

ACSA Candidate for Second Vice President (4-year term)

June Williamson, City College of New York

Candidate Statement

Association may be defined as “a group of people organized for a joint purpose.” I’ve had a long association with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, going back to my very first academic paper (it was such a thrill!), presented at an international conference in Copenhagen in 1996, when I was somewhat fresh out of architecture school, teaching evening studio. The provision of formative entry opportunities—like mine—to aspiring and junior faculty members into academic scholarship and creative fellowship is at the core of our association with one another in this organization. Our challenge is to keep these paths fruitful and flowing, to attract a wide diversity of talented and passionate designers to join, sustain, and evolve us. I know that the membership of ACSA is brimming with people who possess abundant creative talent, intelligence, and industriousness, and who care deeply about the issues at the forefront of ACSA’s values and strategic priorities. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to contribute my energy and skills. Thank you for your consideration.



Below are some brief reflections on ACSA values and current strategic plan priorities:

DIVERSITY & EQUITY: The ACSA plays a vital role in gathering and sharing good data and in disseminating effective practices for achieving equitable outcomes and increasing diverse perspectives on many fronts: in our committee rooms, classrooms, studios, and, ultimately, in design offices and on jobsites. We must continue to identify the most effective and compelling initiatives from the whole membership and seek new ways to elevate, share, and incubate productive conversations.

- I’ve been fortunate to teach for the past 15 years at one of the most truly diverse professional architecture schools in North America, the Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York (CCNY), a senior college of CUNY, in West Harlem, New York. Our wonderful students take many, many different paths to get here, overcoming significant personal and structural challenges. My experiences have provided me insights into both the opportunities and the barriers to success, particularly in a highly budget-constrained public institutional environment.

URBANISM, CLIMATE ACTION & BUILT ENVIRONMENT JUSTICE: The world’s population is continuing to become more urbanized and less rural; the forms of global urbanization have become ever more complex, interlinked, and contested; and the catastrophes of climate change are wreaking cumulative havoc.

- My viewpoint is shaped by my own research into the retrofitting of aging, vacant and degraded suburban places and landscapes and the intersections of these projects by design with several urgent challenges: the need to disrupt automobile dependence, improve public health, support an aging population, leverage social capital for equity, compete for jobs, and to add water and energy resilience.
- Urbanism, especially in the context of advancing sustainability and resilience, is a significant forum for meaningful collaborations, effective activism, and funded research opportunities for faculty, students, and professionals.
- I would continue to advocate for ACSA to work with our allied organizations and partnerships to promote increased knowledge production and dissemination at the intersections of urbanism, climate action, and built environment justice, and to advocate integration of these topics into the very core of architectural education.

As many others have pointed out, these priorities are intimately intertwined. Without effective and meaningful community inclusion and social justice efforts, climate actions ring hollow. Conversely, well-meaning equity and inclusion initiatives may falter unless informed by deep and considered understanding of how our built and natural environments are shaped—past histories, ecological systems, economies of investment, material flows, networks of design actors, policy makers, etc.

I’ll close with a few notes about my relevant previous experiences. While a Director-At-Large on the ACSA Board (2018-21), and since, I served on the ACSA Nominations Committee (twice), the organizing committee for the 2020 ACSA Administrators Conference, the Research and Scholarship Committee, and the Leadership Committee. I represented ACSA on the NAAB Public Director Nominating Committee and on the NCARB Education Committee. At CCNY, I served a 3-year term (elected) as chair of the faculty of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture; I’m currently Director of Graduate Programs in Architecture, overseeing our M Arch and MS Arch programs. My leadership style is participatory and deliberative. On the managerial side, I’m organized and strategic; I gather data, facts, histories, and a range of opinions before endorsing or implementing actions. I’m a skilled moderator, an insightful listener, and an effective communicator with experience in reaching a broad range of audiences, gained through many years of writing and public speaking about my research on retrofitting suburbia.

