

# ACSA Distinguished Professor

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2013-2014 Winner: Submission Materials

KIM TANZER

University of Virginia

# BETWEEN FLOW AND FORM

TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SERVANT-LEADERSHIP

**Kim Tanzer FAIA**

Dean and Edward E. Elson Professor | University of Virginia

Throughout my career I have been fascinated with the tension between flow—humans motion, the emergent behaviors of communities, the literal fluidity of water—and form—the vessels that constrain flows and the forms that are shaped by flows.

*As an architect* I have spent my career resisting form's persuasive appeal. As a feminist I have become attuned to the fraught role of the visual, and have sought to counter visual evidence with a visible demonstrations, mindful that things in motion are especially difficult to represent.

*As a teacher* I have introduced my students to a collection of compelling flows—**embodiment, community, water**—as sources of inspiration and constraint for their design efforts.

*As a scholar* I have written about these flows, proffering evidence of their importance in the design of flexible, sustainable, just human environments.

*As a servant-leader* I have tried to give form to processes that can be ambiguous, complex, and singular, by establishing forums to ritualize flows. The creation of the Florida Community Design Center, results of my ACSA presidency, and the National Academy of Environmental Design, are several examples of this decades-long goal. More recently, as Dean of the University of Virginia's School of Architecture I have worked with faculty to construct Research Themes, hosted a semester-long series of dialogues demonstrating what I term the practical imagination, taught Design Entrepreneurship, and a targeted focus on internationalizing the curriculum are examples of this decades-long goal.

Throughout my career, I have sought to balance the beautiful and the practical, and to direct my efforts toward the creation of just, sustainable futures.

*Love is lak de sea. It's a movin' thing, but still  
and all it takes its shape from de shore it meets,  
and it's different with every shore.*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

300-box hopscotch game designed, executed, and played by  
Lucia Alday and other faculty children at Dean's Spring Party, May 5, 2013



## HONORS

**1995** Citation for Teaching Excellence  
“From Building to Architecture: Surface, Program, Space and Site”  
ACSA Design Studio Award

**1994** Teaching Incentive Program (TIP) Award  
Competitive university award given by University of Florida

**1991** Teacher of the Year Award  
College of Architecture, University of Florida

**1991** Honorable Mention  
“Analytic Notation: Method & Memory”  
National American Institute of Architects (AIA) Education Honors Awards

## SCHOLARSHIP

**2003** Kim Tanzer, “When Practice Leads Theory,”  
Phi Kappa Phi Forum, Vol. 83, No. 3, Summer 2003. Invited essay

**2003** Kim Tanzer, “Dear Merce, To: Merce Cunningham; From: A Fan,” On Stage,  
The Official Newsletter of the Performing Arts Affiliates, University of Florida

**2001** Kim Tanzer and Caroline Constant, “Center for Women’s Studies and Gender  
Research, University of Florida, 1994-2000,” Diane Ghirardo, Barbara Allen, John  
Stuart, Editors, Journal for Architectural Education, Vol. 55, Issue 2, November 2001

**1996** Kim Tanzer “Architectural Frontiers: Drawing on the Capacity to Endure  
Cognitive Dissonance,” Patrick Brady, Mark McGlothlin, Ron Plakus, Editors,  
Hegemony, Oz: Journal of the College of Architecture and Design  
(University of Kansas, 1996).

**1996** Kim Tanzer, “Baker’s Loos and Loos’s Loss: Architecting the Body”  
Michael Benedikt, Editor, On Propriety, Center: A Journal for  
Architecture in America (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996)

**1993** Kim Tanzer, “Drawings,”  
ACSA Southeast Regional Meeting Proceedings, Fall 1993

**1992** Kim Tanzer, “Releasing the Form to the Making: Womenswork is Never  
Done,” Zophonias Bjorgvinsson, Doug Childers,  
Anita Coonley, Akis Ioannides, Editors, On Making  
(New York: Pratt Institute/Rizzoli International Publications, 1992).

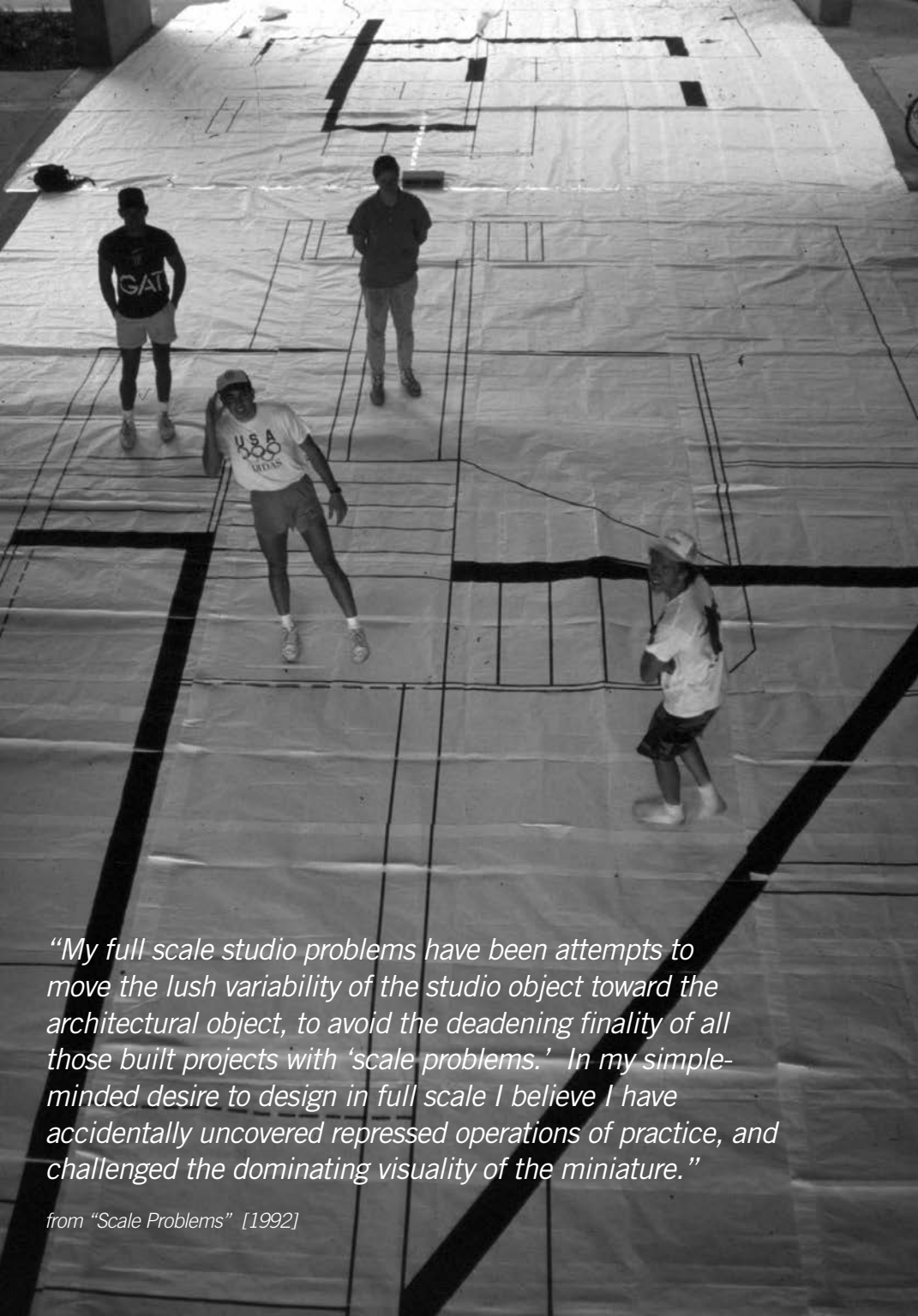
**1992** Kim Tanzer, “Scale Problems,” Architectural Education: Where We Are,  
ACSA Annual Meeting Proceedings, 1992.

