



CANDIDATE FOR MID ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Carlos A. Reimers, The Catholic University of America

Candidate Statement

Our noble discipline has been hit hard over these last few years. It should not be a surprise since the architectural profession is always amongst the firsts to feel the shifts of the economy. However, there's no doubt that the most recent debates on the value of a college education in times of crisis, and the interpretations given by the media to the effect of life decisions such as career choices, have had an impact in our schools' enrollments challenging the future of the profession. The stress and anxiety of the time make it difficult to perceive a clear balance of Architecture's rights and wrongs. Thus, this is a good moment for reflection and self-evaluation about how well we Architecture advocates have represented our field. Have those who teach, work, and benefit from good design, well-conceived buildings, and uplifting spaces made clear how important these things are for a meaningful and productive life? Have we carefully conveyed to our students, our clients, our friends, and the public in general the necessity of such spaces in our everyday activities and our personal well-being? Are we actively exploring if we are doing all we can to serve as many as we could? Are we committed to taking Architecture from the status of commodity and bringing it to everybody's lives? These questions go beyond the economic sustainability of our schools and jobs, though there is no doubt they are implicit. We need to walk out of our comfort zone and see ourselves as others see us. Doubt is a reasonable feeling in the midst of a crisis that doesn't have an expiration date.

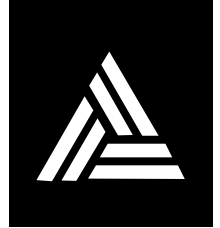
Architecture has assumed a shy and perhaps conformist position in making clear its own relevance. Architecture is a natural field for the integration of new technologies in design, production, fabrication, and management. Architecture has also become the common field for the advancement of important ideas and notions about the sustainability of our built environment. Even in trying times in which many look with hesitation at this difficult profession, I feel reassurance at the type of education that students receive in our schools. In a field that has integration at its core architectural education gives critical tools for life. The values of self-discipline, hard work, self-revision, consensus seeking, intellectual reflection, and social purpose define our job and they are great values for any career. I have seen the sense of accomplishment students have when they envision how their work will contribute to their society. We also need to encourage and prepare students to explore our practice from today's perspective. We understand the advantages of well created space in the contemporary terms of today's world, and this understanding must be made clear to our students. Our work to ensure quality education through meeting accreditation standards cannot supersede our interest for exploration, our passion for the unknown, and the gratification of the finding. Schools are the natural place for these explorations and the natural incubators for change. In addition, because learning doesn't stop with the end of school, we hold a natural partnership with our practice and we need to experiment with new ways for the integration of learning on the work environment. The studio, the classroom, and the office are the places in which this experiment can begin, as it has already.

I seek the support of my colleagues at the ACSA Mid-Atlantic region's school members, because I want to work for these changes. I have been a teacher at the studio and the classroom for 21 years, a researcher for 23, and a practitioner for 26 years. I understand well the overlaps and synergies of these three activities in our discipline and how each of them can benefit from and support the others. I have worked across cultures and appreciate the values of diversity and consensus, and the implications that blurred boundaries are bringing to the profession within a globalized environment. The ACSA is an excellent platform to work for these changes so that our shared characteristics in the region can help our institutions to learn from and work with each other for the advancement of our discipline and the benefit of all.



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Curriculum Vitae

TEACHING

The Catholic University of America, School of Architecture & Planning, D.C.. Assistant Professor	2010 – present
The University of Texas at Arlington, School of Architecture, TX. Visiting Associate Professor	2009 – 2010
Texas A&M University, College of Architecture, TX. Lecturer	2002 – 2009
Simon Bolivar University, Dep. of Architecture, Caracas. Chair of the School of Architecture	1997 – 2001
Associate Professor (tenured)	1993 – 2001
McGill University, School of Architecture, Montreal. Research Associate	1992 – 1994

PRACTICE

A.R.P. & Associates, C.A., Caracas. Principal in Charge, Founder	1996 – 2001
Independent Practice	1994 – 1996
Rivas-Kerdel & Dias-Aidos C.A., Caracas. Project Manager	1993 – 1994
Project Designer	1989 – 1990
Frontado Architecture, Caracas. Project Designer	1987 – 1989
Frontado & Larranaga Architects, S.A., Caracas. Project Designer	1987 – 1988
Caleidos Interior Design, Caracas. Designer	1987

