



Foreword: About TxA Interactive

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As someone who has always had one foot in architecture academia and one foot in architectural practice, it has always been frustrating to me that these two worlds do not have more constant mechanisms for dialogue.

When I go to a peer-reviewed academic conference, I am often blown away by the relevance and applicability of the content of papers to the professional world of architecture. And yet, the room is usually populated solely by a handful of academics deeply committed to the particular issues at hand. When I attend an AIA convention, I am struck by the hunger of at least a subset of attendees for intellectually stimulating and research-based programs that go beyond normal practice topics. And yet, the offerings are generally dominated by the same kind of content that is available in the proliferating world of continuing education “lunch and learns” across the country.

One of the goals of the Texas Society of Architects 74th Annual Convention and Design Expo, held in Fort Worth on November 7–9, 2013, was to try to remedy this problem by embedding a small peer-reviewed academic conference within the larger convention. We hoped to give the 1500+ architects and several hundred additional emerging professionals in attendance the opportunity to participate in sessions that were unapologetically academic. We also hoped to give the group of selectively chosen academics a larger and more diverse audience for their ideas and discoveries than they might normally get.

The conference topic—focused on all things digital in

our field—was selected because it is fertile ground for current academic research, and it is also an area of rapid advancement in the profession. It is a particularly appropriate domain where dialogue between academics and practitioners needs to happen and could create great benefit for both camps.

The first year of this experiment was a resounding success that we hope to duplicate and expand in the future. We also hope to broaden the dialogue even further through distribution of the material presented at the convention via publications like the one you are holding in your hand.