

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Mireille Roddier, 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.	1997	University of California, Berkeley
DEA	1996	École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France
B.Arch.	1994	University of Arizona, Tucson

Professional Record:

2003-Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
1995-Present	Principal, Mitnick, Roddier, Hicks (MRH), Ann Arbor, MI
2001-2003	William Sanders Fellow, Lecturer in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2001	Partner, Ground Design Studio, Ann Arbor, MI
2001	Adjunct Lecturer in Architecture, University of Detroit-Mercy, Detroit, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Roddier’s versatility is apparent as a teacher. Since joining the faculty, she has taught both undergraduate and graduate design studios. While her studio assignments tend to vary, her responsibilities as primary coordinator and lecturer for Design Fundamentals 2 (DF2) have remained more consistent. DF2 introduces undergraduate architecture majors to a broad array of complex social and political forces acting upon architectural form and giving it meaning and relevance as a cultural endeavor. In 2005, Professor Roddier worked with another faculty member to revise the course from its previous model and, in 2008, she assumed responsibility for coordinating the course. Under her direction, DF2 has developed into a focused introduction to architectural theory, preparing students for more advanced theoretical explorations at the graduate level. Professor Roddier’s experience teaching in undergraduate and graduate studios speaks to her versatility in addressing a full range of conceptual and speculative subject matter. It also reflects her ability to address both beginning and advanced technical skills – from the most basic media to the most advanced – in representing architectural ideas. Her ability to intertwine representational techniques with social and political concerns has made her a valuable member of the design faculty.

Her student evaluation numbers attest to the value the students place on both her studio teaching and the lecture course. The numbers are consistently in the upper percentiles. The numbers for DF2 (instructor ratings between 4.23 and 4.53) are high for a large required lecture course. Her instructor ratings are typically higher in smaller course formats (4.40- 4.96).

Research – Professor Roddier’s work includes both design practice and publications on architectural theory and criticism. Her interests are wide-ranging, encompassing deep explorations of descriptive geometry and, in particular, the underlying principle of perspective drawings; the ideologies attending specific modes of representation; and the social and political implications of architectural space. She aims to keep these research and creative interests in balance by transcending distinctions among the various forms of her academic and professional career. Thus, her work is disseminated in various media

and in a range of venues, as she seeks to explore issues and questions of importance to the discipline of architecture.

Her substantive and diverse body of work has enabled Professor Roddier to bridge the apparent divide between the theoretical and the practical. Noteworthy among these endeavors are the professional work of her firm, Mitnick Roddier Hicks (MRH), particularly, the LL House; Split/View Pavilion; the temporary garden installation “*Etant donné ... un jardin*”; the book Lavoirs: Washhouses of Rural France (Princeton Architectural Press, 2003); the essays on *lavoirs* published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Architectural Education*; and “Phenomenology and its Afterglow,” a peer-reviewed conference presentation. She has also begun work on her next research project, tentatively called “...*ad infinitum*...,” a book-length study of theories of representation with particular reference to ideas of reflection, translation, logical depth, and paradox.

Professor Roddier’s impact on the discipline is most apparent through her design practice. As a designer, her work has been conducted in collaboration with Keith Mitnick and Stewart Hicks, her partners in the design firm MRH. She describes their collaboration as a complementary relationship with each partner contributing different strengths to the overall work, defining her role as “contributing the most expertise in the ‘working-out’ of ideas.” Together, they have completed one built house, one permanent garden pavilion, several temporary garden installations, and submitted designs for numerous competitions. The work has garnered awards and received significant attention in a wide number of publications.

Two particular honors based on the body of work by the firm stand out. In 2005, MRH was one of ten design firms selected by *Architectural Record* for the annual feature “Design Vanguard”; and in 2004 they were selected as one of six firms in the annual Young Architects Forum of the Architectural League of New York. These are highly competitive award venues, sought after by both academic and professionally-oriented architecture firms. Recognition in either of these venues would place MRH in the upper echelon of emerging design practices of their generation.

A number of the firm’s projects have been recognized with design awards from a range of venues. Three of their temporary installations have resulted from prize-winning competition entries. Their entry for the National Aids Memorial Competition received an honorable mention, and their winning entry to the Burnham Prize Competition received one of four faculty design awards from the American Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) in 2004.

Professor Roddier’s writings explore many of the themes that she pursues in the design work of MRH. Her book Lavoirs: Washhouses of Rural France was developed from work done as the recipient of the Gabriel Prize, awarded by the Western European Architecture Foundation to support a three-month-long investigation of classical architecture and landscape in France. Her study of this obsolete building typology, richly illustrated with her own photographs and drawings, reveals her interests in the relationships among formal geometrical constructions and central projection, phenomenology and perception, as well as the underlying social and historical significance of these structures.

