

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

Amy C. Kulper, 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:

Ph.D.	2008	Cambridge University, History and Philosophy of Architecture, Cambridge, UK
M.Phil.	1993	Cambridge University, History and Philosophy of Architecture, Cambridge, UK
M.Arch.	1990	University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
B.A.	1986	Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Professional Record:

2006 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005	Lecturer, Southern California Institute of Architecture, Los Angeles, CA
2000 – 2003	Lecturer, University of California Los Angeles, Department of Architecture, Los Angeles, CA
1996	Visiting Faculty Member, University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kulper has an ambitious agenda as a teacher: to richly integrate design with architectural theory, history and criticism as well as to assist students with the positioning of their interests within this complex wash of information, and to help them select suitable tools and to prioritize appropriate approaches toward this knowledge and understanding. Across all of her courses, she emphasizes architecture as a practice embedded in its historically-determined disciplinary context, rather than as an autonomous creative act. Professor Kulper has taught a number of key courses at every level of the Taubman College graduate architecture curriculum including the required graduate theory course, four different seminars in architectural theory and history, and thesis. She has also taught in the Master of Science programs in both design research and digital technology.

In student evaluations, respondents consistently rated Professor Kulper's courses very high. The median overall score for the course was 4.77 and for the instructor was 4.92 (on a 5 point scale). Both of these aggregate scores verify Professor Kulper's reputation as a strong and respected instructor. She has won the college's Donna M. Salzer Award for Excellence in Teaching four

times and was nominated for the Provost's Innovation Teaching Prize. Overall, Professor Kulper plays a vital role in the education of future architects and scholars at Michigan. She has demonstrated a remarkable range of teaching abilities, and her considerable influence extends across numerous corners of the broad architecture program. Her very high class evaluation scores, the effusive student comments, and her numerous teaching awards support her widespread reputation as a smart, compelling, compassionate, and inspiring teacher.

Research: As a theorist and a historian, Professor Kulper's research seeks to establish a wide cultural context for architectural knowledge through an interdisciplinary approach that closely reads works and texts as repositories of broad cultural narratives. Predominant in Professor Kulper's writing is the establishment of a new understanding of architecture's relationship to nature from the 19th century to the contemporary through the idea of immanent nature. Through this lens, her research explores the conceptualization of the natural world in the context of architectural production that tends to view the natural as either an applied science or an aesthetic inspiration. In doing so, her work sheds light on the discipline's contemporary struggles to navigate the territory between pressures of technical performance, the imperative of sustainability, and its aesthetic dimensions.

Professor Kulper has published consistently in academic venues. In addition to two book projects (one completed and one forthcoming), Professor Kulper has co-edited two special issues of the peer-reviewed journals *Architecture and Culture* and the *Journal of Architecture*, both of which are highly regarded peer-reviewed publications. She has sole authored eight peer-reviewed book chapters and eight peer-reviewed articles. She also has six other journal articles, has presented 16 peer-reviewed national and international conference papers, and was included in three peer-reviewed conference publications.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Kulper, A., *Domesticated Natures: Victor Horto and the Art Nouveau Interior*, Ashgate, 2015.
- Kulper, A., "Out of Character," *Log 31: The New Ancients*, Spring/Summer 2014. 86-95.
- Kulper, A., "Air France: Environments as Site-Specific Spatial Paradigms," *The Journal of Architecture*, 19 (2), April 2014. 216-234.
- Kulper, A., "Representing the Discipline: The Operations of Architecture's Discursive Imagery," *Architecture and Culture: Journal of the Architectural Humanities Research Association*, Discipline and Dissidence, vol. 1, issue ½, November 2013, pp. 43-68.
- Kulper, A., "Almost Exactly: Realism at 7/8th Scale," *arq: Architectural Research Quarterly*, Adam Sharr and Richard Weston, eds., no. 17, November 2013, pp. 121-130.
- Kulper, A., "Art Nouveau Gardens of the Mind: Bell Jars, Hot Houses, and Winter Gardening - Preserving Immanent Natures," in *Phenomenologies of the City: Studies in the History and Philosophy of Architecture*, edited by Henriette Steiner and Max Sternberg, (London: Ashgate), Fall 2013.
- Kulper, A., "Architecture's Lapidarium: The Life of Ten Geological Specimens," in *Architecture in the Anthropocene*, edited by Etienne Turpin (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Open Humanities Press), 2013, pp. 87-110.

