

**The American Institute of Architects**

Bonjour, from the comfort of my humble stay-at-home arrangement (Yes, I am the ‘bonjour’ polar bear meme). My name is Nicole Tischler and I’ll be acting as your Regional Associate Director for the next two years! I am an Emerging Professional on the path to licensure working at Studio Detroit in the heart of the city. I’m a Lawrence Tech. Alumni of the Graphic Design program and further, a graduate of the University of British Columbia in Canada. While there I was a member at the Green College, received a Master’s degree in Architecture, and even began teaching courses at the undergraduate level. Since I’ve returned to Detroit, I’ve begun practicing as an associate architect, making furniture, painting and as recently as this year- teaching alongside Chris Stefani. Now, I would certainly be remiss if I did not give credit where credit was due. Chris has done such a fantastic job of maintaining a strong connection to AIA National, hosting study sessions, connecting young professionals, and supporting others as a mentor and a professor. I am excited to follow in his stead.

Without having to take many physical steps, unfortunately, I’ve been catching up on all things AIA. I attended the Joint Annual meeting with the National Associates Committee. In attendance was the Young Architect Forum members, whom I am eager to work with further. Major topics of discussion included the effects of Covid-19 on the profession, Justice Equity Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI), and of course - climate change. I joined a task group to explore these topics through the lens of Influence and Innovation. I’m excited to interview and discuss with Emerging Professionals who’ve recently started their own firm or business. I’ll be writing an article on the challenges of starting such an endeavor during such an unprecedented time of business volatility. Please reach out to me if you, or someone you know, has started their own business within the past couple of years and are willing to be interviewed for an article!

That about sums up the first two months. I look forward to hosting more events, gaining licensure, and sharing experiences with all of you. And hopefully, in real space soon!

Thanks for taking the time to read. Please reach out with any questions or ideas that you may have for AIA or for me.

Sincerely,



Nicole Tischler, Assoc. AIA  
2021 AIA Michigan Associate Director