

**June 17, 2020**

Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C  
President, Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC)

RE: Nomination to the ARCC Board of Directors open positions

Dear Hazem,

This letter is to serve as a self-nomination to join the ARCC Board of Directors. I am applying for the at-large director position. I am honored to be the past recipient of both the ARCC King Medal in 2011 and the ARCC New Researcher Award in 2018. I have served as a reviewer and scientific committee member to many ARCC/EAAE conferences, presented at the EAAE Research Academy, published in the Enquiry journal, and several conference proceedings.

As an architect, educator, and scholar, I implement a holistic approach that views teaching, research, and service as integrated; teaching informs research, research informs teaching, and service connects both to discoveries. Architecture as a discipline of ideation and orchestration requires both curiosity and rigor in exploring new territories and crossing boundaries to other disciplines. In my research, scholarship, and creative work, I implement a strategy that often engages collaborators from academia and the industry, which increases the quality, visibility, and potential dissemination of the collective work. I see this as my core contribution to the organization. Therefore, I am committed to advancing the ARCC efforts in supporting my colleagues in scholarly endeavors, monitoring and assessing peer-review and recognition programs, and recommending actions to advocate for architectural research and scholarship. I plan to leverage my experience and extensive network to support the mission of the ARCC.

If elected, I plan to work first with the board on advancing the ARCC mission as well as tackling and confronting the recent societal challenges, mainly related to racial injustice, architectural research in times of uncertainties, and the role of architecture in global climate and economic crisis. These recent challenges will profoundly empower and activate the design studio's role as never before and, therefore, open new territories for research. In my recent presentation to the EAAE Education Academy in Madrid on activating the design studio as a research laboratory, it became evident that a paradigm shift is happening across the globe. My colleagues from many European institutions agree that the design studio can no longer afford to host only abstract, disconnected, and unrealistic purists. Moreover, educators and researchers in the domain of architecture will find the ARCC to support their work by disseminating it in peer-reviewed conferences and publications. Second, Funding is still a considerable obstacle to research in architecture. While inter and multi-disciplinary research increases the chances of obtaining funding, the direction of the architectural research quickly falls back on other disciplines such as Engineering. I plan to work with the board to make funding opportunities available to the ARCC community and engage in "business-plans" with the industry to create a sustainable funding stream. This effort will be in coordination with the current database compiled by the EAAE

Research Academy. Third, the ARCC King Medal and best PhD dissertation are currently the only recognition available to students. I believe that students should have an active voice in the ARCC through students' organizations, chapters, and board representation.

I hope that you and the current board will find my background, expertise, and contributions beneficial to the advancement of the ARCC mission. I look forward to working with you and my colleagues in strengthening the role of the architectural research in education and to bridge the efforts of the ARCC with other active organizations such as the EAAE, ACSA, BTES, and CHSA.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. I look forward to serving the respected ARCC and working with you and the board.

Sincerely,



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