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University, TX. Ph.D. in Architecture	2009
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MA. Master of Science in Urban Studies & Planning	2002
McGill University, Montreal. Master of Architecture	1993
Simon Bolivar University, Caracas. Bachelor of Architecture (professional degree)	1987

SERVICE

Coordinator of 3rd year Design Studios (ARPL301-ARPL-302) CUArch	2012 – present
Chair of the Lecture Series CUArch	2012 – present
Chair of the Exhibits Committee CUArch	2012 – present
ACSA Faculty Councilor CUArch	2011 – present
Faculty Adviser Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society for Architecture and the Allied Arts, CUArch	2011 – present
Chair Academic Honesty & Grade Appeals CUArch	2011 – present
Member Board of Deans, Directors, and Chairs of Architecture Schools, Venezuela	1997 – 2001
Editorial Member "Argos" Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, Simon Bolivar U., Caracas	1997 – 2000
Member Social Sciences Research Committee, Simon Bolivar U., Caracas	1995 – 1998

PUBLICATIONS and PAPERS (selected)

Reimers, C. " <u>Reflecting on Urban Informality in Latin America</u> " Review of Conflict and Convergence, UMD Symposium, October 2013. Article requested by Places, LA	2013
Reimers, C. " <u>Informal Suburbia</u> " paper from the Culture of the Suburbs Conference selected for publication http://suburbs.exeter.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/ University of Exeter, Exeter, UK	2013
Reimers, C. " <u>Beyond the Trailer: Rethinking Affordable Manufactured Housing in the U.S.</u> " Refereed proceedings ACSA Fall 2012 Conference, p-p. 183-188, ISBN 0-935502-85-8. Washington, D.C	2012
Reimers, C. " <u>The Less Explored Roles of Architects in the Low-Income Settlements of Texas.</u> " Refereed proceedings ACSA Fall 2011 Conference, p-p. 292-300, ISBN 978-0-935502-82-4. Washington, D.C.	2012
Reimers, C. " <u>Patterns of Housing Diversity and Consolidation in Colonias of the US-Mexico Border.</u> " Texas A&M 10th Annual Faculty Research Global Symposium, College Station, TX	2008
Reimers, C. " <u>Patterns of Housing Diversification in Colonias of the US-Mexico Border.</u> " 50th Conference Western Social Science Association Conference, Denver, CO	2008
Reimers, C. " <u>Housing Diversity in Low-Income Environments: changing patterns in house form and household arrangement in the US-Mexico Colonias</u> " 48th Conference of the Western Social Science Association, Phoenix, AZ.2006	

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

Faculty Fellow. <i>Center for Housing and Urban Development</i> (CHUD) Texas A&M, TX	2008 – 2011
Research Fellow. <i>Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Center</i> Texas A&M, TX	2005 – 2008
Fellow. <i>Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies</i> (SPURS) M.I.T., MA	2001 – 2002
Research Grant for Field Work. <i>Texas Engineering Experimental Station</i> , TX.	2007
2nd Place for Dissertation Poster, University Graduate Student Council Texas A&M University, TX.	2007
Planning Research Grant. <i>Mexican American and U.S. Latino Research Center</i> , TX	2005
Merit Graduate Scholarship. <i>Humphreys and Partners Scholarship in Architecture</i> , TAMU, TX	2004
Merit Graduate Scholarship. <i>Department of Architecture, Texas A&M University</i> , TX.	2003
University Graduate Merit Fellowship. <i>Vice-presidency of Research, Texas A&M University</i> , TX.	2002
Fellowship for Post-professional Development. <i>Organization of American States</i> , D.C.	2001
Medal for Distinguished Services, <i>Ministry of Defense</i> , Caracas, Venezuela	2000
(for collaborative efforts with the Army surveying and mapping affected areas during Vargas landslides of 1999)	

(extended CV at <http://cua.academia.edu/CarlosReimers/CurriculumVitae>)