**1991** “The Production of Notational Objects, ACSA Northeast Regional Meeting,  
Princeton, Fall 1991

# EMBODIMENT

Embodiment--humans in motion--has been central to my work as an architect, always. I see architecture as the vessel that choreographs movement, and movement as the irritant that challenges inadequate architectural form. Humans in motion problematize all form—humans come in different ages, genders, and sizes, with differing cultural expectations. Without human bodies, we would need no architecture. Through my writing and teaching I have attempted to complexify our understanding of human action, to challenge universals in order to create humane, spaces sensitive to difference.



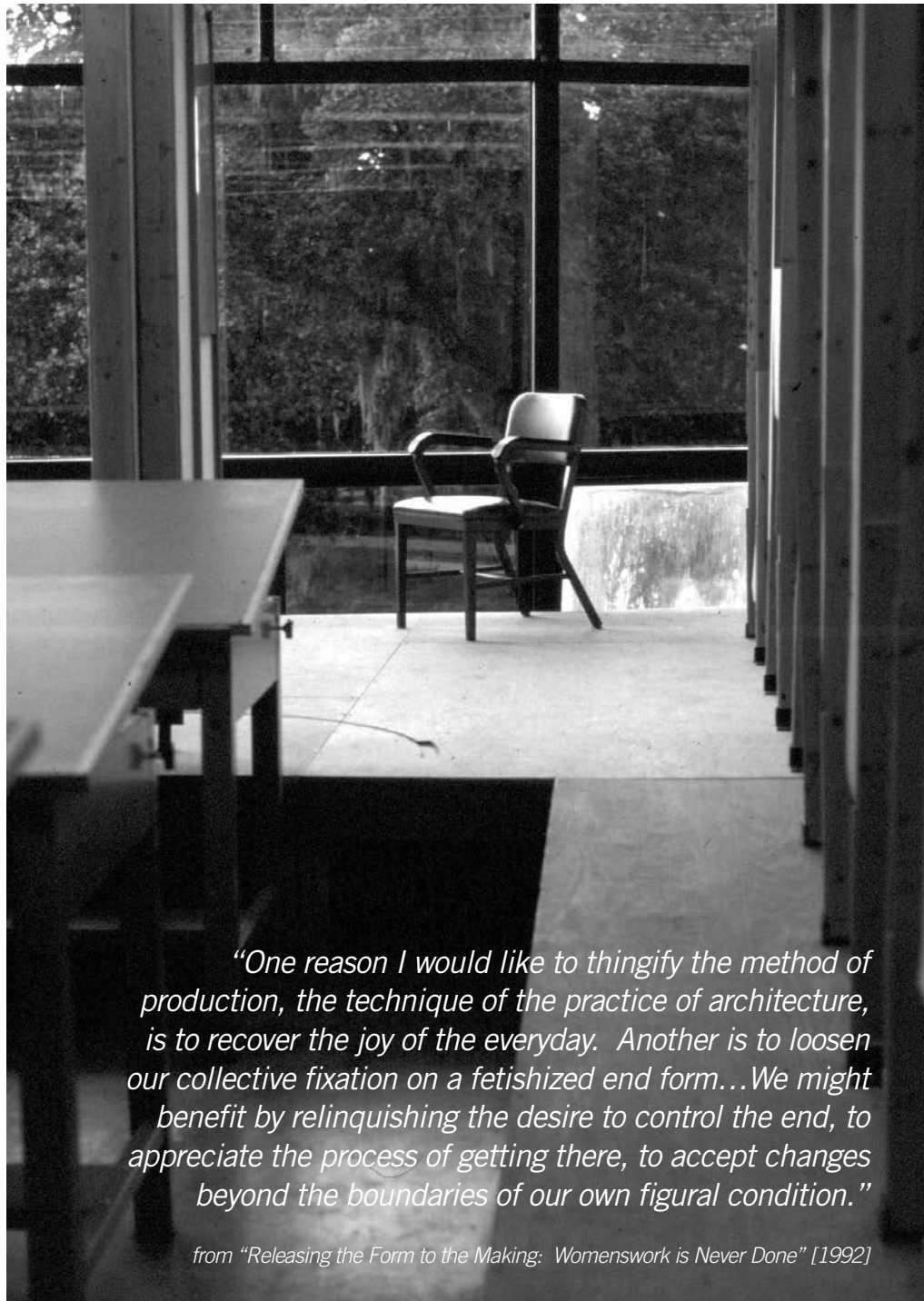


*“My full scale studio problems have been attempts to move the lush variability of the studio object toward the architectural object, to avoid the deadening finality of all those built projects with ‘scale problems.’ In my simple-minded desire to design in full scale I believe I have accidentally uncovered repressed operations of practice, and challenged the dominating visuality of the miniature.”*

