

Matthew Allen

Curriculum Vitae — August 2024

Professional Appointments

- 2022-25 Visiting Assistant Professor, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University
- 2020-22 Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Pratt Institute
- 2011-19 Assistant Professor (Teaching Stream) and Lecturer, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto

Education

- 2019 Doctor of Philosophy, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
History and Theory of Architecture
Science, Technology, and Society (secondary field)
Advisors: Antoine Picon, K. Michael Hays, Catherine Ingraham, Molly Wright Steenson
- 2010 Master of Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
Advisors: Michael Meredith, Preston Scott Cohen
- 2006 Bachelor of Science (Physics), University of Washington
- 2006 Bachelor of Arts (Comparative History of Ideas), University of Washington

Books

- 2026 *Digital Postmodernism: The First Era of Parametric Architecture* (in preparation)
- 2023 *Flowcharting: From Abstractionism to Algorithmics in Art and Architecture* (gta Verlag)

Refereed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 2025 "Indigenous Architecture in the Socio-Technical Moment, or: Christopher Alexander goes to India," *The Combinatorial Imperative: Discourses and Practices of Architectural Modularity in the 20th century*, edited by Pablo Miranda and Jennifer Mack (forthcoming)
- 2024 "HOK-net: Corporate Architecture and the Emergence of the Global City," *Perspectives in Architecture and Urbanism* (forthcoming)
- 2023 "Gathering Effects: Structuralist Activity in *Form, 1966-69*," *Journal of Visual Art Practice* 23
- 2021 "The Genius of Bureaucracy: SOM's Hajj Terminal and Geiger Berger Associates' Form-Finding Software," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 80:4

- 2020 "Architecture becomes Programming: Invisible Technicians, Printouts, and Situated Theories in the 1960s," *The Figure of Knowledge: Conditioning Architectural Theory, 196X-199X*, edited by Sebastiaan Loosen, Rajesh Heynickx, and Hilde Heynen (Leuven University Press)
- 2019 "Imagining Architecture as a Form of Concrete Poetry," *Computer Architectures: Constructing the Common Ground, 1945-1980*, edited by Theodora Vardouli and Olga Touloumi (Routledge)
- 2016 "Representing Computer-Aided Design: Screenshots and the Interactive Computer circa 1960," *Perspectives on Science* 24:6
- 2015 "Compelled by the Diagram: Thinking through C. H. Waddington's Epigenetic Landscape," *Contemporaneity* Fall 2015

Journal Articles

- 2024 "Geometry without Geometers," *Avery Review*
- 2023 "The Right to Read," *Architecture Writing Workshop*
- 2022 "Undoing the Data Divide," *Log* 55
- 2022 "Down on Decon," *New York Review of Architecture* 32
- 2022 "Feeding Architecture," *CLOG Feeds*
- 2021 "Kaleidoscopic History," *lattice.space*
- 2020 "Arata Isozaki and the Invisible Technicians," *Revue de la pensee d'aujourd'hui* 48:3
- 2020 "Dichotomies and Impossible Demands," *PLAT* 9 (co-authored with Kian Hosseinnia)
- 2020 "Deconstructivist Architecture," *New York Review of Architecture* 12
- 2020 "The Touch of the Unknown," *Very Vary Veri* 4
- 2020 "The Pandemic and Digital Culture," *Harvard Design Magazine*
- 2019 "Mediating Architecture," *e-flux Architecture* (co-authored with Antonio Furguele)
- 2018 "Almost Nothing: Architecture's Subcultural Aesthetics," *See/Saw* 1
- 2018 "The Inner Life of Objects: Object-Oriented Architecture, Programming, and Ontology," *Scapegoat* 11
- 2018 "Computational Labor, Computational Aesthetics," *Project* 7
- 2018 "Drawing a Blank," *Archinect*
- 2017 "Architecture Pedagogy Today," *Archinect*
- 2016 "Arata Isozaki and the Invisible Technicians," *Canadian Centre for Architecture: Origins of the Digital*

