



For Immediate Release

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SCHENKEL SHULTZ'S EKTA DESAI RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE ALUMNI DESIGN AWARDS

Orlando, FL – December 8, 2025 – Schenkel Shultz Design Lead and Partner, Ekta Desai, AIA, received a project award at the inaugural Alumni Design Awards, held in celebration of the University of Florida School of Architecture's Centennial. The recognition highlights her adaptive reuse of Schenkel Shultz's Winter Park headquarters.

Created to celebrate the breadth of talent within the UF Architecture and Alumni community, the Alumni Design Awards recognize work that demonstrates creativity, impact, and design excellence. Selected from more than 100 submissions reviewed by an esteemed panel of jurors, Desai's project was recognized for its innovative approach and meaningful contribution to architectural practice. This honor reflects her leadership and the firm's ongoing commitment to advancing the discipline while supporting emerging designers.

"This recognition represents a profound full-circle moment," reflected Ekta Desai. "To be honored by the institution that shaped my foundation as a designer, and for a project that's so personally meaningful to our firm, is deeply significant."

At the Centennial Gala, the School's legacy of cultivating visionary designers was celebrated, with past achievements and future ambitions coming together in a single evening. All entry fees were directed to the UF School of Architecture Excellence Fund, supporting the students, research, and programs shaping the next generation of architects.

Ekta remains closely connected to her alma mater serving as a member of the UF School of Architecture Advisory Board and contributing her time through design reviews and mentorship, helping to guide and inspire future leaders who will carry the School's impact forward.

About Schenkel Shultz Architecture

As a member of the Central Florida community for 40 years and headquartered in Winter Park, Schenkel Shultz is committed to inspiring the community through impactful design. The architecture and interior design firm has built a legacy of success through a continued focus on design excellence that responds to the distinct needs of each client. Recently named the AIA Orlando 2025 Firm of the Year, Schenkel Shultz continues to be recognized for its community engagement, education and advocacy within the profession. Rooted in critical

thinking, research, collaboration, and personal experiences, the firm is passionate about design and creating meaningful community partnerships.