*from “Scale Problems” [1992]*

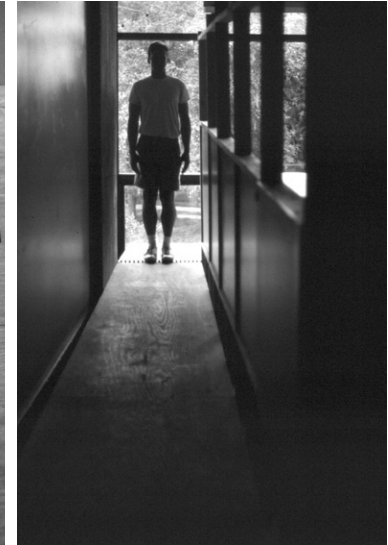
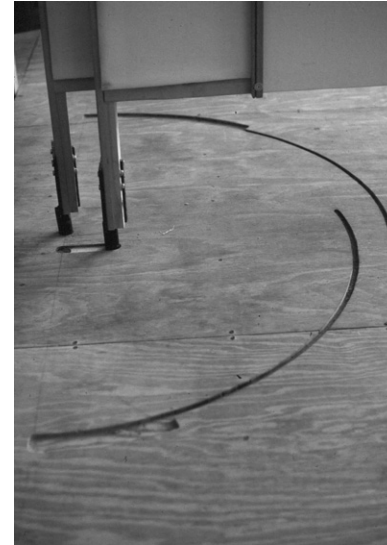


Full scale drawings, Design 2, University of Florida, Spring 1990



*"One reason I would like to thingify the method of production, the technique of the practice of architecture, is to recover the joy of the everyday. Another is to loosen our collective fixation on a fetishized end form...We might benefit by relinquishing the desire to control the end, to appreciate the process of getting there, to accept changes beyond the boundaries of our own figural condition."*

*from "Releasing the Form to the Making: Womenswork is Never Done" [1992]*



Studio Upfit, Design 8, University of Florida, Spring 1991



## HONORS

**2003-04** Service Learning Professor of the Year  
College of Design, Construction and Planning, University of Florida

**2002-03** University of Florida Faculty Service Learning Professor of the Year  
Presented by the Office of Community Service, Division of Student Affairs

**2000** ACSA Collaborative Practice Award  
“An Urban Reconstruction:  
The Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood in Gainesville Florida.”

**2000** Robert R. Taylor Award  
“An Urban Reconstruction:  
The Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood in Gainesville, Florida”

## SCHOLARSHIP

**2010** “Imagining a New Florida” WPBT2-Miami, Joyce Belloise, Jack Kelly, Producers, 1 hour public television show commissioned by the Florida Humanities Council. Tanzer served as consultant and was interviewed within show, speaking about the Gainesville, Florida Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street neighborhood and about urban design and settlement patterns.

**2007** Kim Tanzer, “How can the design disciplines better serve the public,” President’s Column in the ACSA News, December 2007

**2006** Kim Tanzer, “Playing Crazy: Dressed Yards and the Performance of Community in an African-American Neighborhood,” Vernacular Architectural Forum, 2006

**2004** Kim Tanzer and Andrew Matson, Editors and Designers, “African-American Gainesville-Stories.org” (active 2005-2006)

**2003** Kim Tanzer, “Redeveloping Fifth Avenue for the benefit of Gainesville: The Commentators,” The Gainesville Sun, June 2003. Invited editorial

**2002** Kim Tanzer, Editor and Renwick Dialo, Designer, “Florida Community Design Center” [www.floridacommunitydesign.org](http://www.floridacommunitydesign.org) (active 2002-2005)

**2001-02** Kim Tanzer, “Playing Crazy: Serendipity and Settlement in Gainesville’s Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood,” ACSA Annual Meeting Proceedings, 2002. Earlier version presented at the National Association of African American Studies Annual Meeting, Dallas, 2001

**2001** Tina Gurucharri and Kim Tanzer, “Depot Avenue Development,” Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture National Proceedings, peer-reviewed

**1997** Kim Tanzer, “Gainesville’s Pleasant Street,” Forum. The Magazine of the Florida Humanities Council, Summer 1997. Invited essay

**1997** Kim Tanzer, Editor and Designer with Bill Martin, Abel Garcia, Mike Wirsching, “Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street” [www.afn.org/~links/5aps/index.html](http://www.afn.org/~links/5aps/index.html)

# COMMUNITY

Community is collective, evolving embodiment. Communities perform their shared values, aspirations, and fears, through their actions, through their use of, and design of, shared spaces. My particular focus has been African-American community practices, and a specific neighborhood in Gainesville, Florida. In this neighborhood and in my understanding of African American community more generally, I find rich evidence of fluidity. Meanings and forms change strategically, playfully, cannily. Oftentimes, meaning is understood in different ways by different audiences, a phenomenon Henry Louis Gates describes as “signifying.” My teaching and research in this area have allowed me to connect my professional work with pressing social issues of our time, and to bring an often unfamiliar spatial perspective to students and academic audiences.



*"What is the goal of this elaborate ongoing performance of community? This urbanism stands in stark contrast to the strategy of the master plan, in which all elements are foreseen before construction begins. This is not to suggest the diminution of the creative power or importance of individual urban artists. Quite the opposite, it is the energetic commitment of a number of artists that leads to this dazzling community project."*

*from "Dressed Yards and the Performance of Community" [2006]*



Gainesville's Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood, 1996-present, with special thanks to Rosa B. Williams, Nkwanda Jah, Ruth Brown, Joel Buchanan, and Pam Thomas (pictured)





*"Walking is a solitary activity, anatomically speaking...But this efficiency is compromised by the act of sharing. A tilted head or a twisted torso, inflected in conversation toward a companion, reduce, if only slightly, one's forward momentum. These actions turn "I" into "we." This chosen loss of autonomy is one of walking's great virtues. It signifies a desire to elect the company of another, with the assumption that the loss in efficiency will be matched by some kind of gain.*

