

## 2018 EAAE-ARCC Conference Report

The 2018 biannual joint conference between the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) and the European Association of Architectural Education (EAAE) was highly successful and praised by attendees. The conference was hosted by Temple University's Kate Wingert-Playdon with support by three Philadelphia schools of architecture – Temple University, Jefferson University, and Drexel University. It commenced at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, on Wednesday, 16 May with a hardhat tour of the new Temple Library Site designed by Snohetta of Norway and a keynote in the evening. The conference ran until Saturday, 19 May with closing remarks at Drexel University.

The conference was opened by the Conference Chair, Kate Wingert-Playdon, the ARCC President, Hazem RashedAli and EAAE President, Oya Atalay Franck of ZHAW School of Architecture, Design and Civil Engineering.

Thursday morning saw an opening plenary moderated by Kate Wingert-Playdon with presentations by Oya Atalay Franck, Frederick Steiner of the University of Pennsylvania School of Design and Brian Sinclair of the University of Calgary. The purpose of the conference this year was to advance the discourse on explicit connections between design decisions, qualities of life, and the promotion of community – which ultimately meant research focused on health and well-being. The plenary set the tone for this discussion by introducing issues of ethics, spirituality and global responsibilities.

Three keynote presentations reinforced the diversity of approach to research in architecture. On Wednesday evening, Jefferson University supported the invitation of Nigel Dancey, Senior Executive Partner at Foster and Partners of London, UK. He proceeded to present some of the substructure of his firm to show how multi- and cross-disciplinary knowledge was needed in their work, including the range of professions on each project. The presentation was a spectacle that contrasted high profile projects with the actual events that took place during their conceptualization and design.

On Thursday night, the ARCC keynote was given by Billie Faircloth, Partner and Research Head at Kieran Timberlake Architects of Philadelphia, USA. This presentation revealed the underlying question development that occurred in every Kieran Timberlake project and the resultant research project that was initiated to provide answers. Ms. Faircloth kept the crowd engaged by not only presenting the multitude of research projects run inside the firm but also relating them directly back to architectural design decisions and projects. By the time she was finished, there was a clear understanding of the relationship and value of these projects to professional design services.

The final keynote, the EAAE Keynote, was presented on Friday, 18 May in the Science Education and Research Center (SERC), Temple University. During this event, Sean Griffiths, of the British office FAT fame and a Professor at the University of Westminster, UK, kept the crowd amused and challenged through a rollercoaster of post-structuralist theory in relation to randomness. The point was to create a dialogue with the idea of purpose and how wonder, pleasure and joy often come from that which is not directly needed nor definable by "what it does". One would have to consider if Prof. Griffiths was continuing the FAT tradition of challenging periods of intellectual verbosity in architecture by simply switching from post-modernism (1980s) to post-structuralism (1990s). In any case, the lecture was well received and caused much conversation at the shared dinner held later that evening on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor of the PSFS Building, overlooking the skyline of Philadelphia.

The theme was carried into the body of the conference through the organization of the paper sessions, workshops and keynotes. Throughout the conference, the idea of health was addressed as a multi-dimensional concept and the discussions flushed out nuances that engaged the relationship between environmental factors, human needs, sustainable performance and cultural identity.

The conference included twenty-three paper sessions and three poster sessions based on themes as diverse as “The Environment”, “Application”, “Culture”, and “Advocacy”. Presentations were then arranged into one of these major themes based a focus on communities, urban development, quantitative or qualitative research, building performance, technological approaches, cultural and social well-being. Presenters were organized by research focus rather than academic rank or position, which allowed for a wide range of experience in each session. The result was a very active dialogue that spilled from the presentation rooms to the break areas.

In addition to keynotes and paper presentations, the ARCC and EAAE continued their support of research culture in architecture by providing a series of workshops. These workshops were aimed at developing knowledge and skills in their membership. The workshops included “Writing for Architectural Journals: Guidelines, Tips, and Pitfalls” presented by Philip Plowright of Lawrence Technological University and ENQ: The ARCC Journal, and Ute Poerschke of Pennsylvania State University, Wolkenkuckucksheim (Cloud-Cuckoo-Land) and ENQ: The ARCC Journal. Saif Haq of Texas Tech and Filipa Roseta Vaz Monteiro of the Universidade de Lisboa held a PhD Workshop focused on graduate student research project development. The third workshop was given by Oya Atalay Franck of ZHAW School of Architecture, Design and Civil Engineering and Mark Mistur of Kent State University. It focused on developing a research agenda in architecture. The final workshop was supported by the American Institute of Architects and focused on dissemination and visibility of research results. This workshop was given by Richard Buday and was titled “AIA Session: How do we Communicate, Promote and Share Architectural Research?”

The ARCC-EAAE event usually has high standards and this year was no exception. The acceptance process included both abstract and full paper review that whittled the 236 submitted abstracts down to only 90 accepted papers (38% acceptance rate). The double-blind peer review ensured a focus on the quality of the research. While this might seem to favor more established researchers, the organizations were happy to invite 34 graduate students to present either papers or posters as part of the 135 participants. This created a wonderful atmosphere between seasoned academics and new researchers engaged in the disciplinary discussion.

The 2018 EAAE-ARCC conference included participants from 61 institutions and 12 countries. The next ARCC conference will be hosted by Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada from May 29 to June 1, 2019.