

Proposal: 25th National Conference of the Beginning Design Student

Chair(s) and Institution(s):

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Baton Rouge, LA

Title:

But Also, We are a Discipline.

Dates:

March 12th - 15th, 2009

Narrative:

In the spirit of Robert Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction*, this conference adopts his phrase **But Also** as the conjunction that describes the complex and often-contradictory 'relationship between beginnings and disciplinarity.' In doing so, this conference joins last year's conference, *We have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary*, to create an diptych, of sorts: two conferences exploring two sides of one topic. *We have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary* explores 'the ways in which disciplines operate within beginning design education' and the conference *But Also, We are a Discipline* explores the ways in which beginning design operates as a discipline. In other words, *We have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary* considers the continuities between beginning design and the discipline that follows, and *But Also, We are a Discipline* considers beginning design as a discrete discipline with its own history, body of knowledge and educational challenges.

The quarter-century mark of the NCBDS existence warrants this diptych of conferences because of the body of knowledge that has been built over that time. Each part of this body – the papers, projects, and manifestos – implicitly and explicitly assumes a complex relationship with beginning design and the discipline that follows. One could say that this body of knowledge assumes at once that it has never been pre-disciplinary but also that it is its own discipline.

But Also, We are a Discipline invites submissions that explore beginning design's history, its body of knowledge and the particular educational challenges that arise in its context, as well as their attendant pedagogies, projects, and curricula. Submissions are welcome from all, such as traditional design disciplines, allied disciplines in the fine arts, as well as disciplines that undertake 'design' activity without necessarily naming it as design. We also seek the participation from other disciplines, such as the cognitive and learning sciences, that have much to say about beginnings, disciplinarily, and perhaps beginning design.

Venue and Context:

The College of Art and Design at Louisiana State University is emblematic of the diverse community that engages in beginning design education as the College contains the Schools of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Fine Arts and the Department of Interior Design. The conference will be held downtown Baton Rouge at the Shaw Center of the Arts, a 2008 AIA National Honor Award Winner designed by Schwartz/Silver Architects. The Shaw Center houses the LSU Art Museum and the LSU School of Art's Downtown Gallery and Classrooms, as well other art institutions and a rooftop sushi restaurant overlooking the Mississippi River.

Baton Rouge is Louisiana's state capital with numerous hotels and restaurants. Downtown Baton Rouge, where the conference will be held, has enjoyed a renaissance of the past 8 years and has hotel and restaurants in short walking distance of each other. Baton Rouge International Airport is 10 minutes from downtown Baton Rouge, while the New Orleans International Airport is 75 minutes away.

Two hotels, the Hilton and Sheraton, have submitted proposals to provide accommodations for the conference. Each is within a very short walking distance of the conference venue.

Conference Highlights:

25th Anniversary: But Also, We are a Discipline will celebrate by inviting past chairs and exhibiting past proceedings. The conference will include special panel session sessions in which past chairs discuss beginning design and assess discipline's development.

Discussion Group: The host of the 2010 NCBDS, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, will hold a discussion on 2010 conference.

Keynote Speakers: The School of Architecture has a funded lecture Series, which the Keynote Speakers will be a part.

Special Events: The Conference will include a Crawfish Boil Reception and a field trip to New Orleans.