

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

Steven Y. Mankouche, 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. 1993 Cornell University, Architecture, Ithaca, New York
B.Arch. 1992 Cornell University, Architecture, Ithaca, New York

Professional Record:

2005 – present Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005 Lecturer, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2003 – 2004 Willard Oberdick Fellow in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2003 Visiting Professor, Liechtenstein University of Applied Science, Department of Architecture
2000 – 2002 Clinical Assistant Professor, State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of Architecture
1999 – 2000 Summer Faculty, Anderson Ranch Art Center, Snowmass Village, Colorado
1998 – 1999 Project Architect, Harry Teague Architects, Aspen, Colorado
1996 – present Principal, Atelier Mankouche, Ann Arbor, Michigan
1995 – 1997 Project Architect, Bill Poss & Associates, Aspen, Colorado
1994 Assistant Instructor, New York Experimental Glass Workshop (Urban Glass), New York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Mankouche is an engaging instructor whose courses are divided into two primary areas: full-scale fabrications (studios) and building construction (lecture courses and seminars). His main responsibilities are design studio at the undergraduate and graduate level, a required building construction course, and a graduate construction seminar. Pedagogically, his design studios and construction courses have followed material and critical aspects of his practice in that they bring craft to bear on materials in ways that further our understanding of practice. Professor Mankouche works to impart to students that architecture functions beyond performance; that the process of making affects the way we think and the solutions we derive; and that architecture has room for discovery in the most common of problems.

Many of his student design and analytic exercises are collaborative in nature, appropriately highlighting the importance of team work and the development of a shared verbal and design language. His students have won 14 different design awards. Also evident is his commitment to the region through work in the post-industrial landscape of Detroit, efforts that are relevant to shrinking, rust-belt cities the world over.

Research: Professor Mankouche's research and creative work is divided into four inter-related areas of investigation – pre-electrification technologies, post-agrarian ecologies, territorial incongruities, and domestic terrains. Of these four agendas, what he labels pre-electrification technologies is pre-eminent. These are the materials, assemblies, techniques, and technologies that were rendered redundant by the rise of cheap energy, mass production, and the global distribution in the 19th and early 20th century. He investigates the potential of utilizing contemporary electrical and electronic systems, technologies, tools, and techniques to recoup, revive and take advantage of their modest energy consumption and ecological costs. As the era of inexpensive, plentiful oil peaks and starts to decline, his explorations are particularly timely as he seeks to reveal, refine, and popularize the low carbon footprint of these earlier, ordinary materials and practices.

There is a disciplined sense of economy in all his work, but his work is more than simply modest and environmentally green. It also possesses theoretical and artistic merit and consequence. Professor Mankouche has advanced his career through full-scale prototyping and construction, design competitions, exhibitions, conference presentations, publications and architectural practice. He has garnered five design awards, most notably prestigious national awards from the Boston Society of Architects, the Canadian Wood Council, and *Architect* magazine.

Professional Work, Exhibits, and Awards:

- 2011 Merit Winner, 2010 Wood Design Awards Competition, Canadian Wood Council for “Spring-Back Gateway” (Design Award)
- 2010 Design Citation, Unbuilt Architecture Design Award, Boston Society of Architects for “Civic Bend” (Design Award)
- 2010 “Civic Bend,” Boston Society of Architects, Boston, MA (Juried Group Exhibition)
- 2010 Research and Development Award, Architect Magazine for “Digital Steam Bending: A Parametrically Adaptable Structural System” (Design Award)
- 2010 “Spring-Back Gateway,” Art Prize, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI (Juried Group Exhibition)
- 2008 Merit Award, Unbuilt Architecture Design Award, Boston Society of Architects for “L’Isola Filtrante” (Design Award)
- 2008 “L’Isola Filtrata,” Boston Society of Architects, Boston, MA (Juried Group Exhibition)
- 2005 “Parachute Pavilion,” Van Alen Institute, New York, NY (Juried Group Exhibition)

Service: Professor Mankouche has served on many committees at the University of Michigan for the program, college, and university. He has also liaised with other campus units to reduce energy consumption and waste. He is actively involved with community service as a member of Project Grow, an Ann Arbor based community gardening organization and as an architectural advisor to Project Reach, a multi-racial, multi-gender New York City-based youth and adult-run anti-discrimination training organization that sponsors a summer youth boot camp.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “The combination of Steven’s interests, skill and experience in building practice, along with digital design practice and fabrication methods, is of vital current and future importance to schools of architecture.”

Reviewer B: “...the work hold intellectual rigor and is certainly grounded on a solid foundation of architectural discipline and building tradition...and has been selected for a number of juried group exhibitions both national and international...”

Reviewer C: “The awards he received from Architect Magazine, the Canadian Wood Council and the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) are in particular impressive and represent significant achievements for anyone at this stage in their career.”

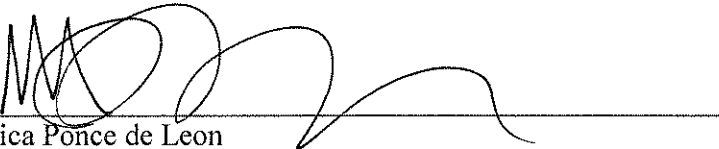
Reviewer D: “While other academics in architecture focus on history, full scale material research and prototyping, or sustainability, the integration of these topics in Professor Mankouche’s work is innovative and makes an important contribution to the discipline.”

Reviewer E: “By looking back while engaging with contemporary materials and techniques, Steven Mankouche’s research and teaching reconnects design and building to seemingly lost knowledge and opens new avenues for discovery and design advances.”

Reviewer F: “...the most significant and influential work that he has generated has been with the bent wood projects which have been widely recognized with nationally important design awards and publications about the work.”

Reviewer G: “...he engages with materials, interrogates them, and leverages the resistance they provide to develop novel solutions. An example of this is his ‘Digital Steam Bending’ work, which I view as elegant, significant, and important...That this work has been awarded an Architecture Magazine Research and Design Award, appearing on the cover of the issue, is a testament to its significance for the discipline.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Mankouche’s career trajectory has been varied and rich. The major focus of his research, creative practice and pedagogy is material practice – a form of research into the use, behavior, culture and history of materials executed through making. He has advanced his career through full-scale prototyping and construction, design competitions, exhibitions, conference presentations, publications and architectural practice, and has garnered numerous design awards in the process. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Steven Y. Mankouche for promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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

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