PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan
School of Art and Design

Jan-Henrik Andersen, assistant professor of art, School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

Diploma 1984 Industrial Design Education, Oslo, Norway
Architectural 1978 Berendt Moe School of Architectural Drawing,
Assistant Exam Oslo, Norway
Examen Artium 1976 Scola Catedralis Nidarosiensis, Natural Sciences,
Trondheim, Norway

Professional Record:

2000 – present Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design,
University of Michigan
1999 Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design,
University of Michigan
1996 – 1999 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Visual and
Performing Arts, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
1992 – 1998 Associate Professor, with tenure, Institute of Industrial Design,
National College of Art and Design, Oslo, Norway
1989 – 1991 Academic Coordinator, Institute of Industrial Design, National
College of Art and Design, Oslo, Norway
1985 – 1988 Assistant Professor, with tenure, Institute of Industrial Design,
National College of Art and Design, Oslo, Norway

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Jan-Henrik Andersen is an intelligent, thoughtful, and masterful teacher who challenges and nurtures students to achieve goals they could not have imagined for themselves. His experiences as a practicing designer constantly inform his classes and give students valuable insight into design practice. In addition to teaching design fundamentals, Professor Andersen encourages his students to think critically about global issues and the designer’s responsibility and influence in today’s interconnected and interdependent world. A thoughtful and outspoken colleague, Professor Andersen has worked collaboratively to extend the undergraduate curriculum beyond the traditional design skillset, integrating new tools and technologies and exploring new methods of team teaching and resource sharing.

Creative Work / Research – Jan-Henrik Andersen has a rich record of accomplishments as an industrial designer in the United States and abroad. His creations span the breadth of design practice, from sailboats and dinghies to furniture to child safety seats to household and medical items. He is the recipient of numerous design commissions, and his latest creation – a series of ergonomic garden tools – is scheduled for full market release in 2006. Moving beyond the development of objects, his most recent research focuses on the development of visual models and representations of subatomic particles. This marriage of science and art – in collaboration with physicists at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the University of Michigan – has yielded a new vocabulary for understanding the “extreme unseen,” one that will have significant impact on scientific literacy.
Significant Recent Works:
2006, National Market Release, Natural Radius Grip Garden Tools
2005, Solo Exhibition, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory Art Gallery, Batavia, IL
2005, “From Mathematics to Visual Aesthetics,” Colloquium Lecture, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL
2005, Juried Exhibition, Society of Typographic Arts, Chicago, IL
2004, Patent in Progress, Method for Composite Fabrication of Curvilinear Structural Elements
2002, Principal Creator, Development of Satellite-Navigated Mini Sailing Robots for Atlantic Crossing

Service – Professor Andersen’s service record is equally impressive. He has served on numerous curricular and administrative committees in the School of Art and Design and is active in recruitment efforts for the School’s undergraduate and graduate programs. He served as the elected representative from the School’s faculty to the University’s Faculty Senate Assembly. With his diverse knowledge of technologies, tools, and materials, Professor Andersen has been instrumental in developing interdisciplinary projects and resources, including initiatives with the College of Engineering and the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He is currently working with colleagues from mechanical engineering, psychology, business, and art and design to create a multidisciplinary doctoral program in design science.

External Reviewers
Reviewer A: “His work also addresses issues central to sustainable design, universal design, and design as a partner in interdisciplinary work...it is clear he brings the full range of contemporary design tools, skill sets and methodologies to the classroom/studio...and is indeed at the front edge of the technologies employed in the practice of design.”

Reviewer B: “His work has a wonderful balance of form, function, materiality, technology, and usability...Based on his international activities and contacts, he readily understands and supports the pedagogical ideal that the student of today is the global citizen of tomorrow.”

Reviewer C: “...good ability to do abstract thinking and express ideas in a non-traditional way. He is an enthusiastic and devoted teacher who loves to be around students and who follows their projects.”

Reviewer D: “I would like to note that his work has been a fine example of what we aspire to in the university community, a way to communicate, teach, and disseminate what is taking places [sic] at the frontiers of discovery to students and to the public.”

Reviewer E: “I found the work and experience documented in Prof. Andersen’s dossier, spanning several decades, demonstrate the depth and breadth of a seasoned design educator and talented professional designer with outstanding and multidisciplinary contributions in Europe and the United States.”

Reviewer F: “His recent work demonstrates his unique capability of integrating scientific and technological interest with his humanistic and social concerns...The project for visualizing quarks is a [sic] eloquent evidence of his capability to collaborate with people from other disciplines. It is an elegant and unique work that demonstrates how art, design, science and technology can work together.”
Reviewer G: "His experience is wide, rather than deep, and reflects the true skills needed for a practicing designer, hopefully the kind you are training for the profession."

Reviewer H: "Visualization of elementary particles...has been a tremendous and time consuming effort and the results are unique and beautifully as such."

Reviewer I: "Jan Henrik set out to capture the mathematics behind the Standard Model, in a way that is both mathematically accurate and precise, yet aesthetically pleasing to the eye. No one had achieved anything like this before."

Summary of Recommendation:
Jan Henrik Andersen is a designer and educator recognized for his breadth of expertise and experience. With the support of the Executive Committee, I strongly recommend him for promotion to associate professor of art and design, with tenure, in the School of Art and Design.

Bryan Rogers
Dean, School of Art and Design

May 2006