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**Education**

- 2019 Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan  
 Ph.D. in History and Theory of Architecture  
 Dissertation: "Testing the Establishment: Authorial Signature and Professional Method in the Architecture of Gunnar Birkerts, 1958-1981"
- 2009 Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University  
 Master of Architectural Studies in Criticism  
 Thesis: "Browsing for Utopia"
- 2007 College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kent State University  
 Bachelor of Architecture with Honors, Cum Laude  
 Honors Thesis: "The Architecture of Mobility: Wireless Technology and the Design of Public Space"
- 2006 Bachelor of Science in Architecture with Minor in Art History, Cum Laude  
 International Studies: Florence, Italy, Spring 2005

**Experience**

- 2018-  
 Visiting Assistant Professor  
 Fall 2018: Introduction to Architecture, Design Contexts Lab  
 Spring 2019: Introduction to Architecture, Architectural Studio II  
 Summer 2019: Research Methods II, Intensive Architectural History
- Service  
 Curriculum Committee 2018-2019, Dialectic Editorial Board
- 2012-2017 Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan  
 Graduate Student Instructor  
 Winter 2016 & 2017: Architecture Criticism and Theories  
 Winter 2015: Architecture History II  
 Winter 2014: 19th and 20th Century Architecture  
 Fall 2013: Architecture History I  
 Winter 2013: Architecture Theory and Criticism
- 2017-2018 Graduate Student Research Assistant to Jonathan Massey  
 Project: Marcel Breuer: Building Global Institutions (Lars Müller Publishers, 2018)
- 2015 Graduate Student Research Assistant to Sharon Haar  
 Project: History of Public Interest Design
- 2014-2015 Graduate Student Research Assistant to Kerstin Barndt (Germanic Languages Dept.)  
 Project: Object Lessons, book (University of Michigan Press, 2017) & exhibition (2017)
- 2012-2013 Graduate Student Research Assistant to Claire Zimmerman  
 Project: The New Brutalist Image, exhibition at Tate Britain (2015)
- Service  
 Board Member, Planning + Architecture Research Group, 2013-2016  
 Organizer, Rule & Form: Confronting the Spatial Transactions and Logistics of Capital,  
 Graduate Student Conference, February 5-6, 2016
- 2010-2012 College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Kent State University  
 Adjunct Faculty  
 Summer 2012: First Year Design Studio I  
 Spring 2012: First Year Design Studio II, Architectural Studies (ARCS) Design Studio I,  
 Architecture History II

## Curriculum Vitae

### Michael Abrahamson

Fall 2011: First Year Design Studio I, The Legacy of Brutalism, Portfolio Design  
Spring 2011: First Year Design Studio II, Urban Design Discourse  
Fall 2010: First Year Design Studio I, Introduction to Theory and Criticism  
Service First Year Core Curriculum Committee, 2011; Architectural Studies (ARCS) Curriculum Committee, 2011-2012; Lecture Series Committee, 2011-2012

### In Process

The Master Plan at Midcentury, 1945-75, Book Proposal with Joss Kiely (Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Cincinnati)  
"Globalizing Professional Practice," Research Project with Bryan Norwood (Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan)  
"Standardizing Business, Diversifying Design: Bureaucracy and Standardization in the Practice of Architecture, 1963-88," Article Manuscript  
"Solidarity Houses: The Architecture of Organized Labor, 1880-1970," Research Project

### Editing

Editorial Assistant to Barry Bergdoll and Jonathan Massey, eds. Marcel Breuer: Building Global Institutions, (Zürich, Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers, 2018)  
Guest Editor with Kyle May, et al., Clog: Brutalism (February 2013)

### Refereed Articles

"Actual Center of Detroit: Method, Management, and Decentralization in Albert Kahn's General Motors Building, 1919-1923," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians v. 77, n. 1 (March 2018), 56-76

