

SETH DENIZEN

Washington University in St. Louis
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts
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EDUCATION

- 2019 University of California Berkeley | Geography
PhD Geography (*Filing Date: December 2019*)
Dissertation: *Five Soils and a Letter: profiles in the political ecology of Mexico City*
Committee: Michael Watts, Jake Kosek, Ivonne del Valle, Pheng Cheah
- 2012 University of Virginia | School of Architecture
Master of Landscape Architecture | University Olmsted Scholar Nominee
Thesis Project: *Urban Soil in the Anthropocene*
University of Virginia School of Architecture Fellowship 2009-2012
- 2007 McGill University | Faculty of Biology
Bachelor of Science | Dean's Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research List
Thesis Project: *Population, Predation, and Private Ultraviolet Signaling in Poecilia reticulata*
Laboratory Affiliation: Andrew Hendry Lab, Redpath Museum

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (fluent)

GRANTS

- 2020 SOM Foundation Research Prize (with Montserrat Bonvehí-Rosich and David Moreno Mateos)
Project: [The Right to the Sewage](#)
- 2018 UC MEXUS Student and Postdoctoral Research Grant
- 2017 The Gray Brechin and Robert Chlebowski Endowed Graduate Student Support Fund
- 2016 Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers | Bernard Nietchmann Grant
Project: The Vertical Geopolitics of 42 Centimeters in Iztapalapa, Mexico City
- 2014 University of Hong Kong | Faculty SEED-fund Grant | Principal Investigator
Project: *Mapping the Microbiome of Hong Kong*
Collaborators: Gianni Panagiotou (Biosystematics), David Baker (Ecology)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022- P Assistant Professor (TT) | Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts | Washington University in St. Louis
Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity Faculty Affiliate
Center for the Environment Faculty Affiliate
Seminar: Shared Ecologies and Design [LAND 304]
Studio: Ex Lago: The Desiccation of the Basin of Mexico [LAND 602]
Seminar: Landscape Representation II: Digital Tools [LAND 520]
- 2021-22 HMEI Princeton-Mellon Fellow in Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities | Princeton
Fellowship Co-Sponsor: [High Meadows Environmental Institute](#)
Seminar: Thinking Through Soil ENV 345
- 2019-21 Daniel Urban Kiley Fellow and Lecturer in Landscape Architecture | Harvard University
GSD 1112: Core Studio II
STU-1404: The Right to the Sewage Option Studio
Seminar: [Thinking Through Soil](#)
- 2016-17 Lecturer (Summer Session) | University of Virginia School of Architecture
Architectural Design, Graphics and Analysis I & II
- 2012-15 Lecturer | University of Hong Kong Division of Landscape Architecture
Planting and Ecology Curriculum Development, Coordinator
Ecology and Design, Coordinator [ARCH 7108]
Visual Communication, Coordinator [ARCH 2046]
Landscape Design Studio 2, Co-Coordinator [ARCH 2043]

EDITORIAL WORK

- 2014- P Editorial Board Member | Scapegoat Journal of Architecture, Landscape, and Political Economy
- 2024 Reviewer | Environmental Humanities
- 2019-20 Postdoctoral Fellow | [Office For Urbanization](#) | Harvard Graduate School of Design

TECHNICAL TRAINING

- 2016 Field Studies of Soils in California Ecosystems | University of California Davis | Coursework
- 2007 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) | Panama City, Panama | Internship

COMPETITION AWARDS

- 2024 Finalist | FAD Awards for Architecture and Interior Design | Three Landscape Essays: Mobile Ecosystems for Future Climates (Architects: Lluís Casanovas + Lys Villalba Landscape Design: Seth Denizen + Montserrat Bonvehi)
- 2014 Honorable Mention | Urban Urge Awards (with Bobbette+Kei)
- 2013 1st Prize | Out of Balance: Critique of the Present Competition by ARCH + Journal for Architecture and Urban Design and the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation

CONSULTING

- 2024 Wright-Ingraham Institute and Mountain Studies Institute
Nexus Of Land And Water: Southwest Initiative On Land Health And Water Resources

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

- 2024 Denizen, Seth, and Montserrat Bonvehi, *Thinking Through Soil: Wastewater Urbanism in the Mezquital Valley*, Harvard Design Press