- 2016 "Reflections on Transparency," *Disegno* 10
- 2016 "Gehry Toronto Remix," *Placeholder* Summer 2016 (co-authored by Sasha Bears)
- 2016 "The *American Graph* Fleeting Hologram," *Platform* 9
- 2015 "The Big Move," *Disegno* 9
- 2015 "Flying Buttresses," *Harvard Design Magazine* 40
- 2012 "In the Beginning," *OD* 1
- 2011 "Distsiplineeri End!" *MAJA: Estonian Architectural Review* April 2011
- 2007 "Speaking of the Contemporary..." *Hey You!* 2
- 2007 "Speculative Sensationalists," *Log* 10
- 2005 "Ad Hoc Urbanism," *Column* 519

Book Chapters

- 2024 "Concrete Abstraction," *Gail Peter Borden: Works*
- 2023 "A Simulated City," *Designing the Computational Image*, edited by Daniel Cardoso Llach and Theodora Vardouli (AR+D)
- 2020 "Globalizing, Expanding, Localizing, Situating: A Plan for an Architectural Theory Revival," *Theory's Curriculum*, edited by Joseph Bedford (Architecture Exchange)
- 2017 "Subtractive Urbanism: The Morphology/Ideology Homology," *Architecture is All Over*, edited by Marrikka Trotter and Esther Choi (Columbia Books on Architecture and the City) (illustrations by Cyrus Penarroyo)
- 2016 "The Screenshot Aesthetic," *MOS: Selected Works* (Princeton Architectural Press)
- 2010 "Control Yourself! Lifestyle Curation in the Work of Sejima and Nishizawa," *Architecture at the Edge of Everything Else*, edited by Esther Choi and Marrikka Trotter (MIT Press)

Edited Volumes & Special Issues

- 2023 *Skyline* 116: The Fumoscene
- 2022 *Skyline* 68: Plan It Out
- 2022 *Skyline* 55: Housing Crunch
- 2020 *New York Review of Architecture* 17: The Future

Reviews & Interviews

- 2024 "Design Vanguard: Sher Maker," *Architectural Record* June 2024

- 2024 "A Triumph of Adaptive Reuse," *Architectural Record* May 2024
- 2024 "Machine Learning," review of *Beyond Digital* (Mario Carpo), *New York Review of Architecture* 40
- 2022 "Oozing Feeling," interview with Peter Eisenman re: Christopher Alexander, *New York Review of Architecture* 29
- 2022 "Environmental Justice, Energy Infrastructure, Migration and War: What Role Does Design Play in Mitigating a Crisis?," *GSD Design News*
- 2022 "SCOPE and EaaSI: Software Emulation and the Future of Architectural History," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 81:1
- 2022 Review of *Inscriptions: Architecture Before Speech* (Andrew Holder and K. Michael Hays), *New York Review of Architecture* 27
- 2021 "Assemble: Relational Architecture," *Harvard Design Magazine* 49
- 2021 "Rethinking Tourism," *GSD Design News*
- 2021 "Reality Bits," review of BITS at a83, *The Architect's Newspaper*
- 2021 "Landscape Disaster and Recovery," *GSD Design News*
- 2021 "Designing for Disability Justice," *GSD Design News*
- 2020 Interview with Kim Stanley Robinson, *New York Review of Architecture* 17
- 2020 "Hidden Territories: Uncovering the racist legacy of the American landscape," *GSD Design News*
- 2020 Review of *Is there an Object-Oriented Architecture? Engaging Graham Harman* (edited by Joseph Bedford), *Architectural Histories*
- 2020 "A Life Well Lived," review of *The Museum is Not Enough* (edited by Giovanna Borasi, Albert Ferré, Francesco Garutti, Jayne Kelley, and Mirko Zardini), *The Architect's Newspaper*
- 2020 Review of *Instabilities and Potentialities: Notes on the Nature of Knowledge in Digital Architecture* (edited by Chandler Ahrens and Aaron Sprecher), *Journal of Architectural Education*
- 2019 "Death of the Genius," interview with Charles Shafaieh, *Harvard Design Magazine Digital Platform*
- 2019 Review of *Politics of Aesthetics* and *Designing Social Equality* (edited by Mark Foster Gage), *Constructs* September 2019
- 2018 "Stranger Thoughts," review of *Log 42: Disorienting Phenomenology* (edited by Bryan Norwood), *Avery Review* 34 (co-authored with Kian Hosseinnia)

