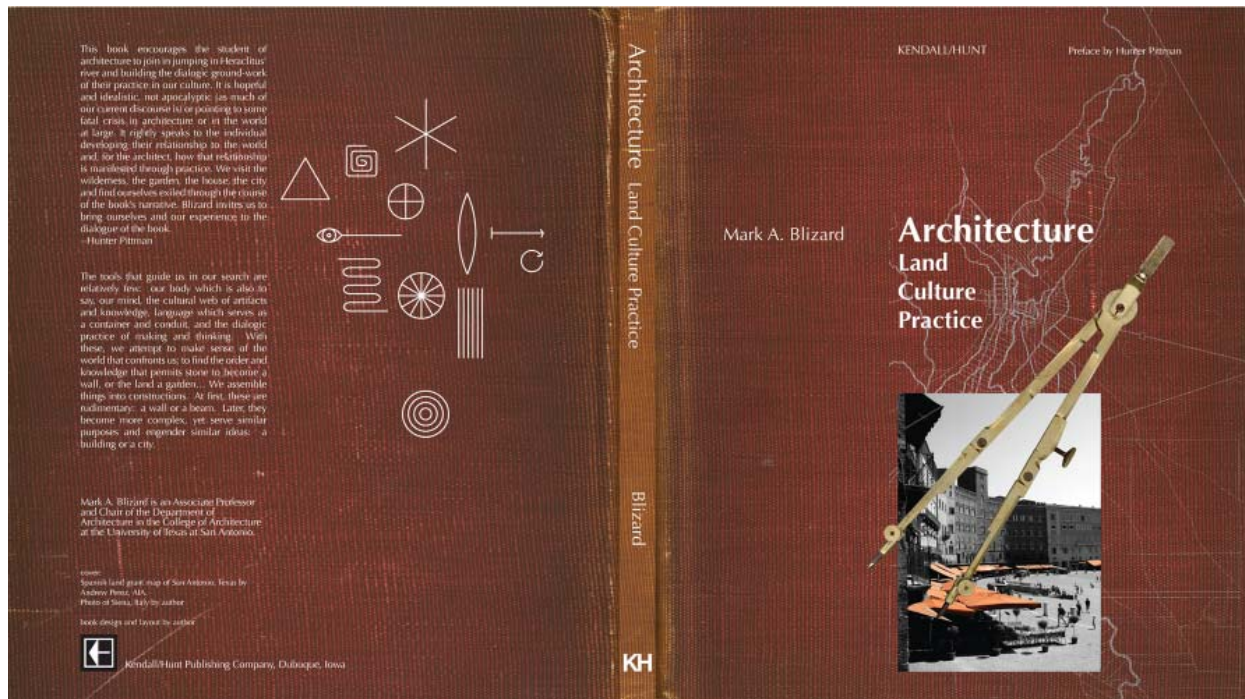


# new book by Mark Blizard



**Mark Blizard**, UTSA College of Architecture associate professor, recently published his first book entitled *Architecture: Land Culture Practice* from Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. His new work resulted from his fascination with memory, narrative, the idea of bricolage, and architecture as a practice. Blizard was also seeking to provide a text book for his freshman course “Architecture and Culture.”

While studying architecture at Virginia Tech, Blizard’s master’s thesis focused primarily on architecture as well as ritual and memory. Upon becoming a teacher in the UTSA CoA in 1998, he found it difficult to find books for his class that presented a broad range of sources (anthropology, environmental science, poetry, philosophy, architectural theory, literature, etc.) yet still formed a unified voice. He wanted to provide students with a tool for thinking and making as well as have the book become a vehicle for others to further the research and study of architecture. This became the motivation for writing when he signed a book contract in January 2006.

The book draws together a range of different voices including Aldo Rossi,

Paul Valery, Martin Buber, Gaston Bachelard, Mircea Eliade, John Friedmann, Hannah Arendt, Italo Calvino, Jorge Luis Borges, Keith Basso, Leo Marx, and Claude Lévi-Strauss. This multi-disciplinary approach suggests a model for the practice of architecture that Blizard terms bricolage, which he defines as architecture as an art of knowing that seeks the common ground between seemingly dissimilar things.

Beginning in the wilderness, the book is a dialog that engages the reader through a succession of landscapes (the garden, the house, the city, memory, and ultimately, the road) each of which is a search for archetypal images and principles that guide architectural practice. Numerous diagrams and photographs assist in illustrating and illuminating the text. Each reader is encouraged to bring his or her own background and interests into the book, participating in its dialog and opening it to speculation.

Ultimately Blizard discovered and learned more than he expected by his writing and is now welcoming the challenge to redesign his class around the structure of the book.