

**Subject: 2025 ACSA/EAAE Teachers Conference – Message from Dalhousie University
School of Architecture**

May 7, 2025

Dear members of the architecture community,

On April 11, 2025, the organizers of the 2025 ACSA/EAAE Teachers Conference, scheduled to take place at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in June 2025, announced that the event will no longer take place. This was a difficult but necessary decision for Dalhousie's School of Architecture as well as our co-organizers, and we acknowledge the disappointment that many feel. We deeply appreciate the scholarship, dedication, and intellectual generosity of everyone who submitted abstracts, developed papers and presentations, organized workshops, and engaged with the theme of "Conflict : Resolution." We acknowledge the time, energy, and thoughtfulness each participant has contributed.

As local hosts and co-organizers of the conference, our objective was to consider how the increasingly palpable conflicts around us are transforming the role of the designer. The conference theme, developed by the local co-chairs, invited reflections on conflicts at all scales and on some of the most challenging questions of the day, including geopolitical ones. In the fifteen months that preceded this announcement, we worked with our partners to shape paper sessions, workshops, and discussions that would allow architectural educators to gain insights into how sensitive topics—no matter how difficult—can be addressed in classrooms, institutions, and the public realm.

ACSA's decision to cancel the Fall 2025 issue of the *Journal of Architectural Education* (JAE), themed "Palestine," does not align with our definition of and commitment to academic freedom. We ultimately believe the ACSA's continued cancellation of the journal issue is not aligned with the conference as conceived: that their sponsorship and involvement would contradict our intention to provide a free academic forum for scholars and educators working on topics deemed controversial, including Palestine. Since ACSA's decision, there has been an international conversation about the responsibility of academic institutions to protect academic freedom and global exchange. The cancellation of the JAE issue does not reflect Dalhousie University's values and position as an academic institution, specifically concerning the protection of scholars of all backgrounds and their scholarship. We are committed to scholarly autonomy, integrity, and accountability, all of which require an open discourse.

At this time of great political and academic uncertainty, this is an important moment to pause "business as usual." It is an opportunity to consider new pathways that preserve academic freedom and public education in both the short and the long term. Our School is recalibrating with the intention of engaging the local and international communities on these questions. Please stay tuned for further information. We thank you for your patience and your contributions.

Regards,
Dalhousie School of Architecture and the local organizing committee