

Mark Cabrinha, Ph.D, holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, a Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Architectural Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Mark's professional experience (1995-2002) as a registered architect in Illinois (now inactive) focused on innovative learning environments for K-12 schools in Chicago. Inspired from this experience and the work of his colleagues with Bruce Mau on their book *The Third Teacher*, Mark approached his comprehensive studio teaching at Cal Poly as a collective think-tank engaged in collaboration with leading practitioners and innovative K-12 schools, such as High-Tech High in San Diego, in his studio *the [open-source learning lab](#)*. This included Mark's creative work as an Autodesk Pier-9 Artist-In-Residence developing the [open-source learning lab kit](#), a conceptual 3d-puzzle for the design of collaborative learning environments. Mark continues to be engaged in the comprehensive design curriculum as a leader in our systems integration courses.

Developing from his dissertation, *(In)Forming: the affordances of digital fabrication in architectural education*, Mark's research has focused on the impact of technology on design culture through the lens of digital fabrication. His "material's first" approach to digital fabrication led to an interest in zero-waste active bending lattice shell structures, first in an exploratory proof of concept with the Smart Geometry Gridshell in 2012, and ultimately the Korlandia Gridshell, a 50'x140' lattice shell constructed from 2x4 LVL in Cayucos, California.

For the last 8 years, Mark has focused on higher education leadership at Cal Poly as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (Fall 2017-2022) and more recently as Architecture Department Head (Fall 2022 - current). As Associate Dean, Mark's focus was on student success, curriculum and program accreditation, developing diversity, equity and inclusion in the college, and advancing interdisciplinary engagement. Notable outcomes from this time was the development of the [CAED Diversity Strategic Plan](#), upheld as a model across the university, and the proposal for a new interdisciplinary degree the Bachelor of Science in the Built Environment.

In Fall 2022, Mark took on his current role as Architecture Department Head at a significant time of holistic curriculum development in the conversion from quarters to semesters in conjunction with NAAB accreditation centered on a new outcomes-based process of self-assessment. The semester conversion process exemplified Mark's approach to shared-governance, including the responsibility of leadership to make transparent the challenges of fiscal constraints while empowering a collective vision that resulted in a new department mission statement, program learning outcomes, and clarity of shared course learning outcomes across 50 faculty in one of the nation's largest and highest-regarded public undergraduate architecture programs. During this time, he has focused on strategic alignment of advancement goals more than doubling the departments discretionary funding including a multi-year \$75k gift to support DEI scholarships in our K-12 summer program, a \$50k gift to support off-campus study, and the first department to engage in a university fund-matching crowd-source campaign raising \$40k over three days.