

# ADVANCING DESIGN RESEARCH: CREATING A NEW FRAMEWORK FROM THREE APPROACHES TO CASE STUDY RESEARCH

## **Little, Sarah**

University of Oklahoma  
sarah.little@ou.edu

## **Cox, Adina**

University of Kentucky  
Adina.cox@uky.edu

### **1 ABSTRACT**

*Design researchers need to adopt language that reflects a more traditional view of research. Case study is a good example. 'Case study' encompasses a variety of activities from novice endeavors to rigorous research inquires. As the foundation of the LAF:CSI grant opportunity, Francis (2001) represents the standard for landscape architecture case study. The authors contend that Francis (2001) is actually a post occupancy evaluation (POE) and not a case study. Adjacent disciplines have similar naming issues with case study investigations. Therefore, the authors advocate for the profession to adopt Yin (2018) as the standard. After comparing Yin (2018) with three case study writings in design research: Francis (2001), Groat (2002), and Swaffield (2017), all three are influenced by Yin and Francis (2001) is clearly a POE. The main issue with Francis (2001) is the lack of a research question on which the case study process hinges. In application, work conducted within the LAF:CSI reports no research questions. Inquires are designed around project details only. While Francis (2001) has value as a POE model, landscape architecture researchers need to quit referring to the article as a case study and adopt Yin (2018) as the model for case study research.*

### **1.1 Keywords**

Case study, research methods, design research, landscape architecture