

## **SEAN KELLER**

Assistant Professor, Architectural History and Theory  
College of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology  
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## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Harvard University, Architecture, 2005.

Diss.: "Systems Aesthetics: Architectural Theory at the University of Cambridge, 1960-75."  
(K. Michael Hays, Hashim Sarkis, Peter Galison, advisors.)

M. Arch., Princeton University, School of Architecture, 1994.

B.A. *cum laude*, Princeton University, School of Architecture, 1992.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Forthcoming: Research Fellow, *Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie, Bauhaus-Universität, Weimar*, 2012.

Winterhouse Award for Design Writing and Criticism, Winterhouse Institute and AIGA, 2009.

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Production and Presentation Grant for the symposium *What Next? Projecting Futures for Architecture*, 2008.

Eliot Fellowship, Harvard University, 2003-4.

Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship, Harvard University, 2001-2.

Francois Valery Scholarship, Princeton University School of Architecture and Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Fontainebleau, 1993.

## **TEACHING POSITIONS**

Assistant Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology, College of Architecture, 2007-present.

Visiting Lecturer, Yale University, Department of the History of Art, 2006-7.

Director of Architecture, Career Discovery Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 2000-2.

Teaching Fellow; Harvard, Yale, and Princeton Universities; various courses; faculty include: Christine Boyer, Sarah Williams Goldhagen, K. Michael Hays, Sandy Isenstadt, Neil Levine, and Hashim Sarkis; 1993-2002.

## **ARTICLES**

Forthcoming: "The Anxieties of Autonomy: Eisenman from Cambridge to House VI" in *Atomic Dwelling: Anxiety, Domesticity, and Postwar Architecture*, ed. Robin Schuldenfrei (New York: Routledge, 2011).

Forthcoming: "Beauty, Genius, and Epigenesis: The Kantian Aesthetics of Computational Architecture," *Journal of Architectural Education*, (2012).

Forthcoming: "Drafting Dodgers," *Zeitschrift für Medien- und Kulturforschung* 1/2012 (January 2012), theme issue on drafting.

Forthcoming: "Process Errors," *Perspecta: The Yale Architectural Journal* 46: *Error*, ed. Joseph Clarke, Zachary Heineman, and Emma Bloomfield (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2013).

Forthcoming: catalogue essay on the work of artist Heather Rowe, University of Michigan Museum of Art (2013).

"Playing the Field: On Computational Architecture and Postwar Abstraction," *Artforum* (Summer 2011): 376-81.

"Liam Gillick," *Artforum* (April 2010): 188-189.

"Well-tempered Piano" [on the museums of Renzo Piano], *Artforum* (Summer 2009): 304-311.

"Navigating Systems" [on R. Buckminster Fuller], *Artforum* (November 2008): 282-294.

"Bidden City" [on the Beijing Olympics], *Artforum* (Summer 2008): 137-142.

"Systems Aesthetics, or How Cambridge Solved Architecture" in *Architecture and Authorship: Studies in Disciplinary Remediation*, ed. Rolf Hughes, Katja Grillner, and Tim Anstey (London: Black Dog Publications, 2007): 156-163.

"Behind the Curtain" [on renovating Crown Hall and the Yale University Art Gallery], *Artforum* (February 2007): 101-2.

"Fenland Tech: Architectural Science in Postwar Cambridge," *Grey Room* 23 (Spring 2006): 40-65.

"10283EFE0F02 or the Seagram Building" in *The Art of Architecture/The Science of Architecture*, ed. Renata Hejduk, and Harry Van Oudenallen (Proceedings of the ACSA Annual Meeting: 2005): 298-309.

## **SHORT ESSAYS, REVIEWS AND PUBLISHED PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

Preview of "OMA / Progress," an exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery, London, *Artforum* (September 2011).

Preview of "Frank Lloyd Wright: Organic Architecture for the 21st Century," an exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum, *Artforum* (January 2011).

"Stephen Holl" and "Bernard Tschumi," *Grove Encyclopedia of American Art*, Oxford University Press, 2010.

Preview of "Van Doesburg and the International Avant-Garde: Constructing a New World," an exhibition at Tate Modern, London, *Artforum* (January 2010).

"Five Points for Post-Industrial Re-Use," panel discussion, *Envisioning the Bloomingdale: Chicago Architecture Club Journal* 8 (2009).

Preview of "Radical Nature—Art & Architecture for a Changing Planet, 1969-2009," an exhibition at the Barbican Art Gallery, London, *Artforum* (Summer 2009).

“Expertise,” panel discussion, *ptah* [Journal of the Alvar Aalto Academy], December 2008.

“What Would Kant Think?” [on the architecture of Gramazio+Kohler] in *Digital Materiality in Architecture* (Baden: Lars Müller, 2008).

Preview of "Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner," an exhibition at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, *Artforum* (May 2008).

