

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Maria Arquero de Alarcón, assistant professor of architecture and urban planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of architecture and urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

D.E.A.	2011	Polytechnic University of Madrid, School of Architecture, Urban Studies and Territorial Planning, Madrid, Spain
M.L.A.U.D.	2008	Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Landscape Architecture in Urban Design, Cambridge, MA
M.A.S.L.A.	2004	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Advanced Studies of Landscape Architecture, Zurich, Switzerland
C.A.P.	2003	Complutense University, Arts and Science, Madrid, Spain
M.Arch.	2001	Polytechnic University of Madrid, School of Architecture, Building Technology and Urbanism, Madrid, Spain

Professional Record:

2011 – Present	Co-Founding Principal, MAdE Studio, LLC, Ann Arbor, MI
2009 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Design Studio Instructor in Architecture, Boston Architecture College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Arquero de Alarcón advances students' capacity for spatial thinking and environmentally conscious design within an interdisciplinary perspective. Her primary teaching contributions have been to teach design studios, seminars and core courses in the Master of Architecture, Master of Urban Design, and Master of Urban Planning degree programs. Many of the courses taught by Professor Arquero de Alarcón, in particular the seminars, are open to both architecture and urban planning students and provide a valuable offering of cross-disciplinary classes within the college. Additionally, Professor Arquero de Alarcón frequently engages in collaborative, cross-disciplinary teaching within her courses, working with ease alongside faculty from not only architecture and urban planning, but also from engineering, natural resources, public policy and public health. Her courses are project-based and incorporate experiential and hands-on learning components, bringing students to partners with stakeholders in national and international settings.

The positive student response to her courses is a testament to Professor Arquero de Alarcón's quality as a teacher and to the time, energy, and enthusiasm that she invests in this area. Since her appointment at Taubman College, she has taught 21 courses and in 19 of those students rated her teaching 4.5/5 or higher. She has received the Faculty Excellence Award in 2014 and the Most Involved Professor Award in 2011 from the Master of Urban Planning graduating classes.

Professor Arquero de Alarcón has also received two CRLT grants and one Third Century TLTC grant to develop new and innovative courses. Teaching innovation is highly regarded and critically discussed within the design disciplines, and Professor Arquero de Alarcón has disseminated some of her experiences in her 2013 article for the *Michigan Journal of Sustainability*.

Research: Professor Arquero de Alarcón's research and creative work explores questions of urban sustainability, with a particular focus on improving sustainability outcomes in lower-income communities around the world. Professor Arquero de Alarcón situates her scholarly and design inquiries across the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism. As a result, she presents evidence of nuanced and responsive design interventions, offered alongside a hybrid methodological approach that combines analysis of landscape systems and infrastructure within a design process that encompasses community engagement and social agency. Her research production features an integration of traditional scholarly work with an innovative and collaborative design practice.

Professor Arquero de Alarcón's work has been recognized with awards from national and regional bodies, such as the Michigan American Institute of Architects Honor Awards, the Boston Society of Architects Honor Awards, and the national Association for Collegiate Schools in Architecture Faculty Design Awards. It has also been featured in invited exhibitions, symposia, lectures and publications in design journals. A particular honor is the 2014 feature on MAd Studio in *Architect Magazine's* "Next Progressives," one of the most highly regarded publications for both practitioners and academics in the design field. Also significant is the invitation to guest edit an issue of *Green Building Design*, an honor that is indicative of being a recognized and respected voice. In tandem with this design work, Professor Arquero de Alarcón has co-authored two peer-reviewed journal articles and two book chapters. She is also an active participant in national and international conferences in architecture, planning, and landscape design.

Recent and Significant Publications and Awards:

Arquero de Alarcón, M., Maigret, J. "Inhabiting the Water Cycle," in The Third Coast Atlas: Prelude to a Plan of the Great Lakes Region. (Eds. C. Waldheim, C. Lyster, M. White, and D. Ibáñez). Barcelona ACTAR, Spring 2016.

Arquero de Alarcón, M., Larsen, L. "Mapping Delray: Understanding the changes in this Southwest Detroit Community," in Mapping Detroit: Land, Community and Shaping a City. (Eds. in June Thomas and H. C. Bekkering). Wayne State University Press, 2015.

