

EDWARD EIGEN

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EDUCATION

MIT, Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture, June 2000
Columbia University, MArch., Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation,
1991
University of Virginia, B.A. in Art History, 1988

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Associate Professor of History of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate
School of Design (Fall 2012 – Present)

PAST ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of History of Architecture, Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of
the City University of New York (2011–2012)
Assistant Professor of History of Architecture, School of Architecture, Princeton University
(2002–2011)

EDITORIAL AND BOARD POSITIONS

Associate Editor, *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*
Board Member, “Matter” project editor, Aggregate Architectural History Collaborative
Editorial Board, *Architecture and Culture*
Editorial Board, *Project*

PUBLICATIONS

On Accident: Episodes in Architecture and Landscape (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2018).

“Controlling: Comfort in the Modern Home,” in Zeynep Çelik Alexander, John May, eds.,
Architecture and Technics: A Theoretical Field Guide to Practice (University of
Minnesota Press, forthcoming winter 2019).

“South Park: Proleptic Notes on the Barack Obama Presidential Center,” Mark Lee, Sharon
Johnston, eds., *Chicago Architecture Biennial 2017: Make New History* (Lars Müller,
2017), 149–158.

“Robert Smithson, Evel Knievel, and the Landscape of Reclamation,” *Harvard Design*

- Magazine* 42 (Spring/Summer 2016): 182–191.
- “On Hedging,” in *Pamphlet 19: Field Instruments of Design*, ed. Christophe Girot (Winter 2016): 63–71.
- “Dredging Up the Unknown: Interpretive Notes on Edward Forbes’s Ægean Expedition,” *Perspecta* 48 (Fall 2015): 26–37.
- “Dumas Dines In: The Parasite, the Perruquier, and the Royal Fish,” *Log* 34 (Summer 2015) 108–120.
- “Editing Out Ecologism,” *The Avery Review* 5 (2015).
[<http://www.averyreview.com/issues/5/editing-out-ecologism>]
- “After the Falls: On the Loss and Return of William W. Slack, Architect,” *Cabinet* 54 (2014): 91–99.
- “Claiming Landscape As Architecture,” *Studies in the History of Gardens & Design Landscapes* 34 (2014): 226–247.
- “Field Experiments,” in Spyros Papapetros, Julian Rose, eds., *Retracing the Expanded Field* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2014), 53–59.
- “On Web-Based Learning: Lessons from the Rosetta Stone,” in *Platform* 6, ed. Rosetta Elkin (Cambridge: GSD/Aktar, 2014), xiii–xxiv.
- “The Passion of Louis Braille: An Historico-Religio-Sphragistic Essay,” in Julian Rose, Garrett Ricciardi, eds. *Formless* (New York: Storefront for Art and Architecture/Lars Müller (2013), 20–156.
- “Botany, Banking, and Bibliothéconomie: On the Science of Keeping the Books,” *Aggregate* [a peer-reviewed online journal of architectural history] (2013).
[<http://we-aggregate.org/piece/banking-botany-and-bibliothconomie-on-the-science-of-keeping-the-books>]
- “Newton’s Apple Tree: A Non-Standard Version,” in *A Second Modernism: MIT, Architecture, and the “Techno-Social” Moment*, ed. Arindam Dutta (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2013): 840–881.
- “Not Necessarily Written in Stone: On the Alpine, Epigraphic Misadventures of Edm. Blanc, Th. Mommsen, and the Inscription of Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus,” *Future Anterior* 9 (2013): 33–51.
- “Sorry, Your Time is Up. Please Try Again Later,” Mohsen Mostafavi, ed., *Instigations: Engaging Architecture, Landscape, and the City* (Lars Müller, 2013), 522–523.
- “Further Exclamations on Lemurian Fauna with Notes for a Botanical Martyrology: The Case of Philibert Commerson, Pierre Sonnerat, and *Daubentonia madagascariensis*,” *tarp*, the architecture journal of the Pratt Institute (Fall 2012): 61–79.
- “Madame de Pompadour and Le Havre-de-Grâce, An Unnatural History,” *Rethinking History: The Journal of Theory and Practice* 16.1 (March 2012): 41–56.
- “Una Auténtica Idea de Belleza,” conversation with Iñaki Ábalos, in Juan Calatrava, Jose Tito, eds., *Jardin y Paisaje: Miradas Cruzadas* (Abada, 2011).
- “Where Time Never Stands Still: On the Losses of Mont-Saint-Michel,” *Thresholds* 39 (Fall 2011): 62–79.
- “Instruire/Détruire: Mary Stuart, Catholic Modernism, and the Breton Cult of Monuments,” *Perspecta, The Yale Architectural Journal* 43 (Fall 2010): 139–152.
- “The Perils of Historical Geography: On a Pretended Lost Map to a Legendary Sunken Forest,” *Architectural Design. Special Issue. Territory: Architecture Beyond Environment* 80 (May/June 2010): 82–87.

