

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Claire A. Zimmerman, assistant professor of the history of art, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of the history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2005	City University of New York
M.Arch.	1990	Harvard University
B.A.	1985	University of Pennsylvania

Professional Record

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Art and Taubman College, University of Michigan
2006	Visiting Assistant Professor, Syracuse University
2005 – 2006	Lecturer, School of Architecture, Yale University
2005	Visiting Lecturer, Parsons School of Design

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Zimmerman is an energetic and inspiring educator whose innovative courses introduce students to the history of modern architecture, and challenge them to approach architecture from historical, theoretical, and practical viewpoints. Uniting diverse intellectual constituencies around a common set of issues and topics, her enthusiastic pedagogy has gathered a large following. Her syllabi and class handouts and assignments are models of creativity and clarity; and, at all levels, they are designed to teach both history and skills of research, writing, and spatial analysis. She is an extremely popular and effective teacher at all levels in both units, and her classes and seminars form an important avenue for interdisciplinary dialogue between History of Art and the Taubman College.

Research – Professor Zimmerman is an interdisciplinary scholar at the forefront of her field, who explores the relationship between modern and contemporary architecture and photography. She has completed an impressive body of genuinely original work, including a major monograph on the relationship between photography and architecture in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a co-edited book on the relationship between modernist and postmodernist architecture, and eight articles investigating a range of modern and contemporary topics. She is widely recognized as one of the leading scholars of her generation working on modern architecture and theory.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Photographic Modern Architecture: German Modernism and Diaspora, University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming 2013.

“Photography into building in postwar architecture: The Smithsons and James Stirling,” *Art History*, 34(4), 2012, pp. 72-89.

“Siegfried Kracauer’s architectures,” in Culture in the Anteroom: The Legacies of Siegfried Kracauer, G. Gemünden and J. von Moltke (eds.), University of Michigan Press, 2012.  
“From legible form to memorable image: Architectural knowledge from Wittkower to Banham,” *Candide*, 5, 2011, pp. 93-116.

Service – Professor Zimmerman has been an exemplary citizen and colleague, and has compiled an impressive record of service to the Department of the History of Art, Taubman College, the University of Michigan, and the profession as a whole. She has served on key committees in the Department of the History of Art and Taubman College, and has organized as well as participated in conferences, symposia, manuscript workshops, and guest lectures. Professor Zimmerman has also been invited to serve on numerous design review committees at some of the most important architecture programs in the United States. She has furthermore served as an advisor to important exhibitions in the United States, and she regularly gives talks at other universities.

#### External Reviewers:

##### Reviewer (A)

“I regard Claire Zimmerman as a historian of the highest caliber, whose work ranks at the very top of the field, and whose promise is as strong as any of her peers. She is at a take-off moment in her work. The new book will propel her reputation forward and afford her more opportunity for development. It is the perfect moment to support her work by granting her tenure at the associate professor level.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“Zimmerman’s project clearly lends itself to the joint appointment she holds, for she is both a highly original reader of building and of images. ...she has developed a set of tools that move across that divide and provide historical laboratories that engage the key issues in both professional settings today. Energetic, respected in England and Germany as much as here in the US, she seems a very appropriate candidate for tenure. Were a position available at [my institution] I have no doubt that Claire would be a tenurable candidate, equal in accomplishments and impact to several recent appointments there in both architectural and art history.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“The University of Michigan is lucky to have scholars with Claire Zimmerman’s intellectual and human qualities teaching on campus, and should encourage her to continue her energetic contribution to the intellectual life of both your departments. I support enthusiastically her promotion.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“I am convinced that Claire Zimmerman is not only an outstanding scholar, but also an inspiring teacher who can encourage her students to leave the beaten paths and generously share their ideas and discoveries. I am certain that Zimmerman will continue to proof the capacity of academic leadership. In a situation where many colleagues have become defensive of their respective fields, eager to protect their knowledge and methods, Zimmerman belongs to those who open up the field and respect both the achievements of the past and the current theoretical debate. I therefore very strongly and warmly support the promotion of Claire Zimmerman...”

Reviewer (E)

“...Zimmerman’s research is comprehensive, and she is beginning to hover around a set of questions that can profoundly affect our understanding of all the architectural artifacts that she puts at the center of her investigation. She is heavily invested in formal analysis, and this is a tremendous talent. ...I think Zimmerman's work shows an authoritative scholar in the making, whose command over a plethora of historical sources and their intellectual context will be unique. I can think of only a handful of scholars who display such range of reading and training in their work.”

Reviewer (F)

“I would describe Claire as an excellent mid-career researcher. ... I have been aware of her work for some years, and have a sense of her as a key player in American architectural-historical networks... Claire is a scholar of the highest integrity, and her publications are as good as they get in architectural history. I would expect the forthcoming book to be widely reviewed, and used, in the field.”

Reviewer (G)

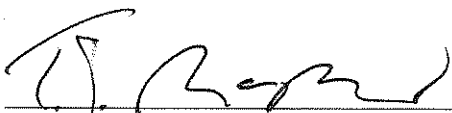
“In all the fields that her work covers, Zimmerman’s publications carry weight. ... I very strongly support her candidacy for tenure. She is an enterprising young scholar, who has already made a distinctive contribution to the development of the discipline, and whom I expect to go far...”

Reviewer (H)

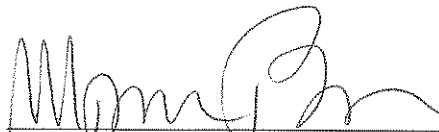
“...she is already a great asset to the programs she serves. The depth of her inquiry, her framing of crucial questions of representation, her engagement with the heart of the modernist canon, and her ability to communicate clearly all guarantee that she will remain a vital historian for many years to come.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zimmerman’s research is on the cutting-edge of her field, she is an innovative teacher, and she has performed valuable service in her units. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning recommend that Assistant Professor Claire A. Zimmerman be promoted to the rank of associate professor of the history of art, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of Architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



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

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