American Institute of Architects Michigan Honor Award, 2015. Small Projects Category (Built Work) for "Playful Horizons," MAd Studio.

Architect Magazine, July 2014, "Next Progressives: MAd Studio" by Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson.

Boston Society of Architects Design Award (Citation), 2013. Unbuilt Category, "Liquid Planning Detroit," MAd Studio.

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Faculty Design Award, 2013. "Liquid Planning Detroit," MAd Studio.

Arquero de Alarcón, M., Maigret, J. "Liquid Planning: Toward Sustainability Through the Lens of Water," *Michigan Journal of Sustainability*, Vol 1, Fall 2013, 131-149.

Service: Professor Arquero de Alarcón's service is notable in its intensity, breadth, and balance across the college, the university, the profession, and the public. Moreover, she has managed to contribute and maintain active participation across the design fields. For the college, she has served on search committees for faculty in architecture and planning as well as the current dean's search. She has also served the Curriculum Committee, Lectures and Symposia Committee, and admissions committees. In her role on the Urban Design Degree Advisory Committee and now as the director of the Master of Urban Design Program, she has taken on a leadership role in shaping a degree program. In service to the university, she has consistently participated on the Fulbright Program Campus Review Committee and has been on a search committee for one of the cluster hires. Professor Arquero de Alarcón has been a peer reviewer for several university funding programs, a panel moderator at symposia, and a faculty advisor for the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students. For the profession, she has been a guest critic at a number of design schools in the United States and Canada and has led workshops at institutions in Latin America and Spain. She has served as a peer reviewer for national design organizations and has been invited as a juror on two professional competitions. Beyond this, she also maintains an active commitment to public service, volunteering with local community organizations that have been central to her research, creative practice, and teaching in Detroit, Southeast Michigan, and Cleveland.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Her design work has received national recognition through awards and publication, she is invited to lecture and participate in symposia, and she is participating in peer reviewed venues such as ACSA. Through her design work and her writing she is demonstrating...work that contributes to disciplinary and profession knowledge, and [is] recognized by her peers for these efforts."

Reviewer B: "Professor Arquero has engaged in serious scholarly work, award winning design work, and intellectually rigorous investigations throughout her career to date. The variety of venues, both academic and professional, in which her work has been published and presented, is remarkable. Her ability to both conduct scholarly research and to communicate it to an audience is exemplary. The work she has done to date demonstrates a capacity to work across platforms of design, community outreach, professional knowledge and traditional scholarship."

Reviewer C: "...the roster of competitions where she has been shortlisted, a finalist and ones that she has won are a testimony to her creative abilities and sheer talent. And in my view this puts her abilities as a practitioner and as teacher and one who will be an important voice in forming the future debates of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture all on equal footing."

Reviewer D: "Maria Arquero is clearly a talented teacher, a highly productive designer/researcher and good citizen of the school with respect to service. [Her] practice has been able to realize a number of projects...earning recognition by *Architecture Magazine* in their Emerging Talent issue, an ACSA faculty design award, numerous regional design awards, and invitations to participate in exhibitions, reviews and symposia at several universities."

Reviewer E: “She is a leader in cartographic and visualization work, whereby the representation is not simply an end in itself, but a means of making better design decisions and testing prototypes. As sophisticated as it is elegant, her design research on cities and ecosystems transforms complex data into a situated knowledge that defines how landscapes and infrastructure perform and change. Prof. Arquero’s integration of research, practice, and teaching is at the forefront of the design discipline, whereby her emphasis on a collaborative process and bridging disciplines leads to a more refined understanding of urban problems and design scenarios.”

Reviewer F: “Her deep and thorough exploration of these issues in the Great Lakes has produced a significant contribution to our discipline’s understanding of that internationally significant region, and beyond that, her systematic methods of enquiry make the endeavor a valuable case study for comparable urban landscapes across North America.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Arquero de Alarcón has proven herself to be a serious scholar committed to intellectually rigorous investigations, an award winning designer, a dedicated teacher, and a steward to the profession and community. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Maria Arquero de Alarcón for promotion to associate professor of architecture and urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Robert Fishman
Interim Dean and Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2016