

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Geoffrey Thün, 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.UD.	2007	University of Toronto, ON, Canada
B.Arch.	1996	University of Waterloo, Cambridge, ON, Canada
B.ES.	1994	University of Waterloo, Environmental Studies, Cambridge, ON, Canada
B.A.	1988	University of Western Ontario, Sociology, London, ON, Canada

Professional Record:

2009 – Present	Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007 – Present	Partner, Director: Design Research, RVTR Inc.
2006 – 2009	Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Waterloo, Cambridge ON, Canada
2005 – 2007	Partner, Velikov + Thün Building Studio
2000 – 2005	Associate/Project Architect, Baird Sampson Neuert Architectures

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Thün is an influential teacher in Taubman College who has taught the required courses of Site Operations, Comprehensive Design Studio, and Thesis Studio. He has also taught the required Thesis Development Seminar, his own seminar, “Metashed,” as well as the Capstone course for the college’s new post-professional Master of Science concentration in Material Systems. All of his courses have raised expectations for technical rigor, both in addressing the imperatives of sustainability and in meeting demands of professional accreditation. Professor Thün effectively uses his own experiences in practice as well as his own research projects as examples to be interrogated and evaluated, and he is able to inspire student work that is speculative, collaborative, research-based, and clearly communicated.

Professor Thün has also helped to develop and teach in the Comprehensive Graduate Design Studio, an important studio for the accreditation of the Master of Architecture Program. Here Professor Thün is effective at helping students realize that technical precision can enhance and not hinder creative work. Many students speak enthusiastically on the lasting impact of Professor Thün’s teaching not only on their work as professionals but also on how they think and continue to learn. Professor Thün inspires students by example for his way of engaging architecture in the classroom as well as his own work as an architect.

Professor Thün’s reputation as an effective teacher in the areas of material systems and urban design has led to invitations to teach at other institutions within the United States and

internationally. He has served as an invited critic on over fifty external reviews at final presentations of design studio work at other institutions.

Research: Professor Thün is a nationally and internationally recognized authority in the field of high performance envelope technologies and adaptive building design. As an architect and material systems designer his research breaks new ground within the discipline and also redefines it as he brings together art, science and nature to solve contemporary architectural and urban design challenges at a time of both global environmental duress and diminishing non-renewable resources. His work recognizes and actively leverages advanced material systems and technologies as agents in ecological, economic and social systems, locating the site of design intervention within this network of complex systems. The work exists at two scales: at the micro-material scale of responsive building envelopes and at the macro-urban scale of regional analysis and systemic intervention. His scholarship is inherently multi-disciplinary and highly collaborative with his practice, other academic researchers, and industry partners.

Professor Thün's research has been disseminated widely and has been recognized by a significant number of prestigious awards, simultaneously within both top academic forums, such as the *Journal of Architectural Education*, as well as those associated with professional architectural practice such as the Award of Excellence from the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada and the Canadian Prix de Rome, all highly competitive awards that place Professor Thün as preeminent among his peers.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Thün, G., Velikov, K., O'Malley, M., Sauvé, L., "The Agency of Responsive Envelopes: Interaction, Policies and Interconnected Systems," *International Journal of Architectural Computing (IJAC) Special Issue: Architectural Robotics*, Vol.10, Issue 3, 2013, pg. 377-400.
- Thün, G., Velikov, K., Ripley, C., McGee, W., Sauvé, L., "Soundspheres: Resonant Chamber," *Leonardo: The Journal of the International Society of the Arts, Sciences and Technology*, 45:4, 2012, pg. 348-357.
- Velikov, K., Thün, G., Ripley, C., "Thick Air," *Journal of Architectural Education (JAE)* 65:2, *Special Issue: Beginning Design*, 2012, pg. 69-97.
- Thün, G., Velikov, K., Ripley, C., "Re-Centering the Periphery," *Volume 32, Centers Adrift*, 2012, pg. 30-37.
- Thün, G., Velikov, K., "Conduit Urbanism: Rethinking Infrastructural Ecologies in the Great Lakes Megaregion, North America," *Sustainable Energy Landscapes*, eds. Sven Stremke and Andy van Dobbelsteen (London: CRC Press/ Taylor & Francis) 2012, pg. 253-275.
- Thün, G., Velikov, K., "North House: Climate Responsive Envelope and Control Systems," *Design and Construction of High Performance Homes*, ed. Franca Trubiano (London: Routledge), 2012, pg. 265-282.

