

## ARCC Board of Directors Nomination for an at large director 2020

### Statement of Interest

Each time I have prepared an abstract, paper, and presentation for an annual ARCC conference, and every time I evaluate nominations for student research at my own institution, I am reminded of how the Architectural Research Consortium promotes excellence among students, faculty, and professionals. ARCC maintains a robust double-blind peer review process necessary to research, scholarship, and the production of knowledge. More important, the sum of ARCC's commitments to peer review, award programs, emerging scholars, and research culture, are invaluable to the field of architecture, research centers, and institutions of higher education. I would be honored to serve ARCC as an "at large" board member again.

As both a designer and architectural historian, my own research treats the totality of the built environment, including design processes and unbuilt work, as a manifestation of social, political, and technological change. Viewed in this way, architecture freights meaning, has various purposes, and provides *evidence* for political change, technological invention, and social ambition, among many other things. In my research, architecture and urban history not only informs current practices and theory (as precedents) but also models how architecture and the built environment embody a social, political, and economic present. As such, methods in architectural history, including visual, spatial, comparative, and discursive analysis, lend strategies to the interpretation of both the past and present. All this is to say that a historian's contribution to research culture is not merely context for the compelling societal and technological questions of today, but more accurately a suite of approaches that may rigorously examine present humanistic problems, including problems presented by science and technology.

As a member of ARCC's board, I would continue to support ARCC's support of research, strengthening humanities research as well as seek ways to meaningfully link humanities research to research in science, technology, engineering, and math through ARCC. I am also interested in developing strategies to facilitate efforts that enable research assimilation into curriculums and professional practice. Given my experience and role as an educator in a professional architecture program, I would place a focus on how research experiences may be introduced into undergraduate and graduate professional programs (where research methods are often minimally present) to expose future design professionals to the methods and merits of research. My view is that research in professional programs could distinguish and propel the profession of architecture forward, if not simply provide the seeds for research programs in professional offices. My interests and work as a board member would thus complement ARCC's ongoing activities that support the exchange of information about research programs, projects, and infrastructure, and generally promote research culture.

As a board member, I would willingly perform needed committee work, including everyday and extraordinary board activity. Regardless of the specific roles I could fill on the board, I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate, develop, and facilitate research with ARCC's board and member schools.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clare Robinson, Ph.D.