



## CANDIDATE for WEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Robert Corser, AIA, University of Washington

### Candidate Statement

At an early educational crossroad, I decided to switch from engineering studies to architecture because I felt that it might offer deeper, more integrative challenges and greater opportunities for community engagement. I have never regretted that decision. Since entering the building professions in 1986 as a draftsman in a structural engineering firm, I have witnessed tremendous change in both architectural education and practice. Important issues of sustainability, equity, health and ecology have grown in importance while new construction techniques and design technologies have flourished - all of them enriching architecture's relevance and potential for creating positive social and environmental impacts. But these developments have simultaneously posed important challenges for architectural education. Among them are concerns about the ability to deliver enhanced educational opportunities in shorter, more efficient educational programs, relations with NCARB, NAAB and professional accrediting boards, and paths to licensure - to name only a few.

While many aspects of the architectural profession look and feel different than they did thirty years ago, at its core, architectural education maintains a strong foundation in both the social arts and the physical sciences. And after almost fifteen years of full-time teaching, I remain convinced that architecture offers one of the richest and most rewarding educational opportunities available to students in higher education today. Yet the pace of changes in both our educational institutions and the modes of professional practice challenge us to regularly re-evaluate curricular goals and to envision, articulate and implement new pedagogical approaches, all without sacrificing the important foundational underpinnings of architectural education. For more than a century, the ACSA has been a vital resource for knowledge exchange and a critical forum for collaboration in addressing such emerging challenges. Among the pressing issues I am most passionate about, and which I hope to address collaboratively on the ACSA Board of Directors are:

- Enhancing the profile and reputation of architectural education and practice broadly
- Broadening opportunities for interdisciplinary study, research and practice
- Expanding possibilities for faculty and students to work collaboratively with community partners
- Advocating for greater diversity within our programs and our profession

Although I studied architecture on the east coast and have practiced in both the US and the United Kingdom, the core of my practical experience has come on the west coast, where I hold professional licenses in both California and Washington. And while I have also taught in New York and Kansas, I find myself drawn most strongly to the socio-cultural, economic and ecological issues that are particular to the west, among them: water resource impacts, rural community sustainability, and the development of new industries through innovative opportunities for local natural resources like mass timber. For many years my teaching has included hands-on community collaborative design/build projects that have allowed me and my students to work closely with both rural and urban communities. And for the past seven years, I have actively contributed to the Seattle AIA, including serving for 2 years as Jury Moderator of the annual AIA Honor Awards for Washington Architecture program.

My recent roles as co-chair for the 2016 ACSA Annual Meeting and ACSA representative for NAAB accreditations, has heightened my awareness of the important contributions of the ACSA Board of Directors. I am committed to working hard to enhance ACSA's vital role in architectural education and its service to practice, to our communities and to our world. This is a mission that I am eager to promote, and I'm delighted to be nominated as a candidate for West Regional Director on the ACSA board. If elected I will work tirelessly to advance architectural education nationally while advocating for issues that are specific to the western region.





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## Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Master of Design Studies	Harvard University, Graduate School of Design -Recipient: Gerald McCue Medal and the Peter Rice Prize for integration of architecture & engineering	2003
Master of Architecture	University of Virginia, School of Architecture - Recipient: Henry Adams Medal	1993

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor	University of Washington, College of Built Environments (with tenure)	2013 - present
Assistant Professor	University of Washington, College of Built Environments	2008 - 2013
Assistant Professor	University of Kansas, School of Architecture and Urban Planning	2005 - 2008
Assistant Professor	Syracuse University School of Architecture	1998 - 2002

### SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS (recent)

Most Admired Educator	Design Futures Council, <i>30 Most Admired Educators</i>	2013
NOLA Chair	Runner-up in "One Good Chair" International Design Competition	2008
Shade Pavilion Prototype	Installed in the exhibition: <i>Design for the Other 90%</i> , Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY	2007
NOLA Community Garden	AIA Merit Award for Design, Kansas City Chapter Robert Corser, AIA and Nils Gore, RA	2006

### FUNDED RESEARCH AND PROJECTS (selected)

City of Forks, WA	Grant funded research & design / build projects: Rainforest Arts Center, \$15,000	2012 - 2015
Robot-Tree house	Collaborative Digital Fab Studio –funded by ARUP and Olson Kundig Architects, \$5000	2013
Imagining America	Grant funded research project: Survey of Design Build Pedagogy, \$2500	2008 - 2009
CNC Applications	New Faculty General Research Fund Grant, University of Kansas, \$7800	2007 - 2008
7th Ward Re-Building	William T. Kemper Foundation –for research into digital prototyping and pre-fabrication for community re-building in New Orleans, (\$5000) & (\$5000)	2006 - 2007 2006 & 2007
Pre-Fab Tea Pavilion	Center for East Asian Studies, University of Kansas, \$2500 (as part of Title VI grant)	2006
Sustainability Immersion	NCARB Grant to fund curriculum development in sustainability, \$6000 (Co-PI with K. Diaz Moore)	2006

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (selected)

<i>Fabricating Architecture: Selected Readings in Digital Design and Manufacturing</i> , Organizer & Editor	Princeton Architectural Press	2010
" <i>Insurgent Architecture</i> "	Rob Corser and Nils Gore, In: <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i> : Vol 62, No. 4 <i>Alternative Architectures: Design as Scholarship</i> , theme issue	2009
" <i>Rebuilding for the Seventh Ward's Cultural Life</i> "	Rob Corser and Nils Gore In: <i>Cityscape</i> , The HUD Policy Development and Research Journal	2008
" <i>Insurgent Architecture in the Seventh Ward</i> "	Rob Corser and Nils Gore In: <i>Batture</i> , The LSU School of Architecture Journal	2008

### SERVICE

Co-Chair	Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 104th Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA	2016
Representative	College Council, UW College of Built Environments	2014 - present
Moderator	AIA Awards for Washington Architecture, Seattle	2013 - 2014
Senator	Faculty Senate, University of Kansas	2006 - 2008

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (selected)

Principal	Robert Corser, Architect, San Francisco CA and Seattle, WA projects include: Not Quite All the Doors (3rd prize) Austin Art Alliance, TX Oasis 99 -a sustainable rest stop for California's Highway 99 (Finalist) Palos Verdes Art Center, Palos Verdes California (Honorable Mention)	2009 - present
Project Architect	Hawkins\Brown, London, UK Oxford Biochemistry Building -Schematic & DD – RIBA award	2004 - 2005 2009
Project Architect	ARUP - Advanced Geometry Unit, London, UK Battersea Power Station Redevelopment and The Twist -Schematic Design	2003 - 2004
Architect	Paulett Taggart Architects, San Francisco, CA projects include: World Savings Bank, St. Joseph's Transitional Housing	1995 - 1998
Intern Architect	Peter Waldman Architect, Charlottesville, VA "Parcel – X"	1993 - 1994
Engineering Assistant	MEC Structural Engineers, Portsmouth, NH	1986 - 1989

### LICENSURE

Architect: State of California - License # C-27444 / State of Washington - License # 11443

For full biography, please visit: <http://arch.be.washington.edu/school/people/corser>