

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

Eleanor A. Abrons, 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.	2006	University of California, Los Angeles, California
B.A.	1996	New York University, New York, New York

Professional Record:

2015 – Present	Principal, T+E+A+M
2013 – Present	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2010 – 2015	Principal, EADO
2010 – 2013	Lecturer in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2009 – 2010	A. Alfred Taubman Fellow in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Project Designer, Office dA
2007	Architectural Designer, Greg Lynn FORM

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Abrons is a highly valued and respected teacher at Taubman College. Her teaching has furthered the Taubman College architecture program tradition of working in making and representation as a means by which to challenge students and contribute to architecture's experimental development. In her teaching and entrepreneurship, Professor Abrons instills in her students the value of both technique and alternative forms of practice. She is noted for her deep care of students and role modeling, establishing a critical relationship between making and theorizing, and fostering an atmosphere of inclusion. Professor Abrons has also been instrumental in transforming architecture education. In collaboration with Adam Fure and Andrew Holder, she received a \$350,000 grant for "Practice Sessions" from the University of Michigan Third Century Initiative: Transforming Learning for A Third Century. Modeled on examples of action-based, engaged learning, Practice Sessions has incorporated concentrated collaborations with inspirational practitioners in the architecture field to create transformative experiences in architectural education for our students.

Research: Professor Abrons' research is part of a new generation of architects and academics who are challenging the conventions of digital media and digital form-making. She is a licensed architect and her research and creative work has been produced under a number of collaborative configurations: on her own as principal of EADO, her solo practice; in collaboration with SIFT Studio principal/Taubman College Assistant Professor Adam Fure; and as a founding member of T+E+A+M, the collaborative practice of Taubman College Assistant Professors Ellie Abrons, Adam Fure, Meredith Miller and Thom Moran. Professor Abrons focuses on material reassembly, allusive form, and post-digital techniques. Through these themes, she scrutinizes the relationship between architecture – conceived as the outcome of a set of prescriptive representations– and its physicality as

material reification of the means of its production. The work has accordingly produced a means of making us aware of our perceptual defaults and provided evidence of our sensory mechanisms' capacity for conditioning. Professor Abrons' work has been disseminated mostly through high profile national and international exhibitions, which have been extensively written about. She was twice invited to exhibit her work at the Venice Architecture Biennale, once in 2012 in collaboration with Adam Fure and again in 2016 as part of T+E+A+M. The T+E+A+M project, "Living Picture," winner of the 2017 Adrian Smith Prize for the Ragdale Ring in Lake Forest, Illinois, was awarded the 2017 Best of Design Award for Temporary Installation by the *Architect's Newspaper*. In addition to the extensive recognition of the collectively produced work, Professor Abrons' 2017 residency fellowship to the high profile MacDowell Colony, yielded the solo-authored essay "For Real," published in *Log 41*.

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions and Awards:

Abrons, Ellie. 2017 MacDowell Colony Fellow, MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH.

T+E+A+M. "Living Picture." 2017 Best of Design Award for Temporary Installation, Winner, *The Architects Newspaper*.

T+E+A+M. "Living Picture." 2017 Adrian Smith Prize for the Ragdale Ring, Winner, Ragdale Foundation.

Abrons, Ellie. "For Real." *Log*, no. 41, November 2017, pp. 67-73.

T+E+A+M. "Detroit Reassembly Plant." Model and drawings in *The Architectural Imagination*, curated by Cynthia Davidson and Monica Ponce de Leon, 2016 U.S. Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Juried group exhibition.

Service: Professor Abrons's service record includes many contributions to the Architecture Program, the Taubman College, the university and the profession. She has played a key role in the recruitment of new faculty at the college having served on a wide variety of search committees over the years as well as admissions and scholarship committee service. At the University of Michigan, Professor Abrons has also acted as a faculty reviewer for grant applications to the UM Office of Research. Beyond the university, Professor Abrons has served as a reviewer for a number of conferences, including ACADIA and national and international ACSA conferences. She was a paper reviewer for the TxA Digital Technology Conference.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Their commissioned sites of exhibition – the Venice Biennale...and the Chicago Architecture Biennial... – have made them household names on a global scale...the work of her practice with T+E+A+M is in great demand and highly regarded among her peers."

Reviewer B: "...the design quality across all the work is impressive and shows both talent and passion: an ideal combination. Professor Abrons has consistently found collaborations and opportunities for her work to be recognized and...has found national and significant landmarks – including the MacDowell Colony..."

Reviewer C: "...I strongly recognize the influence that Professor Abrons' research has quickly gained in architectural education...I also recognize that many of the ideas and tendencies that she has advanced at Michigan have spread to other institutions around the country...I believe that Professor Abrons is among the leaders of a group of emerging practitioners working on similar intellectual and aesthetic issues."

Reviewer D: “Abrons has made numerous contributions through exhibitions and writing that have garnered much national recognition... Abrons has explicated her work in ways that make her one of the contributing voices on the future of architecture.”

Reviewer E: “...Professor Abrons has generated – in solo and collaboratively – an extensive body of work that resonates in the context of post-digital architectural production and debate in North America. The works have been recognized in online and print publications, she has exhibited at top national and international venues ranging from the Venice Biennale to Ivy League galleries, written articles and been awarded prizes.”

Reviewer F: “She is an astute professional and talented investigator and teacher who will be even more productive in the future. She has demonstrated leadership in the discipline and practice of architecture that has resulted in the development of new critical discourses about the discipline. She serves as a critical resource and role model for colleagues in their efforts to support the mission of the University.”

Reviewer G: “Her work resists the easy allure of a more narrowly-defined creative practice imagined as a single problem repeated again and again. Instead hers may be seen more as an ecology of thought. In my view this tendency toward conceptual complexity in the construction of one’s creative practice is often the hallmark of our discipline’s more important thinkers.”

Reviewer H: “The work of Abrons and her collaborators represents an important strand of contemporary disciplinary research, ...one that I know has strongly influences others at scholars of architecture nationally and no doubt internationally...it is clear that Professor Abrons is a remarkably talented and productive designer and her projects demonstrate a skill, theoretical ambition and authorial voice that is unique and influential in the architecture community.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Abrons’ scholarship challenging the conventions of digital media and digital form-making is making an important contribution to architectural discourse. She is a highly valued and respected teacher who has furthered the architecture program’s tradition of working in making and representation. She has also provided important service to the program, college, university and profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Eleanor A. Abrons for promotion to associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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

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