

# CoA hosts international architectural research conference

The College of Architecture hosted the 2009 spring research conference of the **Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC)** this past April, 2009. Titled: **Leadership in Architectural Research**: between academia and the profession, the conference aimed to explore existing and future trends in leadership in architectural research, the impact of these trends on research subjects and methodologies, and how this leadership can foster an integrated research culture. In this context, the conference explored a variety of topics in which architectural research is used to enhance design quality, expand the knowledge base, systematically analyze and address common challenges, while at the same time responding to regional and local influences.



Chris Luebke



Michel Mounayar  
Ted Flato  
Brian Sinclair

Moderated by Professor **Robert Baron**, CoA's interim Dean, the conference's opening session included talks by Dr. **Robert Gracy**, UTSA's Vice President for Research; Dr. **Jesse Zapata**, UTSA's Vice Provost for the Downtown Campus; and Professor **Michel Mounayar**, ARCC president. More than 70 educators and researchers registered for this year's conference, which included 51 blind peer-reviewed papers representing 42 universities, research centers, and architectural firms from 9 countries. The papers were presented in 14 sessions, each addressing one of the areas of the conference. In addition to the sessions, the conference included a panel discussion, two keynote speeches, and a presentation of the ARCC New Researcher Award. The panel discussion, which focused on the conference's main theme of Leadership in Architectural Research, was moderated by Dr. **Brian Sinclair**, University of Calgary, and featured Dr. **Richard Hayes**, the AIA; Professor Michel Mounayar, Ball State University; Professor **Taeg Nishimoto**, UTSA; and **Ted Flato**, Lake Flato Architects. The conference's main keynote speech was delivered by Dr. **Chris Luebke**, director and leader of Arup's Global Foresight and Innovation Initiative. Luebke's talk, titled: "What Story Do You Tell?" discussed how educators of young minds can play a significant role in creating the toolsets which allow today's authors of the future to construct a new world, and how new toolsets should be invented for the forthcoming ecological age.

The conference was chaired and organized by professors Dr. **Hazem Rashed-Ali** and Dr. **Shelley Roff**, with the assistance of **Dena Bruedigam**, all from UTSA's College of Architecture. The conference also included papers from several CoA faculty members including professors Dr. **Vince Canizaro**, Dr. **Irina Solovyova**, **Roberto Rodriguez**, and Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali, and one of the sessions was chaired by Professor **Steven Temple**. Additionally, several CoA faculty members participated in organizing conference tours including professors **Andy Perez**, Dr. **John Alexander**, and **Rick Lewis**.

The Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) is an international consortium of architectural research centers committed to the expansion of research culture and infrastructure in architecture and related design disciplines. Since its founding as a non-profit corporation in 1976, ARCC has exerted a concerted commitment to the improvement of the physical environment and the quality of life. The ARCC membership is comprised of organizations that have made substantial commitments and contributions to architectural research. Current membership includes close to 60 universities and research centers in North America and internationally.

Conference attendees gathering in Northrup Hall on the Trinity University campus tour

