

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

John D. McMorrough, 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:

Ph.D.	2007	Harvard University, Architecture, Cambridge, MA
M.Arch.	1998	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
B.Arch.	1992	University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Professional Record:

2019 – 2020	Visiting Associate Professor in Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
2010 – Present	Associate Professor of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2010 – 2013	Academic Program Chair of Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2009 – 2010	Associate Professor of Architecture, Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
2003, 2004	Lecturer, School of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
2003, 2004	Principal Architecture Instructor Coordinator, Harvard Graduate School of Design Career Discovery University, Cambridge, MA
2002 – Present	Partner, StudioAPT, Ann Arbor, MI
2002 – 2004	Lecturer, Design Critic, School of Architecture, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor McMorrough is an award-winning instructor whose pedagogy draws on his history and theory expertise while integrating a wide range of media, subjects, and formats across related fields to elicit new insights and relationships to architecture as an expanded field of design. He is unique among the history and theory faculty in having taught widely in the architecture design studio sequence. He is noted for his dedication to students, his depth and range of intelligence, his inspirational lectures, and the lively connections between research and teaching. He is described by students as one of the most significant and impactful teachers. His coursework is further described as always strong, deeply provocative, and challenging.

Research: Professor McMorrough's research is contemporary architectural practice and design focusing specifically on the media, architectural production and on the relationship between dominant discourses in the theory and criticism of practice. His work engages two dynamics of contemporary architectural practice: the expansion of architecture from buildings to design and the dissipation of architecture from an autonomous discipline to an evolving assemblage of

related projects. He is a coveted critic whose novel approach has established him as an important voice in architecture discourse. Professor McMorrough's work has been disseminated in the form of book chapters and catalog essays, journal reviews and articles, and other forms of publication, such as videos, exhibitions, and design competition entries, that are connected to the presentation and discussion of contemporary architecture.

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

McMorrough, John. "Counterfactual / Architecture / Histories." *Perspecta: The Yale Architectural Journal*, no. 54 (Atopia), 2022, pp. 317-326.

McMorrough, John. "Returned." Fulfilled: Architecture, Excess, and Desire, edited by Ashley Bigham, Applied Research & Design, 2022, pp. 172-175.

McMorrough, John and Julia McMorrough. "Accessibility, Possibility & Togetherness." Lecture, University of Illinois Chicago School of Architecture, Chicago, IL, March 28, 2022.

McMorrough, John. "Past Future Possible Worlds: Architecture, Science Fiction, and Television in the 1970s." Lecture, University of Oregon Architecture Lecture Series, Portland, OR, February 1, 2023.

Rule, Jonathan, Julia McMorrough, John McMorrough, and Ana Morcillo Pallarés. "More Room at the Table: Piloting a Shared Digital Pedagogy." Pressing Matters Research Incentive Award, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, 2023, (\$18,001).

Service: Professor McMorrough has energetically and effectively served the interests of the architecture program, Taubman College and the larger architecture scholarly world. He previously served as the Architecture program chair. In his role as the chair, he staged a series of innovative formal discursive initiatives among the faculty ("Pedagogy Talks," "Fo(u)r Example," and "Proof Positive"), each addressing different aspects of pedagogy, curriculum, and research within the Architecture Program (B.S., M.Arch, Urban Design and Doctoral levels). He has served in various college committees including the College Executive Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, College Space Planning Committee, Fellowship Search Advisory Committee, Master of Urban Design Advisory Committee, Admissions Committee, and the Lecturer Review Committee. He has also served to support the teaching mission of the program as the thesis coordinator, and a graduate student research grant mentor. He has served as primary advisor to two doctoral students and served on the doctoral program committees. Externally, he organized conference panels for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the Society of Architectural Historians. Additionally, he is a sought-after design review critic at higher education institutions around the country.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "McMorrough has made significant and sustained contributions to contemporary architectural theory. McMorrough's essays are on reading lists for architecture theory courses in the US and elsewhere, and the inclusion of his essay 'Ru(m)inations: The Haunts of Contemporary Architecture' in the anthology *Constructing A New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993–2009* (2010), further demonstrates the impact of his work."

Reviewer B: "Professor McMorrough brings prodigious effort to teaching...Professor McMorrough has the versatility to move between the lecture hall, seminar room, and design

studio.... His writing, design, and teaching reflect a range of critical and scholarly reference that stretch to meet an extraordinary moment in culture.”

Reviewer C: “One of the virtues of Professor McMorrough's work is its ability to enter into the question of how we might talk about architecture across a range of scales, cities, and buildings. One of the most interesting and successful topics in this is his focus on the different modes and mediums architecture employs and engages. His approach is especially relevant in developing new frameworks to understand our engagement with architecture in contemporary society... Professor McMorrough's work is well respected by architecture theorists, historians and practitioners.”

Reviewer D: “Prof. McMorrough quickly established himself as a significant voice on both past issues of post-modernism and current architectural concerns with issue of representation...His work addresses ‘recurrent blind spots in architectural ideology’ which included the disparaged and underappreciated work of early Post-modernism, issues (once) rarely discussed in architecture schools: color, signage, commercial typologies, and non-professional realms—movie sets, science fiction, and found in that work territory to mine in teaching and pedagogy.”

Reviewer E: “One thing that stands out in Associate Professor McMorrough’s writings/research/creative work is the breadth of the work....published across multiple modalities, and in an amazingly wide variety of publications. The work shows the evolution of a scholar and critic, who is now widely regarded and known. What is also, in my view, outstanding, is the interconnectedness of Associate Professor McMorrough’s research and teaching.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor McMorrough is a widely regarded voice in contemporary architecture. His work focusing on architecture’s expanded field has created novel discourse frameworks praised by architecture critics, educators, designers, historians, students and theorists. He is an inventive instructor whose agility has significantly impacted the architecture program’s culture and curriculum. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend John D. McMrrough for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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

May 2023