

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Anca Trandafirescu, 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.Arch.	2002	University College London, The Bartlett School of Architecture, London, UK
B.Arch.	1993	Temple University, Architecture, Philadelphia, PA

Professional Record:

2008 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2006 – 2008	Lecturer in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2005 – 2006	William Muschenheim Fellow, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005	Architect and Project Manager, TBG Architects and Planners, Eugene, OR
2003 – Present	Partner and Design Principle, area.architecture, Ann Arbor, MI
2002 – 2004	Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Trandafirescu is an influential and highly valued teacher at Taubman College. Her primary teaching contributions for the Architecture Program curriculum have been in design studios and core courses in both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Many of the courses taught by Professor Trandafirescu relate to fundamental aspects of architectural learning, and her introductory classes are a considerable contribution to the school because they are open to non-majors and have been influential in recruiting students to Taubman College's undergraduate program in architecture. Professor Trandafirescu has a record of developing new and innovative courses and her students' design work has been recognized with six design awards, including two Wallenberg Studio first prizes. Professor Trandafirescu's contributions and commitment to teaching especially in the arena of foundation design also extend beyond the university with the presentation of a number of papers for the National Conference on the Beginning Design Student.

Professor Trandafirescu has received overwhelmingly positive student response to her courses. Since her tenure track appointment, she has taught 24 courses; in 17 of those, students rated her teaching 4.5/5 or higher. The significance of her pedagogical contribution to the foundations of architectural education in the undergraduate program and the three-year graduate program is undeniable. Her ability to teach across the curriculum and her presence and influence at the national level through the presentation of peer-reviewed conference papers on architectural education solidify her influence and impact as an educator at the college, university, and field at large.

Research:

Professor Trandafirescu has established herself as an emerging and promising voice across the field of architectural design and more specifically in the arena of material engagement in digital

fabrication. Her research, scholarship and creative work are situated in the field of architectural design at the intersection of critical practice and digital craft. Her work also engages social and political issues, questioning public interactions and assumptions about architecture, by developing novel material technologies and building fabrication methods.

Professor Trandafirescu disseminates her work through installations, exhibits, competition entries and commissioned architectural projects. Her work has received recognition in the form of national and regional awards, publications and exhibitions. Foremost among the list of accolades are the highly competitive and internationally recognized 2014 R+D Citation Award in *Architecture Magazine* for the *c-LITH* project that was also featured on the cover of the July 2014 issue, a Special Mention in the 2014 international *Architizer A+ Awards* for *Flying Carpet*, an American Institute of Architects Huron Valley Honor Award, and an Honorable Mention Faculty Design award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Professor Trandafirescu has also placed in a number of design competitions such as the 2010 TEX-FAB competition, 2010 Young Architects Forum 10up Atlanta Competition and Rice Design Alliance/AIA Houston 99K House Competition. She has exhibited her work at ten external venues including a solo exhibition at McGill University's ARCH Gallery in Montreal. This exhibition was chosen for review by the *Journal of Architectural Education*, one of the most significant peer-reviewed journals in the field of architectural education.

Professional Work, Exhibits and Awards:

Protomoments: The New Work of Projective Architectural Objects, 2015. Location: McGill University School of Architecture, Montreal, PQ. Traveling Solo Exhibition - Prototypical Works

Architect Magazine 2014 R+D Awards, 2014. *c-LITH*: Carbon Fiber Architectural Units, Citation Architizer A+ 2014 Awards, Architecture + Learning Category, 2014. *Flying Carpet*, Special Mention

Huron Valley AIA, Small Project/Low Budget Category, 2013. *Flying Carpet*, Honor Award ACSA Faculty Design Award, 2011. *Hot Air*, Honorable Mention

TEX-FAB Repeat Competition, 2010. *tetra|n*, Runner-Up. Select Group Exhibition – University of Texas, Arlington

Service: Professor Trandafirescu is an engaged citizen of the college and profession. She has provided service on student admission committees, the Lectures and Exhibitions Committee, as well as numerous faculty search committees. Professor Trandafirescu has been a valuable colleague and insightful junior faculty mentor in her ability to serve as studio coordinator. She has also assisted efforts to recruit students into the field of architecture by traveling and presenting her design work. At the university level, Professor Trandafirescu has served as a faculty representative for the University of Michigan Senate Assembly since 2009. She has also provided review of grant and award applications through the university's Office of Research, and she has participated on selection committees for the Fulbright US Students Program. For professional service, she participates in a number of conferences devoted to design and research, taking on various roles including paper review and session moderator.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “*c_LITH* explores hybrid digital/analog fabrication methods that are currently popular and places Prof. Trandafirescu in the context of experimental academic architects working at the intersection of design computation and material research. The project is innovative and with notable impact... The citation award for *c_LITH* in Architect Magazine's 2014 R+D Awards is especially notable (and the work was selected for the magazine cover.)”

Reviewer B: "Issues of material technology are consistently coupled with social and political issues that present provocative architectural proposals with specific consequence. Trandafirescu's dossier is an impressive and clear body of design research and scholarly work... Recent national and local recognition (awards & publications) of the candidate's architectural work, and new commissions that her office has received, suggest a promising and continued contribution to the discipline and the institution."

Reviewer C: "...the recent exhibit 'Protomoments' and the work represented there along with the recent recognition from *Architect Magazine* with an R+D Award recognizing the potential of the C-Lith project are of note. This research represents a maturation of the earlier lightweight structures research into an innovative approach to forming carbon fiber in an economical way."

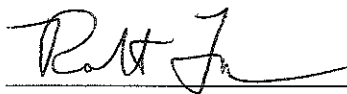
Reviewer D: "Professor Trandafirescu's work is a model for architectural research that is embedded in tangible material experimentation, digital fabrication, and processes of making. Her work is innovative, investigational, and critical... Her accolades, including the 2011 ACSA Faculty Design Award and the AIA Huron Valley Honor Award, demonstrate that Professor Trandafirescu's work has impressed both academics and practicing architects."

Reviewer E: "The three projects that are I would consider extraordinary are c_Lith, Hot Air and Flying Carpet. Each of these projects illustrates a high level of intellectual engagement and are exemplary examples of high-performance digital craft. Additionally, Anca has not only produced some amazing work, but she has written scholarly papers and exhibited the work internationally."

Reviewer F: "The multivalent nature of much of Prof. Trandafirescu's work is its greatest differentiator from the work of others in her peer group who are working in the same field... This is a very competitive field... Prof. Trandafirescu has been both prolific and recognized by her peers... She has developed an increasingly notable body of research..."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Trandafirescu has distinguished herself as an award winning designer, an innovative and exemplary teacher, and an engaged citizen of the college. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Anca Trandafirescu 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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