

Renée Cheng joined the University of Washington College of Built Environments as dean on January 1, 2019. Cheng came to the UW from the University of Minnesota where she was a professor, associate dean of research, head of the school of architecture, and directed an innovative graduate program linking research with practice and licensure. Cheng has been honored twice as one of the top 25 most admired design educators in the United States by *DesignIntelligence*, an organization that ranks architecture and design schools across the country.

A licensed architect, Cheng is a leader in the American Institute of Architects and advocates for equity in the field of architecture and more broadly in the practices related to the built environment. Cheng has pioneered research surrounding the intersection of design and emerging technologies, including work on industry adoption of Integrated Project Delivery, Building Information Modeling, and Lean.

Bringing deep connections to industry and teaching expertise, Cheng leads the College of Built Environments and all its disciplines, which include architecture, construction management, landscape architecture, real estate, and urban design and planning. The College's approach and work goes beyond the design of buildings, as it considers the physical, cultural and ecological systems in which we live.

Cheng earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and social relations from Harvard University. She went on to receive a professional degree in architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design. After academic appointments at the University of Michigan and University of Arizona, Cheng joined the University of Minnesota in 2001, serving first as head of the School of Architecture and later as associate dean for research for the College of Design.