Articles and Book Chapters

- 2024 Denizen, Seth, and Santiago Mota. *Suelos barrocos: Conversación con Seth Denizen*. Arquine, Núm. 108 Verano 2024, pg. 58-63.
- 2023 Denizen, Seth, and Montserrat Bonvehi, *The Desert We Eat*, Journal of Architectural Education, 77(2), 330–347. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10464883.2023.2233381>
- “Soils in Landscape Planning” *Encyclopedia of Soils in the Environment, 2nd Edition.*, Eds. Michael J. Goss, Margaret A. Oliver. Volume 3: Environment and Management, pg. 580-587. Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822974-3.00108-7>
- “Where Is the Earth in the Herbarium?” in *Maria Thereza Alves: Seeds of Change*. Ed. Carin Kuoni and Wilma Lukatsch. Co-published by Amherst College Press and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics, The New School. Designed by Common Name. 216 pages. <https://www.fulcrum.org/concern/monographs/dr26z097w?locale=en>
- 2022 Denizen, Seth, and Montserrat Bonvehi “Multifaceted Ecologies.” *FireCity/FireLand: Towards Regenerative Urbanism*, Volume 2. UCLA ArcDR3.
- 2021 Denizen, Seth, Montserrat Bonvehi, and Lluís Alexandre Casanovas [“El Cantalar: the New Mineral Kingdom” Competition Entry: Benissa Ideas 2021 Masterplan for Cala Advocat.](#) Publisher: KooZA/rch
- 2020 Denizen, Seth. “The Flora of Bombed Areas (an allegorical key),” in *The Botanical City*, by Matthew Gandy and Sandra Jasper (eds). Jovis: Berlin.
- 2019 Denizen, Seth. “Baroque Soil: Mexico City in the Aftermath,” in *Political Geology: Active Stratigraphies and the Making of Life*, by Adam Bobbette and Amy Donovan (eds). Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

Denizen, Seth and Qiu Rongliang. “Hybrid Landscapes: Ideas about Soil Chemistry and Urban Design from the United States and South China.” In *Field to Palette: Dialogues on Soil and Art in the Anthropocene*. Boca Raton: CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group

- 2018 Kang, K., Y. Ni, J. Li, L. Imamovic, C. Sarkar, M. D. Kobler, Y. Heshiki, T. Zheng, S. Kumari, J. C. Y. Wong, A. Archana, C. W. M. Wong, C. Dingle, S. Denizen, D. M. Baker, M. O. A. Sommer, C. J. Webster & G. Panagiotou. "The Environmental Exposures and Inner- and Intercity Traffic Flows of the Metro System May Contribute to the Skin Microbiome and Resistome." *Cell Reports*, 24, 1190-1202.e5.
- Denizen, Seth. "Landscape and Agency: Critical Essays." *The Journal of Architecture*, 23, 523-526.
- 2014 Denizen, Seth. "Getting Lost and Sending Letters: a report from the Anthropocene Curriculum." *LEAP International Art Magazine of Contemporary China*, Issue #30.
- Denizen, Seth. "Signs in the Desert." *Contingency Plans Exhibition Catalogue*. Shanghai Exhibition Center, pp. 14-16.
- Denizen, Seth. "In Defense of the Art Mall." *Field Notes 4: Exhibitions*. Asia Art Archive.
- 2013 Denizen, Seth. "Three Holes: In the Geological Present," in *Architecture in the Anthropocene: Encounters Among Design, Deep Time, Science and Philosophy*, by Etienne Turpin (ed). Open Humanities Press, pp. 29-46.
- 2013 Denizen, Seth. "Obituary for a Psychiatric Center and its Shopping Mall." *Scapegoat: Journal of Architecture, Landscape, and Political Economy*, Issue 05 (Excess): 318-326.
- Denizen, Seth, and Adam Bobbette. "It's All Here: Pardisan and Zoopolis." *Volume Issue #35 (Everything under Control)*: 25-30.
- 2012 Denizen, Seth; Bonvehi, Montserrat. "The Landscape We Eat," in *Food: An Atlas*, by Darin Jensen and Molly Roy (eds). Guerrilla Cartography and CAGE Lab, pp. 160-161.
- Denizen, Seth. "Holes in the Map." *Fulcrum*, Issue #53 (The Anthropocene). Architectural Association (AA).
- Denizen, Seth. "A Difference in Kind or of Degree?" in *Making the Geologic Now: Responses to Material Conditions of Contemporary Life*, by Elizabeth Ellsworth and Jamie Kruse (eds). Punctum Books.

