

BIOGRAPHY

MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald is a tenured, associate professor in the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University with expertise in community design, urban design, architecture and downtown revitalization through historic preservation. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Architecture and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Master of Science in Architecture Studies (Environmental Design Concentration) Program, she currently serves as director of Texas Tech's Houston-based Master of Architecture Program and the Urban + Community Design Studies Graduate Certificate Program. She is located in Houston, Texas at the TxRx Labs – a hacker/maker warehouse in the Greater East End District.

She brought her previous experience in private sector architecture practice to the public sector as head of the Texas Main Street Program – an internationally recognized program aimed at revitalizing central business districts, historic town centers and neighborhood districts. She worked collaboratively with local and statewide agencies to achieve strategic solutions to over 140 Texas communities. Additionally, Ms. Torres-MacDonald served as division director at the Texas Historical Commission overseeing programs in heritage tourism, certified local governments in preservation, and visioning in preservation focusing on strategies to support long-term, sustainable, community-based solutions through architecture, urban and community design.

Ms. Torres-MacDonald serves on the Bayou Preservation Association's Advisory Board and the Houston AIA's Urban Design Committee. She also serves local organizations through professional consultation in the areas of urban + community design, strategic planning, visioning, and leadership development with over 25 years experience in collaborative community-focused solutions.

Her area of focus in urban + community design has evolved into special emphasis on community resiliency, with more recent emphasis on the City of Houston's initiatives towards a response to Hurricane Harvey. This topic has become an integral component of the studios and other coursework taught in architecture education in Houston.