- 2018 "The Computational Imagination," review of *Designing the Computational Image*, *Imagining Computational Design* at the Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University (curated by Daniel Cardoso Llach), *Leonardo* 51:4
- 2017 Interview with students in history and philosophy of science, *Almagest* 3
- 2017 Review of *Archaeology of the Digital: Complexity and Contradiction* at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (curated by Greg Lynn), *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 76:2
- 2017 "Post-Digital Microcosms," review of architecture, architectural, and Architecture at the A+D Museum in Los Angeles (curated by Anthony Morey and Ryan Tyler Martinez), *Architect*
- 2015 "Artificial Natures," interview with George Church, *Harvard Design Magazine* 40
- 2014 "Architecture's Struggle with Authorship," review of *The Alphabet and the Algorithm* by Mario Carpo, *Reviews in Cultural Theory* 5.1
- 2013 Review of *Archaeology of the Digital* at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (curated by Greg Lynn), *Domus* May 2013
- 2013 Review of *Archive of Affinities* (Andrew Kovacs), *Project* April 2013
- 2013 "Seeing Double," review of Parrish Art Museum (Herzog & de Meuron), *Domus* January 2013
- 2012 "An Empathetic Twist," review of Absolute Towers (MAD), *Domus* Nov 2012

Conference Papers

- 2025 "CAD in the Garden: Charles Moore, Parametrics, and Action Language," 2025 Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) Annual Conference (forthcoming)
- 2024 "HOK-net: Corporate Architecture and the Emergence of the Global City," 2024 European Architectural History Network (EAHN) International Conference
- 2022 "Gathering Effects: Structuralist Activity and Zero Degrees," Degree Zero, Brussels Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta
- 2022 "Computing Ugliness: Eisenman vs. Alexander, ca. 1982," Drawing Bias, Goethe University Frankfurt
- 2021 "Digital Labor: Stories of Architectural Production at the Margins," Digital Now: Architecture and Intersectionality, Canadian Centre for Architecture
- 2019 "Architectural Subcultures and the Ethics of Commitment," 2019 Architectural Humanities Research Association (AHRA) Annual Conference
- 2019 "Architects, Educators, and the Looming Heaps of Data," 2019 Association of Architecture School Librarians (AASL) Annual Conference

- 2018 "The Science of Ideology Critique: Fredric Jameson and Architecture Theory in America," 2018 History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Conference
- 2018 "Data Dread and Architectural Criticism," 2018 European Architectural History Network (EAHN) International Conference
- 2018 "Design without Genius: Computers, Engineers & SOM's Hajj Terminal," 2018 Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) Annual Conference
- 2017 "Architecture and the Algorithm, or: What happens when abstract art meets concrete poetry?" 2017 Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Conference
- 2017 "Architecture becomes Programming: invisible technicians and local theories in the late 1960s," Theory's History 196X-199X, KU Leuven
- 2016 "Postmodernist Parametrics: How architecture became non-representational," Image Here, Harvard University
- 2015 "Circulation between architecture and computer programming circa 1970, or: Allen Bernholtz moves to Ottawa," 2015 Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association (CSTHA) Annual Conference
- 2014 "Equivocating Diagrams: the many epistemic virtues in C H Waddington's images and arguments," Debating Visual Knowledge, University of Pittsburgh
- 2014 "The Screenshot as Medium and Model: Sketchpad and the Myth of Computation circa 1962," 2014 College Art Association (CAA) Annual Conference
- 2013 "Building Characters," OP-City, University of Toronto
- 2013 "1.7 Million Years of Modernity: Deep History, the Brain, and the Experience of Architecture," Savannah Symposium: Modernities across Time and Space, SCAD