*from "The Virtues of Walking"*



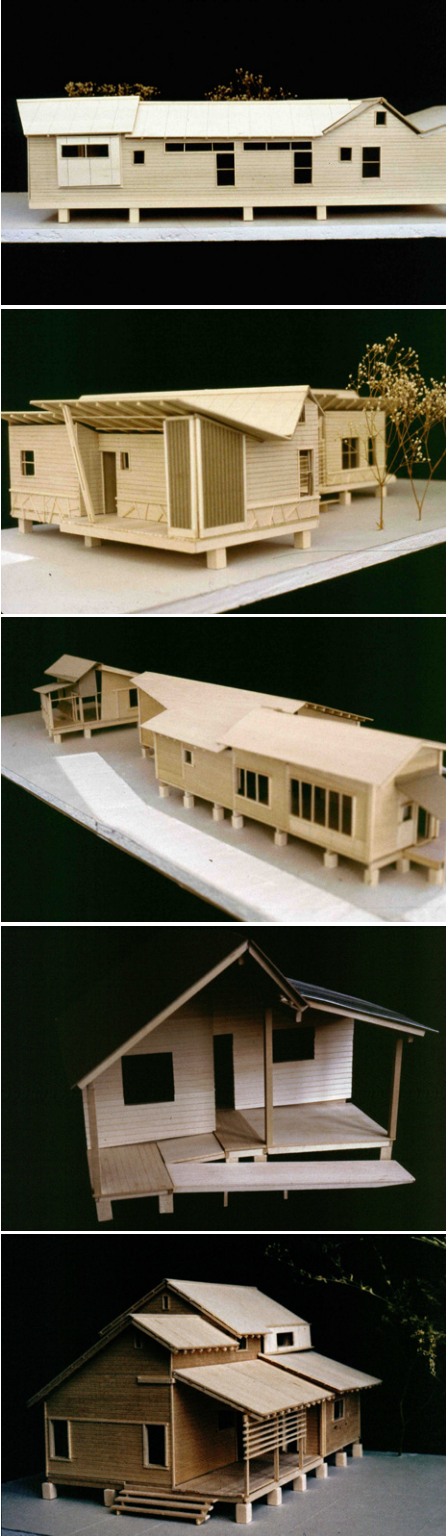
Exhibit in FAPS



Exhibit in Seaside

Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Neighborhood Installations + Walking Tours, "A Dialogue Between Old Florida and New Florida: FAPS and Seaside" "Through (Y)Our Eyes," and "Spatial Stories for the Eighth Generation,"  
University of Florida 1997-2004





*"The Shared Realm" offers the hope that globalization might help us understand and appreciate the riches of the world's diverse cultural capital, that we might recognize the value in knowledge unlike our own and that our built world might increasingly reflect the intelligence of all members of our human community."*

*from The Green Braid [2007]*



Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Design Proposals, Design 8, 1998 (left), Graduate Design 2, 2005 (above) University of Florida, and City of Gainesville Community Redevelopment Agency Building, on refurbished Fifth Avenue, 2009 (above)

## SCHOLARSHIP

**2006** John Maze, Mark McGlothlin, Kim Tanzer, "Fluid in form and the Encoding of Space: Examining the Intersections of architectural design and computer science," in *Digital Architecture and Construction*, edited by A. Ali and C.A. Brebbia (WIT Press: Ashurst Lodge, Ashurst, Southampton, UK)

**2004** Kim Tanzer, "Florida's Phenomenal Landscape," *Architrave* 12, Composite, School of Architecture, University of Florida, about junior design studio held Fall 2004

**1996** Kim Tanzer, Tom DeSimone, Dori Raskin, Marc Schaut, "Reading the Body Littorally: Wet Areas" *ACSA Northeast Region Proceedings*, Fall 1996

## EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

**2014** "Chesapeake River Basin," National Academy of Environmental Design national workshop, co-chaired with Christopher Ellis, location to be determined

**2013** "After the Deluge: Re-imagining Leonardo's Legacy. A demonstration of the practical imagination applied to the ecology of water." School of Architecture, University of Virginia

**2009** "Apalachicola Chattahoochee Flint River Basin," National Academy of Environmental Design national workshop, hosted at the University of Florida. Co-organizer, co-chaired with Peggy Carr

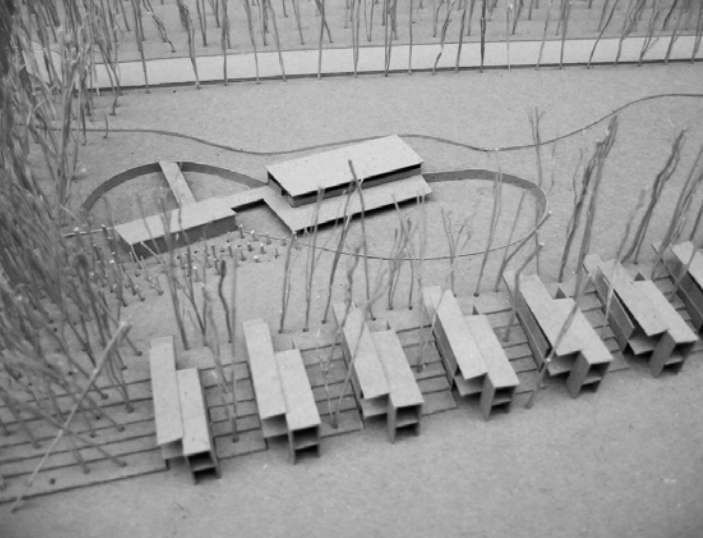
*Love is lak de sea. It's a movin' thing, but still  
and all it takes its shape from de shore it meets,  
and it's different with every shore.*

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

# WATER

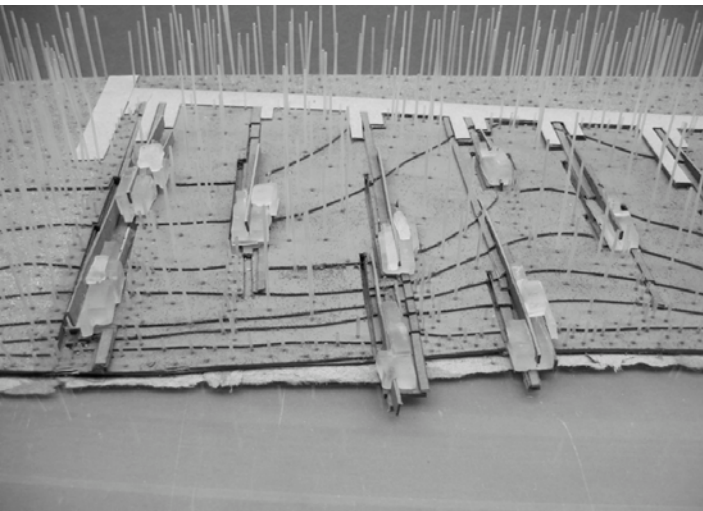
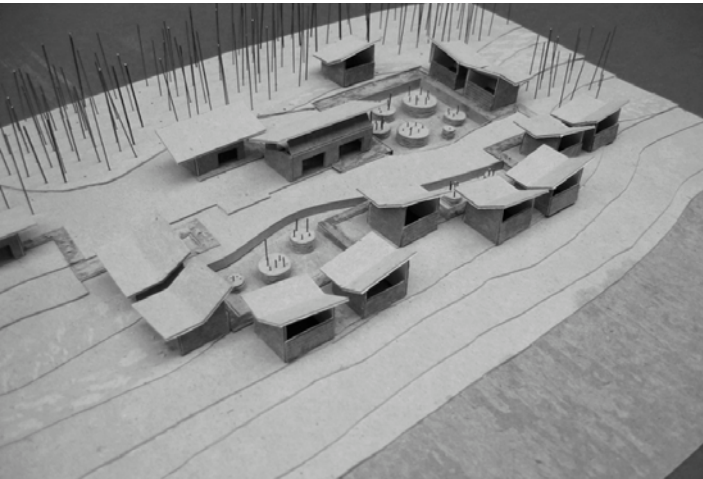
Water is pure fluidity, shaped, as Zora Neale Hurston describes, by adjacent forces. As it changes phase from solid to liquid to gas it shapes our planet, shapes and sometimes destroys our buildings, and even gives our bodies substance. For me water serves as a metaphor for change seeking form, and as a literal inspiration and challenge in the design of architecture. Because water is pervasive, it affects every aspect of life. At this time of environmental challenge, water's ubiquity makes it a source of danger as well as a source of renewal and joy.



