

USC School of Architecture

USC SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

DIRECTOR, MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND TENURED PROFESSOR

POSITION DESCRIPTION / OCTOBER 1, 2018

The University of Southern California School of Architecture invites applications for a full-time, tenured faculty position in landscape architecture at the rank of Associate or Full Professor. The successful applicant will also serve as Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture program. The appointment is expected to begin in August 2019.

Please use this link to apply for this position: <https://usccareers.usc.edu/job/los-angeles/director-master-of-landscape-architecture-and-tenured-professor/1209/9586568>

Candidates must have a strong record of recognized accomplishment in their field(s) and an active research/creative work profile that addresses contemporary needs within landscape architecture and related disciplines. Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. Candidates should include evidence of notable accomplishments in design and research to date, as well as evidence of effective teaching.

The School seeks a dynamic and accomplished leader to head the MLA program in a collaborative environment where students in landscape architecture, architecture, building science, and heritage conservation explore the multiple dimensions of a design education for the 21st century. Our program is a rigorous, studio-based course of graduate study that builds upon the foundations of design, urban ecology, history and theory, technical courses, and practice to develop the expansive skills and knowledge required for successful practice, teaching, and research. The new Director will be expected to elevate the program's academic standing and ranking; exploit the School's location in the ecological and social hot spot of Southern California; and create synergies with new academic initiatives focused on global cities and urbanism/urban design. The new faculty member should be comfortable managing the operations of the degree program; leading and participating in student recruitment and admissions reviews; collaborating with other administrative leaders, faculty members, and students; teaching graduate-level courses; and maintaining a robust research/creative work agenda. Although landscape design has long been a part of the interdisciplinary education in the School, the formal landscape architecture degree program was established more recently and received its initial accreditation in 2011. Instructors in the program include full-time, tenure-track faculty and a wide array of respected landscape architects in practice.

The Director will lead an accredited professional degree program in landscape architecture. He/she will be responsible for shaping the pedagogy of the academic program of study, integrating the program into the life of the School and University, and collaborating with the Dean and other senior leaders to align his or her vision with the mission of the School. The Director will advocate for the program and foster external relations with alumni, the advisory board, the local academic and professional communities, parents, and supporters of the program. The Director will report directly to the Dean.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The University of Southern California is one of the world's leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles and a global center for the arts, technology, and international business, USC provides diverse curricular offerings and extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary study and collaboration with leading researchers in highly advanced learning environments.

In a comprehensive new study by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*, USC ranked 15th out of 1,061 public and private universities in the United States and tied for second place with Columbia University for student and faculty diversity. Among California schools, only USC, Stanford, and Caltech appeared in the top 25, and of 150 colleges and universities in the western United States, USC ranked third.

USC's distinguished faculty of 4,000 innovative scholars, researchers, teachers, and mentors includes five Nobel laureates and dozens of recipients of prestigious national honors including the MacArthur "Genius" Award, the Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Medal of the Arts, the National Humanities Medal, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and the Pulitzer Prize.

THE USC ARCHITECTURE LEGACY: DESIGN EXCELLENCE + INNOVATION

Architecture is an intellectual gateway to a diverse array of careers including architectural design, interior design, landscape architecture, and the design of products and cities. Our professional degrees in architecture, landscape, building science, and heritage conservation combine the best of a liberal arts-humanities education with training in how to make buildings, landscapes, products and environments. Our non-professional undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates offer opportunities to explore architecture's connections to other disciplines including cultural heritage, new technologies, and urbanism. 'Architecture thinking' is about problem-solving, ideating, creating and making! The legacy of innovation and rigor embedded within an architectural education is unrivaled, while the design studio and the relentless push for innovative solutions that challenge old paradigms are defining characteristics of architectural education. With 760 students and 120 faculty members, the School has the reach and scale of few others nationwide.

Founded in 1880, the University of Southern California played a crucial role in bringing a city, region, and state to social and economic maturity. As Southern California grew ever more transnational and multicultural, the Los Angeles-based university became global in the diversity of its student body and faculty as well as in the growing range, rising quality, and ambition of its programs. USC established architecture as an academic discipline within its College of Liberal Arts in 1914. By 1919, the University had established a Department of Art and Architecture under the leadership of Arthur Weatherhead and had begun to graduate renowned alumni. By 1925, a stand-alone School of Architecture was established, and a full professional Bachelor of Architecture curriculum was put in place in 1928. The School quickly became known for offering one of the foremost architecture programs in the country. The School has also been a place for individual invention and has produced architects whose eclectic ways of thinking and groundbreaking personal narratives symbolize the School's rigorous yet pluralistic pedagogies. Graduates include Frank Gehry of Gehry Partners, LLP and Thom Mayne of Morphosis Architects (both recipients of the Pritzker Architecture Prize), Mark Lee of Johnston Marklee Architects, Paul R. Williams, and Robert A. Kennard. The School's roster of alumni and former faculty members features many Case Study Program collaborators, including Summer Spaulding, Richard Neutra, Gregory Ain, William Pereira, Ralph Knowles, Raymond Loewy, Craig Ellwood, Conrad Buff, Donald Hensman, and Pierre Koenig.

THE USC ARCHITECTURE DIFFERENCE

Our collective ambition and core purpose is to be a 21st-century “academic cultural institution” dedicated to producing the next generation of leaders in architecture, design, and scholarship; redefining architectural education; and experimenting with radical pedagogical models that are inclusive of other disciplines such as cultural theory and history, business and communications, public policy and activism.

Our core values center around equality, social justice, and the belief that collectively, through architecture, we can enrich basic human existence in harmony with our local and regional ecologies. Our graduates are equipped with competencies that range in scope from technical skills in designing architecture at all scales, to conceptual precision in articulating ideas and linking design to other discourses in the humanities and social sciences, to representational finesse in utilizing analog, digital, and moving image techniques to communicate ideas. Our faculty is driven to explore questions from the everyday ways in which architecture and design can have an impact on a community to the experimental realm of theoretical research and speculation. Our faculty and alumni lead architecture, design, and real estate firms; are civic and non-profit leaders and community activists; and are producers of influential research and innovative solutions to problems ranging from housing insecurity to earthquake resiliency. Our culture as a school revolves around curating vibrant debate on contemporary issues with informed and critical dialogue among students, faculty, visiting lecturers, practitioners, and external constituencies. We are unabashed in linking the role of the architect and design professional with an ethic of citizenship that joins design excellence with a humanistic consciousness.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

One accredited degree in landscape architecture or a related field and an advanced degree in landscape architecture or a related field, and

A record of research/creative work that demonstrates excellence in the field.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

Statement of Interest describing research/creative work, teaching and service;

Diversity Statement describing evidence of candidate's experience in integrating diversity into his or her teaching, research and/or creative work; and in developing inclusive and equitable strategies for the benefit of all students or relevant constituencies within and outside of the academy.

Curriculum Vitae, Digital Portfolio (of teaching, research and creative work as applicable) and 1-2 Writing Samples; and

A list of 3 references with contact information.

Portfolios and other supplemental materials greater than 5 MB can be sent to Jane Ilger at ilger@usc.edu. The file size limit is 25 MB.

Questions can also be addressed to Jane Ilger.

Review of applications will begin December 1, 2018, and the position will remain open until filled.

USC is an equal-opportunity educator and employer, firmly committed to providing equal opportunity for outstanding persons of every ethnic background and gender identity. The University particularly encourages women, members of underrepresented groups, veterans, and individuals with disabilities to apply. USC will make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. Further information is available by contacting uschr@usc.edu.