- “Never Too Rigid: An Essay on Style,” *Pidgin* 8 (2010): 44–53.
- “The Plagiarism of the Heathens Detected: John Wood on the (Mis)translation of Architecture and Empire,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70 (2009): 375–397.
- “Rain and Rainfall—Great Britain—Periodicity—Periodicals,” *Cabinet* 33 (Spring 2009): 37–43.
- “On the Disappearance of Charles Perrault: A Cautionary Tale,” *Perspecta, The Yale Architectural Journal* 40 (2008): 48–58.
- “On the Record: J.M.W. Turner's Studies for the *Burning of the Houses of Parliament* and Other Uncertain Bequests to History,” *Grey Room* 31 (2008): 68–89.
- “[F]rom So Simple a Beginning,” *Log* 9 (2007): 24–31.
- “By Accident,” *Log* 5 (Spring 2005): 37–42.
- “Lincoln’s Log, or ‘A Tree is Best Measured When it is Down,’” *Log* 2 (Spring 2004): 39–47.
- “The Housing of Entropy: On Schrödinger’s Code-Script,” *Perspecta, The Yale Architecture Journal* 35 (Fall 2004): 62–73.
- “Purple and the Origin of Photography, On the Natural History of an Exposure,” in Carol Armstrong, ed., *Ocean Flowers* (Princeton University Press, 2004), 271–87.
- “On the Place of Distribution, Episodes in the Architecture of Experiment,” in *Architecture and Science*, eds. Antoine Picon, Alessandra Ponte (Princeton Architectural Press, 2003), 51–63.
- “Dark Space and the Early Days of Photography as a Medium,” *Grey Room* 3 (Spring 2001): 90–111.
- “On the Screen and in the Water: On Photographically Envisioning the Sea,” in *L’Architecture, les Sciences, et la Culture de l’Histoire au XIXe Siècle* (2001), 229–250.
- “Subject to Circumstance, The Landscape of the French Lighthouse System,” in Jan Birksted ed., *Landscapes of Memory and Experience* (Routledge, 2000), 87–104.
- “Where the Landscape Ends the Sea Begins: Understanding Seascape,” in Heliana Angotti Salgueiro ed., *Landscape and Art, The Invention of Nature, the Evolution of the Eye* (2000): 111–120.
- Review of *Léon Vaudoyer, Historicism in the Age of Industry*, by Barry Bergdoll; *L’Imaginaire scientifique de Viollet-le-Duc*, by Laurent Baridon, *JSAH* 57 (June 1999): 325–27.
- Review of *Georges Cuvier, Fossil Bones, and Geological Catastrophes*, by Martin Rudwick, *Isis* (Spring 1999): 374–75.
- “Cordouan Lighthouse,” in Henry Millon, ed., *Triumph of the Baroque: Architecture in Europe 1600–1750* (Milan: RCS Libri, 1999): 555–556.
- “Leo Marx, The Machine in the Garden,” *Harvard Design Magazine* (Fall 1998): 72–74.
- “The Crucial Intermediary,” *Center: Annual Album of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts* 18 (1998): 103–105.
- “Overcoming First Impressions, Georges Cuvier’s Types,” *Journal of the History of Biology* 30 (Summer 1997): 179–209.
- “Elective Affinities: Philip Johnson and the Avant-garde,” *Assemblage* 29 (April 1996): 116–125.
- with Terry Riley, “Between the Museum and the Market Place: The Selling of Good Design,” *Studies in Modern Art* 4 (1995): 150–179.
- “Wallace K. Harrison”; “William Ware”; “Francis Kimball”; “Bertram G. Goodhue”; “William Lescaze,” in Kenneth Jackson, ed., *Yale Comprehensive Encyclopedia of the City of New York* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).
- Joan Ockman, with Edward Eigen, *Architecture Culture 1943–1968, A Documentary Anthology*

(New York: Rizzoli, 1993).

