Approved by the Regents
May 19, 2016

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

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

Academic Degrees:

M.E.D.	2007	Yale University, Environmental Design, New Haven, CT
B.Arch.	2001	Syracuse University, Architecture, Syracuse, NY

Professional Record:

2009 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
2007 – 2009	Senior Designer, Booth Hansen Associates, Chicago, IL
2007	Designer, Edward Mitchell Architects, New Haven, CT
2006	Designer, MOS, New Haven, CT
2005 – Present	Director, Master of None, Ann Arbor, MI
2003 – 2006	Project Architect, SPAN, New York, NY

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Professor Clutter has become a leader in the education and training of future architects in the college and effectively brings an intelligent, innovative and strategic approach to his teaching. Professor Clutter makes significant contributions with his ability to teach graduate architecture design studios, the capstone studio for the Urban Design Program and the design capstone for the Urban Planning Program. Additionally, he teaches seminars on the relationship between form and formalism as well as "Urbanism after Mass Media." Professor Clutter's course evaluations and student letters consistently confirm his teaching excellence, advising wisdom, and overall impact on the quality and critical thoughtfulness of student work.

Professor Clutter has also coordinated the Architecture Program's thesis sequence for the past four years and has provided leadership in updating and restructuring the thesis program. With a pedagogical approach that demonstrates an astute understanding of the larger political, economic and social context for architecture, Professor Clutter's teaching emphasizes the ways that architects can leverage their design skills and vocabulary to influence the broader challenges of city building. This leads to a lively and timely pushing against the traditional boundaries of the discipline and encourages his students to engage the interdisciplinary challenges of working as an architect in a world where non-architects (i.e., planners, developers, corporations, investment banks, etc.) increasingly shape the built environment.

Research: Professor Clutter is a highly original urban theorist. His 2015 book, Imaginary Apparatus: New York City and Its Mediated Representation, identifies the moment in the 1970s when planning and urban design in a city still gripped by the urban crisis moved from Robert Moses-style modernist infrastructure planning to a media-based effort to re-conceptualize the city as the preeminent site of gritty authenticity and creativity. Professor Clutter's unique perspective not only broadens the scope

of urban planning and design, but points to important interdisciplinary collaborations between the Taubman College and media studies throughout the university.

Professor Clutter's scholarly production, typical for design academics, reflects an array of promotional formats, including a book, critical essays, conceptual design proposals, and a built installation. In addition, he has published two book chapters in edited volumes, a peer-reviewed article in the *Journal of Architectural Education,* as well as essays in highly regarded scholarly journals such as the high-impact publication *Grey Room.* His design work has been extensively published and exhibited across a range of schools and professional associations. Design awards demonstrate the value of his achievements, including noteworthy recognition of Radical Railbanking through a nationally recognized 2015 Architect Magazine R+D award – an established and prestigious international venue for cutting-edge research.

Recent and Significant Publications and Awards:

Clutter, McLain. Imaginary Apparatus: New York City and its Mediated Representation. Zurich: Park Books, 2015.

Architect Magazine 2015 R+D Award. Citation for Radical Railbanking.

ACSA Faculty Design Award, 2014. Empty Pavilion (with Kyle Reynolds).

Clutter, McLain. "Radical Railbanking and Scenarios for Detroit." *Journal of Architectural Education* 68.1 (April 2014) 108-118.

Clutter, McLain. "The Essential Seagram," *(Non-)Essential Knowledge for (New) Architecture, 306090.* Ed. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2013. 40-49.

Clutter, McLain. "Cleveland: MEDIPLEX CITY." *Formerly Urban: Projecting Rust-belt Futures.* New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2012. 50-69.

Clutter, McLain. "Imaginary Apparatus: Film Production and Urban Planning in New York City, 1966-1975." *Grey Room* 35 (Spring 2009) 58-89.

Service: Professor Clutter has effectively served the interests of the Architecture Program, Taubman College, and the larger scholarly and professional world. Within the architecture program, he has provided leadership as the graduate thesis coordinator as well as a member of faculty search committees, the Lectures and Exhibitions Committee, admissions committees, and the Education Program Committee. Additionally, he has been a faculty advisor for interdisciplinary student teams for the national Urban Land Institute Hines Student Competition. For the past five years, he has been a representative to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Faculty Council, actively representing Michigan at the annual ACSA meetings, liaising between the Architecture Program and the association, and engaging new initiatives at ACSA. Professor Clutter has served as a peer-reviewer for the *Journal of Architectural Education* and the *Journal of Architecture* and for several ACSA conference paper sessions. He is frequently invited to participate on architecture juries at other architecture programs, including Buffalo, Waterloo, Toronto, Wisconsin, Rice, Illinois-Chicago, Harvard, Syracuse, and UCLA.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I can attest to the exceptional manner that Clutter deploys in creating architectural interventions that have both sound scholarly underpinnings and broad urban implications. Clutter's 'Radical Railbanking' is a brilliant piece of work that subverts the discriminatory biases typical in geodemographic data. This work has rightly received broad, national attention and has placed Professor Clutter among a few of the most thoughtful urban design thinkers in North America."

Reviewer B: "...his projects reveal an intuitive grasp of urban qualities and an intense focus on a number of interconnected architectural issues that are current and very pertinent. He is being recognized in the field and has been published in important national magazines together with some of the best in his peer group..."

Reviewer C: "His nuanced approach to form-making and figuration distinguishes Clutter from peers operating where urban data meets architectural design at North American schools of architecture... His 'architecture of figured flows and articulated economies' charts a unique and powerful trajectory across multiple disciplines... Clutter has demonstrated achievement across several different registers. He has been prolific during his time at Michigan, and the range of venues for his work is impressive."

Reviewer D: "His recent book *Imaginary Apparatus: New York City and Its Mediated Representation* is the most significant document of his research and writing...The book's contribution is found in his comparison of architectural representation in the urban realm relative to its representation in the media--specifically film... Recognition by interdisciplinary audiences of urbanism, architecture, film, and photographic media provide added measure of the book's significance."

Reviewer E: "Prof. Clutter has developed a significant and independent body of work as an architect/scholar/educator. The work is exemplary in its use of analytical urban tools, including data mining, in its ability to translate complex urban phenomena into popular forms of media and representation, and for the way it is grounded in the candidate's program of research on the intersection between architecture and urbanismin recent history."

Reviewer F: "His writing, exhibitions, syllabi, and design work accumulates to break boundaries between multiple modes of practice and the sometimes-distant academic publications. His research reflects a nimble approach to architectural education with a return to formal processes of making representational works and contributing original knowledge to post-war and contemporary architects' exploration of complex metabolic systems of society."

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Clutter is an accomplished urban theorist and scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of urban planning and design as well interdisciplinary collaborations with media studies. He effectively brings an intelligent, innovative and strategic approach to his teaching and is an active contributor providing valuable service to the college, university and profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend McLain Clutter for promotion to associate professor of architecture, 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

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