Awards & Grants

- 2021 "The Digital Now: Architecture and Intersectionality," Andrew W. Mellon Foundation & the Canadian Centre for Architecture (second round)
- 2020 Exchange Grant, University College London & University of Toronto
- 2018 Merit Research Fellowship, Harvard University
- 2016 Collection Research Grant, Canadian Centre for Architecture
- 2015 Canada-Brazil Research Grant, University of Toronto
- 2013 Connection Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- 2012 Working Group Grant, Jackman Humanities Institute

- 2009 Clifford Wong Prize in Housing Design, Harvard University
- 2009 What's Your Problem?, Gehry Technologies

Invited Talks

- 2024 "Affect," Architecture Exchange Dialogues
- 2024 "Systems of Abundance: Degrowth and Architecture," Emory University
- 2023 "Less is More: Flowcharting Abundance after Neoliberalism," Virginia Tech
- 2023 "Systems We Have Loved," Warehouse for Architecture and Research
- 2023 "Design in the Era of Big Data," INDA
- 2023 "Inscriptions: Expanded Fields of Post-Digital Practice," Virginia Tech
- 2022 "Postmodernist Parametrics," Royal Danish Academy
- 2022 "Architecture's Bureaucracy Problem," Washington University
- 2022 "Media Archaeology and Design Technics," SAH Method Acts
- 2021 "Immaterial Tools: Modern to Postmodern and Back Again," Aarhus University
- 2021 "Invisible Labor and Architectural History," Washington University
- 2021 "How has the internet changed HTC?," HTC Dialogues
- 2021 "What is HTC?," HTC Dialogues
- 2021 "Who's Afraid of Heaps? Data Overload and the History of Architecture," École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)
- 2021 "Object-Oriented Architecture?" Harvard University
- 2021 "Foundations of AI in Architecture: Abstraction and Anonymity," Harvard University
- 2020 "The Indifference Debate," Virginia Tech
- 2020 "Software Loopholes: Reconfiguring Architectural Labor Hierarchies," Carnegie Mellon University
- 2020 "Algorithms for Architecture," Harvard University
- 2019 "Mediating Theory," *Theory's Curriculum*, e-flux Architecture
- 2019 "Object-Oriented Architecture/Programming/Ontology," University of Toronto
- 2018 "Marshall McLuhan's Spaceship," University of Toronto
- 2018 "Software (Re)Use Cases: Architectural History," Digital Preservation Coalition and Software Preservation Network

- 2017 "Towards a Critical Postdigital Architecture," McGill University
- 2017 "Expanded Archives of Digital Culture," Designing the Future Landscape: Digital Architecture, Design & Engineering Assets, Library of Congress and National Gallery of Art
- 2017 "Charisma and the Cardiff Bay Opera House," Harvard University
- 2015 "The Future of Parametric Architecture," Dalian Institute of Design
- 2014 "Representing Representation," Harvard University
- 2012 "The Screenshot Aesthetic," University of Toronto
- 2012 "Mediums," Harvard University
- 2011 "Motives for Architecture," University of Minnesota
- 2011 "Tactical Parametrics," Ohio State University Campus Talks
- 2009 "Stubborn Urbanism and Active Preservation," Harvard University
- 2007 "Speed and Imitation in Chinese Architecture," Harvard University

