



CANDIDATE FOR WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Shannon Criss, University of Kansas

Candidate Statement

The profession of architecture is increasingly facing unprecedented challenges—to name a few, the recent economic downturn, environmental challenges that require us to re-examine how we build in fundamental ways, the sharp rise in energy prices makes building increasingly cost-prohibitive, and the emerging ways that we imagine and participate in the making of buildings challenges our role in the process. Now, more than ever, design-thinking is needed to process and produce innovative solutions to our world's problems. By seeking to expand the definition of what architecture is in the profession, an expanded curriculum is also needed—one that prepares for a broader, more diversified discipline.

Academia must reflect, re-think and prepare our discipline towards one that is a vast network of minds and activities that are informed by multiple perspectives. ACSA is the logical place for dissemination of emerging information, resources and investigations; it provides a space for debate, collaboration and experimentation in public ways; it is a harbor that serves to support and mentor faculty in shifting their approaches to teaching; and serves as a host to regional and national debates that serve to interact with collateral organizations, other professions and the general public. It is this expanded connection to others outside the profession, an expanded worldview, which focuses architects to be educated citizens of the world. ACSA can leverage faculty and research-expertise towards environmental leadership and innovation in pursuit of improving the lives and well-being of people and the planet. ACSA events and publications are well situated to expand the potential of architecture and to sort priorities strategically. If involved as the West Central Regional Director, I would seek ways of broadening the definition of architecture within its circles while also promoting dialogue outside 'the profession.' I am confident that I understand the challenges facing our organization, have the experience and commitment to effectively serve and would see it as a privilege to represent the interests of the West Central Region.



2012 ACSA Board Election Timeline

January 7, 2012

February 8, 2012

March 2, 2012

Ballots mailed to all Full-member Schools

Deadline for receipt of ballots in ACSA office

Winners announced at ACSA Annual Business Meeting in Boston, MA

The Faculty Councilor from each ACSA full-member school is the voting representative.
For candidate statements and curricula vitae, please visit acsa-arch.org.

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Curriculum Vitae

ABBREVIATED BIOGRAPHY

Shannon Criss is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Kansas School of Architecture and Urban Design and is a licensed architect with over twenty-five years of teaching and practice experience. She has taught all levels of design studio with special emphasis on beginning design and comprehensive design studios. Her projects and writings are focused on issues related to sustainability and engaging everyday buildings within urban places. She has presented multiple papers at regional and national ACSA and Beginning Design Conferences. While teaching at Mississippi State University, she ran a community outreach program called the Small Town Center where much work was developed to serve local communities and was provided with funded support and national level awards. She has published articles related to community-design practices, one noted in *Good Deeds, Good Design, Community Service Through Architecture* published by Princeton Architectural Press. She has received numerous awards for her community-design scholarship, most notable is the ACSA National Collaborative Practice Award. She has been provided support through a variety of grants, the most recent award from the NCARB for innovative teaching in sustainability.

She received her Masters of Architecture degree from Harvard University and a Bachelors degree in architecture from Kansas State University. Prior to teaching at KU, she taught at the Boston Architectural College, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Mississippi State University. She is the recent recipient of the American Institute of Architecture Kansas City-Chapter for Teaching Excellence, the University of Kansas Bradley Student Recognition Award, a Master Teacher Award at Mississippi State University, the American Institute of Architecture Students National Educator Award and the ACSA Collaborative Practice Award. She has served on a great number of committees, one of special note is the Chair of the National AIA Education and Practitioners Network—which served as a place to relate academia to the profession in discussion. Shannon served as a liaison between organizations and facilitated collective discussions and outreach in support of public/civic needs and diverse interests. At the University of Kansas Architecture School since 2001, she has participated with her colleagues in transforming the curriculum from a B.Arch to a M.Arch program with a particular focus on integrating core issues into the curriculum: sustainable design principles, civic-engaged scholarship, integrated project delivery practices, local “hands-on” design/build curriculum and international travel-internships. She has also participated in regional conferences, guest critic exchanges, and teaching abroad. Through teaching, creative work and service and with a particular personal interest in community design, sustainable design and the practice of architecture, much insight has been gained in the face of a radically changing context outside academia.