

Opening Remarks

Oya Atalay Franck, EAAE President

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the European Association for Architectural Education, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 EAAE/ACSA International Conference for Teachers.

The mission of the European Association for Architectural Education is to advance the quality of architectural education and of architecture in general in Europe. The EAAE is a forum for the generation and dissemination of information on all aspects of architectural education and architectural research.

This year, for the first time, EAAE and ACSA have jointly organized an International Conference on Education in Architecture. This has been an amazing and – looking at the attendance – amazingly successful adventure – and a high-speed project for both partner organizations, with a lot of emails exchanged between Europe and USA in a very brief period of time, making the best out of the time-difference between the two continents. With incredible commitment, power and professionalism involved, today we are ready to hold this conference.

At EAAE, we are very thankful for the generous support and commitment of ACSA – President Branko Kolarovic, Michael Monti, Eric Wayne Ellis and Allison Smith among others – and of University of Antwerp – Sven Verbruggen. Elke Lingier and Valerie Gillis, to name just a few. As you may know, EAAE has a very “slender” administrative structure with limited resources. Without a member school stepping in, taking the responsibility of organizing the event for EAAE, working very closely with the president and the council, such amazing events as the one opening today would not be possible. The same counts for the generous engagement of the University of Virginia on the side of ACSA.

We truly hope that this is the start of a new tradition between ACSA and EAAE, with biannual conferences alternatingly to be held in Europe and North America. As the diversity of the participants shows, we were able to reach beyond the geographical boundaries of our institutional settings, addressing educators and researchers worldwide who engage themselves for high quality education. Of this we are proud.

The architect’s role in building practice is very different in Europe and in North America, but it also varies considerably in Europe from one country to the other. Still, when we compare the educational curricula of our schools, we find a lot of similarities – This is one of the reasons why it’s so important that we share ideas and exchange on concepts and philosophies, that we discuss common problems and identify common goals that may help to educate future generations of architects who are highly skilled and qualified no matter what they do, what role they fulfill in the building process, in which building sector they work.

Personally, I also believe that we need ever more architects who are socially responsible and critical citizens – committed to contributing in a meaningful and sustainable way to solving the problems of the built environment. I am very convinced that in this meeting we will be able to open up perspectives for new projects and important decisions. We will see two days of mixing, brewing and catalyzing ideas which will have an impact on education and educators and will help developing their agendas.

Before I hand the microphone over, a final Thank You goes to Johan De Walsche and Richard Blythe – for masterminding and now co-chairing this event. I wish you all an enjoyable and fruitful time here in Antwerp!