

FOREWORD - eCAADe

Dear eCAADe and SIGraDi friends,

The Porto eCAADe/SIGraDi conference invites ‘academicians, researchers, professionals and students to address how digital technologies are shaping the place and role of architecture in the age of the 4th industrial revolution.’ I believe the question of how architecture can lead the process of shaping its own and other digital ecologies is of equal importance in a world irrevocably interconnected by digital infrastructures.

I consider this joint conference a unique opportunity to celebrate the idea of togetherness and collaboration I promoted during the last two-years, and as such I’m happy my eCAADe presidency ends here, in Porto. I promoted togetherness and collaboration not only with eCAADe’s sister organisations (SIGraDi, ACADIA, CAADRIA...) but also with EAAE (European Association of Architectural Education) and ARENA (Architectural Research European Network Association). Interconnectedness in architectural education and research is becoming a tradition: with the biannual conferences of EAAE and ACSA (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture) or EAAE and ARCC (Architectural Research Centers Consortium). The Porto conference as a unique—joint—experience of two regionally rooted associations is powerful evidence of this flow, as well as of the new role of eCAADe and SIGraDi turning into intensively connected global players in architectural as well as design computing.

I believe that both eCAADe and SIGraDi can benefit from a deeper understanding of the different educational and research contexts needed for the quality of and the engagement in the umbrella activities of all sister organisations, such as the CUMINCAD database and the IJAC journal.

The eCAADe association—Education and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe—has advanced considerably from its original CAD-related investigations. It is mature enough to take new directions. I believe after this immersive event we are ready to develop a new vision that will define our own identity. When I discussed this with Joachim Kieferle, our

Vice President Emeritus and Birgul Çolakoğlu, our Vice President Elect, a temporary new name for eCAADe emerged: Education in Computing for Advanced Architectural Design in Europe. I believe that the Porto conference can contribute in shifting our emphasis from aspects of architectural computing to the essence of the convergent thinking and future oriented design processes enabling us to overcome problems such as open-ended processes, resilience and risk.

‘Art and Design’ as one of the joint conference topics is new on the eCAADe list, and now, after more than ten eCAADe conference years, I am happy that architecture is the first word of this conference title. Some of the questions now confronting us are: What are the contemporary and future architectural practices; how can we achieve design leadership in architectural computing for sustainable environmental solutions; how can we evidence our (academic) research impact of that leadership without counting citations; and what are the skills needed for designing the architectural designer’s careers in the 4th industrial revolution?

I’m looking forward to discussing these and other relevant questions in Porto. I would like to thank all the people who made the eCAADe/Sigradi event possible. Especially to you, José Pedro Sousa and Gonçalo Castro Henriques, for your initiative and excellent organizational efforts. To the people from the initial joint Working Group: Henri Achten, Birgul Çolakoğlu, Gonçalo, Rodrigo Martin Íglésias, Pablo Herrera and Marcelo Bernal. I’m very grateful to you two, Joachim Kieferle and Rudi Stouffs, for your additional support during the most intensive preparatory period. Thank you, João Pedro Xavier, we feel welcome to Porto!

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President of eCAADe