Cal Poly's LA Metro Program Director Earns National Creative Achievement Award

Cal Poly Associate Professor Stephen Phillips received the Creative Achievement Award at the 103rd Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ASCA) Annual Meeting in Toronto. This award recognizes a specific creative achievement in teaching, design, scholarship, research, or service that advances architectural education. Phillips was recognized for his work directing the Cal Poly Los Angeles Metro Program in Architecture and Urban Design (CPLA Metro).

Phillips founded the CPLA Metro to immerse aspiring architects in a multicultural urban setting. The curriculum consists of a design studio, history/theory and professional practice seminar sequence, and a professional internship—all within one highly integrated off-campus research laboratory. Additionally, a public event series with lectures, panel discussions, symposia, guest seminars, digital workshops, and design charrettes assimilates the students within the local community and discourse.

The students, alongside their faculty member, coordinate, design, and produce the lecture series posters; design and manage the website; photograph all events; produce publicity materials and email marketing; host all events; and produce substantive research on architecture and design. Recently, the program published its first book in collaboration with the Getty Research Institute—L.A. [Ten]: Interviews on Los Angeles Architecture 1970s-1990s, published by Lars Müller and available in bookstores and museums internationally.

One juror commented, “The Cal Poly program is truly original; it brings multiple external voices into the institution and then midwifes internships between these figures and students. Students and faculty do not just quietly observe LA, rather they actively participate in LA. The resultant L.A. [Ten] book exemplifies Cal Poly's position as creator of new knowledge for the discipline of architecture.”

To learn more about the CPLA Metro Program visit, calpolylametro.com

To learn more about the ASCA visit, acsa-arch.org