### Commissioned Essays

"Rocket Science or Representation? Notes on Concrete Panel Construction in the United States," Flying Panels: How Concrete Panels Changed the World, Pedro Ignacio Alonso and Hugo Palmarola, eds. (Stockholm and Berlin: ArkDes and DOM Publishers, 2019), 136-149  
"Standardizing Business, Diversifying Design: Rewriting The Architect's Handbook, 1963-1988 [translated to German], " ARCH+ Online  
"North America," SOS Brutalism: A Global Survey, Oliver Elser, Philip Kurz, and Peter C. Schmal, eds. (Zürich, Switzerland: Park Books, 2017), 116-121  
"Goddard Library, Worcester, Massachusetts," SOS Brutalism: A Global Survey, Oliver Elser, Philip Kurz, and Peter C. Schmal, eds. (Zürich, Switzerland: Park Books, 2017), 145  
"Notes On Location," Introductory text for On Location, Exhibition at School of Architecture, University of North Carolina at Charlotte (September 2017)

### Commentary & Criticism

"A Driverless Detroit: Public Roads and Private Goals in the 1970s," Take Shape 2: Commute (2018), 68-76  
"Return of the Ignored," Pidgin 21: Flushed (Fall 2016), 32-59  
"On Little Histories," Project Journal Issue 5 (Spring 2016), 110-111  
"Brutalism is not Bunker Architecture," in Ashley Bigham, ed. Safety Not Guaranteed: A Manual for Architecture (March 2016), 78-80  
"Welcome to Brutalism," The Sunday Times, London, England (October 25, 2015), C6-C8  
"What is a Brutalist House?" OfHouses (August 24, 2015)  
"The Flying Twist: WMS Boathouse by Studio Gang Architects," The Architectural Review n. 1422 (August 2015), 70-77  
"Designing the Great Migration," coauthored with James D. Graham, The Aggregate website, Black Lives Matter Dossier (March, 2015)  
"Means Without Ends," [translated to Spanish as "Medios Sin Fines"] Plot 22 (January 2015), 178-181

- "Concrete Images," in Brutalism: London (London: Black Dragon Press, 2014)
- "Blame Game," The Architectural Review n. 1413 (November 2014), 20
- "11 Lesser-Known Brutalist Buildings," Dezeen (September 14, 2014)
- "The Problem of Large," in Clog: Rem (Summer 2014), 50-51
- "2014 Pulitzer Prize Celebrates On-The-Ground Architectural Criticism," The Architectural Review (May 28, 2014)
- "Sculpture into Architecture," San Rocco 9: Monks and Monkeys (Spring 2014), 69-78
- "Robotic Arms Race in Architectural Education," The Architectural Review n. 1405 (March 2014), 17-19
- "Functional Colour: A Postwar Discourse and its Application at Lever House," Saturated Space (September 2, 2013)
- "Toward an Ineloquent Architecture," in Clog: Unpublished (Fall 2013), 82-83
- In Clog: Brutalism (February, 2013): "Citing Banham," 26-27; "Economics of Concrete," 42-43; "Interview with Norbert Koehn," 54-55; "Interview with Jeffrey Streat, Cleveland Museum of Art," 140-143; "Brutalizing Breuer," 148-149
- "Radical Nostalgia," Fulcrum 63 (January 21, 2013)
- "In Defense of the Donut," in Clog: National Mall (November 2012), 90-91
- "On Crate Digging," Project Journal (August 15, 2012)
- "Rendered Hot And/Or Cool," in Clog: Rendering (August 2012), 74-75
- "Heroic Ordinarity," in Clog: Apple (February 2012), 62-63
- "Powerpoint Formalism," in Clog: Bjarke Ingels Group (October 2011), 38-39
- "A Matter of Opinion: A Conference at Ohio State," Constructs: Yale Architecture (Spring 2009)
- "Observation: On Low Resolution Urbanism," Log 12 (Spring–Summer 2008), 32

**Reviews**

- Exhibition Review, "1st Chicago Architecture Biennial: No Harm Done, Few Traces Left Behind," The Architectural Review (October 14, 2015)
- Book Review, "Life and Lawlessness in The Western Town," The Architectural Review (August 15, 2015)
- Exhibition Review, "Possible Mediums: Testing the Limits of Architectural Representation," The Architectural Review (April 2, 2014)
- Exhibition Review, "Air Rights: An Exhibit by Drone Research Lab," Archinect (October 18, 2013)

