

CoA second annual research symposium

The College of Architecture held its Second Annual Design REsearch Symposium (DRESS) on February 1st, 2008. Consisting of four panel presentations and a focus session, the symposium included contributions from more than 15 CoA faculty members in addition to several graduate and former students. The event was attended by well over 200 of CoA's faculty, students, and guests who were presented with a wide range of research interests and activities offered by CoA faculty in the symposium.

The symposium opened with welcoming remarks from **Robert Baron**, CoA's Interim Dean, in which he explained that the symposium exemplifies the College's commitment to fostering the development of a vibrant academic design culture to promote learning, exploration, and innovation. Baron related the symposium to the College's vision of "Design as Leadership," and explained that the symposium's sessions, covering a variety of topics, would offer insight into how design leadership manifests itself.

The symposium was also attended by **Dr. Robert Gracy**, UTSA's Vice President for Research, who presented the keynote speech in which he reiterated UTSA's research objectives as expressed in the university's strategic plan UTSA 2016. In this regard, Gracy emphasized the increased importance UTSA is placing on research with the goal of establishing itself as a premier public research university, and the significant role that CoA plays in that vision.

The symposium included four panel discussions addressing a wide range of research areas and exploring the potential for CoA's vision of Design as Leadership in each of these areas. Each panel included three presentations from CoA faculty followed by a discussion, which explored how the presentations exemplified this vision. The symposium's morning session included two panels. The first, "**Leadership through Design Process**," was moderated by Robert Baron and included presentations from Profes-



Dr. Robert Gracy, keynote speaker

sors **Taeg Nishimoto**, **Irina Solovyova**, and **Stephen Temple**, while the second panel, "**Leadership through Urbanism and Heritage**," was moderated by **Dr. John Alexander** and included presentations from Professors **Edward Burian**, **William Dupont**, and **Dr. Shelley Roff**. The two afternoon panels included "**Leadership through Globalism/Regionalism**," in which Dr. John Alexander, **Mark Blizard**, and **Amy Unger** presented and **Dr. Vincent Canizaro** moderated; and "**Leadership through Healthy and Sustainable Environments**," in which Taeg Nishimoto moderated presentations by **Dr. Gayle Nicoll**, **Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali**, and **Dr. Nikos Salingaros**.

The symposium's focus session, "**Leadership through Partnership with Industrial Fabric Industry**," included the presentation of the International Achieve-

ment Award (IAA) 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award. This honor was awarded by the **Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI)** to the Advanced Fabrics Exhibition Structure designed and constructed in UTSA by a team of students under the supervision of **Mahesh Senagala**, CoA's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research, and funded by major contributions from **The Chism Company** and **Dazian Fabrics LLC**. The award plaque was presented by Dr. Gracy to Senagala and **Roy Chism** of The Chism Company. Also accepting the plaque were the students who participated in the project, **Steven Cordero**, **Curtis Fish**, **David Matiella** and **Mathew Martinez**.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the UTSA Vice President for Research and The Chism Company.