

# {Re}volution

**“To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves. We remember them because it is an easy thing to forget: that we are not the first to suffer, rebel, fight, love and die. The grace with which we embrace life, in spite of the pain, the sorrow, is always a measure of what has gone before.” - Alice Walker**

We are a part of a larger fabric, and we hold in our breaths the legacy of those before us. But now, the time has come to acknowledge that we are also a revolution, a momentous change waiting to happen.

At the advent of the 58th year of the National Association of Students of Architecture, we look back and see how much we have evolved, how far we have come, but we also look forward to the heights we can still reach, to the Revolution that we can be. And it was this thought that led to the theme of this year's NASA.

Revolution versus Evolution, or a delicate amalgamation of both that leads to Innovation? This is the question that we put forth to you, one which more often than not triggers an either/or response. Evolutionary innovators ask questions based on the limitations of existing solutions; revolutionary innovators ask questions no one else has thought of.

In fact, Robert Kennedy once said, when paraphrasing a quote by George Bernard Shaw: **“Some people see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say why not.”**

As architects, our work is a reflection of who we are. So what questions are you going to ask yourself? The **“why” of what has been?** Or the **“why not” of what is yet to come?** Are you going to respect the legacy of the past? Or are you going to take the future into your hands? Or may hap, you will find a delicate balance of the two?

Whatever it may be that you find befitting, what we also expect from you this year is extensive research, The Details, **the “how”**. When the legendary German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe coined the now famous phrase **“God is in the Details”**, he encouraged his audience to live and work in a thorough manner and to take note of details, no matter how small they may be. As do we encourage you, now. Go forth, test the waters of material innovation that have never been explored before. Experiment upon the limitations of current practices.

Ensure however that you express clarity of thought and a through comprehension of how your ideas will manifest themselves while bringing forth arguments that are supported by critical reasoning.

Evolution tends to optimize the world as it is. Revolution aims at creating the world as it could be. Are they **mutually exclusive? Or mutually inclusive?** The choices you make and the understanding of the process that will lead you to your end product.

And that, in short is the essence of our **58th year of NASA.**

Regards,

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