

XX SIGraDi 20 años de SIGraDi

Dear SIGraDi community,

It is an honor for me to present the 20th Congress of the Sociedad Iberoamericana de Gráfica Digital, with the main topic Crowdfunding, following the legacy that our founder, Arturo Montagú, started more than twenty years ago.

(...) Starting in 1996, and after conversations with colleagues of several universities in Argentina, Arturo began envisioning the creation of a space for sharing and discussing the creative, scientific, expressive, and technical possibilities of computer graphics. He knew that he could realize this idea because he had the support of many research and professional groups in the country and a majority of Latin American nations.

Tribute to Professor Arturo Montagú, 2005
Lilia Chernobilsky Montagú

"(...) What moved all these people? A will, an impulse of our time, the spirit of the fascinating time we have to live, full with changes and revolutions here in Latin America and in the world... "Augmented Culture" proposes a combination of interdependent social and technological meanings in a complex, multiple, interactive and interconnected context, where a new paradigm develops, characterized by the rupture of the barriers of time, space and language, which promotes the empowerment of the ideation, reflection and construction processes of cultural objects."

Editorial SIGraDi 2011,
María Elena Tosello (Argentina), President of SIGraDi 2011-2013

Today, SIGraDi returns to Argentina, twenty years after the first National Seminar of Digital Graphics. A selection of reflections and testimonials from its past presidents, written for this introduction, reminds us how technology has moved forward, and we alongside it, and what SIGraDi means to us.

"(...) e-mail had a very low performance with just texts. There were not many connections either; some papers in the proceedings book came printed, by traditional postal service (paper), others had to be typed again, because of the incompatibilities of the time. Projected presentations from computers were few; most of them came in VHS, "analogic" slides and even retro-projected transparencies. Then, in very intense days and with 91 adhesions SIGraDi was founded and a big challenge started: subsist!"

Alfredo Stipech (Argentina), President of SIGraDi 1998-1999

"(...) We manage to summon faculty and researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and other international figures, very generous to accept supporting us. So SIGraDi 1998 took shape, with the support of the authorities of FAUD, at UNMdP, the city council, the Provincial Board of Architecture and, especially, with the support and input of the incipient community by us integrated. It was an academically memorable event, even with the austere conditions we had to face. There were important memories, too. We held the first SIGraDi party, a simple but gratifying farewell that became the prelude of the memorable endings of the congresses."

Diana Rodríguez Barros (Argentina), President of SIGraDi 1999-2000

Like in June 1997, this second week of November 2016, our host is **Universidad de Buenos Aires**, along with **Centro Cultural San Martín** they receive us in their premises, in the context of a national event, **Electronic November**, which opens to opportunities for synergy, while broadening our academic horizons.

Thus, our twentieth congress continues with the ongoing tradition of discussion and experience building, making history alongside new experiences that, in a disruptive manner, will contribute to the future of computerized and computational technologies in the region.

In nineteen years, SIGraDi had as epicenter Argentina (1997, 1998, 2003, 2011); Brazil (2000, 2004, 2009, 2012, 2015); Chile (2001, 2006, 2013); Colombia (2010); Cuba (2008); Mexico (2007); Perú (2005), Uruguay (1999, 2014) y Venezuela (2002). Each city triggered, in a particular way, an approach to emergent technologies, without forgetting the origin and nature of SIGraDi, while adopting some ideas and dismissing others, offering a broad selection of possibilities for education and practice. Each congress has been an inspiration for students and faculty, showing respect and admiration for the presented works, as an impulse and reference which motivates future research. The exhibit **SIGraDi 3D/20**, opening in SIGraDi 2016, aims to represent the central theme of each and every one of the twenty editions of our congress, through modeling and digital fabrication.

"(...) It is unavoidable to ask ourselves for the origin again, even today, knowing that the world already was digital. Now we don't even question that world and, actually, we lean on a technology more transparent and absolutely ubiquitous in order to carry on our daily development. Thus, the question about the origin emerges again, as it always has, in front of these pauses, in similar circumstances. There is still, without a doubt, a long way to go, besides of pendent debts. However I believe it is just a matter of time for the future we imagine to be, again, in the past."