Symposia Organized

- 2025 A Theory of Signs: Contemporary Architecture in China, Washington University
- 2024 Learning from AI, Washington University
- 2019 The Future of the Library: Architectural Information in a Post-Digital Era, November 21, Harvard University (co-organized with Ann Whiteside)
- 2019 Other Histories of the Digital, April 1-2, Harvard University (co-organized with Christina Shivers and Phillip Denny)
- 2016 Bound and Unbound: The Sites of Utopia, April 14-15, Harvard University (co-organized with Aleksandr Bierig, Maria Atuesta, Manuel Lopez Segura, and Tamer Elshayal)
- 2014 Architecture, Starting with the Brain, March 7-8, University of Toronto

Conference Panels Organized

- 2023 AI and Design: The Machinic Muse, Washington University (co-organized with Constance Vale)
- 2019 "Computation in the Core: Critical Pedagogies," 2019 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Annual Conference
- 2014 "Deep History: Physiology, Cognitive Science, and Architecture," 2014 Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) Annual Conference

Exhibitions Curated

- 2018 "Nine Canonical Screenshots," Research Wall, Harvard University (joint exhibition with Jonah Ross-Marrs)
- 2016 "'Tell me about a Rhino command:' software and architecture culture," Research Wall, Harvard University
- 2014 "When the GSD Designed Software: experiments in computer vision, 1965-1991," Special Collections Gallery, Harvard University
- 2014 "Animating the Archive: representing the changing technical regimes in a decade of GSD student work," Loeb Gallery, Harvard University

Exhibitions, Work Included

- 2018 Impermanent Collection, A+D Museum, Los Angeles
- 2017 architecture, architectural, & Architecture, A+D Museum, Los Angeles
- 2016 Anachronometrics, Loeb Gallery, Harvard University
- 2009 International Architectural Education Summit Exhibition, Tokyo
- 2009 "A System for Active Preservation," Dean's Wall, Harvard University (solo exhibition)
- 2009 GSD Platform 09, Gund Hall Gallery, Harvard University
- 2009 Studioworks, Gund Hall Gallery, Harvard University

Curatorial Positions

- 2014-18 Research Wall exhibition space, Harvard University (co-curated with Irene Chin in 2014-15 and Anthony Morey in 2016-17)
- 2008-09 Minor Movements lecture series, Harvard University
- 2006 Positions lecture series, Harvard University

Workshops Convened

- 2024 Architecture Exchange Dialogues, Season 1 (with Joseph Bedford)
- 2020 Building for Tomorrow Forum (Digital Preservation)
- 2018 Building for Tomorrow Forum (Digital Preservation)
- 2012 Neurophenomenology and Architecture Working Group, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto

Professional Experience

2012-15 Agent Architects (Co-Founder and Principal) (Toronto and Bangkok)

2009-11 Preston Scott Cohen (Boston)

2009-10 MOS (New York)

2008 SsD Architecture (Boston)

2007-08 Exhibitions and Publications (Editorial Assistant), Graduate School of Design, Harvard University

2007 urbanDATA (Shanghai)

Service to Profession

Boards: Architecture Exchange, New York Review of Architecture, Building for Tomorrow Forum

Invited Studio Juries: Harvard University, MIT, UCLA, Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, SCI-Arc, Syracuse University, University at Buffalo, University of Waterloo, University of Southern California, University of Pennsylvania, Ryerson University, Thammasat University, Virginia Tech, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Woodbury University, Washington University, Pratt Institute, INDA

Manuscript Reviews: *JAE*, *arg*, *ACSA*, *Thresholds*, *DeSForM19*, Routledge (Research in Design, Technology, and Society series)

Departmental & University Service

Sam Fox School, Washington University: Exhibitions Committee (chair), Lectures Committee, History/Theory Committee

University of Toronto Faculty Association: Executive Committee, Salary Benefits Pensions and Workload Negotiating Team, Sexual Violence Policy Negotiating Team, Teaching Stream Committee, Membership Committee, Appointments Committee, Nominating Committee, Constitutional Review Committee

Daniels Faculty of Architecture, University of Toronto: Curriculum Committee, Admissions Committee

School of Architecture, University of Waterloo: Social and Environmental Justice Working Group