest successful CIDA accreditation in 2023.

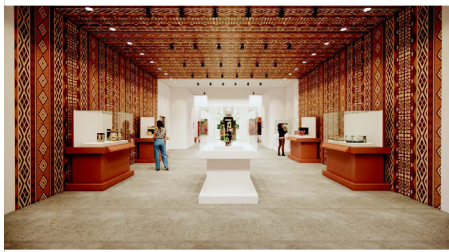
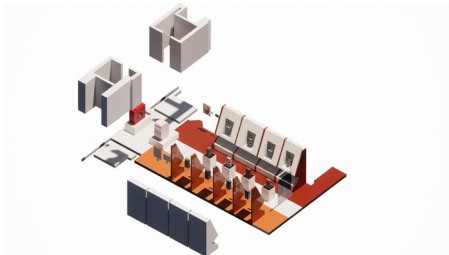
Rebecca has served as an important role model for CAPPA's Interior Design graduates encouraging many to continue to graduate school to pursue a Master of Architecture degree. A number of interior design graduates at UT Arlington continued to graduate school to complete a M. Arch. degree since 2000.

STUDENT WORK

Samples of work produced in Rebecca Boles' design studios:



FALL 21 Melissa Pierce Community Center, Joppee



SPRING 23 Dallas Museum of Art Encuentros





Section I

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2012-2023 Associate Professor in Practice, Interior Design  
School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Arlington
- 2006-2013 Director of the Interior Design Program  
School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Arlington
- 2005-2012 Assistant Professor  
School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Arlington
- 1998-2004 Senior Lecturer  
School of Architecture, The University of Texas at Arlington
- 1998 Instructor in Interior Design  
Texas Christian University  
Course Taught: Introduction to Interior Design
- 1995-1997 Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Courses Taught: Freshman Architecture Design Studios
- 1986 Adjunct Assistant Professor  
New Jersey Institute of Technology  
Course Taught: First Year Graduate Design Architecture Studio

**PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2000 Registered Interior Designer, Texas #09784
- 1999 Architectural Registration, Texas #16512
- 1999 National Council of Architectural Registration Boards  
NCARB Certificate # 40690

Section I

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2022 | <p>Faculty Sponsor for Robert Bruce Thompson (RBT)<br/> Student Light Fixture Design Competition<br/> Victor Velasquez: Second Place</p> <p>Yujie Zhou: Citation for Innovative Concept</p>                                      |
| 2017 | <p>Faculty Supervisor for Dana Shihabeddin<br/> Undergraduate Research Assistant Program</p>   |
| 2013 | <p>Faculty Advisor for Student Design Competition sponsored by Teknion<br/> First Place: Adrienne Atkin &amp; Lauren Crill<br/> Second Place: Leslie Rios &amp; Gloria Espino<br/> Third Place: Kim Lam &amp; Laura Quintero</p> |
| 2010 | <p>ACES: Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students<br/> The University of Texas at Arlington<br/> Undergraduate Sustainability Award<br/> Ashley Johnson<br/> Title: Sustainability with a Shipping Container</p>             |
| 2009 | <p>Faculty Sponsor for Robert Bruce Thompson (RBT)<br/> Student Light Fixture Design Competition<br/> Vixithra Aulbaugh: First Place &amp; \$6,000 award</p>   |
| 2007 | <p>IIDA Foundation/Kimball Office Scholarship Fund<br/> National Scholarship awarded for portfolio review<br/> Yeshica Marroquin</p>   |
| 2006 | <p>IIDA Foundation/Kimball Office Scholarship Fund<br/> First recipient of a National Scholarship awarded for portfolio review<br/> Diana Kang</p>   |

Section I

- 2005 ACES: Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students  
The University of Texas at Arlington  
Dean of Architecture Undergraduate Oral Presentation Award  
Ursula K Chandler  
Title: Sustainable Design for Commercial Interiors
- 2004 Faculty Sponsor for AIA Fort Worth  
Student Excellence in Architecture Awards  
Jennifer Campbell: Merit Award for Vitra Museum Display
- 2004 Faculty Sponsor for Robert Bruce Thompson (RBT)  
Student Light Fixture Design Competition  
Jean McClure: Second Place  
Charles Cooley: Third Place  
Michael Contreras: Citation for Innovative Concept
- 2003 Faculty Sponsor for Robert Bruce Thompson (RBT)  
Student Light Fixture Design Competition  
Second Place Award: Susana Lau
- 2002 Faculty Sponsor for AIA Fort Worth  
Student Excellence in Architecture Awards  
Jeancarlo Saenz: Honor Award for Computer Table Prototype