**Curating**

- Detroit Modernist Map (London: Blue Crow, 2019)
- Fuck Yeah Brutalism, Tumblr image archive, over 2500 daily posts and 220,000 followers (2010–2017)
- All You Can Eat: A Buffet of Architectural Ideas for Cleveland, The Sculpture Center, Cleveland, Ohio (October 2010)

**Presentations**

- "Organizational Signature: Norms and Forms in Late Twentieth Century US Architectural Practice," Architecture & Bureaucracy: Entangled Sites of Knowledge Production and Exchange, Brussels, Belgium, October 30–31, 2019
- "Logical Flow: Critical Path Construction Scheduling in the 1960s," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, April 25, 2019
- 2018 "Routinizing Through Rewrites: The Architect's Handbook, 1963-1988," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 20, 2018
- 2017 "Standardizing the Business of Building: Management and Marketing in The Architect's Handbook, 1963-1988," Standard Architecture: From Durand to BIM, Universität Kassel / Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt, Germany, October 20, 2017

- "Freedom and Flexibility: Gunnar Birkerts at Tougaloo College, 1965-67," 2017 Buell Dissertation Colloquium, Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, New York, April 1, 2017
- "Actual Center of Detroit: Decentralizing Tendencies in Albert Kahn's GM Building," Albert Kahn Research Symposium, Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan, March 3, 2017
- 2016 "The Interchangeability of Things: Museology and Ethnography in Three Works by Eduardo Paolozzi, 1979-1985," A Beautiful Role: Architecture and the Display of Art, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut, October 8, 2016
- "From Latourette to Neiman Marcus: On the Use and Disuse of Images in Architectural Criticism," Writing Buildings Conference, Kent School of Architecture, Canterbury, UK, July 15, 2016
- "A Groundbreaking Partnership," 5x5 Participatory Provocations Symposium, University of Illinois School of Architecture, Urbana, Illinois, February 15, 2016
- 2015 "Testing the Establishment – Gunnar Birkerts in 1960s Detroit," Research in Progress Series, IIT College of Architecture, Chicago, Illinois, November 5, 2015
- "'Decent and Suitable' Modules: The Politics of Construction Research in HUD's Operation Breakthrough, 1969-1974," Fifth International Conference on Construction History, Chicago, Illinois, June 6, 2015
- "A Brutal Context: Gunnar Birkerts at Tougaloo College, 1965-1972," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 15, 2015
- 2014 "Means Without Ends," What Criticism? Loeb Fellowship Symposium, Harvard Graduate School of Design, February 14, 2014

**Funding & Awards**

- Summer Research Grant (\$2750) awarded by Architecture Doctoral Studies, University of Michigan, 2018
- Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3000) awarded by Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, for dissertation chapter "The Introspective Professional: Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York," 2018
- Beverly and Ed Smith Scholarship (\$13700) awarded by Taubman College, University of Michigan, 2017-2018
- Summer Research Grant (\$1500) awarded by Architecture Doctoral Studies, University of Michigan, 2017
- Dissertation Writing Institute Fellowship (\$4000) awarded by Sweetland Center for Writing, University of Michigan, 2017
- Taubman College Doctoral Student Award, University of Michigan, 2016
- Summer Research Award (\$8000) awarded by Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, for "Gunnar Birkerts and the Heritage of European Modernism," 2016
- Summer Research Grant (\$1000) awarded by Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan, for "Gunnar Birkerts and the Heritage of European Modernism," 2016
- Summer Research Award (\$8000) awarded by Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, for "Protocols of Process & Expression: Professional Method at Gunnar Birkerts and Associates, 1960-1980," 2015
- Nathan and Marilyn Levine Architectural Research Fellowship (\$5700), awarded by Taubman College, University of Michigan, 2014
- Graduate Student Research Fellowship (\$3000) awarded by Bentley Historical Library, for "Projecting an Equal Future: Gunnar Birkerts at Tougaloo College, 1965-1972," 2013
- Honorable Mention, Coldscapes Competition, for "Glow," with David Craun, Ted Ferringer, and Hallie Delvillan of Bialosky Architects, 2013
- A. Alfred Taubman Scholarship (\$10000) awarded by Taubman College, University of Michigan, 2012-2013

