

Dear Members of the European Association for Architectural Education,

I am both excited and humbled to present my candidacy for the presidency of the EAAE.

In my role as a council member, I actively represent the EAAE in various encounters, discussions, conferences, and European projects, engaging many of our network members. I am confident that my professional journey, underpinned by extensive experience in both academia and, architectural practice has equipped me with the skills, vision, and commitment necessary to lead the EAAE into a future built on a collaborative spirit and care for each other.

During my career, I have had the privilege of being involved in countless interactions with students, colleagues, and professionals who all share a common goal: to make a meaningful difference through design, research, and education. For years, I have combined practice with teaching and researching at the university, fulfilling various leadership roles, such as director of the Architecture Study Program and Vice Dean of Education at the Faculty of Architecture & the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology. In these positions, I had the opportunity to establish and lead several renewal processes, taking care of all aspects connected to them. Additionally, I have initiated and steered various strategic activities that expand beyond my home institution and engage with colleagues from other disciplines in national and international education, research, and professional environments. My current position includes leading the section Theory, Territory, Transitions, and the Architectural Pedagogy research group at the Department of Architecture while serving as an advisory board member at the Dutch Architects Register.

I have always believed that at its heart, architecture is about what it means and does with and to people. However, architecture stands today at a critical juncture, where it must balance urgent demands in terms of sustainability, rapid advancements in technology, and the evolving needs of our societies in uncertain, unstable, and challenging times. Therefore, I see an important responsibility in interpreting and translating these challenges into critical standpoints and actions while fostering an inclusive environment to enhance the quality and relevance of architectural education and research across Europe. Besides revising and updating curricula, this requires promoting interdisciplinary approaches and partnerships with other fields and networks, facilitating greater collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and societal as well as governmental bodies. These dynamics will ensure additional impetus for cutting-edge activities reflecting the complexities of our times, stimulating and supporting the experimentation of new roles, while preparing and nurturing our younger colleagues to become sensitive professionals towards a future where social responsibility is key.

My candidacy for the presidency of the EAAE is driven by a heartfelt commitment to advancing architectural education, research, and practice while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities. The passion, dedication, and creativity of this community have profoundly inspired me, and it is with this same spirit that I aspire to lead our association, encouraging an activating environment that supports and uplifts every member.

Sincerely yours,

*Roberto Cavallo*