Service: Professor Thün's expertise in technology-based sustainable building design has led to his involvement in numerous service commitments beyond the university such as the Zero-Energy Mass Customized Housing Network based at the Glasgow School of Art and the Advisory Board for the Canadian Design Research Network. At the university level, Professor Thün is a leading contributor from the college to various initiatives in sustainability research

transformation including the Sustainability Integrated Assessment Team in the Graham Institute, the Wireless Integrated Microsystems Center Infrastructure Thrust, and the steering committee for Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility Research and Transformation. Within the Taubman College and the Architecture Program, Professor Thün has chaired the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainable Built Environment among other committee assignments.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “His approach to architectural design is based on in-depth investigations and directed by original research, offering propositions for potential interactions between design theory and design practice – as demonstrated in his research on pre-fabrication, on material properties, sustainability, and building construction. His approach as a designer is exceptionally skilled and particularly thorough.”

Reviewer B: “Thün’s work claims a distinct position at the intersection of two generally separate domains: urban design and the construction of responsive building systems. He produces robust work in both arenas, which is a distinct and notable strength... While his work is collaborative in nature, his own contribution is clear, across the depth and breadth of an impressive body of work.”

Reviewer C: “...he has distinguished himself at both the national and international levels within the field of Architecture and Urban Design... Geoffrey Thün has demonstrated his tremendous value to Taubman College in terms of bringing his impressive capacity to facilitate highly-collaborative research practices that position design at the nexus for thought leadership on the future of global cities.”

Reviewer D: “Prof. Thün is actively involved in valuable contributions to several critical questions of the built environment, resources, and design. His energy and creativity would be welcome at any school of architecture, and his successes would be recognized at the very best schools of architecture in the United States...Practice and influence on practice are central to the architectural academic project and, in this regard, Prof. Thün is an important actor.”

Reviewer E: “His success in receiving federal grants through interdisciplinary collaborations coupled with his ability to produce provocative custom designs suggests an academic practice that is serving both university and professional missions. This is laudable and exceptional for faculty within professional architecture programs.”

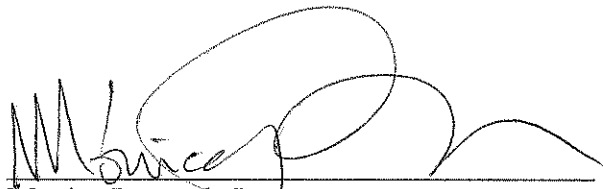
Reviewer F: “Geoff’s grant record is outstanding and testimony to the way he can leverage the work in the broader fields of science and technology both in the US and in Canada. He...serves as a model for how academics can go outside the discipline for funding sources. He has received national honors for his work, which distinguishes him among others in the realm of landscape urbanism/planning...”

Reviewer G: “...his work is exemplary for the way it brings architectural and urbanistic skills and content to larger projects that engage colleagues from a wide range of other disciplines. It is also at the leading edge of architectural and urbanistic thinking about systems – from the scale of

building systems to that of urban systems. ...Prof. Thün is among the most accomplished and influential design-researchers in North America today.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Thün is a productive and influential faculty member. His approach to design research resonates especially well with recent trends in the college and the architectural discipline, his strategies of dissemination are admirable, and his capacity for collaborative research is exemplary. His recent record of grants is without equal in the architecture program, and he extends his research agenda effectively into his teaching, where he has been instrumental in achieving the kinds of smart and green design initiatives now in place at all schools of architecture. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Geoffrey Thün 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.

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

Monica Ponce de León

Dean and Eliel Saarien Collegiate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2014