



CANDIDATE FOR MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Craig S. Griffen, RA, LEED AP, Philadelphia University

Candidate Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the post of regional director and if elected would focus much of my attention on the process of defining the next chapter of architecture education. Architecture schools must constantly adapt to change in the discipline and the ACSA, in its vital role to the academy, has always been flexible enough to adjust to challenges as they present themselves. While we must continue to address important matters, like the current revision of accreditation standards, we also need to tackle the current issue of low student enrollment while upholding the quality of our programs. The 'perfect storm' of the economic recession combined with some bad press and a reduced number of available high school students has caused a significant drop in the number of architecture students. Predictions show that if this trend continues it will lead to a serious shortage of architects in the future. As educators preparing students for the profession, we should be very concerned. With all this potential change in the air, I believe ACSA has both a responsibility and an opportunity to be a leader in developing and establishing new standards of architectural education across a wide array of teaching methods.

As Associate Dean in the College of Architecture and the Built Environment at Philadelphia University, one of my main responsibilities involved student recruitment and retention on several levels. I was in charge of organizing and running recruitment programs for high school and transfer students, developing new graduate program curriculum to build our Master level programs, serving on assessment, retention and accreditation committees and overseeing new facility improvements; all in an effort to recruit and retain students. Through this experience I have acquired a solid understanding of what current students are looking for in an architecture program. The financial struggle to meet the increasing cost of college education is leading families to consider alternate means of acquiring an architecture degree. New paths to education include transferring from community colleges into accredited programs as well as studying on-line through distance learning. Both have great positive potential to change the future of architectural education but how they cooperate with, or exist within, existing programs to maintain quality is still being developed. I am specifically interested in the increasingly important role of distance learning in design instruction. Recently I applied for and received a university research grant to study best practices for methods of on-line design studio curriculum delivery. Through cooperation from three colleges with established distance-learning programs, I am learning a great deal about how this new pedagogy can positively affect all our programs in the near future and still preserve the rigor we demand. Being able to share this acquired knowledge with the ACSA would be beneficial as we consider the future role of on-line education.

The current enrollment dilemma and the changing face of architectural education delivery are just two of the many issues that need our attention. While the ACSA is the main voice for the academy, it is only one of several collateral organizations that are responsible for training architects. The AIA, NCARB and NAAB, among others, must team with ACSA to set pedagogical goals but they don't always agree on the same balance of responsibility. My varied experience as a practicing architect for 10 years and a professor for 20, with 4 of those years as an administrator, have taught me to understand, respect and mediate issues from all three points of view.

Considering good solutions to evolving problems has been a focus of mine for the past several years and I am eager to continue in a larger context. I would welcome the excellent opportunity to apply my acquired experience to the national level through ACSA and the position of Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic.



CANDIDATE FOR MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Craig S. Griffen, RA, LEED AP, Philadelphia University



Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, Master of Architecture, 1986
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, Bachelor of Environmental Design, 1984

REGISTRATION

LEED Accredited Professional – 2009, BD + C Specialty - 2013
Licensed Architect - State of Illinois, 1988, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1997
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, Certified, 1997

ACADEMIC

Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, College of Architecture & the Built Environment
Associate Professor, 1995 – present - Curriculum: Second Year Design, Fourth Year Design, Building Technology,
Design/Build, Advanced Construction Techniques and Documentation, Experimental Materials
Associate Dean, 2010 – 2013 – Responsibilities: New Program Development, Academic Policies, Inter-program
Coordination, Recruitment, Retention, External Relations, Lecture & Website Committees, Facility Planning
Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies, 2009 -2011 – Graduate program development and support

University of Louisiana - Lafayette, Assistant Professor of Architecture, 1989-90

SERVICE

University: College & School Personnel Committee, University & School (Chair) Graduate Education Committee, Graduate Council,
Chair - Subcommittee for Study Abroad, Search Committees (numerous), Upper-level, First-year and Thesis Advising
Community: Outreach Studios with Habitat for Humanity-Germantown & Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS (selected)

"Stealing from Ourselves; Derivations of the Gable Roof in Contemp. Arch. Design", ACSA Annual Meeting, (accepted) Miami, 2014
"Multiple Benefits of Teaching Second-Year Design with Cargo Containers", NCBDS, IIT (accepted) 2014
"Spider Cow Design/Build Project" Poster Presentation, ACSA Annual Meeting, Boston, 2012
"Converting the Heathen; Teaching Green Building Project Delivery to Const. Management Students", BTES, Ryerson Univ. 2011
"BIM as an Instructional Bridge Between Design and Technology", BTES, University of New Mexico, 2009
"The Sustainable Potential of AAM Concrete in Precast Concrete Construction", ACSA West Regional Conference, USC, 2008
"Flying Carpets; The Floating Roofs of Renzo Piano Building Workshop", ACSA Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, 2008
"Teaching Construction Details with Color", BTES, University of Maryland, 2006
"The Ethics of Exploiting Sustainability as a Vehicle for a Return to Quality Construction", ACSA Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, 2006
"Icon Busting: Freeing Students from Architectural Stereotypes", ACSA International Conference, Mexico City, 2005
"A Reassessment of Automobile Assembly as a Model for Architecture Construction" ACSA Technology Conference, Miami, 2004
"Truly Affordable Design? Practical Techniques for Urban Housing Design" ACSA Technology Conference, University of Oregon 2002
"Making Design Affordable: Universal Strategies for Urban Housing" ACSA International Conference, Havana, Cuba, 2002
"The Primitive Hut in the Digital Age; A Reassessment of the Woven Wall", ACSA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2002
"Better Living Through Circuitry", ACSA International Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, 2001
"Weaving as an Analogy for Architectural Design", ACSA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, 2001
"Interweaving Culture and Form; Weaving as an Analogy for Architecture", ACSA International Conference, Hong Kong, 2000

AWARDS

Philadelphia University Nexus Online Research Grant - Research best practices for online design studios, 2013
Philadelphia University Sabbatical Research Grant; Floating Roofs of Renzo Piano, Florence, Genoa & Milan, Italy, Spring 2007
Philadelphia University Innovation in Teaching Grant, 2002
Philadelphia University Curriculum Development Grant, 2000

PROFESSIONAL

Craig Griffen Architect - Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, 1998 – Present
Richard Conway Meyer Architect, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1995
Paul Froncek Architects, Chicago, Illinois, 1991-94
Perkins + Will, Chicago, Illinois, 1990-91
Nagle, Hartray and Associates, Chicago, Illinois, 1986-89