**SERVICE-LEARNING STUDIO PROJECTS**

- 2023 Wellspring on Main Community Center  
Faith based organization with plans for downtown civic engagement in the former Arlington Museum of Art  
Arlington, TX
- 2021 Melissa Pierce Community Center  
Renovating a historic school in the Joppee neighborhood  
Dallas, TX

## Section I

2023      Wellspring on Main Community Center  
Faith based organization with plans for downtown civic engagement in the former Arlington Museum of Art  
Arlington, TX

2021      Melissa Pierce Community Center  
Renovating a historic school in the Joppee neighborhood  
Dallas, TX

### **CAPPA TEACHING COLLABORATIONS**

2022      Adaptable Living, Accessory Dwelling Units,  
Interior Design 3554 Parallel Studio with ARCH 4557with Professor Julia Lindgren

2019      Towards a Future of Hypermobility  
CAPPA Interdisciplinary Course, Module 3 with Professors Josh Nason and Taner Ozdil

2017-2019    Lecturer for Academic Success Skills in Architecture (ARCH 1101)

### **ARCHITECTURE SUMMER CAMPS**

Strategies, Events, Episodes, and Devices (SEED) started in 2006 as a joint summer camp between the Art+Art History Department and the School of Architecture as a recruitment program for high school students. Rebecca Boles volunteered to teach in the first joint camp and was involved with the planning and execution of the architecture camp through 2019. The School of Architecture hosted their own summer camp, first known as SEED for Architecture, and later renamed as Summer@CAPPA, for which Rebecca acted as director from 2009-2017.

Students were recruited from local high schools to participate in a week-long camp to experience drawing, fabrication, and the concluding exhibition of their work. Architecture faculty conducted the sessions which gave young campers an introduction to what it would be like to study architecture or interior design at the university level. The student work reflected an enthusiasm for design and a no-holds barred approach to their projects.

Junior Interior Design Studio 2016-2022



Happy Homes, France  
SPRING 2020



Sports Retailer  
SPRING 2019



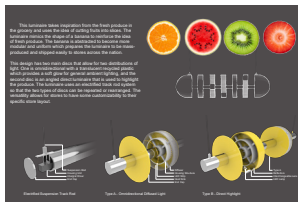
Little Free Library Box  
FALL 2017



Fort Worth Public Market  
FALL 2022



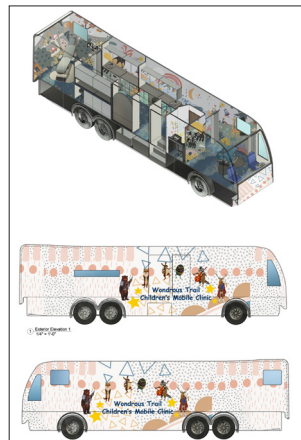
Fashion Design /  
Interior Design  
FALL 2016



RBT Student Light  
Fixture Design  
FALL 2021



BOK Corridor Reuse  
SPRING 2019



Here Comes the Bus  
SPRING 2022

SEED/Summer @ CAPPA



2010



2009



2010



2010



2010

**SUSTAINED ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP****ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP IN CAPP**

Since Ed Baum's departure as Dean of the School of Architecture at UT Arlington in 1999, the leadership of the School of Architecture and ultimately the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs has been mainly characterized by change. Following Baum, four dean or interim deans have led the School of Architecture and three deans or interim deans have led the College.

Rebecca Boles became involved in the leadership of the School when she was named Director of the Interior Design Program in 2006. She served in that position until 2013 when she became Assistant Dean of the School of Architecture. Her job responsibilities have changed with each successive Dean or Interim Dean, but Rebecca has been involved at some time with all administrative aspects of the College such as undergraduate advising, undergraduate transfer portfolio evaluations, financial approvals, curricular changes, resolution of student conduct cases, oversight of College IT and fabrication lab staff, and building maintenance and renovations.