Pedro Soza (Chile), President of SIGraDi 2007-2009

Getting here has not been easy or fortuitous. Through collaboration, and the interaction of ideas and institutions, we made connections to strengthen what SIGraDi is today: a society which, from its origins, oriented its aim to collective and distributed work, as described by the theme of our SIGraDi 2016. The input of every one of its members, authors, assistants, International Executive Committee, Advisor's Committee, International Scientific Committee and Local Organizer's Committee which have managed every location is the communitarian impulse which transmits the legacy that our community seeds every year.

It was there that, for me, SIGraDi was born, in the hands of Julio Bermudez, then a professor at University of Utah, who suggested me to look, in Brazil, for professor José Kóz, from UFRJ. Both, with another colleagues, Latin-American professors, some living in the United States, were engaged in consolidating the Sociedad Iberoamericana de Gráfica Digital, bringing knowledge and international discussion on the advances of TICs – Information and Communication Technologies – in AEC – Architecture, Engineering and Building.

Eduardo S. Nardelli (Brasil), President of SIGraDi 2009-2011

Our challenges still aim to include in a sustainable way the northern and Andean region, as well as empower a more inclusive Latin American network, reaching out to those foreign to technology or who only used it from few of the many perspectives it offers. Thus, we continue with the support of regional events such as the XI International Seminar The Digital Reveal: Architecture in the Post-Digital Era, organized by Universidad Piloto de Colombia last September, and our participation as jury for the CLAP Awards 2016.

"(...) International contacts, especially those of Arturo (Montagú) and Julio (Bermudez) guaranteed important partnerships with our fellow associations, mainly ACADIA and eCAADe. In South America, Gonzalo Vélez Jahn na Venezuela, Marcelo Payssé in Uruguay and Rodrigo Garcia Alvarado in Chile helped to promote SIGraDi in their countries (...). I've always considered integration with fellow institutions one of the main strengths of SIGraDi, and I've tried to enforce it during and after my presidency period, taking part in official congresses in Helsinki, Warsaw, Graz, Delft, New Delhi, Kumamoto and Nanjing. SIGraDi congresses, likewise, have a significant participation of representative from our fellow association, especially important to establish strong links between their Latin American members."

José Ripper Kós (Brasil), Presidente SIGraDi 2000-2003

We can say that the ideas of our founder and first President, Arturo Montagú, who hoped to trace an evolution map of contemporary knowledge of Latin American computation, is reflected in the history of our congresses. From the almost one hundred articles of the first proceedings book, more than two thousand scientific papers have been published in the last nineteen SIGraDi congresses. Each of them shows local particularities, regional issues, questionings, achievements and challenges.

From this year on, we start the process of double revision for the papers presented in our congress, which includes an extended abstract and a complete article, in order to scientifically spread our researches. Next to ACADIA, eCAADe y CAADRIA we continue the periodic publishing in IJAC; since last year it is under SAGE Journals academic publishing. We have increased the impact of academic production:

"(...) Now the papers presented to the congresses in 2013, 2014 and 2015 are published in Blucher Design Proceedings from the academic editorial with the same name, giving more visibility and catalog services and DOI identification. Moreover, SIGraDi papers continue to be incorporated to CUMINCAD database, which thanks to the work with the other fellow societies (eCAADe, ACADIA, CAADRIA y CAAD Futures) continuously strengthen cooperation relationships, empowering the process by which this platform is now Open Access. Likewise we took an important step deciding that the proceedings book would be given in its digital version, and the physical one will only be given to those who ask for it. This innovation have opened new doors and opportunities, coherent to the digital nature of our society."

Eduardo Hamuy (Chile), President of SIGraDi 2013-2015

In Buenos Aires we start a new decade with the premise of achieving, in a short term, a SIGraDi ready to assume new challenges, according to those of the academic and professional institutions with which we expect to create alliances in every country of the region.

SIGraDi keeps on growing and promoting new proposals, hoping that the base so far achieved will be the inspiration for those who continue it.

Welcome, twenty years!
Welcome to Buenos Aires!

Pablo C. Herrera,
President of SIGraDi