**Events & Workshops**

"Enfilade Exquis: Collage," FAMU Architecture Week, Florida A&M University School of Architecture & Engineering Technology, March 21, 2018  
 Discussant and Moderator, On Location, Symposium, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, September 29, 2017

Researcher and Student Supervisor, The New Creativity, Design Workshop, Taubman College, University of Michigan, February 6-10, 2016  
 Architecture and Graphic Design Instructor, Summer Discovery, Ann Arbor, Michigan Musiker Discovery Programs Inc.  
 Master Teaching Artist in Architecture, ArtWorks Co-Op, Cleveland, Ohio  
 Young Audiences of Northeast Ohio (now Center for Arts-Inspired Learning)

**Exhibitions**

"A Groundbreaking Partnership," Architectural Model, 5x5: Participatory Provocations University of Illinois School of Architecture, Urbana, Illinois, February-March 2016  
 Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, Cleveland, Ohio, June-July 2016  
 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, October-November 2016  
 OMI International Arts Center, Ghent, New York, January-March 2017  
 Center for Architecture, New York, New York, July-October 2017  
 "FYB Housewares, ver. 2.1 (Bilderatlas)," Installation, Unfolding Pavilion, Casa alle Zattere, Venice, Italy, May 2016

**Press**

Anthony Paletta, "'5x5' Exhibition Proves Architects Can Still Tackle Thorny Political Issues," Metropolis (September 6, 2017)  
 Matt Davis and Teresa Foglia, "The Bay Is Brutal: A Love Letter To Concrete and Brutalism in the Bay Area," East Bay Express (March 2, 2017), 9-17  
 Ruth Lang, "Making Plans: 2016 Venice Biennale," coverage of Unfolding Pavilion exhibition, Architecture Today (June 2016), 8-10  
 Roman Mars, Avery Trufelman and Public Radio Exchange, "Episode 176: Hard to Love a Brute," 99% Invisible (August 11, 2015), Podcast  
 Julia Carpenter, "A complete history of 'F\*\*\* yeah' Tumblrs, the happiest blogs on the Web," The Washington Post (April 8, 2015)  
 "Design as Content / What is the State of Design Criticism?" Metropolis Magazine (August 2014)  
 Davide Tommaso Ferrando and Giovanni Benedetti, "Beyond Blogging: Fuck Yeah Brutalism," OII+ (March 25, 2014)  
 Christopher Beanland, "Concrete Buildings: Brutalist Beauty," The Independent (January 14, 2014)  
 Amery Calvelli and CJSW 90.9 FM, "#27: Two Good Books," Space + Place (September 3, 2013), Radio program  
 Vanessa Quirk, "Book Review: Brutalism / Clog," ArchDaily (March 26, 2013)  
 Tim Walsh, "Fuck Yeah Brutalism, Digital Architecture Media, and That 'Revival'," Unmaking Things (2013)

**Curriculum Vitae**     **Michael Abrahamson**

**Practice**

Designer, Thom Stauffer Architect, Kent, Ohio, March–July 2011  
Projects: Central Business District Urban Design RFP, Akron, Ohio; Woodside Residence Addition & Breezeway, Akron, Ohio; Office Renovation, Kent, Ohio  
Designer, Van Dyke Architects, Cleveland, Ohio, April 2009–July 2010  
Projects: Kent State Main Library - Programming, Design, Construction Documents; The Children’s Museum of Cleveland - Programming, Schematic Design; Cleveland Gateway Neighborhood Masterplan - Urban Design, Graphics  
Collaborator, Post-, Cleveland, Ohio, 2008-2012  
Selected Projects: “Museum and Pedestal,” AC-CA Buenos Aires Art Museum Competition (2012); “Perimeter Shift,” Fargo Urban Infill Competition (2010); “Bridge and Terrace,” Roanoke Urban Effect Competition (2008); “Detroit Shoreway Playspace,” Cleveland Design Competition (2008)

**References**

Claire Zimmerman  
Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture  
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning  
University of Michigan  
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109  
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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109  
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