**CAPP FACILITIES**

The School of Architecture on The University of Texas at Arlington campus is housed in a 138,157 sf building designed by Pratt, Box and Henderson and completed in 1986. In 2015, when the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPP) was formed, the School of Urban and Public Affairs also moved their operations into the existing building. At that time, university funding was largely dependent on increased enrollments. CAPP became a victim of its own success, growing from a total initial enrollment of 892 in 2015 to a projected enrollment of 1252 across all programs for the fall 2023 semester.

As Assistant Dean, Rebecca Boles has taken a lead role in planning for the renovation of the existing CAPP building and the acquisition of new spaces to meet the increased demand for design studios as well as staff and faculty offices.

In 2020, Dean Adrian Parr funded the development of the UTA Community Design Build Lab, a 13,750 sf facility to the north of the UTA campus. Rebecca acted as the College reviewer during the construction document and construction administration phase.

## Section II

*The following is a list of CAPPA renovation projects undertaken by Rebecca Boles since 2015:*

2023 CAPPA South: Nursing facility renovated for four additional studios and two review spaces.  
*Project Cost= \$143,710*

2023 Relocation of campus OIT labs to the first floor CAPPA.  
Establish CAPPA VR and Laptop teaching labs  
Relocation of the Institute of Urban Studies to UTA's Fort Worth Center  
*Construction and Moving Costs Pending*

2022 Vending Area Restored. *Project Cost= \$15,744*

2022 112 Lockers for CAPPA North, purchased by CAPPA with a state grant. *Project Cost= \$38,200*

2022 Studio Wall Closure, CAPPA Third and Fourth Floors. *Project Cost= \$16,951*

2021CAPPA North: Acquisition of an additional 3500 sf for a total of six studios, plus a review space. Total building sf 10,105. CAPPA Contribution \$37,820. *Total Construction Cost: \$187,833.*

2021 CAPPA North: Furniture ordered by CAPPA with a state grant. *Project Cost= \$98,482*

2020 UTA Community Design Build Lab, 13,750 sf to include wood and metal fabrication, studios, faculty offices and community meeting areas. *Project Cost= \$736,288*

2020 Campus Center, Studios 103, 104 & 105. *CAPPA Contribution= \$10,079 Total project cost=\$34,033*

2020 Reestablishment of the 4th floor paint booth. *CAPPA contribution= \$5,000. Total project cost= \$75,000*

2019 CAPPA 209-201. Reconfiguration to provide a large studio for freshman drawing classes. *Equipment Only Cost= \$2,741*

2018 CAPPA Main Conference Room. Donor funded project. *Project Cost= \$166,493*



## Section II

2017 CAPPA First Floor South. Renovation to create Digital Classroom and Print Lab, 3,375sf. CAPPA Contribution \$122,420. Total Project Cost \$156,250

2016 CAPPA Café. Construction drawings prepared by Gensler, but project cancelled before initiation. Construction and Furniture Cost= \$282,785

2015 CAPPA 201 Dean's Suite and Second Floor Offices, Reconfiguration for CAPPA formation Construction and Furniture Cost= \$584,241





**SERVICE TO TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS**

Rebecca became involved with the AIA Fort Worth Chapter in 2001 when she returned to Texas after practicing architecture in New York and Pennsylvania. For ten consecutive years, Rebecca served on numerous Fort Worth Chapter committees including Director at Large, Vice President-Membership, Vice President-Programs, and Excellence in Design Awards Chair.

Her involvement with AIA Fort Worth led to multiple committee assignments for Texas Society of Architects. Rebecca served on two Communication Committees, including the Publications Committee for five years, and the Education Outreach Committee for two years. She also contributed to the Practice and Recognition Committee, Design and Studio Awards, for three years.

During her five years on the Publications committee Rebecca was pleased to have several articles published in Texas Architect. She valued contributing to the discussions about magazine themes and being the “Fort Worth” reporter on the newest buildings and critical issues affecting Texas architects.

The most impactful service to the Society was through Rebecca’s involvement in formalizing the TxA dual credit architecture certificate program. She carried forward the previous work of the Young Public Awareness Task Force (2017-2018) in defining a pathway for high school students to earn credit toward an Associates degree at a two-year technical or community colleges while completing high school. This effort resulted in a simplified text outlining the role of the high school and the community colleges in offering dual credit. Resources for high school counselors and community college administrators were summarized and made available to the public through the TxA website. These guidelines remain on the TxA website today.

