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**PERKINS EASTMAN AND EWINGCOLE CO-PUBLISH NEW WHITE PAPER  
EXAMINING THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF DESIGN RESEARCH**

New York, NY (October 11, 2016) International design firm Perkins Eastman and EwingCole are pleased to announce the release of their new joint white paper **“Where Are We Now?: Elevating Design Practice through Design Research,”** co-authored by Emily Chmielewski, EDAC, Associate and Senior Design Researcher at Perkins Eastman, and Nicholas Watkins, Ph.D., Director of Research at EwingCole. The paper takes an in-depth look at the current state of the design research field, dissects the many challenges researchers face, and contemplates broad solutions for advancing the practice of design research for the overall betterment of the architectural design field.

In March 2016, the Perkins Eastman and EwingCole research teams, led by Chmielewski and Watkins, developed and instituted a comprehensive online survey of 29 questions, in partnership with the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA). The survey was available online for three weeks and was completed by a mix of students, educators, designers, and design research professionals. The results of that survey were then presented at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual EDRA Conference (EDRA47), in Raleigh, NC.

The survey’s questions focused on such topics as: Defining one’s role; the value and credibility of design research; research methods, knowledge sharing, and sustainability of design research in practice, among others. “Many of our respondents wear multiple hats,” says Chmielewski. “An educator will also participate in research practice, for example, and many others do not have one area of specialization. Most are conducting research in multiple sectors and on varied project types.”

At EDRA47, the teams engaged in conversation with various conference attendees about the many challenges related to conducting design research as well as solutions for promoting the incorporation of design research in design

delivery. The survey's findings, combined with input from the EDRA conference, informed the content produced for "Where Are We Now?"

According to Watkins, "A key challenge for all researchers in practice is to communicate our studies' findings in such a way that attracts the attention of designers and clients, as well as conveys insights that can effectively impact the design industry. One of our intentions in writing this paper was to help our industry peers in tackling those challenges, and consequently, finding more receptive audiences for their important work."

The entire white paper is available for free download at [www.perkinseastman.com/white\\_papers](http://www.perkinseastman.com/white_papers) and [EwingCole - Where Are We Now Whitepaper](#)

### **About EwingCole**

EwingCole is a nationally recognized architecture, engineering, interior design, and planning firm of more than 400 professionals in Charlotte, Irvine, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Raleigh. Our practice is built on the core values of professional leadership, design excellence, and collaborative relationships to provide the best total solution for our clients, the community, and the environment. EwingCole is a leader in the design of academic, cultural, government, healthcare, science and technology, sports and entertainment, and workplace facilities. Visit [www.ewingcole.com](http://www.ewingcole.com).

### **About Perkins Eastman**

Perkins Eastman is among the top design and architecture firms in the world. With almost 1,000 employees in 15 locations around the globe, Perkins Eastman practices at every scale of the built environment. From niche buildings to complex projects that enrich whole communities, the firm's portfolio reflects a dedication to progressive and inventive design that enhances the quality of the human experience. With work in 46 states and more than 40 countries, the firm's portfolio includes high-end residential, commercial, hotels, retail, office buildings, corporate interiors, schools, hospitals, museums, senior living, and public sector facilities. Perkins Eastman provides award-winning design through its offices in North America (New York, NY; Boston, MA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; Pittsburgh, PA; San Francisco, CA; Stamford, CT; Toronto, Canada; and Washington, DC); South America (Guayaquil, Ecuador); North Africa and Middle East (Dubai, UAE); and Asia (Mumbai, India, and Shanghai, China).