Service: Professor Kulper has energetically and effectively served the interests of the architecture program, Taubman College and the larger architecture scholarly world. Within the architecture program, Professor Kulper has actively served on the Education Planning Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Doctoral Admissions Committee. She was also the coordinator of graduate admissions for two years. Professor Kulper served on two dean-initiated task forces to rethink graduate thesis pedagogy and the role of history and theory in the architecture curriculum. She was instrumental in both recognizing the opportunity of creating a post-professional MS degree in design research and developing the curriculum. Serving the outside world of architectural scholarship, Professor Kulper has played an active and central role at the important *Journal of Architectural Education* where she has been particularly influential nationally and internationally. She has been the design editor for the past four and has introduced innovative new initiatives at the journal. Since 2012, Professor Kulper has served on the Editorial Advisory Board for *Architecture and Culture* and has acted as a reviewer for numerous scholarly journals and conferences.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...Dr. Kulper has been very active in research... with an excellent level of high-quality, high-impact publications... and a very impressive and sustained demonstration of commitment to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline through editorial, peer review and other activities. Her work has been valued and esteemed internationally."

Reviewer B: "...Amy Kulper's work presents the track record of a type of architectural academic as increasingly rare as they are necessary; which is to say, that of a well-grounded and deeply researched scholar capable and enthusiastic of serious engagement with design culture, and a contemporary design critic able to draw essential and unexpected connections with the long and complex history of building and ideas."

Reviewer C: "Prof. Kulper is an outstanding scholar whose research focus in the area of 'immanent natures' represents an important theoretical contribution to our profession. As an advocate for interdisciplinarity, her unique pedagogical approach to teaching concerning 'procedural literacy' represents a paradigm shift in architectural education of critical importance. Her success in publishing timely and impactful articles and books shows clear evidence of an emerging international reputation. Her service to the school, university and the profession is substantial and should be applauded."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Kulper's recently published authored book, *Domesticated Natures: Victor Hugo and the Art Nouveau Interior*, is outstanding, original research that provides a significant addition to research on nature and its relations with architecture. Indicative of scholarship of the highest level, *Domesticated Natures* offers an original reassessment of a seminal architect, Victor Horta, through close attention to inter-related evocations of nature in the art nouveau."

Reviewer E: "The genius of Kulper's book is that it works against deep-seated and inherited perceptions of Horta's work to open up a discussion that is timely and profound in its own right...Kulper is part of a generation of scholar/thinkers who are redesigning our understanding of modern architecture, especially around the thematics of nature."

Reviewer F: "Prof. Kulper has a remarkable track record in research, truly admirable for a [junior] Assistant Professor. The diversity and volume of her essays is outstanding. She has clearly distinguished herself in her areas of research through her originality and creativity... Prof. Kulper is among the few scholars working in the 19<sup>th</sup> century whose work I would recognize as profoundly significant for our own present questions in architectural theory and practices."

Reviewer G: "Ms. Kulper's standing in her peer group is particularly high, she is networked and respected in some of the highest regarded Universities in the world. Her work is disseminated internationally and appreciated and is often used as a catalyst for other discourses, events or exhibitions of students and [junior] researchers' work."

Summary of Recommendation:

In the areas of research, teaching, and service, Professor Kulper has consistently made substantive contributions. As a critic, editor, and scholar of architecture's intellectual history, she is an invaluable member of the faculty, standing out as an excellent teacher as well as skilled interlocutor who is fully engaged within the academic community. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Amy C. Kulper for promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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Robert Fishman

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

May 2016