Conference Papers

- 2024 **Keynote Lecture:** Aporias of Public Health in the World's Largest Sewage Farm | Pollutant, Antibiotic Resistance, and Pathogen Interactions in a Changing Wastewater Irrigation System | Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM) | Mexico City and Mezquital Valley, Mexico
- Keynote Lecture:** Soil, Dirt, and Design | SubTerrarium Conference | Aarhus School of Architecture | Aarhus, Denmark
- Soil in the Aftermath | Thinking From the Substrate | Max Planck Institute for the History of Science | Berlin, Germany
- Baroque Soil | Session: Epistemologies and Ontologies of Soil: Towards New Politics of Soil Knowledge | Centennial Celebration and Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences | Florence, Italy
- 2023 The Right to Sewage | Metabolism of Cities, 8th Annual Urban Soils Symposium | Urban Soils Institute | NYC
- Wastewater Urbanism | SUITMA 12 (Soils of Urban, Industrial, Traffic, Military and Mining Areas Conference, Working Group of the IUSS, International Union of Soil Sciences | Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- 2021 The Outline of the Soil | Soil Depths Symposium | Université libre de Bruxelles | Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 The Earth in the Herbarium | HOW ON EARTH? lecture series within the public program of the exhibition Verschwindende Vermächtnisse – Die Welt als Wald (Reassembling the Natural) at Tieranatomisches Theater, Humboldt University | Berlin
- Cosmopolitics of Representation in the Badianus Manuscript (1552) | Earth Writing Symposium, Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California Berkeley | Berkeley
- The Uncertain Animacy of Baroque Soils in Iztapalapa. | Association of American Geographers (AAG) | New Orleans

- 2017 The Ground Stands On Us | The Vera List Center Prize for Art and Politics 2016-2018: International Biennial Prize Conference, "The Ground We're Standing On." The New School, November 3, 2017 | New York
- The Uncertain Animacy of Baroque Soils in Iztapalapa | Political Geology Symposium | The University of Cambridge | United Kingdom
- 2016 Finding the Gap: Reading Dung Kai-cheung's Atlas after the Umbrella Movement | NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Nanyang Technological University | Singapore
- 2013 Urban Soil in the Anthropocene | Woltz Symposium | University of Virginia School of Architecture | Charlottesville, VA, USA
- 2012 Geopoetic Unconformities | Making the Geological Turn Symposium | University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning | Ann Arbor, MI

Published Drawings

- 2020 Dickinson, Elizabeth Evitts. "[Architecture, TRAP Laws, and the Battle Over Abortion.](#)" Architect Magazine: Journal of the American Institute of Architects, April 13. Republished again in 2021 by Actar Publishers [urbanNext](#) platform.
- 2013 Denizen, Seth. "Urban Soil in the Anthropocene: Taxonomy of the City." ARCH + Journal for Architecture and Urban Design, Issue #213 (Out of Balance): pp. 38-41.

Editorial Work

- 2018 Denizen, Seth and Marcin Kedzior (eds). *Issue 11: Life*. Scapegoat Journal of Architecture Landscape and Political Economy.
- 2015 Bobbette, Adam and Seth Denizen (eds). *Issue 08: The Weather*. Scapegoat Journal of Architecture Landscape and Political Economy.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS AT PUBLIC EVENTS

