

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

A. Melissa Harris, M.Arch., associate professor of architecture in the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Harris earned a Bachelor of Environmental Design from North Carolina State University in 1983 and a Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley in 1985. In practice, she held design positions at Arkkitehtitoimisto Strenros Ky, Helsinki, Finland (1985) and Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis, San Francisco, California (1986-1990). In 1988, she was the excavation architect with George Homsey, Seila Pyramid Excavation in Seila, Egypt.

She began her academic career at the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor of architecture in 1990 and was promoted to associate professor of architecture in 1997. She held an appointment as visiting assistant professor at Technische Universitat, Gebaudelehre Institute, Vienna, Austria in 1993. She served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1997 to 2002. She served as interim chair from 2009 to 2010 and as undergraduate director of architecture from 2011 to 2013.

Professor Harris is deeply engaged in the intersection of drawing and building. She approaches her sketchbook as both laboratory and landscape—a site where lines and ideas explore the relationship between form, behavior, and the ways we measure and describe the constructed world. At once analytical inquiry and lived example, her drawings represent four decades of sustained observation and reflection, now evolving into a manuscript titled *Architect's Sketchbook*. Her drawings and writings have appeared in journals and books such as *Architecture*, *Pidgin*, *Interiors*, *The Fifth Column*, *Learning by Building*, and *The Good House*. Her work has been featured in exhibitions across national and international venues, including the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, the Technical University of Vienna, the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities, and McGill University, among others. She has been recognized for her contributions to both architecture and art with awards from the American Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

The Regents now salute this distinguished professor by naming **A. Melissa Harris, associate professor emerita of architecture**.

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026