



CANDIDATE FOR WEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Ryan E. Smith, University of Utah

Candidate Statement

Architectural educators in the West Region are a repository of social and technical design knowledge. I have noted that much of this knowledge is unheard, unrealized, and underdeveloped because it lacks integration with concurrent topics, codification, and representation to enter the architectural and academic dialogue. This weakness can perhaps be attributed to our greatest strength as schools in the West, and values we hold as a region: *autonomy and agency*. In addition, architecture schools are increasingly in competition for a decreasing number of students, resources, and interests. Our desire for autonomy and necessity of competition leads to disintegration of the ultimate mission of schools of architecture – increasing the quality of the built environment and positive impact of architecture in society.

I was raised, educated, trained, and now work in architectural education of the West Region. I have worked with many of its accredited schools noting the focus on local, regional and western issues through seminar and studio course instruction and critical timely research and creative work. We are individually, and as discrete units, champions for quality of the built environment in our locales. However, alone we are not as effective as when working collectively. How can we collaborate and be unified to meet our personal and shared objectives and thereby increase our impact on the building industry and society?



My work over the past decade has focused on knowledge transfer of research to teaching, and research to dissemination. As a “connector”, I have found access to alternative sources of funding and developed means of outputs and communication to the building industry for demonstrable and measureable results. This leadership experience will be leveraged to promote the concerns of the West Region and dispense our knowledge to increase our influence on architecture and its education.

Our concerns in the West are unique. From the California Gold Rush, to the Mormon migration to Utah; and from the establishment of the federal land system, to the transcontinental railroads to the American Indian wars and reservations – the West is the great 20th century socio-cultural-economic-and political experiment. This has resulted in a systemic, idiosyncratic, and often confrontational network of people, land, natural resources, gender, and race. This complexity is beautiful yet problematic; for in its raw, fragile, and experimental identity, the region faces mounting challenges of population expansion, immigrant infusion, invasive plant and animal species, and subsequently economic and natural resource strains. These challenges are not new. They are however exacerbated in the context of national and global economic and environmental crises.

But the West is also a manifestation of the capacity of the human spirit to rise above - in the face of obstacle and continued optimism - in the face of adversity. Our region's potential is one that builds unity between schools of architecture for the greater positive impact of architecture to meet these challenges of the West and the influence of architecture on society regionally, nationally and globally. My desire is to facilitate working together, integrating to leverage our expertise, capability and motivation to meet mounting challenges, through a critical view of the past and proactive vision to the future.

2013 ACSA Board Election Timeline

January 7, 2013

February 6, 2013

March 22, 2013

Ballots mailed to all Full-member Schools

Deadline for receipt of ballots in ACSA office

Winners announced at ACSA Annual Business Meeting in San Francisco, CA

The Faculty Councilor from each ACSA full-member school is the voting representative.
For candidate statements and curricula vitae, please visit acsa-arch.org.

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Biography

Ryan E. Smith is a native of the West: raised in the Phoenix area, worked for local firms, attended University of Arizona (B.Arch) and UC Berkeley (M.Arch). Thereafter, he worked for Bohlin Cywinski Jackson in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Currently, he is Director of the Integrated Technology in Architecture Center (ITAC) at the University of Utah, School of Architecture that has performed ~\$2M in the past 5 years on government, institution and commercial contracts including the DOE, USDA, and the AIA. Visit <http://itac.utah.edu> for more information on projects and outcomes. Smith also teaches materials, construction, technology and design courses in the School of Architecture. He is completing a sabbatical year as a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Offsite Construction and Innovative Structures at Edinburgh Napier University in the UK.

Smith has researched prefabrication and performed knowledge transfer in the construction industry in the U.S. for nearly a decade. Most notably, he has written the authoritative scholarly and professional text on the topic titled Prefab Architecture: a guide to modular design and construction (2010). Building Systems with Kiel Moe (Harvard) was published by Routledge (2012). In addition, Smith has authored 5 book chapters, 8 journal articles, and 16 peer reviewed papers. He has commercialized 2 technologies with industry partners. He regularly leads continuing professional education programs and has organized multiple conferences regionally and nationally on building technology topics. He served as President of the Building Technology Educators' Society in 2011 and is currently Series Editor for PocketArchitecture: technical design series published by Routledge.

The Architectural Research Centers Consortium awarded him for his research and leadership for the singular New Researcher Award in 2011. In 2012 the Engineering News Record awarded him the Top 20 under 40 for his leadership in the US construction sector through his involvement in the American Institute of Architects Center for Integrated Practice, the committee nationally that formulates Integrated Project Delivery for professional architects and his continuing professional education offerings. He was recently awarded the Modular Building Fellowship by the Modular Building Institute this year for his industry based research and advocacy in offsite design and construction. <http://prefabeducation.com>.

ACSA on three separate occasions (2007 Collaborative Practice, 2009 Creative Achievement, 2011 Creative Achievement) has awarded his industry collaborative courses and research. He has authored the ACSA / American Institute of Steel Construction steel design competition and reviewed design projects on the competition jury for a number of years, reviewed papers for multiple ACSA conferences, served as a moderator for paper sessions at conferences, and presented in Special Focus Sessions on technology related topics. Most recently, Smith served as Co-Chair with Quale (U.Virginia) and Ng (Temple University) for the ACSA Fall 2012 Conference titled OFFSITE: theory and practice of architectural production.

For more information and a full CV on Ryan E. Smith visit:

http://faculty.utah.edu/u0456902-RYAN_E_SMITH/biography/index.html