

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

Thomas J. Moran, 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:

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| M.Arch. | 2007 | Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut |
| B.S. | 2001 | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois |

Professional Record:

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| 2015 – Present | Principal Architect, T+E+A+M |
| 2013 – Present | Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2012 – Present | Principal Architect, Thing Thing |
| 2010 – 2013 | Lecturer in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2009 – 2010 | William Muschenheim Fellow in Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2008 – 2009 | Instructor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Moran is a valued member of the architecture program, and he has taught across all levels of the design curriculum at Taubman College since joining the faculty in 2009. He has consistently addressed contemporary challenges emerging from the adaptation of new technologies and forms of representation as they affect both the working techniques of designers as well as the broader culture of architectural production. This approach has earned him consistently high evaluation scores from his students. Professor Moran's unique approach to leverage new forms of technology and representation as the foundation of architectural practice has situated him as a leader of a new generation of teachers both within the college and beyond. The work of Professor Moran's students has been recognized with a graduate thesis prize selected by the thesis faculty, as well as an Honorable Mention in the undergraduate Wallenberg Prize juried by a panel of external reviewers. He has also been invited to graduate studio reviews at various universities including Harvard, the University of Toronto, IIT, UIC and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Research: Professor Moran's research is changing the look and feel of design's role in addressing global waste. Driven by questions of consumption, Professor Moran researches techniques for fabrication with recycled materials, generating new ways of reusing plastics. Using a thermocast process he invented to cast new forms, he encourages us to see these objects as collectors of the past. Inevitably this entangles issues of politics and culture, and Professor Moran sees his practice as bridging between these worlds of science, design, fabrication and digital innovation (mediated materiality). Professor Moran is interested in "new ideas to manage our ever-increasing amount of waste" and exposing, through digital innovation, the relationship between digital and material experience. An established voice through exhibition in more than 40 venues (including three biennales: Venice, Chicago and Shenzhen) and being a "firm to watch" by Architecture Record, Professor Moran aligns problems at the global scale with emerging technologies to focus designers'

attention on waste and production. The quality of his work as well as its impact is documented through numerous awards including the Prize for Young Architects from the Architectural League and a Faculty Design Award Honorable Mention from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (with Professor Meredith Miller).

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions and Awards:

T+E+A+M. "Living Picture." Best of Design Award for Temporary Installation, *The Architect's Newspaper*, 2017.

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

T+E+A+M. "Detroit Reassembly Plant." The Architectural Imagination, curated by Cynthia Davidson and Monica Ponce de Leon, 15th International Architecture Exhibition, U.S. Pavilion, 2016. Juried group exhibition.

Miller, Meredith and Thom Moran. "Post Natural Assemblies." Upjohn Research Grant Award, American Institute of Architects, 2016.

Moran, Thomas. 2015 Prize for Young Architects, The Architectural League of New York, 2015.

Service: Professor Moran's service record includes contributions to the Architecture Program and Taubman College. He has served the Architecture Program through his membership on the Fellowship search committee and as a member of the program admissions committee each year. In 2017-18, he served as the chair of the Freshman Admissions committee. He served also on the College Diversity committee. Professor Moran has further taken on an informal role in counseling students with mental and emotional issues who have been unwilling to seek professional counseling.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In the past decade, national and international architecture biennales, exhibitions, and installations have become some of the most important platforms for the advancement of architectural discourse and practice...It is thus not insignificant to note Professor Moran's extensive invitation to and participation in five international biennales as well as forty major exhibitions in the US and elsewhere as a form of recognition of the importance of his research and practice in sharing new inquiries for the field."

Reviewer B: "...I come away impressed with his innovative work at the intersection of architecture, material and environmental science and technology...Moran has demonstrated such a diverse array of architecture research with extraordinary outcome...Among educators and practitioners in his generation who have overlapping interests, Moran stood out as an exceptional scholar in the field."

Reviewer C: "Professor Moran has been recognized by the ACSA and many other influential and respected institutions and organizations in the design discipline. Most significant for a [junior], emerging practitioner are the Architecture League Prize (2015) and the Architectural Record Magazine's 'Firm to Watch' (2015)."

Reviewer D: "...Professor Moran's numerous exhibitions, awards, publications and influence position him as an exceptional candidate for tenure. He is one of the leaders of a new generation of architects exploring the aesthetics and assembly of the water of late-modern urbanization."

Reviewer E: "...juried design awards are significant...most open architecture design competitions receive hundreds of entries; therefore, the task of winning even one is met with extremely unfavorable odds... In this light, the Young Architect's Prize from the Architecture League of New York is probably the singularly most important achievement in his dossier."

Reviewer F: “Although many academics have begun exploring plastics and waste, Professor Moran’s research is unique in his approach that merges the highest intellectual interrogation of social and cultural phenomenon with a craft and technology-driven approach that engages materials through innovative production techniques.”

Reviewer G: “His research, scholarly and creative practice is nothing short of prolific and its high caliber and innovation has garnered much recognition among his peers.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Moran is a recognized leader in the novel ways that his design scholarship is addressing global waste (things and buildings). His willingness to move key questions into new terrain of digital design, including augmented and virtual realities, will enable the architecture program to a leader of this area into the future. Professor Moran is a well-regarded teacher and a leader of a new generation of teachers both within the college and beyond. He has also provided relevant service to the program and college. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Thomas J. Moran 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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