

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Cathlyn L. Newell, assistant professor of architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

M.Arch.	2006	Rice University School of Architecture, Houston, TX
B.S.	2003	Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

Professional Record:

2016 – Present	Director, Master of Science in Architectural Design Research, Material Systems, and Digital Technologies, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2011 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2010 – 2011	Lecturer, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2010 – Present	Founding Principal, Alibi Studio, LLC, Detroit, MI
2009 – 2010	Oberdick Fellow, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2006 – 2009	Project Designer and Project Coordinator, office dA, Boston, MA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Newell has made significant contributions to undergraduate and graduate teaching at Taubman College through her research-based studios and seminars investigating design in relationship to material systems and digital fabrication. She has played a valuable role, particularly within the M.Arch. and M.S. programs, by using teaching methods that challenge students to think anew about architecture in multiple and varied ways, ranging from materially to culturally. Professor Newell's course evaluations and student letters consistently confirm her teaching excellence, advising wisdom and overall impact on the quality and critical thoughtfulness of student work. For many students, Professor Newell's impact as a teacher has been profound and long-lasting. Alumni comment on how effectively she taught them important design skills that they have continued to use in their professional lives.

Professor Newell is also one of a small group of faculty in Taubman College involved in implementing a new post-professional degree. This degree program recognizes the radical changes taking place in the discipline as well as the existence of exciting potentials due to the introduction of digital technologies to the design and making processes, particularly in relationship to both traditional and new materials. This initiative took place within the Master of Architecture program, but also included the creation of a post-professional Master of Science degree with concentrations in Digital Technologies and Material Systems.

Research: Professor Newell's research and creative work focuses on "materials systems research," tools and techniques for manipulating materials with an emphasis on ways to embody processes of physical transformation, and "immaterial visual effects," the creative exploration of perceptual effects, including light, darkness, glow, and reflection, in relation to architectural experience. Research in both of these areas informs Professor Newell's fabrication of site-specific installations where her interests in materiality and phenomenal experience are put into creative dialog with various physical settings. Her approach challenges the existing norms of practice. Professor Newell works primarily on various types of temporary on-site installations and gallery exhibits. Her work embodies a range of conceptual, formal and technical concerns from the aesthetic sensibilities of an artist concerned with the poetic effects of handmade things, to collaborations with material technicians and scientists, to questioning as an architect the impact of phenomenal experience on how we think about, and engage with, the world.

Recognition for Professor Newell's work has been considerable, as demonstrated by the long list of accolades she has received and the significance of the venues in which her work has been exhibited. These include the New York Architectural League Prize, the Venice Architecture Biennale, and the Rome Prize in Architecture. Her work has been disseminated through a variety of means, including numerous exhibitions, book chapters, academic journal publications, and peer-reviewed conference proceedings; a regular stream of invited lectures; and writing about her work by others in design publications, such as *Architectural Design*, *Surface*, *Metropolis*, and *Architecture Magazine*, as well as citations in the popular press, including *The New York Times* and the *Detroit News*. Professor Newell is a powerful creative voice among her peers, as well as a leader within the academy

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

Newell, Catie, 2016. "Salvaged Landscape" Bracket 3: At Extremes, Actar, 153-158.

Overnight: Catie Newell, 2016. Invited Museum Solo-Exhibition, University of Michigan Museum of Art.

After Curfew, 2014. Exhibition and Invited Solo-Show, Stubbins Gallery, Georgia Tech.

Rome Prize in Architecture, 2013-2014.

Newell, Catie, 2013. "Extenuating Circumstance: Salvaged Landscape." *Architectural Design*, 226, (November/December); 20-45.

Architectural League Prize for Young Architects and Designers, 2011.

Service: Professor Newell has effectively served the interests of the architecture program, Taubman College and the larger scholarly and professional world. She has been the director of the M.S. concentrations in material systems and digital technologies since fall 2016 and previously served as a co-coordinator of the M.S. in material systems. Professor Newell has participated in the M.Arch. and M.S. admissions processes, served on committees for student scholarships and awards, and on faculty search committees. In service to the profession, Professor Newell has held roles in national conferences by serving as a workshop co-chair for the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture conference and as a paper reviewer for the TxA Emerging Design + Technology Conference. She has also worked with other professional and public institutions such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the American Institute of Architects in Seattle, Amplifier Inc. for the Flint Public Art Project, and the American Academy in Rome.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I...see Professor Newell as staking out a claim in an area of material and fabrication and has coupled this with a role of art/architecture in site specific contexts...I found the work elegant and serious...Professor Newell...has been successful in publishing the completed works in journals and magazine and has clearly also been prolific and energetic.”

Reviewer B: “Professor Newell’s ground breaking design work and approach invites us to ponder not only what reality may be, but demands from us to go deeper into our own understanding of the complex interplay of material worlds and material cultures.”

Reviewer C: “Newell’s work has been exhibited and recognized in a succession of significant venues. Foremost among these are the New York Architectural League Prize (2011), the Venice Architecture Biennale (2012), the Polsky Rome Prize in Architecture (2013-2014), and the Lille Triennial in France (2015-2016). Any of these constitute significant recognition and their combination is a testimony to Newell’s remarkable achievement and prominence among her peers.”

Reviewer D: “She is a brilliant architect and an intellectual. She is regarded as a leader of her generation based on her very unique projects and teaching on material research and fabrication. What is unique about her projects is that she makes it clear that material practice and the making of spaces are embedded in socio-political circumstances and the specifics of site. In addition, her work is completely original.”

Reviewer E: “I am struck by the intensity, focus and discipline with which she engages the *unheimliche* (the unhomely) and the exquisite formal and alchemical transformation she manages to forge in matter and light in so doing. This is rare. The quality, focus, and impact of her creative work is consistent and exceptional, reaching an ever expanding audience through teaching, exhibitions, lectureships and fellowships in the USA, Europe and Australia.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Newell is an accomplished researcher and scholar who has made significant contributions to material systems research and immaterial visual effects. She effectively brings an intelligent, innovative and strategic approach to her teaching and is an active contributor providing valuable service to the college, university and profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Cathlyn L. Newell for promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Robert Fishman
Interim Dean and Professor
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2017