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#### ACSA Mission Statement

To advance architectural education through support of member schools, their faculty, and students. This support involves:

- Serving by encouraging dialogue among the diverse areas of discipline;
- Facilitating teaching, research, scholarly and creative works, through intra/interdisciplinary activity;
- Articulating the critical issues forming the context of architectural education
- Fostering public awareness of architectural education and issues of importance

This advancement shall be implemented through five primary means: advocacy, annual program activities, liaison with collateral organizations, dissemination of information and response to the needs of member schools in order to enhance the quality of life in a global society.

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## HOW CAN THE DESIGN DISCIPLINES BETTER SERVE THE PUBLIC?

ACSA SEEKS MEMBER SUPPORT FOR NEW NATIONAL ACADEMY



*Recent president's columns have focused on the seemingly orthogonal goals of working in an increasingly interdisciplinary professional environment, yet simultaneously strengthening our disciplinary knowledge base. These two merge when we situate our work as architects within the larger context of other design disciplines, whose knowledge bases complement ours, and whose research methods strengthen ours.*

*Over the past six months the ACSA has worked to develop an organizational structure with the following goals: (1) to allow the environmental design disciplines to communicate more effectively between ourselves; (2) to provide a method for universities and the professions to*

*formally exchange research questions and results; (3) to act as a repository and source of knowledge within and between disciplines; (4) in time, to strengthen our presence within our universities, and perhaps most importantly; (5) to share our knowledge with the public in a coordinated fashion.*

*Seeking a nationally or internationally recognized organization with which to align our proposed interdisciplinary scholarly structure, we settled upon the National Academy of Sciences.*

*We believe, given the current global concern about sustainability, that knowledge provided by the environmental design disciplines is crucial to the country as it attempts to remedy the impacts of centuries of scientific and technological innovation often performed without thoughtful application or systemic feedback. And because our knowledge is so central to reversing global degradation we think this is an opportune time to propose such a new venture.*

*Therefore, in October, with the support of the board of directors, the ACSA proposed the creation of a National Academy of Environmental Design. The following proposal, which explains the relationship between this new proposed academy and the existing National Academy of Sciences, and an accompanying Resolution were presented at the November 1–3 Administrators Conference in Minneapolis. They have also been circulated to a number of affiliated organizations, several of which have endorsed the Resolution.*

*We encourage the ACSA membership, whether individually or as a department, school, college, studio, etc., to endorse this resolution. This can be done online at the ACSA website, [www.acsa-arch.org](http://www.acsa-arch.org). The website will update progress on this initiative regularly. We welcome your comments, especially regarding interdisciplinary organizations in the environmental design field we should include. I can be reached at [tanzer@ufl.edu](mailto:tanzer@ufl.edu) and Mike Monti can be reached at [mmonti@acsa-arch.org](mailto:mmonti@acsa-arch.org). Thank you, as always, for your suggestions.*



-Kim Tanzer, ACSA President