

Engaging Design-Build Pedagogy

Chaired by Christian Dagg, Head of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at Auburn University, and Hans E. Butzer, Dean of the Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture

Long before professional categories such as Design-Build programs became commonplace as alternative modes of teaching and practice, a few renegade faculty collaborated and experimented with designing and building with their students. Students from the OU Schools of Art and Architecture pitched in to help realize Bruce Goff's design for the Bavinger family in the early 1950s. Auburn Professor Robert Faust, a student of Goff, challenged pedagogical norms in Alabama by hiring students to help him build projects. At Auburn, Faust modeled for students a sense of agency, in which he was not only conceiving of designs, but also bringing them to life in the real world. Students clamored to enroll in his design studios and, during the spring and summer, would compete to work on the construction crews that Faust employed. A former student remembers visiting one of Faust's construction sites, where Faust was standing on the roof, backlit by the setting sun. The student thought that Faust was the most amazing architect he had ever encountered.

While design-build has this long history, the questions facing educators in design-build programs have evolved dramatically in the last few decades. This session seeks papers engaging either the history or the contemporary challenges of design build as a pedagogical strategy. How, for example, should we balance client needs with student learning objectives? Who do community-engaged design-build projects serve? How do we empower students through the design-build process in shaping their agency as developers and clients? How do we use the curriculum for developing an interest in construction, real estate, and economics? What are ways in which the design build process can be used to generate new knowledge, as a form of applied research? How can the design-build curriculum be used to instill a love of good design in construction students?

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Visit http://architecture.ou.edu/schools-of-thought for more information and to submit a proposal for this session.