ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES IN ACADEMIA, GOVERNMENT, AND THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

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The purpose of this panel discussion was to provide a forum for a broad spectrum of architectural research projects and perspectives across academia, government agencies, and the nonprofit sector. From digital technologies to issues of "smart growth" and sustainability, architectural research now encompasses cutting edge areas of investigation, as well as traditional areas of research exploration.

In an effort to promote and facilitate research within the architectural community, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC) established a joint research initiative to provide a singular voice advocating for the varying complexity and breadth of research being conducted by academics, architectural practitioners, and members of the building industry. The Initiative for Architectural Research (IAR) has been charged with three primary objectives:

- Serve as a powerful and active advocate for architectural research;

- Serve as a clearinghouse for information about architectural research; and

- Facilitate research efforts that address specific needs of the architectural profession.

IAR announced the results of a recently completed research study, "Architectural Research Methods Training in Education and Practice: a Pilot Study." This study was supported by IAR with additional funding from AIA and ARCC. This project is a seed study for developing a research proposal for conducting a larger, more comprehensive study that would provide a detailed, wider-ranging assessment of research training and delivery systems to effectively meet the research needs and expectations of architecture practice and industry. As a next step in this vital project, the panel will be asked to provide recommendations for further research and avenues to be explored in future architectural research needs conferences.