



## CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Donna Kacmar, FAIA, LEED AP, University of Houston

### Candidate Statement

I am thrilled to have been nominated to serve as ACSA Secretary; the organization is needed more than ever to help support us as we assist in defining our profession in these fast moving and unfamiliar times. I have been a practicing architect and design studio teacher for the past twenty-one years while being actively engaged in professional and community organizations. For many years I have taught design studios as an adjunct or visiting faculty member while working full time at architectural firms, and most recently, as a full time faculty member while having my own architectural firm. Four years ago I took on a new teaching assignment when I became the technical coordinator for the architecture college at the University of Houston and have worked to develop and implement a new integrated curriculum that is joining building science (structures, materials, thermal systems) with architectural design studios. I also founded and direct the Materials Research Collaborative that connects academia with our local design and construction community in areas of material research, bringing a level of material expertise to our students as well as to the profession. While my own professional life has been more of an evolution it may be time for us all to embrace more of a revolutionary stance if we are to remain relevant.

This is a time of rapid change in both the profession and academia. It is difficult not to be overwhelmed by the shocking transformation of architectural practice (integrated building design that is changing the nature of our professional requirements, latest BIM software releases that promise more than we are able to utilize effectively, even small practices doing work overseas, and our client's demand for environmental accountability) and academia (changing support of higher education, diversity of students, and tenure feasibility). We must prepare ourselves and our students for what is ahead by remaining connected and nimble. Architectural educators must find ways to understand current architectural culture while fulfilling our fulltime teaching obligations. We might collaborate with other firms, work as a design consultant, run projects wholly within a firm in a more traditional practice, seek to understand and critique recent built works, or engage in a particular area of research and expertise that allows us to interface with the profession. Gaining an awareness of the full variety of current practices will impact the way in which we prepare our students for this evolving profession. We should be open to discovering what future practice models look like and even learning new skills ourselves so that we might better shape a variety of new ideal curriculums. We must recognize that the creative act also happens outside of the design studio, and embrace the reality of cultural literacy, technical competency, and shifting practice requirements on the creative act as we take responsibility for the built environment.

I think that the ACSA is the best venue for these discussions and transformations to take shape. My experience with current architectural practice, recent curriculum evolution, material research development, and active participation in multiple organizations allows me to bring a skill set which encourages inclusion and connection yet always challenges assumptions. I would be honored to serve our 6000 plus members by helping maintain ACSA communication, Bylaws and Rules. I hope to work with all of you as we seek ways to gain input from the currently under-represented and connect us all more directly to the other collateral organizations that have an important yet different stake in this shifting claim.



#### 2012 ACSA Board Election Timeline

January 7, 2012

February 8, 2012

March 2, 2012

Ballots mailed to all Full-member Schools

Deadline for receipt of ballots in ACSA office

Winners announced at ACSA Annual Business Meeting in Boston, MA

**The Faculty Councilor from each ACSA full-member school is the voting representative.  
For candidate statements and curricula vitae, please visit [acsa-arch.org](http://acsa-arch.org).**

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## Curriculum Vitae

<b>EDUCATION + PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS:</b> Registered Architect, State of Texas	1995
Master of Architecture, Texas A+M University	1992
Bachelor of Environmental Design, Texas A+M University	1988
<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE:</b> University of Houston, College of Architecture, Associate Professor	2007-Present
University of Houston, College of Architecture, Assistant Professor	2001-2007
University of Houston, College of Architecture, Adjunct Professor	2000/2001
Texas A+M University, College of Architecture, Visiting Assistant Professor	1999/2000
Rice University, School of Architecture, Wortham Fellow, Visiting Faculty	1998
University of Houston, College of Architecture, Adjunct Faculty	1994-97
<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:</b>	
Architect Works, Inc., Houston, TX	1999-2010
Oak Forest Library, Houston, TX, with Natalye Appel and James Ray Architects Houston Chapter AIA, Design Honor Award & Greater Houston Preservation Alliance Good Brick Award	
Round Valley Texas Office Building, Bellaire, TX Texas Society of Architects, Design Honor Award & Houston Chapter AIA, Design Honor Award	
A Very Long Skinny House, Spring Branch, TX Houston Chapter AIA, Design Honor Award & <i>A House for My Mother</i> , Beth Dunlop, Princeton Architectural Press.	
Rose/Knox Townhouses, Houston, TX, with Christopher Craig and Mary Ann Young Houston Chapter AIA, Design Honor Award & <i>Living Together: Multi-Family Housing Today</i> , Michael Crosbie, Images Publishing, Australia.	
Natalye Appel + Associates Architects, Houston, TX	1993-1999
CRSS Architects, Inc., Houston, TX	1992
Case Design-Build, Falls Church, VA	1988-1990
<b>HONORS:</b> Texas A&M University, College of Architecture, Outstanding Alumni Award	2011
University of Houston Architecture Alumni Outstanding Faculty Award	2009, 2010
Elected to the College of Fellows, American Institute of Architects	2009
Educator of the Year, AIA Houston	2007
Silver Medal Award of Excellence, Texas Tech University	2005
AIA National Young Architects Award	2004
Texas Society of Architects, William W. Caudill Award	2000
Houston Chapter AIA, Young Architect Award	2000
<b>JURIES AND LECTURES:</b> "Work", University of Louisiana at Lafayette	2011
"The Plan" Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa	2009
"Materials", Visual Resources Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada	2009
"Connections", University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM	2006
National AIA Housing Design Awards Jury, Washington, DC	2005
Washington DC AIA Design Awards Jury, Washington, DC	2004
"Working", Louisiana Tech, Ruston, LA	2002
"Work," University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV	2001
Nevada AIA Design Awards Jury, Las Vegas, NV	2001
<b>PUBLICATIONS + CITATIONS:</b> "Changing Curriculum", National Conference on the Beginning Design Student, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2011.	
"Material Categories", "Case Studies", "Systems Integration", Building Technology Educators Conference, 2009.	
"Accommodation in the City: Beer, Burgers, and Barbacoa" in <i>Sources of Architectural Forms</i> , edited by Dr. Hussain M. Dashti, 2007.	
Fast Company, Ryan Underwood: "Fast Track", 2004.	
<i>Residential Architect</i> , Meghan Drueding: "Start-Ups: Year Four", 2003.	
<i>Remembrance and the Design of Place</i> , Frances Downing, 2003.	
"Landscapes of Culture: The Body in the Land", ACSA International Conference, Helsinki, 2003.	
<b>SERVICE:</b> AIA College of Fellows Representative, Texas Region	2011-13
Texas A+M University, Department of Architecture Advisory Council	2009-Present
Houston Architectural Foundation, Board of Trustees	2007-Present
Rice Design Alliance, Board of Directors and Program Committee	2001-07
AIA Houston, Board of Directors	1997-99
Avenue Community Development Corporation, Board of Directors	1998-04