LECTURES/CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA

“Writing History,” The Berlage, TU Delft (Summer 2018)

Keynote speaker, SAH New England Chapter 2018 Graduate Student Symposium (Spring 2018)

“At a Safe Remove: The Story of the Lunar Receiving Laboratory,” Evidence and Narrative in Architectural History: An Interdisciplinary Symposium, Boston University (Spring 2018)

Keynote speaker, 26th Annual Crossing the Boundaries Conference, Art History Graduate Student

Union, Binghamton University (Spring 2018)

“I. M. Pei and the ‘Big Plan’: The Several Lives of the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum,” Rethinking Pei: A Centenary Symposium,” Harvard Graduate School of Design (Fall 2017)

Keynote speaker, “Environment, Reconsidered. The 50th Anniversary of the Master of Environmental Design Program,” Yale School of Architecture” (Fall 2017)

Keynote speaker, Of the Air Symposium, University of Buffalo, Department of Architecture (Fall 2017)

“Watching Watergate,” One Complex Situation Symposium: Histories of Observation in Architecture, Princeton University School of Architecture (Spring 2017)

“Bandwidth,” Power and the Space of the Planet Conference, Columbia University, GSAPP (Spring 2016)

“Adventures in Microhistory,” PhD workshop, Study Center, Canadian Center for Architecture (Summer 2015)

“On Darwin’s Snails and the Garden Wall,” Sculpting the Architectural Mind Conference, Pratt Institute (Spring 2015)

“After the Falls,” keynote address for the conference, “Accidentes, Plagas, Desastres y la Modelación del Paisaje,” Universidad Católica de Chile (Summer 2014)

“On the Track of Columbus,” “On the Self,” Department of Architecture Conference, UCLA (Spring 2013)

“Braille and the Point of Writing,” SMArchS, MIT Department of Architecture, invited speaker (Fall 2012)

“Further Exclamations on Lemurian Fauna with Notes for a Botanical Martyrology,” MetaLab, Harvard University (Fall 2012)

“Lithographies,” Aggregate, bi-annual meeting, UCLA (Winter 2012)

“On the Antecedents of Hegelianism and the False Bottom of Historical Geology. Notes from a Departmental Archive,” The Geological Turn, A Symposium curated by Etienne Turpin, Taubman College of Architecture, University of Michigan (Winter 2012)

“Some Preliminary Notes on Historical Seismicity and Cognate Developments in Time Series Analysis with Specific, though Intermittent, Reference to the Antillean Island of La Española (*Ayiti*) and Cities and Towns of the Former Saint-Domingue: April 20, 1564–January 12, 2010 (21:53 UTC),” Catastrophe and Consequence: The Campaign for Safe Buildings, Yale School of Architecture (Fall 2011)

“Future Prospects in the History of Landscape,” Program in Landscape Architecture, Harvard School of Design (Fall 2011)

“*Point de vue*,” Manifesto Series 06: Finding Formless, Storefront for Art and Architecture (Fall 2011).

Featured panelist, NEAR (Network for Emerging Architectural Research) Conference 1, Graduate Architecture and Urban Design at The Pratt Institute School of Architecture (Spring 2011).

“I see it! Do I believe my eyes?” Speaking Nature: Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Pitzer College (Spring 2011).

Session respondent, The Buell Dissertation Colloquium, Columbia University (Spring 2011).

Future of History Conference, University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning (Spring 2011).

“Building on the Text,” invited speaker, The Lotos Club, New York City (Spring 2011).

“Brick-Marks, the *JSAH*, and the Protestant Press,” session respondent, The Buell Conference in the History of Architecture: In Print, Columbia University (Spring 2010).

“On the Art of Disappearing: The Venus de Milo and The Siege of Paris,” invited lecturer, MIT Department of Architecture (Spring 2010).

“Bodies Never at Rest: An Essay in Parabolic History,” On Accident Conference, Princeton University (Fall 2009).

“On Accident,” Third Annual Humanities Council Colloquium, Princeton University (Fall 2009).

“Faux Pas: Lessons on the Misleading History of the Chapel of Mary Stuart,” Cambridge Talks III: Mediated Space, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design (Spring 2009).

“Anyang on the Thames,” invited lecturer, The University of Hong Kong, Department of Architecture (Spring 2009).

“The Anomalous Plan,” faculty lecture, School of Architecture, Princeton University (Spring 2008).

“The Exception and the Rule,” keynote speaker, “*in-progress,” PhD research symposium, HTC at MIT (Spring 2008).

“Into the Darkness,” Feltman Lecture, Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at The Cooper Union, Spring 2008.

“Here, There, Swivel Chair,” SAH Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, Spring 2008.

