

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

Perry Kulper, associate professor of architecture, without tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

M.Arch. 1980 Columbia University, New York, NY  
B.S. 1976 California Polytechnic State University, Architecture, San Luis Obispo, CA

Professional Record:

2006 – present Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan  
1993 – 1996 Faculty Member, Department of Environmental Arts, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, CA  
1989 – 2005 Faculty Member, Southern California Institute of Architecture, Los Angeles, CA  
1989 – present Perry Kulper, Architect, Los Angeles, CA and Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kulper primarily teaches in the graduate curriculum where he offers option design studios and drawing seminars as well as thesis seminars and thesis design studios required for the professional degree in architecture. In his graduate studios, Professor Kulper fosters the creation of alternative architecture as a means for training the students' imaginative potential, augmenting their arsenal of design methods and broadening their conceptual strategies. Professor Kulper's teaching provides a critical counterpoint to the course requirements for a professional degree in architecture and his teaching scores in all of his courses have typically been well above a 4.5 on the scale of 1 to 5.

The direct connection between Professor Kulper's teaching and his research/creative activity contributes to the high value students place on his teaching, as does his personal investment in the students and their work. In challenging the more conventional qualities of architectural pedagogy, his teaching contributes effectively to the architecture program's mission of fostering critical inquiry in all aspects of its curriculum. Students consistently praise Professor Kulper's unparalleled dedication to his students, both inside and outside the classroom, his passion for teaching, his ability to challenge their preconceptions about architecture and the design process in general, and the impact of his teaching on their subsequent careers in practice or teaching. As a result of his excellence in teaching, the graduate students have awarded him the Donna M. Salzer Award for Teaching Excellence on four occasions.

Research/Creative Practice: Architectural drawings are the primary focus of Professor Kulper's research, writing and creative work, in which he seeks to foster imaginative thinking, speculation and reflection in a manner that is accessible to those who engage in the practice and theory of representation as well as to architects and students of the discipline. In his research and practice, Professor Kulper draws upon historic drawing practices and examples to represent ideas and concepts

that are inaccessible to metrical or instrumental visualization. Through a combination of highly speculative drawings and writings, Professor Kulper challenges conventions associated with the straightforward representational aspects of architectural drawings to expand upon the creative potential of the discipline, including its cultural and spatial agency – as well as the communicative potential of drawing.

Professor Kulper's drawings have been featured in solo exhibitions in this country, Great Britain and Canada, as well as national and international publications, including architectural periodicals in Great Britain, Australia, and Serbia. Public exhibitions of his drawings have brought them to the attention of an architectural audience, and his work has also achieved recognition beyond the disciplines of architecture or drawing through various online venues, including the Viewing Program on the website of the Drawing Center in New York (a curated collection of work by artists).

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Kulper, Perry and Chard, Nat, "Fathoming the Unfathomable: Paradoxical Shadows + Archival Ghosts," *Pamphlet Architecture* 34, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, forthcoming.

Kulper, Perry, "The Labor of Architectural Drawing," *The Draftery*, Tokyo, Japan: Booklet Press, 2012, pages 8-11, 63-73.

Kulper, Perry, "Fast Twitch: A Desert(ed) Still Life, Re-contextualized," Paper for Emerging *Architectural Research*, Issue 3, pages 33-26.

Kulper, Perry, "The Calculus of Paint," *Journal of Architecture*, 14(3), Oxfordshire, United Kingdom: Routledge Publisher, June 2009, pages 377-386.

Kulper, Perry, "Alternating (the) Currencies," *Journal of Architectural Education*, 62(4), May 2009, pages 56-63.

Service: Professor Kulper's creative work has led directly to his invitation to participate as an external examiner for the master of architecture program at the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. He has also carried out his service commitment to the university, college, and the architecture program through committee assignments. These include chairing the Lectures and Exhibition Committee and participating in the Space Planning Committee. He has served the university as a member of the Arts Engine Advisory Committee and a grant reviewer for the Office of the Vice President for Research.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Perry Kulper is a born teacher. His pedagogical briefs are poetically charged, and enigmatically provocative as they raise important questions about the contemporary world around us."

Reviewer B: "Kulper exhibits refined thinking through drawing with paper as the site where architectural conceptions are born, calling it a 'generative capacity,' since Kulper also points out that architects make drawings, not buildings."

Reviewer C: "Kulper's creative research stems from a questioning of the fundamental act of making marks, on paper to start, and then reading and re-writing the codes and reference which give these meaning, while interrogating and revealing possibilities for their roles in the creation of the architectural project."

Reviewer D: “Kulper’s research as a designer and his role as a remarkable educator, are very closely linked. He has an astonishing track record as a teacher of design, someone with the rare ability to inspire students and help them to develop their own visual language...”

Reviewer E: “Professor Kulper’s creative work, writings and teaching span the full range of visual and literary exploration in his field. Highly complex intellectually and artistically, and digitally and manually produced, Professor Kulper’s drawings are exquisitely crafted, indeed virtuosic.”

Review F: “Prof. Kulper’s teaching dossier is filled with rich syllabi and a high level of student work. I have no doubt his ability to glide with ease between a pen and a mouse serves as an important model for students who in recent years have become wholly engrossed in the digital realm.”

Review G: “He seems a teacher’s teacher, brilliant in knowledge, and yet still curious, inquisitive, and still anxious to see spatial and ideological constructs inside out and upside down.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Kulper is a scholar who has made important contributions in the field of architectural drawing. He is an excellent teacher and mentor and is engaged in the work of the school and the profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Perry Kulper for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of architecture, 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

May 2013