

## **Rationale expressing background and intentions**

Architecture occupies a unique position among academic disciplines. It is simultaneously technological and humanistic, analytical and creative, local and global. Its strength lies in its capacity to bring together diverse forms of knowledge and translate them into tangible responses to societal challenges.

This understanding of architecture has guided my work throughout more than twenty-five years as an educator, researcher, architect and academic leader. After an initial period combining professional practice with university teaching, I developed a career centred on architectural education and research, maintaining a strong interest in the relationship between design, knowledge production and practice.

My research and educational activities have evolved towards questions related to sustainability, urban resilience, climate adaptation and the regeneration of the built environment, including campuses as laboratories for innovation and transformation. Alongside my academic activity, responsibilities as Vice-Dean for Research at the School of Architecture of the Universitat Politècnica de València and, currently, as Vice-Rector for Sustainable Campus Development have provided valuable experience in institutional leadership, strategic planning and interdisciplinary collaboration. I have also participated in international research evaluation processes and initiatives promoting excellence in architectural education.

These experiences have reinforced my conviction that schools of architecture have a critical role to play in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time: climate transition, digital transformation and artificial intelligence, housing affordability, demographic change, evolving models of professional practice and the increasing pressures faced by higher education institutions.

My engagement with the EAAE began at the Annual Conference in Chania in 2014 and soon evolved into active involvement in EAAE research initiatives. Through collaborations within the former Research Committee and later the Research Academy, I contributed to the relaunch of the Architectural Periodicals Database, presented to the Council in Antwerp in 2016 and developed through a series of Research Academy meetings and Annual Conferences before its launch in 2019.

For more than fifty years, the EAAE has provided a valuable platform for dialogue, exchange and cooperation among European schools of architecture. As architectural education enters a period of transformation, I believe the next challenge is not only to connect schools but also to amplify their collective voice. Many issues shaping architectural education are being discussed and decided at the European level, including educational frameworks, research policies, quality assessment, mobility programmes and professional recognition. At the same time, initiatives such as the New European Bauhaus highlight the growing recognition of architecture and design as strategic contributors to Europe's environmental, social and cultural ambitions. In this context, the EAAE's role as a representative of schools of architecture becomes more relevant than ever.

## **Call for EAAE Council candidates 2026**

Débora Domingo-Calabuig. July 2026

If elected to the Council, I would like to help strengthen the EAAE as a recognised interlocutor in these debates while fostering collaboration through educational initiatives, research partnerships and academic exchange. At a time when Europe is seeking new pathways towards environmental responsibility, social cohesion and cultural resilience, architectural education has a vital contribution to make. I would like to help the EAAE ensure that our discipline is part of these conversations.

## **Personal statement**

Serving on the EAAE Council would be an opportunity to contribute to an organisation that has played an important role in both my own academic development and in the international engagement of the School of Architecture of the Universitat Politècnica de València through networks, research initiatives, and long-standing collaborations.

The responsibilities entrusted to the Council require commitment, cooperation and a willingness to work collectively in support of the Association's mission. Throughout my career, I have combined teaching, research, and institutional leadership with the coordination of interdisciplinary teams and the execution of strategic initiatives. These experiences have shaped my understanding of leadership as a process of identifying common ground, building trust and enabling different perspectives to contribute to shared goals. I am particularly comfortable working within decentralised governance structures based on dialogue and joint responsibility.

One of the EAAE's greatest strengths lies in the breadth of its membership. The Association brings together schools with different traditions, institutional contexts, educational models and priorities, united by a commitment to the future of architectural education. At a time of profound environmental, social, technological and institutional change, this richness provides a powerful basis for learning, reflection and coordinated action across Europe.

If elected, I would approach the role of Council member with a spirit of service and cooperation. I would seek to support existing initiatives, strengthen connections between member schools, encourage new opportunities for collaboration and contribute to the EAAE's role as a recognised interlocutor in matters affecting architectural education at the European level.

Membership of the Council requires sustained engagement and active participation. I am fully prepared to dedicate the time, energy and institutional commitment necessary to support its work and contribute to the continued development of the EAAE in the years ahead.

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