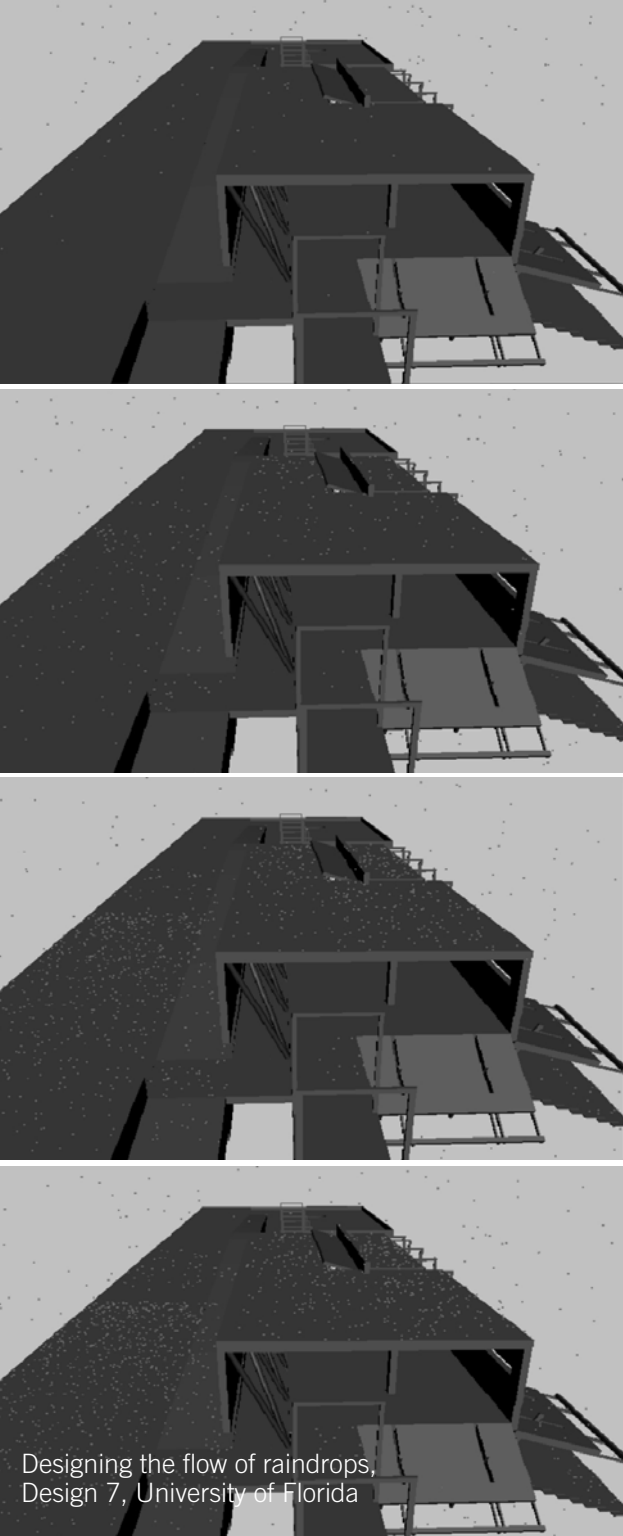


*“Everywhere the flow of water—rainfall, streams, underground rivers, and oceans—is a source of fascination and occasionally a source of worry...All architecture, including landscape architecture, must selectively shed or contain the flow of water.... [This fall’s] Hurricane Frances helped emphasize the importance of designing to consider the flow of water...By the semester’s end, the floodwaters had receded from Palm Point.”*

*from “Florida’s Phenomenal Landscape” [2004]*

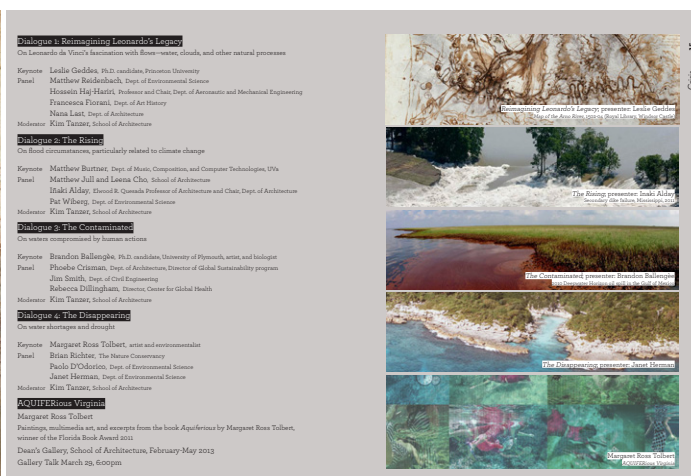
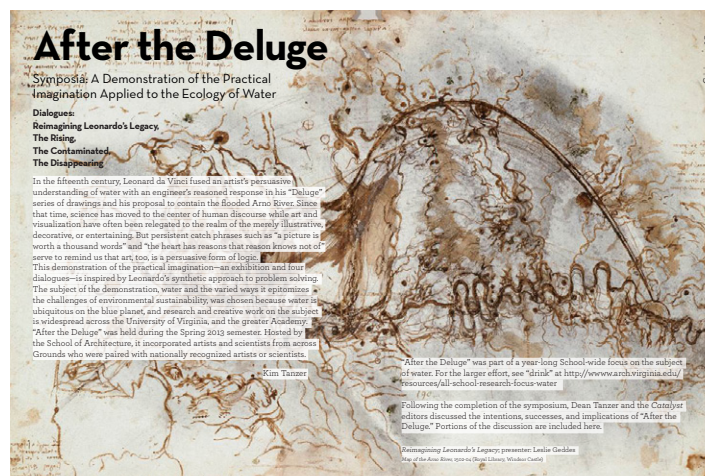


