

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Karl Daubmann, associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and associate professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

S.M.Arch.S. 1999 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Architectural Studies,
Concentration in Design and Computation, Cambridge, Massachusetts
B.Arch. 1995 Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island

Professional Record:

2014 – Present Director, Master of Science in Architecture Degrees, A. Alfred Taubman
College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2014 – Present Partner, R+D LAB, Ann Arbor, MI
2012 – Present Founder and Director, DAUB (Design, Architecture, Urbanism, Building),
Ann Arbor, MI
2010 – Present Consultant (2014-present), Vice President of Design (2012-2013),
Creative Director (2010-2013), Blu Homes, Vallejo, CA
2009 – Present Associate Professor of Art and Design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps
School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
2008 – Present Associate Professor of Architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman
College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2002 – 2008 Assistant Professor of Practice in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman
College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002 Lecturer, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning,
University of Michigan
2001 – 2012 Partner/Principal, PLY Architecture, Ann Arbor, MI
1999 Willard A. Oberdick Teaching Fellow, A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Daubmann is an innovative teacher in Taubman College, and his pioneering efforts have had a lasting influence. His core expertise around materials and technologies, by means of parametric modeling, digital fabrication, and the new delivery channels those enable have aligned especially well with recent strategic directions in new course and degree offerings at the college. Professor Daubmann's influence also extends beyond these arising areas into long-standing core competencies of professional training such as construction, systems integration and entrepreneurial strategies. His teaching contributions reach across degree programs – in studios for first-year undergraduates to post-graduate capstone studios and also in technical seminars such as robotics. Closely related experiences in professional practice help ground and direct much of this teaching, especially through innovative production models.

Professor Daubmann's record at course development also stands out. His comprehensive studio and its dedication to housing design was the first of its kind in the Master of Architecture program, and his early ParaMod seminar grew into a model for future offerings by others as Generative Design Computing. Professor Daubman's work done at PLY and Blu align well with the digital technology concentration in the Master of Science degree program, and his seminar and capstone studio anchor the program. Beyond course development, he has produced tutorials and commentaries (online at ParaMod.net) that are in widespread use world-wide. Professor Daubmann is dedicated to treating his students as collaborators and emerging research talents whether in the classroom, research, or professional context. He shows great mastery at empowering students and fostering collaboration and is a sought after mentor and advisor.

Research: Professor Daubmann is a designer at the forefront of the emergent subfield of design and computation. While small, design and computation has quickly become one of the most important areas of expertise in the discipline given that architectural practice has quickly become completely dependent on digital technology. Professor Daubmann's creative practice has focused on expanding the relationship between design and technology, capitalizing on the relationship between digital/robotic fabrication and building, as well as exploring how to transform the business model of the practicing architect in the midst of these new paradigms. Professor Daubmann stands out for his insistence to pursue practice through interdisciplinary collaboration and for his extraordinary engagement with the building industry at a large scale; always with the stated goal of pursuing design innovation.

Professor Daubmann has a unique record of award-winning and pioneering applications to building and has consistently demonstrated new prospects and processes for delivering design by means of parametric modeling and robotic fabrication. His approach of using the constantly adaptable nature of digital production in iterative experimentation reestablishes architecture as a craft. In the period under review, Professor Daubmann has received 14 awards and has 26 total while at Taubman College. Of these, the most noteworthy are a Progressive Architecture Award (59th annual program, 2012), a Research & Development Award from Architect Magazine (2010), and an AR+D Award for Emerging Architecture (high commendation in 2011) from The Architectural Review (London). These awards are extremely competitive, blind peer reviewed, and they attract international submissions and audiences. The jurors include some of the most prestigious academics and practitioners in the field worldwide.

