

Brief Statement > Clare Robinson

Every time I have prepared a paper for an ARCC conference, and every time I evaluate nominations for student research at my own institution, I am reminded of how ARCC promotes excellence among students, faculty, and professionals. ARCC's commitments to peer review, award programs, and conferences are invaluable to the field of architecture, research centers, and institutions of higher education. 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 but also models how architecture and the built environment embody a social, political, and economic present. As such, methods in architectural history lend strategies to the interpretation of both the past and present. In this way, 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 the impactful activities of ARCC as well as ways to meaningfully link humanities research to research in the building sciences. Additionally, given my experience and role as an educator in a professional architecture program, I would promote programs that introduce research experiences into professional programs to expose future design professionals to the methods and merits of research and propel the profession of architecture forward. As a board member, I would willingly perform needed committee work, from everyday to extraordinary board activity and, 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. I would be honored to serve ARCC as an "at large" board member.