Stormwater gardens, Design 5, Fall 2004 (left) and Door-window-stair designs to reach FEMA 16' elevation, Design 3, Fall 2007 (above), University of Florida



*“Water defines the blue planet, Earth, but its distribution is uneven and unfair. Parts of the planet receive less or more rainfall, leading to deserts and rain forests, each with inventive human adaptations. Yet with today’s rapid changes—population increases and mass migrations, deforestation and erosion, and catastrophic weather events—water can amplify this destabilization. Many of the world’s poorest people live in flooding deltas; others drink polluted water; and millions walk miles daily to find it. Yet at the same time, hurricanes do not avoid wealthy communities, polluted or drying aquifers serve the rich and poor alike, floods ravage lakeside vacation homes, and tidal surges wash out everything at the water’s edge.*

*from UVa School of Architecture Website [2012]*



After the Deluge; four University-wide interdisciplinary dialogues applying the practical imagination to the ecology of water, hosted by Dean and School of Architecture, Spring 2013. Symposium to be published in *Catalyst* [above], forthcoming 2013



## HONORS

### 2009 ACSA Service Award

For service as president of the ACSA Board of Directors 2006-08

### 2006 Resolution of Appreciation

Presented by the University of Florida Board of Trustees  
For service as a member of the Board of Trustees 2005-06

### 2006 Woman of Distinction Award

Presented by the University of Florida Association of Academic Women  
to the faculty member who has served the caused of women at the university

### 2006 Morton Wolfson Faculty Award

Presented by the Division of Student Services to the Faculty member who has provided  
outstanding service to the student body

### 2005 American Institute of Architects Community Service Award AIA Gainesville Chapter

### 2004 ACSA Service Award

For service on ACSA Board as Southeast Region Representative 2000-2003

### 2004 ACSA Service Award

For service as co-chair of the ACSA/AIA Teachers' Seminar  
"Sustainable pedagogies and practices"

Co-chairs Jean Gardner and John McRae, FAIA  
Cranbrook Academy, June 2003

### 2005 City Beautification Award

Given to the Florida Community Design Center  
By the Gainesville City Beautification Board

### 2002 Community Service Award

Presented by the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce  
For community service through to the Florida Community Design Center

### 2000 ACSA Service Award

For service as Annual Meeting Topic Co-chair  
Spring 2000

### 1999 ACSA Service Award

For service as co-chair of ACSA/AIA Teachers' Seminar  
"Architectural Space and the Electronic Apparatus"

Co-chair Mario Gooden, AIA  
Cranbrook Academy, June 1998

### 1996 Certificate of Appreciation

Architecture College Council & Students of the College of Architecture  
In appreciation for dedication and invaluable contribution to the College of Architecture

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP

**Florida Community Design Center**

**Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture**

**National Academy of Environmental Design**

**University of Virginia Deanship**

*"So does being cool make it difficult to lead in challenging circumstances? Are architects up to the task of speaking for those people who lack an effective voice, whether due to infirmity, poverty, or other forms of social injustice? Can those of us in the academy educate our students to make such leadership the new cool?"*

*from "Leadership and Cool" ACSA News [2008]*



## SCHOLARSHIP

**2010** Kim Tanzer, "From wheel to tree to web,"  
Reset 4, School of Architecture E-news, Summer 2010

**2010** Kim Tanzer, "Teaching and Research and Research and Teaching,"  
Reset 3, School of Architecture E-news, Spring 2010

**2008** Kim Tanzer, "Research, innovation, and the culture of studio,"  
President's Column in the ACSA News, May 2009

**2008** Kim Tanzer, "Leadership and Cool," first published as ACSA President's Column,  
March 2008 in the ACSA News, republished in Institute for Human Centered Design  
(Adaptive Environments) at <http://www.adaptenv.org/index.php?articleid=873&option=News>

**2008** Kim Tanzer, "Design is the new black,"  
President's Column in the ACSA News, February 2008

**2008** Kim Tanzer, "Nine forms of architectural intelligence?"  
President's Column in the ACSA News, January 2008

**2007** Kim Tanzer, "What is the nature of architectural knowledge,"  
President's Column in the ACSA News, October 2007

**2007** Kim Tanzer and Rafael Longoria, Co-editors, The Green Braid: Towards and  
Architecture of Ecology, Economy, and Social Equity, (New York: Routledge Press, 2007)

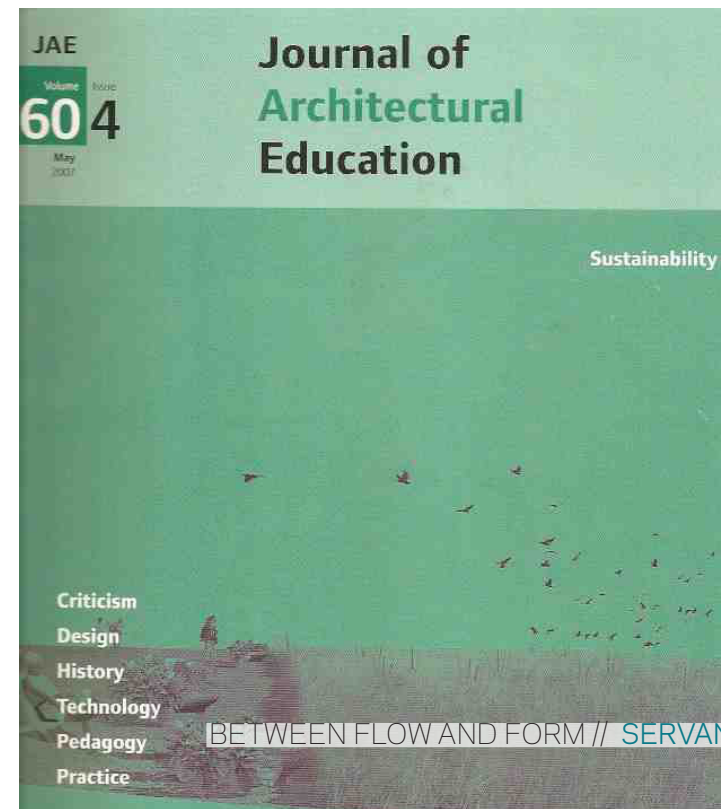
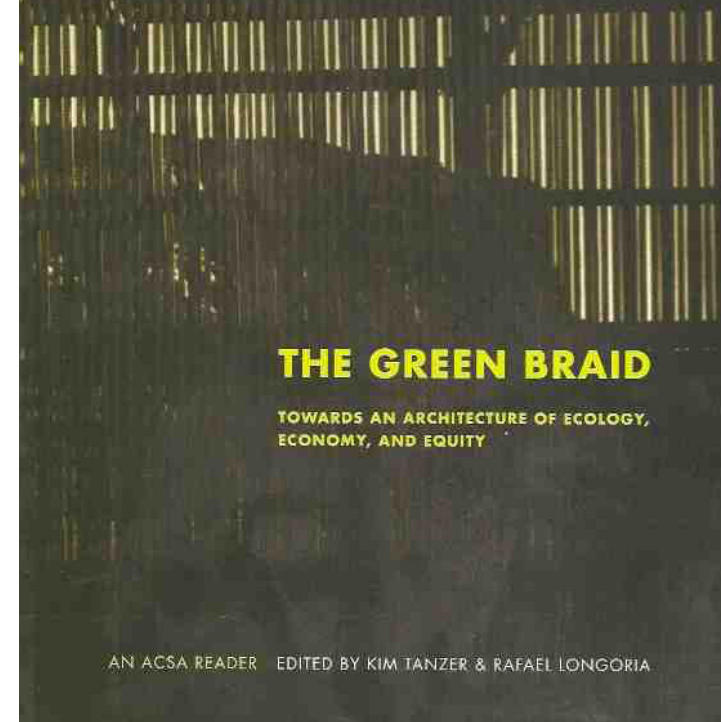
**2007** Kim Tanzer and Rafael Longoria, "Networked Ways of Knowing," in The Green Braid:  
Towards and Architecture of Ecology, Economy, and Social Equity, (New York: Routledge  
Press, 2007). Contributor of chapter.

