

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

Malcolm McCullough, associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

M.Arch. 1985 University of California, Los Angeles  
B.A. 1979 Yale University, Architecture and Engineering, New Haven, CT

Professional Record:

2001 – present Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan  
2001 – 2012 Associate Professor of Art and Design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan  
1998 – 2000 T. David Fitzgibbon Visiting Professor, School of Architecture, courtesy appointment in the School of Design, Carnegie Mellon University  
1992 – 1998 Associate Professor of Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University  
1989 – 1992 Assistant Professor of Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University  
1987 – 1988 Assistant Professor of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning, University of Texas at Austin  
1987 – 1988 Director, Advanced CAD Lab, School of Architecture and Planning, University of Texas at Austin

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Through a set of well-regarded and longstanding courses (both required and elective), Professor McCullough has been an influential presence in the graduate architecture program. He teaches a required lecture course on representation, a seminar on the urbanism of situated media, an architecture studio, and an experimental, hands-on course focused on the prototyping of ambient physical interfaces using the Arduino platform. Professor McCullough helps students develop the mental capacity to deal with changing culture, society, and technology, and students commend the interdisciplinary nature of his course offerings and his forward thinking that is tempered with a traditional understanding of architecture and built form. His teaching scores in all of his courses have typically been well above a 4.0 on the scale of 1 to 5. Building directly on his research interests, Professor McCullough's teaching contributes in substantial ways to the pedagogic aims of the professional degree program in architecture, while engaging students from diverse programs within the university at large.

In addition to being an excellent educator, Professor McCullough is also an outstanding mentor. Students in both architecture and the School of Information consistently praise his mentorship during their schooling and their subsequent academic and/or professional lives.

Research/Creative Practice: As a scholar of the challenges associates with digital technology and design from the scale of the desktop to that of the city, Professor McCullough is a public intellectual

who has reshaped thinking about the relationships between digital technology and the human environment. His focus on the role of design in the built environment has enabled him to develop an audience within broader computer discourses, where such focus has generally been lacking.

Professor McCullough has concentrated his research efforts on the production of a series of peer-reviewed books from MIT Press that are highly regarded and well known across multiple design disciplines, including architecture, cognitive science and computer science, and particularly in human-computer interaction. In addition to his books, Professor McCullough has disseminated his scholarship in prestigious venues of the diverse discourses in which his research participates, enabling him to reach the broadest possible audience.

Professor McCullough is a sought-after scholar with a national and international reputation and he has participated as a keynote and invited lecturer at many venues across the United States and Europe, as well as in Japan. The broad range of conference lecture series events underscores the many disciplines interested in Professor McCullough's scholarship, including graphic arts, industrial and interaction design, media studies, architecture, and urban design.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

McCullough, Malcolm, Ambient Commons – Attention in the Age of Embodied Information, Cambridge: MIT Press, forthcoming Spring 2013.

McCullough, Malcolm, "On Ambient Information," in Dietmar Offenhuber and Katja Schnecker (eds.), *Inscribing a Square – Urban Data as Public Space*, Berlin: Springer, 2012.

McCullough, Malcolm, "On Attention to Surroundings," *ACM Interactions*, XIX (6), November-December 2012.

McCullough, Malcolm, "New Media Urbanism – Grounding Ambient Computing," *Environment and Planning B*, June 2007.

McCullough, Malcolm, "Urban Markup: Frames of Reference in Location Models for Participatory Urbanism," *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, Summer 2006.

McCullough, Malcolm, "Twenty Years of Scripted Space," *A.D. Magazine: Programming Cultures*, August 2006. Included in recent reprint, *A.D. Classics*, 2012.

McCullough, Malcolm, Digital Ground – Architecture, Pervasive Computing, and Environmental Knowing, Cambridge: MIT Press, April 2004. Paperback edition, September 2005.

Service: Professor McCullough's expertise in digital design and media has led to his involvement in service commitments well beyond the confines of the university or the college. He has served on the editorial review boards of four major journals and pamphlet series and a peer reviewer for 16 significant conferences, journals, and publishers over the past few years. Internally, he has served as a member of the Executive Committee and the Promotion and Tenure Committee, as well as chairing several faculty and cluster search committees and the Chair's Advisory Committee. His efforts in serving the college and program earned him the Taubman College Faculty Service Award in 2007.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...there is no one to my knowledge from the world of architecture...who addresses the topic of the impact of ubiquitous computing and communication on the built environment the way Malcolm does: i.e., socially, phenomenologically, and scientifically with the same persistence, acuity of observation, comprehensiveness, and literary verve."

Reviewer B: “There are not many theorists writing about interaction design as it is still a relatively young field. Professor McCullough occupies a very important position within this new discipline as his profoundly humanist take on digital technology is a challenge to the usual technology-driven theory that dominates the field. ...His work makes a substantial contribution to the most advanced thinking in the discipline and his standing is absolutely at the top end of the field.”

Reviewer C: “When it comes to his books...I remain dazzled by his erudition and by his elegant insertion of new media into the built through his commitment to interaction design... The architectural discipline...is very fortunate to have him in our mist.”

Reviewer D: “I consider him to be one of the few people who fully understands, and can effectively communicate the nature of the relationship between material and immaterial media, and their connection to architecture and place... Professor McCullough’s work is pioneering because it addresses the potentials and impact of digital practice on material artefacts and space...setting a context for other researchers.”

Reviewer E: “Malcolm McCullough is evidently an important voice in the field of digital studies... Above all, his two first books have had quite an impact on the debates regarding digital culture.”

Review F: “In my opinion, McCullough’s research is of the highest standard and his future publications will continue to influence the integration of architecture and interaction design. These fields are nearly opposites...defining a synthesis takes true insight. I feel that McCullough is making these connections that are critical to the future of both areas.”

Review G: “He has published numerous important books that have had a high value in our architecture schools, and beyond... He is sought after by the leading organizations in dialogue about this kind of research... His work has been published in leading journals... He has received highest recognitions... In short, he appears to be one of the best in his peer set...”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor McCullough provides a unique voice in the culture of digital technology that has reshaped thinking about the built environment for a broad audience of scholars and professions. In addition to being a prominent and productive scholar, he is an excellent teacher and mentor, and is actively 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 Malcolm McCullough for promotion to 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

May 2013