Professional Work, Exhibits, and Awards

Architizer A+ Awards, 2013 Honorable Mention for Architecture + Fabrication for Sunset Breezhouse

Hideo Sasaki Distinguished Visiting Critic, Boston Architectural College, 2013 Exhibit and Lecture

Metalmag Architectural Award, 2012 Residential Honorable Mention for Haney Studios
Architect Magazine, 2012 59th Annual Progressive Architecture Awards Citation for Outside in House

Architectural Review, 2011 Highly Commended AR+D Award for Emerging Architecture for Shadow Pavilion

American Institute of Architects, 2011 Michigan Honor Award for Ayaka Sushi

National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan, “Trouble in Paradise / Medi(t)ation of Survival”
2011 Group Exhibit
Architect Magazine, 2010 R&D Award for Shadow Pavilion
American Institute of Architects, 2010 National Small Project Honor Award for Shadow
Pavilion

Service: In service to the college, Professor Daubmann has assumed the role of director of the Master of Science in Architecture Program. In this position, he has significantly ramped up recruitment activities, led the faculty in conducting an evaluation and re-design of the curriculum for each of the concentrations, and worked to build ties to the Doctoral Studies degree. Additionally, he has served twice on the Executive Committee as well as multiple faculty search committees, several of which he has chaired. At the university level, he has participated on the Provost’s Task Force on Engaged Learning, has served as a reviewer of research proposals for the Office of Research, and was a faculty associate for the ArtsEngine Program.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “In terms of peers I would say Daubmann stands out for his productivity and for the immediacy of his experiments. He is working on interiors, in design studio with students, with developers and commercial house builders. His scope and seeming confidence and ability to work at all these levels I’d say takes not only nerve and focus, but also real work and effort.”

Reviewer B: “Associate Professor Daubmann’s record of scholarship, design research, and creative activity to date is impressive. Publications, exhibitions, design awards, and opportunities to present scholarly and creative work at the national and international level underscore the value and significance of his work. This work offers to the discipline insight into issues of ‘design computation-making’ through the convergence of parametric design, digital fabrication, and generative systems as a direct means of formulating architectural responses that are resolute in their development and as expressive multi-scalar systems of articulation.”

Reviewer C: “Among the fourteen awards that Daubmann has received, the most impressive are the Progressive Architecture Award, the Architect Magazine R+D Awards, and the AR+D award from Architectural Review – all of these awards are highly competitive and attract international submissions and audiences. In addition, Daubmann’s work has been published in an impressive array of books, periodicals, and online sources, all of which testify to his work’s focus, quality and quantity, and contribution to the discipline.”

Reviewer D: “Mr. Daubmann’s work has been, is, and I think will continue to be on the cutting edge of design research, and I would rank it among the top ten percent in the field. Mr. Daubmann continues to have a strong and genuine interest in exploring and articulating new paradigms in the materiality of architecture based on the emerging digital technologies of production, which continues to be one of the most interesting and promising research domains in architecture.”

Reviewer E: “He ranks at the very top among his peers nationally and internationally. Indeed, his profile and accomplishments are singular and I would put him in a category all his own...”

Karl has led the efforts at Michigan to adapt new technologies and techniques to an ever-evolving model of architecture and design practice.”

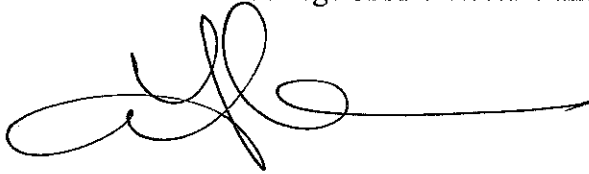
Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Daubmann is an innovative, award-winning designer at the cutting edge of pioneering applications of digital technology to design, building, and practice. As a teacher, he shows great mastery at empowering students and fostering collaborations and is a sought after mentor and advisor. He is also a leader who provides valued service contributions. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee, as well as the Penny W. Stamps School of Design Executive Committee, that we recommend Karl Daubmann for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.



Monica Ponce de Leon

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



Gunalan Nadarajan
Dean and Professor
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

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