

SERVICE AWARD

The EDRA Service Award is given in recognition of a specific contribution of service to the field or the organization that advances the field of environmental design research. It may be someone outside EDRA who has advanced EDRA's cause through publications, or through the support of knowledge produced by EDRA members.

Cherif Amor, Ph.D., EDRA, IDEC, & IIDA



Dr. Cherif Amor, committed mentor, advisor, colleague and EDRA leader has been associated with the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) since 1999. His involvement with EDRA began when he received the EDRA Student Research Award in 1999 for his research presentation. Since then, Cherif has worked tirelessly to promote EDRA's missions and goals throughout his carrier.

As an active participant during the last decade to the present, in addition to attending and presenting at the annual conferences on a regular basis, Dr. Amor served EDRA consistently and with distinction in various roles: abstract and manuscript reviewer, session moderator, panel discussant, collaborator, Graduate Student Workshop mentor, and chair of the Interior Design Network, just to name a few.

As a scholar, Dr. Amor has an impressive body of work and knowledge he has contributed to architecture, interior design and environmental design professions. He is both single author and collaborative author on many scholarly publications. His engaged team-oriented outlook is one that demonstrates the power of interdisciplinary

issue-focused exchange in EDRA. A significant research and scholarly collaboration, for instance, culminated in contributing a prolific chapter on Algerian design and architecture which has no precedents to Vibhari Jani's *Diversity in Design* book for interior design, architecture and environmental design scholars published by Fairchild in 2010. Dr. Amor also mentors others in their scholarly contributions.

As an engaged mentor, Dr. Amor's mission is to engage future generations with EDRA, thus enhancing EDRA's reach and impact. During his appointment as the chairperson of the Department of Design at Texas Tech University, he introduced his graduate students to EDRA conferences. While at Texas Tech University, he took on a very difficult challenge to develop a graduate program based on EDRA's EB focus. He was also successful in bringing his graduate students to EDRA as attendants and presenters. More than 30 graduate students in that department have become robustly engaged with EDRA activities inspired by his strong commitment to the organization; many of those students are following in his footsteps in service, research and leadership with EDRA. Dr. Amor is a keen proponent of EDRA even from overseas. As

the new chair of the Department of Interior Design in Virginia Commonwealth University, Qatar, he strongly and persistently encourages his students to take part in the environment-behavior community. Some of his current international students presented last year at EDRA46.

As the chair of the Interior Design Network, Dr. Amor has been active in planning network meetings that address emerging trends in interior and environmental design. From speaking to cultural complexities, to program focus areas, to neuroscience and built environment, to technology and education, and other topics, he forges cross disciplinary partnerships that see through boundaries, inform, enhance, and activate colleagues and students alike to delve deeper and broader in environmental design research, education and practice. He regularly provides annual reports for network activities and has been highly collaborative across knowledge networks, integrating EDRA mission and goals in activities, and offering insights to membership and board of directors.

Dr. Amor's mentorship of graduate students is exemplary. All his nominators spoke unequivocally about how instrumental his student mentoring is. He repeatedly served as a mentor for the Graduate Student Workshop, reviewed graduate students' proposals, spent the full workshop day with students, and provided them with useful feedback about their research. In his feedback, he addresses potential research trends as well as fundable strategies, thus preparing graduate students for their future roles in research, practice and academia. His mentorship to EDRA student members is not limited to the conference, it extends beyond the workshop sessions. He stays in touch with those students and never hesitates to provide them with recommendations, scholarly advice, and motivation, once again maintaining the strength and outreach of the EDRA tribe.