June Williamson

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

M.U.P. in Urban Design, The City College of New York, CUNY, 2005
Master of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1994, Alpha Rho Chi Medal, Ralph Adams Cram Thesis Award
Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in Architecture, Yale University, 1989, Magna Cum Laude

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Director of Graduate Programs in Architecture, Spitzer School of Architecture, The City College of New York, 2022-present
Visiting Professor, University of Arizona, Fall 2022
Architecture Department Chairperson, The City College of New York, 2019-2022
Assoc. Professor, The City College of New York, 2008-2021; Professor, 2021-present
Adj. Assoc. Prof., Columbia GSAPP, 2008
Adj. Assist. Prof., CUNY City Tech, 2007-2008
Visiting Asst. Prof., Georgia Tech, 1999-2001
Visiting Asst. Prof., University of Utah, 1997-1999
Studio Instructor, Boston Arch College, 1995-1997

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS.

(Google Scholar citations page: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xhqsE2QAAAAJ&hl=en>)

Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges, with Ellen Dunham-Jones (John Wiley & Sons, 2021).
Winner, 23rd Great Places Award for Books, EDRA/Project for Public Spaces.
"Dead and Dying Shopping Malls, Re-inhabited," with Ellen Dunham-Jones, AD (Architectural Design) **Loose Fit Architecture: Designing Buildings for Change**, 87:5, September-October 2017: 84-91.
"The Once and Future Shopping Mall: Retrofitting Suburbia for 21st Century Challenges" in Vera Simone Bader and Andres Lepik, eds., **World of Malls: Architectures of Consumption** (Pinakothek der Moderne, catalog published by Hatje Cantz, 2016).
"The Challenges of Retrofitting Levittown, 2005" in Becky Nicolaidis and Andrew Wiese, eds., **The Suburb Reader, Second Edition** (Routledge, 2016).
"Protest on the Astroturf at Downtown Silver Spring: July 4, 2007" in Christopher Niedt, ed., **Social Justice in Diverse Suburbs: History, Politics, and Prospects** (Temple University Press, 2013).
Designing Suburban Futures: New Models from Build a Better Burb (Island Press, 2013). Short-listed, 2013 Francis Tibbalds Book Award, Urban Design Group (UK).
"Retrofitting Suburbs," with Ellen Dunham-Jones, in Henry Cisneros, Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain and Jane Hickie, eds., **Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America** (University of Texas Press, 2012).
Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs, with Ellen Dunham-Jones (John Wiley & Sons, 2009, updated ed. 2011). Winner, 2009 PROSE Award in Architecture and Urban Planning from the Association of American Publishers.
"Retrofitting Suburban Morphology," *Journal of Urbanism*, 2:1 (2009): 75-79.
"Habraken and Koolhaas: Two Dutchmen Flying Over Bijlmermeer" in Douglas Kelbaugh and Kit McCullough, eds., **Writing Urbanism: A Design Reader** (Routledge Press, 2008).

SELECTED DESIGN RESEARCH AND CONSULTING

Co-PI, Complete Streets Considerations for Freight and Emergency Vehicle Operations: A Guidebook, City College of New York, CUNY, New York City Department of Transportation, and the New York State Energy and Research Authority (NYSERDA), 2018.
Team leader, AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) for the Court Avenue Corridor, Jeffersonville, Indiana (2018) and Dale City Boulevard Corridor, Dale City, Virginia (2015).
"Great Falls, Great Food, Great Stories" for Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park (2014-15), member, 1st place winning team of the National Parks Now competition sponsored by the National Parks Service and the Van Alen Institute.
Training workshops on suburban retrofitting for designers, planners, and/or developers: AIAU (online); Brisbane, Aus.; Louisville, KY; Williamsville, NY; Suffolk County, NY; Newark, DE; Salt Lake City; Albuquerque; Madison; Chicago; Atlanta; St. Louis; and Denver.

MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), Director-at-Large, 2018-21, rep. from ACSA to the NCARB Education Committee, 2020-21, and to the NAAB Public Director Nominating Committee, 2021-22; AIA New York Chapter, Public Director, 2021, Oculus Committee, 2023-25; Fellow, Urban Design Forum; Member, Congress for the New Urbanism; Member, Society of American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH); Member, Architectural League of New York; Member, Congress for New Urbanism; Member, Urban Design Academic Council (UDAC).

Registered Architect, New York #031937-1; LEED AP