



THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

Leading the Nation in Sustainable Design and Planning for Arid Regions

Happy New Year and the best to you for the new decade!

I write to share CALA 2009 – a year of both extraordinary accomplishments as well as challenges. First and foremost, I want to thank you for your ongoing support. Simply put, without it, the College cannot succeed. CALA is now operating with fewer staff and less state funding than a decade ago while achieving some of the most significant accomplishments in its history. We are also developing a number of new and important programs that will build on CALA's tradition of excellence including sustainable real estate development, responsible property investment, and the new field of Geodesign. I encourage you to read through the impressive list of accomplishments below. It is clear that CALA continues to be *the* hallmark of excellence in design and planning education in the state of Arizona and the Southwest US.

All this good news takes place within a very uncertain setting. My paramount concern as CALA Dean is how we can continue to sustain our programs while enduring back-to-back cuts of historic proportions in state support. The Arizona State Legislature has cut University of Arizona's budget by a staggering \$140 million dollars this year and threaten to cut more. The state now supports less than 20% of the university's total budget. This has meant a direct loss of \$550,000 for CALA over the past 18 months and a loss of 25% of CALA's total funding just since 2006.

CALA faculty and staff are some of the most committed and hard working individuals I have ever had the privilege with which to work. However, no amount of extra effort and sacrifice can make up for the magnitude of funding losses over the past months. CALA simply cannot continue to provide quality programs to our students without a restoration of state support, significant increases in tuition and/or fees, and generous contributions from college supporters.

That is why your support is more important now than ever before. And, CALA's supporters are stepping up. Within the last year, CALA has received three of the largest gifts in its history totaling over \$2,500,000. Your contributions toward faculty scholarship, our teaching labs and studios, the lecture series, and student scholarships mean the difference toward sustaining the level of excellence for which CALA is nationally renowned.

Let me share with you some of CALA's major accomplishments in 2009.

Nationally Ranked Academic Programs. CALA started 2009 with a bang when the Bachelor of Architecture program was listed 12th best by *Design Intelligence* magazine in rankings that included 120 public and private institutions. This month, the Bachelor of Architecture program went on to receive a highly positive review by the National Architectural Accreditation Board visiting team. The team praised the high quality of student work and leadership, faculty commitment, and administrative leadership. None of this should surprise you, as this is CALA's tradition. The team was especially impressed with the Fred R. and Olga K. Pace Materials Lab, which remains one of the largest and most advanced materials labs among architecture schools in the nation.

National Leaders in Solar Architecture. CALA's solar house team was one of twenty universities selected to compete on the Mall in Washington DC in the U. S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon,

the first school from Arizona to be chosen. Our SEED (pod) solar house was successfully designed and built at CALA, transported across the country, reconstructed on the National Mall, and went on to earn international recognition for innovation and design quality. CALA students invented a number of original materials and structures that take advantage of the diurnal changes of the desert environment to light, heat, and cool the house. The creativity, energy, and commitment of the CALA Solar Decathlon students were extraordinary and made CALA and the entire state proud. Most importantly, these students have graduated as true leaders in energy efficiency, renewable energy, solar energy technology, and sustainable building practices.

National Leaders in Affordable and Sustainable Housing Design. The Drachman Institute Design-Build Coalition was awarded the American Institute of Architects' Southern Arizona Chapter 2009 Honor Award for Resident Two, "Flow Thru House" and Residence Three, "Armadillo House". These houses were built and designed entirely by CALA faculty and students and have set new standards for design quality, environmental sustainability, and affordability.

National Leaders in Sustainable Real Estate Development and Responsible Property Investing. CALA, in partnership with the Eller College of Management, is approaching approval of a new Executive Master of Real Estate Development degree. The new degree brings together the design and planning professions with the finance and marketing dimensions of this critical dimension of Arizona's economy. Coupled with the establishment of the College's new Responsible Property Investment Center, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, CALA will quickly become the national leader in teaching and research in sustainable real estate development.

Creation of Arizona's First Desert Green Roof Research Laboratory. CALA has embarked on the design and construction of a first-of-its-kind green roof research laboratory on the roof of the new CALA East Building. The CALA Desert Green Roof will involve research and teaching in renewable building energy systems, heat island effect and outdoor climate comfort, roof system technology, and rooftop plant ecology.

Creation of a new Design Curriculum. CALA has become a national educational leader in the new field of Geodesign. Geodesign combines the rich geographic digital mapping and data base power of Geographic Information Systems with the three dimensional imaging and modeling capabilities of Building Information Modeling. Together, these tools will allow architects, landscape architects, and planners of the future to design in 3-D at the landscape scale while assessing multi-dimensional impacts and implications of design alternatives.

The impressive list above demonstrates that CALA is forging ahead with "Undaunted Courage", borrowing from Stephen Ambrose's recent book about the explorers Lewis and Clark. Despite the many challenges CALA faces now and in the future, we are determined in our mission to produce, "World Leaders in Sustainable Design and Planning for Arid Regions." The goal of a sustainable state, nation, and world will not be possible without CALA's help. I hope you will join us in this quest.

All My Best,

*Janice Cervelli, FASLA, FCELA
Dean, College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
The University of Arizona*