

EDUCATION TO “TAKE BACK” THE “ART OF BUILDING”

CHAIR:

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Invited Presenters:

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For over forty years the American architectural professional has slowly “given away” responsibility for the “art of building” to construction managers, value engineers, clients representatives and other construction consultants.

This trend has been driven by a complex set of forces involving efforts to avoid liability, architectural theory that marginalized construction, and an educational process that does not stress the importance of the “art of building” as a core value.

During this same period, some North American schools have resisted the trend of giving away the “art of building” by teaching construction not just as a means, but as an essential part of the architect’s design imagination. This process is now aided by powerful new electronic tools which can link the designer more directly to the “ways and means” of manufacturers, suppliers and subcontractors, bringing the designer closer to the essential processes of construction, revolutionizing the whole building delivery process. This workshop seeks to explore some of the best pedagogical practices and models which are pioneering new ways of teaching the “art of building.”