**2007** Vincent Canizaro and Kim Tanzer, Co-editors, "Environmental Architectures and  
Sustainability," Journal of Architectural Education invited theme issue, Volume 60, Issue 4.

**2007** Vincent Canizaro and Kim Tanzer, "Environmental Architectures and Sustainability: A  
Taxonomy of Tactics," in The Journal of Architectural Education, Vol. 60, Issue 4, May 2007.  
Contributor of chapter.

*"The paradigm of networked knowing, which has emerged in physics,  
ecology, and literary theory, among many other disciplines, prioritizes  
lateral linkages over vertical chains of command. Such linkages allow  
nonhierarchical networks-within-networks to flourish by complimenting  
deficits with strengths. Like an ecosystem, this paradigm relies on  
redundancy. Its organization is organic and flexible, responding to  
challenges quickly."*

*from The Green Braid [2007]*







## FLORIDA COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER

A partnership of the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and the University of Florida.

Executive Director 1999-2002

Board member 2002-2009

Numerous exhibits, public charrettes, and presentations, from 1999-2009

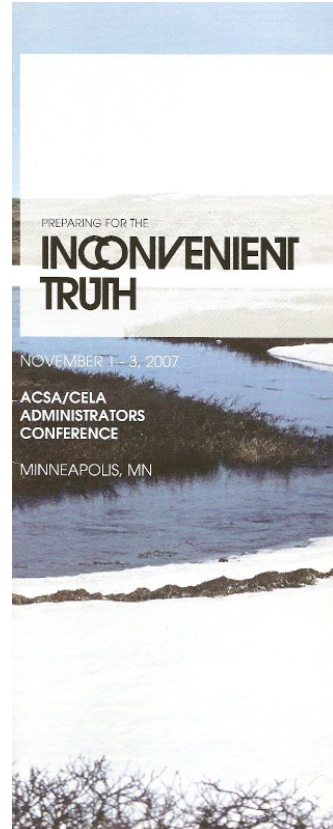




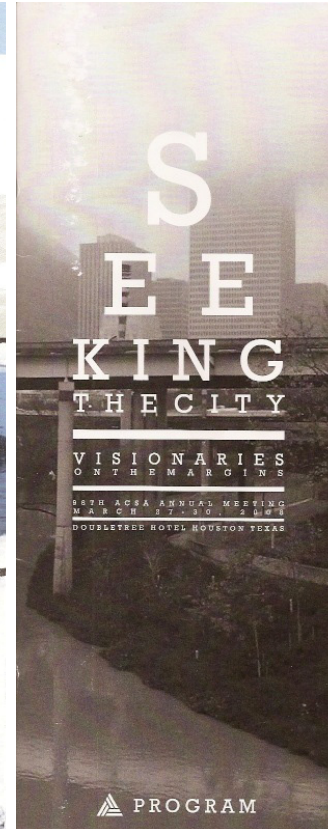
JUNE 20-23, 1998  
CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART



JUNE 2003  
CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART



President of ACSA, 2007-2008



Co-chair of ACSA-AIA Cranbrook Teachers Seminar 1998 + 2003



Inaugural ACSA poster session University of Houston, 2008 (left), most recent  
poster session California College of Arts, 2013 (right).

## ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE

Southeast Regional Director, 1999-2003

President, 2007-2008

Cranbrook Teachers Seminar Co-chair: Architectural  
Space and the Electronic Apparatus, 1998; Sustainable  
Pedagogies and Practices, 2003

The Green Braid, Co-edited with Rafael Longoria

ACSA Presidency, Conferences : Preparing for the  
Inconvenient Truth, Seeking the City, Deep Matters,





## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

About // Design // Research // Advocacy // In the News // Support



### National Academy of Environmental Design Releases Reports from First Set of Research Symposia

In early spring of 2009, an initial set of research symposia were held at major universities around the United States, with the purpose of identifying key questions and issues in areas such as water quality, sustainable materials, and sustainable sites. The outcomes of these symposia are linked below:

- Sustainable Sites Symposium
- Water Symposium
- Sustainable Materials Symposium

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Landscape Journal** to publish paper based on NAED symposium outcomes

**Green Energy Education Act**  
Help support this critical legislation

**Symposia**  
Universities host first set of research symposia

**NPS to Invest \$750M in Parks**  
Nationwide  
Read more

### ABOUT THE NAED

The NAED membership provides the leadership and expertise required to accomplish complex research projects on issues such as climate change, resource depletion, and energy security.

