

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

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

Academic Degrees:

M.Arch.	2006	University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada
B.Arch.	1996	University of Waterloo, Cambridge, ON, Canada
B.ES.	1994	University of Waterloo, Environmental Studies, Cambridge, ON, Canada

Professional Record:

2015 – Present	Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2013	Visiting Guest Professor, California College of the Arts
2010	Visiting Professor, Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada
2009 – 2015	Assistant Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007 – Present	Partner, Director: Design Research, RVTR Inc.
2007 – 2009	Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Waterloo, Cambridge, ON, Canada
2006 – 2007	Lecturer, Willard A. Oberdick Fellow, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2005 – 2007	Partner, Velikov + Thün Building Studio

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Velikov’s teaching demonstrates rigor, high-level student engagement, and is informed by her building experience as a licensed architect. She teaches graduate and post-graduate level studios and seminars focused on expanded ideas of architecture including landscape design, environment, urban equity, networks and technology. Professor Velikov significantly advanced innovation in digital architecture instruction by participation on the faculty team that created the Master of Science in digital and material technologies degree program. Further, she modeled the use of Tandem for group work and led the team that developed a virtual shared platform for student reviews and gatherings.

Research: Professor Velikov has a particularly broad range of interdisciplinary and collaborative research interests which focus on critical questions of design by exploring ways to think and design relationally across matter, technology, and spatial practices, in order to cultivate environmentally conscious thinking and practices within society. The work is defined in three primary, overlapping spheres, “Responsive Envelopes,” “Urban and Social Infrastructures,” and “Territories of the Anthropocene,” and is internationally recognized by awards, prizes, and research contracts. She has secured an impressive amount of funding (over \$1.5 M) as either a

PI or co-PI. She currently has ongoing projects funded by Guardian Industries, NSF, and Ford Motor Company. She is also in collaboration with the Center for Inequality Dynamics at the University of Michigan to explore alternatives to wealth and housing inequality in Detroit. Professor Velikov shows great promise to continue and expand her high level of research work.

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

Velikov, Kathy, and Geoffrey Thün. “Fluid Territories: Cultivating Common Practices Through the Design of Water Redistribution.” *Journal of Architectural Education*, vol. 74, no. 1, 2020, pp. 92–100.

McGee, W., Velikov, K., Thün, G., & Tish, D. “Prologue for a Robotic Architecture: Bridging design environments, robotic additive manufacture and systemic controls for kinetic information.” In A. Wit & M. Daas (eds.), *Towards a Robotic Architecture: Frameworks and Processes*, 2018, pp. 190-203. New York: ORO Editions.

Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA/AAPC), National Award of Excellence EXTRACTION, Award Category: Design Communication, Risk and Resilience Pierre Belanger: Curator, RVTR: Design Research and Exhibition Design, 2017.

Architect Magazine, R&D Award Program, infundibuliforms (Wes McGee, Geoffrey Thün & Kathy Velikov) Honorable Mention, 2016.

Canada Council for the Arts: 2016 Venice Biennale of Architecture, Pierre Belanger: Curator, RVTR: Design Research and Exhibition Design, 2016.

Thün, G., Velikov, K., Ripley, C., & McTavish D. (2015). Infra-Eco-Logi Urbanism: A Project for the Great Lakes Megaregion. Zurich, CH: Park Books.

Service: Professor Velikov’s service includes college, university, and national commitments in both membership and leadership roles. Most notable is her role as the president (since 2018) of the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA), the primary organization supporting research into the use of computation in architecture, planning, and building science. She partnered with National Organization of Minority Architects to establish a funded award and an internship program with ACADIA’s professional partner firms. At the college level, Professor Velikov has served in key leadership roles, most notably as the chair of the Studio Innovation Task Force, which was created by the dean to rethink long-standing education models in order to increase accessibility through better uses of time, space, technology, and resources. At the university level, Professor Velikov has been involved with the Graham Sustainability Institute to advocate for the inclusion of design and humanities-based perspectives in their definitions of sustainability and in their initiatives and proposal calls.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Professor Velikov appears to bring the full range of her interests to the classroom, with a track record of teaching experimental, upper-level studios and seminars...in a kind of recombinant pedagogy—exploring theories of material technologies, or the mapping and design of climate-based systems. Professor Velikov’s contributions to research/creative practice, teaching, and service are significant and worthy of her promotion to full professor.”

Reviewer B: “Kathy has taken a different approach, both with her research and pedagogical agenda...facilitating the Taubman school to lead the discipline in establishing a rare and

important bridge between architectural design criteria and the major engines of technological innovation.”

Reviewer C: “The quality of Professor Velikov’s work is at the highest level I have seen in comparable cases of her peer group. The impact of her work as measured through publications, exhibitions, public presentations and awards is significant over the past five years...She has a clearly defined and rigorous teaching methodology utilizing texts, deep analysis of the problem and context, and innovative design thinking processes”

Reviewer D: “I observe high scholarly and creative accomplishments as well as teaching and advising effectiveness in a variety of settings with both undergraduate and graduate students....she has shown independence and leadership in research (especially through her active role in the ACADIA network) and she has a growing national reputation in architectural research.”

Reviewer E: “I find that her teaching and design research practice is not only remarkably extensive, but consistently of a very high quality. The recent work demonstrates a growing critical sharpness with a deepening social impact. Her recent teaching trajectory is quite robust and clearly presented.”

Reviewer F: “Her very real and effective focus lies expanding and evaluating possibilities for design action, both theoretical and practical. I believe there is much to value in such scholarship and that Professor Velikov does it extraordinarily well.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Velikov is an innovative and authoritative faculty member whose leadership and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts have been awarded by the college, university and broad architecture community. Her pedagogy, informed by her extensive research platform and practitioner experience, facilitates Taubman College architecture curriculum being at the forefront of architecture education. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Ekaterina Velikov for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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

May 2021