Message from the Chairs

In the last decade, software architecture has undergone a huge transformation: from a cute and only vaguely-understood metaphor to a topic of great practical and research interest in both academia and industry. It is now widely recognized that software architecture represents a major leverage point to better articulate and reason about software development factors such as cost, evolution, reuse, performance, maintainability, and so forth. It is a key ingredient in successfully creating and managing large software systems.

Still, the field is young and as such is in search of a crisper definition, better boundaries, as well as adequate formalisms, processes and technologies to support it. The Working IEEE/IFIP Conference on Software Architecture (WICSA 2001) is a step in this direction. It is a conference solely dedicated to software architecture and so provides a forum for the international software architecture community to expose, debate, and coordinate its efforts to mature the domain.

The most recent version of this conference was held at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from August 28-31, 2001. It was the successor to the first WICSA conference held in San Antonio, Texas in February 1999, establishing a precedent for what we hope and expect to be a long and successful series of similar conferences, sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society and by IFIP WG 2.10.

This proceedings document contains the 18 papers accepted for the conference, which were selected from 47 high-quality submissions from both industry and academia. These papers cover a vast spectrum of topics, ranging from discussing the very essence of software architecture and its role in software engineering, to issues of modeling and assessing architectures, as well as reporting significant achievements and industrial case studies.

In addition to the technical papers, this conference featured invited presentations by two of the most eminent leaders in the field: Professor Mary Shaw from Carnegie Mellon University, and Wojtek Kozaczynski from Rational Software. The conference also hosted two workshops and four tutorials in its four days.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsoring organizations, to our very able program committee, and to the local organizers who have all contributed to make this a successful event.

Rick Kazman, Carnegie Mellon University (Program Co-Chair)
Philippe Kruchten, Rational Software (General Co-Chair)
Chris Verhoef, Vrije Universiteit (General Co-Chair)
Hans van Vliet, Vrije Universiteit (Program Co-Chair)