In 2017 and 2018, as the Educator Member Director, Rebecca convened an annual Dean’s Council meeting in which the deans of the Texas architecture schools shared the status of education in the state and projected future opportunities. Information concerning student recruitment, graduate placement, and ongoing research of benefit to the profession was shared and reported back to the TxA board.

Academia serves their students best when research advances are shared with the architecture community and industry.

Section III     *Service to the Texas Society of Architects and the AIA Fort Worth include:*

**SERVICE TO TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS**

2018-2019     Chair, Education Outreach Committee

2017-2018     Director, Educator Member

2017-2018     Task Force Chair, Young Public Awareness Committee  
Dual Credit High School Program for Architecture

2016-2017     Design and Studio Awards Committee Chair

2015            Design and Studio Awards Committee Member

2008-2013     Publications Committee

**Authored Articles Published by Texas Architect, 2000-201**

2011            Boles, “Back to the Garden,” Texas Architect November/December (2011): 49-53.

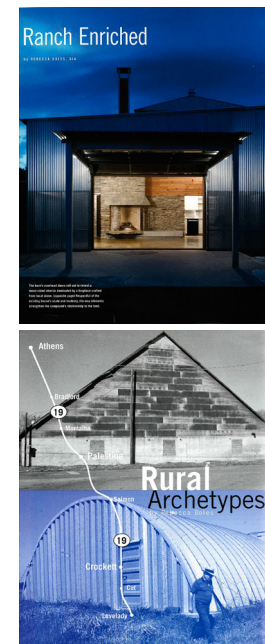
2011            Boles, “Outstanding Intern Programs in Texas,”  
Texas Architect Jan/Feb (2011): 28-29.  
Includes intern interviews transcribed by Boles and posted on the  
Texas Society of Architects Blog:

[http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/  
emerging-professional-matthew-duggan.html](http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/emerging-professional-matthew-duggan.html)

[http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/  
emerging-professional-sonia-escobar.html](http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/emerging-professional-sonia-escobar.html)

[http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/  
emerging-professional-ledia-osmani.html](http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/emerging-professional-ledia-osmani.html)

[http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/  
emerging-professional-chris-sias.html](http://texasarchitect.blogspot.com/2011/01/emerging-professional-chris-sias.html)



Section III

- 2010 Boles, "Reconnection," Texas Architect, Nov./Dec (2010): 36-41
- 2010 Boles, "Richardson Visual Arts Center." Texas Architect. Sept./Oct. (2010): 64-67.
- 2010 Boles, "UTA Focuses on 'Property Repositioning,'" Texas Architect Jan./Feb. (2010): 12.
- 2006 Boles, "Out of the Box." Texas Architect Jan./Feb. (2006): 48-51.
- 2005 Boles, "Ranch Enriched." Texas Architect May/June (2005): 26-27.
- 2003 Boles, "Completing the Quad." Texas Architect Jan./Feb.(2003): 30-33.
- 2002 Boles, "Fort Worth Honors." Texas Architect March/April (2002): 16.
- 2001 Boles, "Fast Rail to Link Fort Worth and Dallas." Texas Architect, Nov./Dec. (2001): 12.
- 2001 Boles, "Rural Archetypes." Texas Architect March/April (2001): 26-29.
- 2001 Boles, "Academic Village." Texas Architect Jan./Feb. (2001): 38-39.
- 2000 Boles, "Artisan: Old World Craftsmanship." Texas Architect, Nov./Dec. (2000): 25.
- 2000 Boles, "Roadside Dynamism." Texas Architect Sept./Oct. (2000):46-47. 2000

**AIA Fort Worth Chapter Service**

- 2016 Co-Chair, Sporting Clay Event
- 2006-2010 Honors and Awards Committee
- 2008 Host Chapter TxA Convention Committee
- 2006 Excellence in Design Awards Committee Member

### Section III

2004-2005 Chair of Children's Tour for Architecture Month  
2001-2003 Excellence in Design Awards Committee Member  
2001-2003 Executive Committee Member  
2003 Vice President-Programs  
  
2002 Chair of Excellence in Design Awards Committee  
  
2002 Vice President-Membership  
  
2001 Director at Large

