

Possible vision/ Mission draft

2012 Proposed Vision

To mobilize the CBE professional and academic disciplines and to capitalize on the synergies among them in our shared effort to address the 21st centuries Grand Challenges of urbanization, globalization and sustainability.

2012 Proposed Mission

As a college that embodies multiple perspectives on the creation and stewardship of built environments we are at the forefront of a global discourse increasingly focused on the processes of urbanization, globalization, and sustainable development. Our work has immediate and tangible impacts in the physical world and profound implications for urban systems, human health, environmental resilience and social equity. As an academic community with a strong professional orientation we are committed to the advancement of integrated planning, design, construction, development, investment, and research in the built environments.

2012 CBE NARRATIVE

CBE is unified by our shared commitment to advocacy for and stewardship of built environments. The potential synergies of our five disciplines —Urban Design and Planning, Real Estate, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Construction Management provide us with an unparalleled opportunity to address the grand challenges facing built environments in the 21st century, including urbanization, globalization, health, and sustainability. Our collective expertise can be brought to bear on every aspect of the life cycle of such challenges, representing a unique ability to harness diverse perspectives for integrated responses. We are thus enabled to provide leadership for creating built environments of the future in a manner that advances best practices.

We seek to nurture collaborative efforts throughout the CBE community. Students, staff, faculty and alumni already leverage knowledge and approach real world problems from multiple domains in their work, and recognize that single disciplines alone cannot solve complex problems. By formalizing and actively supporting collaborative research, education, and service we empower our professions and practices to contribute to the interdisciplinary inquiry, synthesis and problem solving activities required to meet the challenges we face today and in the future.

The very nature of our name as a College, "Built Environments" suggests planetary challenges, and increasing urbanization is at the core of the issue. Over half of the world's populations already live in cities; by 2030, an additional five billion people will have joined them. The city today reveals a porosity of place between local and global forces, public and private realms, micro and macro scales, natural and constructed environments. This is not a simple increase in the consumption of space but rather "a significantly complex geopolitical shift in conditions of community, production, competition, and comparative connectivities that challenges everything from the local to the global."^[1] Many primary issues confronting society today are tied to this urban dynamic and the infrastructure supporting it. Our college fully engages in this discourse from multiple perspectives, considering process as critical as product. As a college we investigate diverse approaches to the study of built environments in the global context, and to identify both historical continuities and the singularity of this particular urban moment.

Finally as the College of Built Environments we come together around larger definitions of what we do that are centered on the concept of design, life cycle thinking and the shared vision that we can make the world better. As renowned political economist Herbert Simon notes: "Everyone designs who devises courses of action aimed at changing existing situations into preferred ones." In this spirit, we embrace all of the practices, research, teaching, and service of our collective faculty, staff, and students as critical contributors to a greater good- the stewardship and improvement of built environments across the nation and around the globe.