



CANDIDATE FOR WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Nadia M. Anderson, Iowa State University

Candidate Statement

Thomas Jefferson stated, "Design activity and political thought are indivisible." I support this dictum by investigating how architecture can be a vehicle for impact and change in society, a truly democratic discipline that incorporates a diverse array of voices into the production of the built environment. As architectural educators, it is our responsibility to guide our students to see their future practices as proactively engaging critical contemporary issues such as poverty, climate change, and rapid urbanization. It is also our responsibility to articulate the relevance of our discipline so that we can attract more diverse students, retain more of our graduates, and play central roles in setting priorities for our planet's future.

During the past ten years at Iowa State University, I have focused on how architecture can address society's inequities by teaching and mentoring students and young professionals in engaged design methods, and fostering opportunities for engaged design research and practice. I created the Bridge Studio and the ISU Community Design Lab to provide opportunities for students to engage public interest design and create an institutional fabric supporting engaged design research. As part of ISU Extension and Outreach, I have also expanded the range of publics that architecture engages, connecting design to issues of rural and urban poverty, disaster recovery, and environmental resilience. My background in international practice has been invaluable in navigating academic structures and now, as I hopefully move into a new phase of my academic career, I seek to not only serve my students and colleagues at ISU but also my peers in the West Central Region and all of ACSA.

I believe that engagement, defined by the Carnegie Foundation as "the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity," can be a foundation for architecture's ability to expand agency by partnering with communities, multidisciplinary colleagues, and students to challenge conventions of top-down expertise in favor of reciprocal collaboration. To do this, architects need to see themselves as relational catalysts moving between the grassroots and "grass tops," between the local and the global, between the conceptual and the material. In many ways, we already know how to do this by exploring iterations and visualizing new futures, setting criteria and testing options. Engaged design helps keep these investigations open, creating a public world that facilitates appropriation rather than control. Many ACSA member programs engage architecture students in work with communities and public interest design is rapidly expanding the world of practice. As the voice of architectural education, ACSA has an important role to play in articulating the importance of engagement for learning as well as how engaged research and scholarship build academic and professional careers in our discipline.

Through our teaching and research, we can expand the architectural profession's relevance in addressing complex contemporary issues such as economic inequity, climate change, and rapid urbanization. This is relevant in our major cities as well as rural states like Iowa where communities struggle to negotiate tensions between, for example, nineteenth century floodplain development and twenty-first century flooding of low-income neighborhoods. In the West Central Region in particular, we are surrounded by global systems such as energy and food production and distribution and we see how these systems impact ordinary lives, often prioritizing short-term financial gain over long-term social and environmental health. As a candidate for West Central Regional Director, I understand architectural teaching, research, and practice as well as the structures that shape them and believe I can help lead our region and the ACSA as a whole in framing future-oriented and inclusive structures for architectural education.



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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Master of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania 1994
Bachelor of Arts (Architecture), Yale University 1988

TEACHING

Iowa State University
Co-Director, ISU Community Design Lab 2012 – Present
Extension Architect, ISU Extension and Outreach 2010 - Present
Assistant Professor, Architecture and Urban Design 2009 - Present
Lecturer, Architecture 2005 - 2009
Illinois Institute of Technology, Visiting Assistant Professor Fall, 2001

PRACTICE and PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Illinois Licensed Architect #001.017755 1998 – Present
Waagner Biro SGT, Vienna, Austria. Project Manager 2003 – 2005
A. Epstein and Sons, Warsaw, Poland. Project Manager 2001 – 2003
A. Epstein and Sons, Chicago, IL. Project Designer, Project Manager 1998 – 2001
Morgante-Wilson Architects, Chicago, IL. Project Architect, Construction Manager 1995 – 1998
Rugo/Raffensperger Architecture, Chicago, IL, Project Architect 1994 - 1995

PUBLICATIONS

Nadia M. Anderson, "Finding and Reassembling Community Amidst Disaster" in Mallika Bose, Cheryl Doble, Paula Horrigan, Sigmund Shipp, eds., *Community Matters: Service-Learning and Engaged Design and Planning* (Oxford: Routledge, 2014), 117-134
Nadia M. Anderson, "Public Interest Design: Expanding Architecture and Design through Process and Impact," *Public: A Journal of Imagining America* 2:2
Nadia M. Anderson, "Public Interest Design as Praxis," *Journal of Architectural Education* 68:1, March 2014, 16-27

AWARDS, HONORS, and GRANTS

Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit – Funding from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture 2014 – 2016
Strategic Initiative for Interdisciplinary Education, Research, and Engagement – Funding from the ISU Provost to start the ISU Community Design Lab 2012 – 2014
Cultivate Hope Urban Farm, Community Stewardship Merit Award, ASLA Iowa 2012
Faculty Outreach/Public Service Award, Iowa State University College of Design 2011
Live Green Award for Excellence in Sustainability, Iowa State University 2011
Affordable Housing and Disaster Relief – Funding from ACSA/NEA for research, exhibition, and symposium on resilient post-disaster design 2010 – 2011
Miller Faculty Fellowship, Iowa State University – Funding to develop curricula for interdisciplinary service learning in the Global South 2010 – 2011
U.S. Green Building Council Excellence in Green Building Education Award 2009
Grand Prize for Creative Integration of Practice and Education in the Academy, NCARB 2009
AIA Practice Academy – Funding to develop the Bridge Studio 2006 - 2009

SERVICE

Design and Humanities Representative, ISU Graduate Council 2014 - Present
ACSA Faculty Councilor 2013 – Present
College of Design Representative, ISU Task Force on the Scholarship of Engagement 2013 – 2014
Chair, Curriculum Committee, ISU Department of Architecture 2013 – 2014
State of Iowa Governor's Infrastructure Strategic Planning Task Force 2009 – 2010

For full CV, please visit <http://www.design.iastate.edu/FACULTY/nanderso.php>