

AIAA SATC Vice Chair Election (2024-2026) Election Statement

PAOLO CARATELLI

Dear SATC Colleagues,

Since I joined the Technical Committee three years ago, it has been an honor and privilege to collaborate with many of you and make your acquaintance during meetings and conferences.

I am an architect, graduated at the University of Florence, Italy, where I also earned a specialization in Yacht Design and a PhD in Architectural and Urban Design. There, I had my first experience with Space Architecture in 1994, attending as student at one of the very first university courses dedicated to this pioneering subject.

Times weren't mature enough in Europe for a career in this discipline, however I didn't renounce cultivating this passion mainly as autodidact, digging in libraries and early websites, connecting and sharing thoughts with experts, craving for information and updates.

In 2000, I open my professional office in Florence, working on several architectural projects in Italy, France, and the UAE for private developers and public institutions as well. Since 2008, I'm living and working in the UAE, initially as design manager and director for the Dubai branch of an international architectural firm, then embracing the tenure in academia as Associate Professor of Architecture at Abu Dhabi University, from 2011 until now.

The design for habitats in extreme environments has been the focus of my research and professional activity throughout my career, both as projects, research, and collaborations, which have enabled me to develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in this dynamic and challenging field of specialization. Architecture is a choral activity, and architecture for extreme environments, and Space Architecture in particular, are the perfect paradigm of such concerted multidisciplinary efforts and collaborative intents.

As Vice-Chair candidate for 2024-2026, I aspire to support Georgi Petrov as next Chair, and the whole Technical Committee with a firm dedication to promoting communication, sharing a collective vision, and fostering a culture of collaboration among all members following the role model of Sandra Haeuplik-Meusburger, Olga Bannova, and all previous chairmanships.

As possible Chair for 2026-2028, I would love to further improve the effective communication established by my predecessors, establishing an open and transparent channel for sharing ideas, updates, and progresses among the committee members, ensuring that all voices are heard, and contributions are acknowledged.

Collaboration is the driving force behind innovation, and I envision a Technical Committee where each member can actively participate in shaping its strategic direction. By fostering a collaborative environment, we can amplify the impact of our collective efforts and inspire groundbreaking advancements in the field.

I would be honored to have the opportunity, if given, to serve as Vice-Chair, and then as Chair of the SATC for the next two biennial cycles. Together, we could build an inclusive and empowering community that pushes the boundaries of Space Architecture, while nurturing the talents and aspirations of each member.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to the possibility of working alongside you on this journey.

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