“A Crash Course in History,” invited lecturer, SCI-ARC, February 2008.

“Nothing is Created, Nothing is Destroyed: On The Organic Growth of Paris,” Parsons School of Architecture, invited speaker, evening lecture series, November 2006.

“*Architecture Culture 1943–1968*, An Insider’s Look,” invited speaker, Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University, October 2006.

“The Narrative Thread,” paper delivered at editorial planning meeting for *Aggregate: Understanding Complexity in Architectural Modernities*, MIT School of Architecture, September 2006.

“By Accident or Design: Turner and the Burning of the Two Houses of Parliament,” College Art Association, February 2006.

“Paris Omnibus: Biostatistics and the Organic City,” Collins/Kaufmann Forum, Columbia University, November 2005.

“This Too Shall Burn,” School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Chicago, October 2005.

“Paris Omnibus: Biostatistics and the Organic City,” Collins/Kaufmann Forum, Columbia University, Fall 2005.

- “The Destruction by Fire of the Two Houses of Parliament,” HT+ Forum, Harvard GSD, Fall 2004.
- “Robert-Houdin’s Electric House,” HTC Forum, MIT Department of Architecture, Spring 2004.
- “Architectural Theory Since the Fall of the Temple,” SAH Annual Meeting, Providence, Spring 2004.
- “*Hurd et al. v. Rock Island Bridge Company, An Unsentimental Account*,” Extreme and Sentimental History: a Conference on the Re-enactment of Historical Events, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2004.
- “The Red Sign, The International Jew and the Fate of the City,” Architecture, Urbanism and the Jewish Subject, Pennsylvania State University, Spring 2004.
- “Purple and the Origins of Photography,” Old Dominions Faculty Fellowship Colloquium, Princeton, Fall 2003.
- “The Founding of the École Pratique,” Society of French Historical Studies, Nottingham, England, Spring 2003.
- “Institutional Fictions,” Expertise Conference, Harvard GSD, Fall, 2003.
- “Luther’s Unbuilding of St. Peter’s,” ACSA Annual Conference, New Orleans, Spring 2002.
- “An Anomalous Plan,” Vanderbilt University Department of Art History, invited lecturer, Fall 2002.
- “On the Wages of Sophistication,” Hypotheses 4, Princeton University School of Architecture, 2001.
- “Formless Origins, On the Emergence of Research Stations,” SAH Annual Meeting, Toronto, Spring 2001.
- “Between Stations and Habitations, On Architecture's Occupation with Science,” Metaphors, Sciences, and Architectures Colloquium, Princeton University School of Architecture, 2000.
- “Where the Landscape Ends the Sea Begins, Understanding Seascape,” International Colloquium of Art History, “Landscape and Art,” Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil 1999.
- “The Perils of Vision, the Architecture of the French Lighthouse System,” SAH Annual Meeting, Houston, 1999.
- “From the Unseen to the Unseeable,” CASVA, National Gallery of Art, 1998.
- “Screening the Depths, the Emergence of Underwater Photography,” Dixième Entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier, l'Architecture, les Sciences, et la Culture de l'Histoire au XIXe Siècle, Lyon, France 1997.
- “The Photographic Cast,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, 1997.
- “Jules Verne and the Language of Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 1996.
- “Out from the Museum,” Annual Meeting of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, 1996.
- “Reading the Book of Nature: The Botanical Library of Benjamin Delessert,” Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology, Harvard University, 1996.
- “Nathaniel Ward's Cases and the Crystal Palace: An Exchange Across Glass,” Testing Ground, Doctoral Symposium, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 1995.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Harvard GSD, Dean’s Research Fellowship (2015)

Harvard GSD, Dean's Research Fellowship (2014)
Harvard GSD, Teacher of the Year (2014)
Traditional B grant from the PSC-CUNY Research Fund (2012)
Gilburne faculty seminar on Consciousness, Princeton University (2008-2009)
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation faculty seminar on Tradition, organized by Anthony Grafton,
Daniel Garber (2007–2008)
David Gardner '69 Magic Project, grant recipient 2006–07
McGraw Center, Princeton University, Graduate Mentoring Award 2005
Old Dominion Faculty Fellow, Princeton University, 2003–2005
Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, pre-doctoral fellowship, 1998–1999
Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Mary Davis Fellow,
1996–1998

INVITED JUROR

BAC, Cooper Union, Columbia University, Rice University, University of Michigan, MIT, NJIT,
Penn, RISD, Yale.