



CANDIDATE for SECRETARY / TREASURER (3-year term)

Nichole Wiedemann, University of Texas at Austin

Candidate Statement

Design is a means by which theories (invention) are put into practice with the outcome being true INNOVATION.

While the institution delivers students the foundation necessary for the practice of architecture, academia is equally poised to reengage the profession and contribute to the vision for the advancement of the design disciplines and, thereby, enrich the populations we serve. The educational environment is one in which faculty and students can imagine, explore, and invent a better future while offering the community advancements in knowledge. Strengthening collaborative efforts between the institution and the profession, as well as between the ACSA and its constituent organizations, is essential if we are to effectively address current and future challenges, big and small, in our local and global communities.

In many ways, my nineteen years of administrative, academic, creative research, and service experience at The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture supports the role of ACSA Secretary/Treasurer and the mission and values of the ACSA as described in the 2016–19 Strategic Plan. As the ACSA moves from a position of serving to one of leading architectural education and research, I am particularly excited about furthering partnered research between practice and academia; understanding and overcoming the barriers to achieving gender and racial diversity in the institution and profession; increasing the effectiveness of the ACSA and collateral partnerships; increasing interdisciplinary programs (and knowledge production); and growing peer-reviewed publication opportunities and connections to funding resources. Such initiatives can only enhance the relevance of the ACSA to the institution as well as the profession.

administrative

From 2008-2013, I served as one of three associate deans for The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture. While I directly focused on the undergraduate Architecture (B.Arch.; B.S.A.S.) and Interior Design (B.S.I.D.) programs, which include roughly 380 students, I also considered the needs and trajectories of the school as a whole. This experience in administration provided me with an understanding of the relationship between vision and implementation. Aligning the means (budgets, people, tools) toward achieving transformational outcomes is likewise an essential role of the ACSA Secretary/Treasurer. Additionally, as the Director of the Professional Residency Program, I am currently involved in the placement of 45-50 upper-level architecture students each year in exceptional firms nationally and internationally. In this capacity, I support staff and manage budgets while also engaging the profession in a manner that allows rare insight into the spectrum of practice.

academic

My teaching and research is inherently interdisciplinary and attempts to create a comprehensive understanding of the built environment. While embracing the students of Interior Design, Architecture, Community & Regional Planning, and Landscape Architecture in my seminars and studios over the years, I draw inspiration and knowledge from geography, art, environmental science, history, economics, and politics. While I believe we must bolster our respective disciplines, it is equally important to enable exchange across them in order to address today's "wicked problems" involving economic, environmental, and political issues.

creative research

My creative research utilizes maps as a tool to study endurance (persistence over time) as manifest in the landscape. In architecture and its allied disciplines, "mapping" has emerged as a means to understand and visually capture the complex forces, whether cultural or natural, at play within the environment. As an example, following the devastation of New Orleans, colleagues and I studied resiliency of urban form when faced with ecological and economic flux in *Resilient Foundations: The Gulf Coast After Katrina*, which was exhibited at the 10th Venice Biennale in 2006. While an effort coordinated by the UT School of Architecture, the research and corresponding exhibition would not have been possible without the contributions of many professionals and academics across the allied disciplines, underscoring the necessity of (interdisciplinary) research that partners practice and academia.

service

Over the years, in addition to service to the school and the university, I have been involved with the ACSA as a conference co-chair, paper reviewer, topic chair, ACSA Councilor (2004–08), and awards juror. Being a juror for, and a previous recipient of, the ACSA Diversity Achievement Award has been particularly insightful and inspiring. As the co-chair for the school's Diversity Task Force from 2009–12 (and as co-chair of the ongoing Committee on Diversity + Equity), I contributed to the establishment of the core mission, values, and strategies in support of an inclusive educational environment for all students, faculty, and staff. As Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, I reinstated NOMAS as well as enhanced our student mentoring programs in support of the increasingly diverse student body, particularly at the undergraduate level. Underscoring the AIA's *Diversity in the Profession of Architecture Report*, ACSA's goal of "advancing an inclusive, diverse discipline and profession" is of utmost importance.

Given the level of expertise and commitment evidenced by the ACSA Board of Directors and Staff, I am honored by their confidence in my candidacy as ACSA Secretary/Treasurer. If elected, I would welcome my role as ACSA Secretary/Treasurer, an integral member of the ACSA Executive Committee, in implementation of the 2016–19 Strategic Plan and the future successes of this organization at the forefront of architectural education and research.





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Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

TEACHING / ADMINISTRATION

The University of Texas at Austin	
Director, Professional Residency Program (internships)	2008 - 09, 2013 - Present
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs	2008 - 2013
Associate Professor, <i>Paul Philippe Cret Centennial Teaching Fellow</i>	2004 - Present
Assistant Professor	1997 - 2003
University of Arkansas, John Williams Distinguished Visiting Professor	2008
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Assistant Professor	2000 - 2001
Rhode Island School of Design, Visiting Critic	2000 - 2001
University of Florida, Visiting Assistant Professor	1992 - 1993, 1995 - 1996

CREATIVE RESEARCH / PRACTICE

<i>El Camino Real de los Tejas: A Cartographic Exploration of People + Place</i>	2015 - Present
<i>Sponge Urbanism</i> , (with Jason Sowell), HYDROcity Exhibition, Toronto	2009
<i>Resilient Foundations: The Gulf Coast After Katrina</i> (UT team), 10th Venice Biennale	2006
<i>Re-Collecting Rome</i> (traveling solo-exhibition)	2001 - 2003
Nichole Wiedemann, Austin, TX	1993 - Present
Lou Kimball Architect, Austin, TX	2001, 2008
Andrea Clark Brown Architects, Naples, FL	1993 - 1995

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Master of Architecture	1992
University of Florida, Bachelor of Design in Architecture (Honors)	1989

SERVICE

University Gender Equity Council, Member	2015 - Present
Committee on Diversity + Equity, Co-chair	2015 - Present
Tau Sigma Delta, Faculty Advisor	2012 - Present
ACSA Administrators Conference, Austin, TX, Co-chair	2013
NAAB Accreditation Report and Visit, Co-coordinator	2012
ACSA Conference, <i>*just add water</i> , Austin, TX, Co-chair	2007
ACSA Faculty Councilor	2004 - 08

PUBLICATIONS

<i>To Draw or Not To Draw, <u>Traces & Trajectories: The University of Texas at Austin at 100</u></i> (Austin, TX: Center for American Architecture and Design)	2010
<i>Sponge Urbanism: The Cellular Redevelopment of New Orleans</i> , (with Jason Sowell), <u>JAE</u> , (Somerset, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, Vol. 62, Issue 4)	2009
<i>New Orleans after Katrina</i> , (with Jason Sowell), <u>On Site Review #17: culture urbanism art architecture</u> , (Alberta, Canada: Assoc. for Non-Profit Architectural Fieldwork)	2007
<i>reconsidering the MIXMASTER in Dallas: A Game of Space, Moves and Strategies</i> <u>Proceedings: Interventions + Experimentation</u> , ACSA Conference, Detroit, MI	2005

HONORS / GRANTS

Snell Endowment for Transportation Research Grant	2016
ACSA Diversity Achievement Award	2013
Meadows Foundation Curriculum Grant	2010
Outstanding Scholarship Award	2007
Texas Excellence Teaching Award	2001
American Academy in Rome, Rome Prize in Architecture	1997

For bio, please visit: <http://soa.utexas.edu/people/nichole-wiedemann>