- 2024 Thinking through Soil: aporias of health in the world's largest sewage farm | Environmental Research Collaboration Series | Center for the Environment at Washington University in St. Louis | April 9
- 2023 Soil City and the Geology of Inequality in Saint Louis || Urban Pedology in St. Louis Missouri and East St. Louis Illinois: A search for Artesols Tour || Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) Conference | October 28
- Suelo / Terreno / Territorio / Tierra (Soil / Land / Territory / Earth) || Instituto de Geografía (Institute of Geography) | The National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, Mexico | February 8
- 2022 [Soil, Land, Fill](#) (with Vanessa Agard-Jones and Linda Chaves Baca) || Conversations on Architecture and Land In and Out of the Americas | The Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University, NYC | October 20
- The Right to the Sewage | SOM Foundation Summary Colloquium, Chicago | December 10
- 2021 Plural Ecologies || LUS Talks is hosted by the Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies at ETH Zurich | Switzerland | October. 26
- Returning to the Lacustrine City in La Ciudad de México || Princeton- Mellon Forum on the Urban Environment, with Dean Chahim and Vera Candiani | Princeton University | Sept. 22
- Lessons from the Mezquital || Aqua Incognita: Deciphering Liquid Territories in the Mexican Altiplano | Harvard University | September 9
- Botanizing the Asphalt || Workshops for the Whole Earth European Online Forum on Education-Oriented Design Making | Bauhaus Dessau Foundation | June 5
- 2021 Wastewater Urbanism || Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies, Network City and Landscape (NSL), ETH Zurich | March 15
- The Right to the Sewage || ArcDR3 Lecture Series @ xLAB, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design | January 29
- 2020 The Outline of the Critical Zone || Transboundary Geo-logics: Politics of the Atmosphere | Royal College of Art, Environmental Architecture Programme | London, UK | November 7.

- 2020 Thinking Through Soil: Case Study from the Mezquital Valley || Harvard University Graduate School of Design, [Kiley Fellow Lecture](#) | September 21.
- 2018 The Orang-orang and the Hutan: Architectures, Anthrosols, and other Medias of the Inhabited Forest || Royal College of Art, Environmental Architecture Programme | London, UK | November 8.
- Imagining the Landscape of Retreat: Exploratory Seminar at the Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University | November 1-2
- 2014 Anthropocene Curriculum || Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin Germany (HKW)
 “Signs in the Desert: Dust Sand and Desertification.” || Presentation for Contingency Plans: Or, Living with Unstable Grounds Exhibition Forum with Adam Bobbette, Seth Denizen, and Daan Roggeveen at the Shanghai Study Center | Shanghai, China | March 29.
- 2013 Who Does the Earth Think It Is, Now? || Emergent Evidence” Panel Discussion with Eyal Weizman and Seth Denizen at the Center for Research Architecture Goldsmiths University of London | London, UK | December 6.
- Measurement as Argument: Planetary Constructions, Post-Natural Histories, and the Will to Knowledge. || Presentation with Seth Denizen, Anna-Sophie Springer, and Etienne Turpin in the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment University of Westminster Expanded Territories Seminar | London, UK | December 5.
- The Treatment Mall and Other Contemporary Asylums. || Shanghai Study Center Book Launch for Scapegoat Issue 05: Excess | Shanghai, China | October

EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Soil Not Dirt || 6th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam (IABR).
- Seeing Pokfulam (with Melissa Cate Christ) || Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture Hong Kong
- Hong Kong Free School || Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism and Architecture Hong Kong
- Three Norths. Contingency Plans Exhibition || Shanghai Study Center.
- 2013 Urban Soil in the Anthropocene || ARCH+ Out of Balance Competition Exhibition | Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin Germany
- International Debt Cemetery (with Adam Bobbette) || Para Site Gallery Hong Kong
- 2012 Mapping the Spoils at Floyd Bennet Field || Dredge Fest Conference at Studio X, New York City
- 2010 The Projects: Port Credit (with Adam Bobbette) || University of Toronto Blackwood Gallery
- Fallow City: Detroit (with Berenika Boberska) || University of Virginia Ruffin Gallery, Woodbury University Hollywood Gallery
- 2009 Ishihara: il est daltonien Strip Mining for Creative Cities Exhibition || Toronto Free Gallery

BUILT ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

- 2023 [Three Landscape Essays: Mobile Ecosystems for Future Climates](#) (Architects: Lluís Casanovas + Lys Villalba, Landscape Design: Seth Denizen + Montserrat Bonvehi) || Conde Duque Contemporary Culture Center | Madrid, Spain
- 2012 Set Design || ‘Tis Pity She’s a Whore, John Ford | el Teatro Akademia, Barcelona, Spain
- 2011 Residence || Foam Dome Home | Virginia, USA
- Featured in:** Klein, Z., Leckart, S., Kalina, N., & Beaver Brook. (2015). *Cabin Porn*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.

WEBSITES

- Thinking Through Soil: <https://thinkingthroughsoil.studio>