

Dear ACS friends,

The executive committee wants to let you members know the state of the ACS Forum.

First, our membership has now surpassed 180 members and keeps on growing.

Second, our 3rd Symposium at Serenbe (Georgia, that ended 11 days ago) went very, very well ... The quality of the work presented was strong. The place was beautiful and inspiring, setting a perfect environment for the 31 attendees to enjoy and get to know one another ... Serenbe people went out of their way to make us feel at home with incredibly delicious organic food dinners, logistic support, and attention to every detail. Symposium attendees came from as far as Portugal and India to be part of the meeting. Many disciplines, faiths, practices, nationalities and ethnicities were represented — a true gift when engaging meaningful conversations with spiritual and cultural weight. But what was most evident, we believe, was a true a sense of community permeating us all. Indeed, the common denominator of our three symposia has been the special sensibility and openness that ACS members bring forth. It is such an attitude that makes possible in-depth discussions, rigorous work, open listening, critical assessment, and joyful engagement without resorting to cheap competition, unhealthy posturing, or egotistic trips.

You can find the work produced for ACS 3 at:

<http://www.acsforum.org/symposium2011/papers.htm>

For those interested, pictures of the event are available at:

<http://www.acsforum.org/symposium2011/photo.htm>

Third, during the ACS 3 meeting, Nader Ardalan became part of the ACS executive committee. Nader Ardalan is an architect with over four decades of award winning international experience. He is president of the Boston-based firm Ardalan Associates, LLC. He is also an author, teacher, and founding member of the Steering Committee of the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Nader is a Fellow of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.

Fourth, the next two ACS conferences were announced at the end of our Serenbe meeting. The **4th ACS Symposium** will take place in Chichen Itza (Yucatan, Mexico) in late March / early April 2012. Robert Hermanson and Julio Bermudez are chairing this effort. More info on ACS 4 will be available in September. The **5th ACS Symposium**, to be chaired by Nader Ardalan and Thomas Barrie, will occur in Boston, Massachusetts. The topic, dates, and other details are being worked out as we speak.

Fifth, the last issue of 2A (Architecture and Art -- <http://www.2amagazine.com/>) magazine (Spring 2011) is devoted to ACS and contains a selected group of works from our second symposium in Minnesota, last year. All authors in this issue who attended ACS III received a copy, while other authors will be sent their copy once 2A forwards the next package. Please be patient. Those interested in getting a copy or extra copies (shipping will be charged), contact Phill Tabb or Nader Ardalan. Besides 2A, there are plans for other publications opportunities in the near future.

In short, we are happy to report a healthy state of ACS, and forecast an even better future.

Cheers

ACS Executive Committee:

Nader Ardalan
Thomas Barrie
Julio Bermudez
Anat Geva
Rebecca Krinke
Phill Tabb

Julio Bermudez, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

The Catholic University of America
School of Architecture and Planning
Crough Center of Architectural Studies
620 Michigan Ave NE
Washington, DC 20064

(202) 319-5755 (phone)
bermudez@cua.edu (email)
<http://faculty.cua.edu/bermudez> (web)

"yield and overcome, bend and be straight"