### CONTACT

If you have inquiries please contact:  
[info@naedonline.org](mailto:info@naedonline.org)

Visit the Council Members page to learn more about who we are

### National Academy of Environmental Design Holds Second Annual Membership Meeting in Washington, DC

This year the USGBC will host the two day event, starting at 5:30pm September 29 with a reception and keynote address by Ambassador Richard Nelson Swett, FAIA and continuing through the following day with a business meeting, guest speakers and discussions surrounding the future of multidisciplinary research on the built and natural environments.

Scheduled speakers for the second day include Charles E. Blumberg, FIIDA, from the National Institutes of Health Division of Environmental Protection; Sohi Rastegar, PhD, director of the National Science Foundation Office of Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation; and Lawrence C. Bank, PhD program director in the National Science Foundation Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation. James L. Wescoat, chair of the NAED Research Committee and Aga Khan Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will lead a session developing a map of research areas across NAED member organizations and sharpening the organization's research agenda for the future.

"The NAED Annual Meeting is the opportunity for our member organizations to come together to plan the organization's advancement for the coming year and beyond," said NAED President Kim Tanzer, dean of the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia. "We anticipate the address by Ambassador Swett will orient our members' thinking to the crucial role that innovation in research can play for the economic and social

## NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Founding president, 2010-2012

Annual workshops, "Disaster Resilient Design," with the National Research Council 2010, "Design and Health, Healthy and Green Schools," with the USGBC and the National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research, 2011, "Intelligent Environments," with the National Building Museum, 2013

Water: Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin, University of Florida, 2009, Chesapeake Water Basin, 2014





Colonnade, Design and Health [2010]



Center for Design and Health founded 2010, Colonnade, "Design and Health" 2013

## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEANSHIP

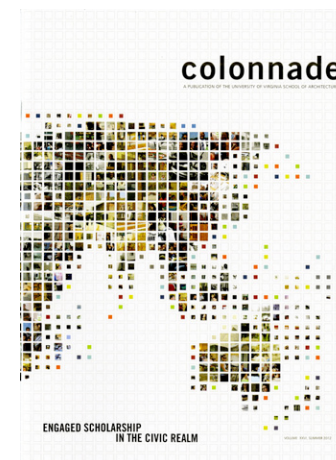
Establishment of Research themes and centers:  
Center for Design & Health, Community Design  
and Research Center; Ph.D. in the Constructed  
Environment

Establishment of International programs in  
Venice and the Veneto, India, China, Switzerland  
and Ghana as well as the Weedon Professor of  
Asian Architecture

Design entrepreneurship, Graduate seminar  
Symposia: Visualizing the practical imagination,  
"After the Deluge, Reimagining  
Leonardo's Legacy," 2013;  
"Imagination/Visualization/Actualization,"  
forthcoming 2014



Colonnade, Design and Public Service [2010]



Community Design and Research Center founded 2013, Colonnade, "Community Engagement in the Civic Realm" 2012





Ghana Program Exhibition [2012]



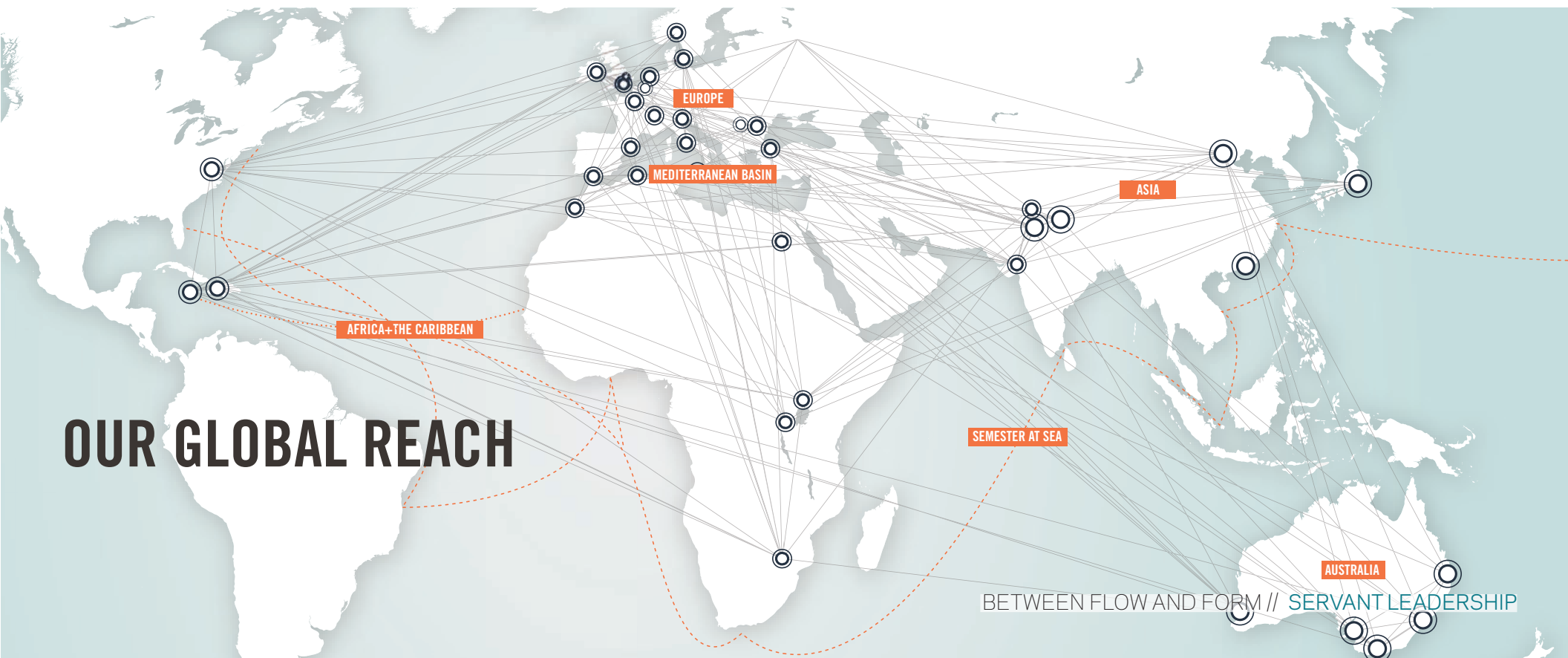
China Program Exhibition [2013]



Simon David, MArch, 2009

THE LEGACY OF  
MARIO DI VALMARANA  
AND THE RENEWAL OF  
THE VENICE PROGRAM  
OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF VIRGINIA

Internationalizing the curriculum, the Mediterranean Basin,  
Asia, Africa in Diaspora, 2009-2014



OUR GLOBAL REACH

BETWEEN FLOW AND FORM // SERVANT LEADERSHIP

## Isadora Duncan