Recent and Significant Works:

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| 2009 | “Unreal Estates of the Realm.” <i>Volume Magazine</i> , Vol. 22: <i>The Guide</i> (Dec) |
| 2008 | “Glossarial Comments on the Post-Capitalist City.” <i>Volume Magazine</i> , Vol. 18: <i>After Zero</i> (Dec): pp. 98-99 |
| 2008 | “Phenomenology and its Afterglow.” Proceedings of the 2008 ACSA West Conference |
| 2008 | “ <i>The OFF-WHITE TOWER</i> ” (Exhibit), White House Redux Competition Exhibit, Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York, NY |
| 2008 | <i>The TARDIS</i> (Built), Temporary Installation, Montpellier, France |

- 2007 *Étant donné... un jardin* (Built) Temporary Garden Installation, Chaumont-sur-Loire, France
- 2007 *LL House* (Built), Residence, Yellow Springs, Ohio
- 2006 "Reflections." *Journal of Architectural Education*, Vol. 59, Issue 4 (May): pp. 58-62
- 2005 *Split/View* (Built), Garden Follie, Philbrook Art Museum, Tulsa, OK
- 2003 *Lavoirs: Washhouses of Rural France* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press)

Service – Professor Roddier has served as a jury member for the Fontainebleau Prize. She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Media, Culture, and Difference at Bard College, where she is helping to organize a conference to be held in Spring 2010. She has also chaired sessions and reviewed papers for ACSA regional conferences. Currently, she is a member of the Environmental Cluster Steering Committee searching for interdisciplinary positions in the field of environmental design and technology. At the college and program levels, she has served on the Detroit Task Force and the Diversity Task Force, as a member and chair of the Lecture and Exhibitions Committee, and on several search committees for tenure-track and fellowship appointments. Annually, she has served on the admissions committees for the Architecture Program.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I want to speak too to the question of her versatility. For she teaches seminars and studios as well as design thesis. This makes her, in my view, an especially valuable member of your faculty, since she can serve as a role model for your students across the full range of forms of study that make up the architecture curriculum."

Reviewer B: "[A]ll of the critical concerns of Roddier's writing find a more evocative medium in her creative work: the Lavoires and TARDIS projects underscore her phenomenological concerns; Split/View and the LL House forward her explorations in geometry and frame; and Dupli/CITY and OFF-WHITE exploit architecture as critique."

Reviewer C: "After reading Professor Roddier's book *Lavoirs: Washhouses of Rural France* (2003), and her latest essay *Phenomenology and its Afterglow* (ACSA Regional Proceedings, 2008) I am struck by the growth of both the strength and substantiation of her critical voice. The former is competent, well written, and largely descriptive. The latter is both more scholarly and speculative."

Reviewer D: "The range of the work from design/practice with her firm Mitnick Roddier Hicks, her photographs and research on the *lavoirs* of rural France, her work on representation, and the Detroit Unreal Estate Agency initiative demonstrates a broad range of interests and research all carried out with depth, rigor, and enthusiasm."

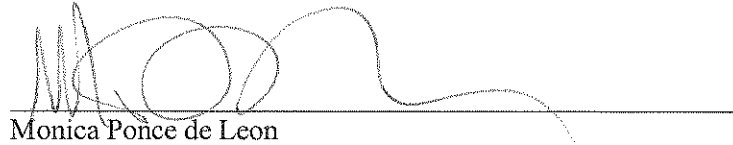
Reviewer E: "Her recent conference paper, 'Phenomenology & Its Aftermath [sic],' holds great promise; the topic is timely and her lens provocative. I am impressed by the range of sources she brings to the subject."

Reviewer F: "Overall, I am impressed by the diversity of Roddier's engagement. This is certainly one of her outstanding strengths compared to other colleagues at associate level."

Reviewer G: "Mireille has been able to sustain a high level of creativity and rigor in teaching, research and practice simultaneously, which is extremely difficult for contemporary professors of architecture engaged in both academia and practice."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Roddier has maintained a standard of excellence across all aspects of her academic and professional production. She is a creative, promising architectural designer whose provocative body of professional work has gained a significant level of national recognition. By bringing this same approach to her teaching, Professor Roddier has proven to be a particularly valuable member of the Architecture Program's design faculty. These factors merit her promotion. The Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Executive Committee, and I are unanimous in recommending her promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monica Ponce de Leon', is written over a horizontal line.

Monica Ponce de Leon
Dean and Eliel Saarinen Collegiate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2010