Preview of "Le Corbusier: Art and Architecture—A Life of Creativity," an exhibition at the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, *Artforum* (Summer 2007).

"The Formal Basis of Modern Architecture," *Constructs* 9, no. 2 (Yale School of Architecture: Spring 2007): 17. Review of *The Formal Basis of Modern Architecture*, Peter Eisenman.

“Classes Worth Attending,” *Yale Daily News*, 18 April, 2006. My class *Architecture Since 1945* recommended as one of six classes for admitted prospective students.

“Spatial Psychology,” *Art Journal* 60 (Winter 2001): 109-110. Review of *Warped Space: Art, Architecture, and Anxiety in Modern Culture*, Anthony Vidler.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Forthcoming: paper for *Vor-Bildlichkeit*, a conference at Eikones, National Centre of Competence in Research, University of Basel, December 2011.

Forthcoming: "The Politics of Form Finding," *Whose Participation? Spaces of Interaction in Contemporary Art and Architecture*, Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture, ETH, Zurich, December 2011.

“Resurfacing History: Munich’s *Olympiapark* and the Rhetoric of German Postwar Architecture,” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Oakland, October 2010.

“The Genius of Algorithms,” *[architecture] in the age of [digital] reproduction*, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture West Central Fall Conference, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, October 2008.

"Numerical Beauty: Algorithmic Architecture and the Kantian Split," *Building, Designing, Thinking: Third International Alvar Aalto Meeting on Modern Architecture*, Alvar Aalto Academy, Jyväskylä, Finland, August 2008.

“Systems Aesthetics, or How Cambridge Solved Architecture,” *Architecture and Authorship*, symposium, KTH [Royal Institute of Technology] School of Architecture, Stockholm, Sweden, February 2008.

"Naturalized Constructions: The Rhetoric and Realization of Frei Otto's Minimal Surfaces," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, April 2007.

“10283EFE0F02 or the Seagram Building” for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2005.

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Session Chair, "Automatism, or, Post-Medium Architecture and Post-War Art," Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, 100th Annual Meeting: *Digital Aptitudes*, Boston, March 2012.

Conference Organizer, *What Next? Projecting Futures for Architecture*, IIT College of Architecture, Chicago, October 2009. Funded by a grant from the Graham Foundation.

Moderator and respondent, *Testing Ground* symposium, Harvard University Graduate School of Design and MIT Department of Architecture, 1999.

## INVITED TALKS

Forthcoming: "Systemic Art, Systemic Architecture," part of the series *Postmodern Architecture In Dialogue With Other Arts*, Institute of Art History, University of Basel, December 2011.

"The Decadent Historicism of Robert A.M. Stern," Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, board of trustees meeting, December 2010.

"Antinomic Beauty: Architectural Aesthetics in the Age of Computation," Smart Lecture Series, Department of Art History, University of Chicago, November 2010.

"Computational Beauty: The Kantian Aesthetics of Contemporary Architecture," Stanford University, Department of Art and Art History, March 2010.

"Munich '72: Behind the Surfaces of *Olympiapark*," De Paul University, Department of Art History, March 2010.

"Computing with Kant," Princeton University, School of Architecture, February 2010.

"The State of the Art: Specificity," Chicago Architectural Club, November 2009.

"Mies and After: The IIT Campus," lecture and tour for faculty and students of the IIT Law School, October 2009; lecture and tour for the study group of Prof. Dr. Hans Dickel, Institut für Kunstgeschichte, Friedrich-Alexander Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, September 2009.

"Sailing Spaceship Earth: Buckminster Fuller's Environmentalism," Chicago Architecture Foundation and Columbia College's *Critical Encounters* program, April 2009.

"Dymaxion Man: Buckminster Fuller in the Twenty-First Century," Arts Club of Chicago, March 2009.

"Munich '72: Olympic Architecture and Rhetoric," College of Architecture lecture series, Illinois Institute of Technology, March 2009.

"Regarding Buckminster Fuller," with Stanley Tigerman, Museum of Contemporary Art and the Graham Foundation, Chicago, February 2009.

"Party Games: Beijing's Olympic Architecture," Arts Club of Chicago, October 2008.

"Munich '72," Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal, August 2008.

"Patterns and Networks," guest lecture for *Contemporary Architectural Theory*, Prof. Peter Eisenman, Yale School of Architecture, April 2007.

Panelist, *Envisioning the Bloomingdale*, Chicago Architectural Club, I-Space Gallery, Chicago, March 2008.

Respondent, "Deborah Gans, Organism: Bridging the Gap between Architecture and Engineering," *Proseminar Series*, IIT College of Architecture, February 2008.

"Munich '72: The Surfaces of *Olympiapark*," Work in Progress Series, Yale University, Department of the History of Art, February 2007.

"Reopening Kahn," talk and gallery tour of the renovated Yale University Art Gallery as a benefit for the Edith B. Jackson Childcare Center, New Haven, January 2007.

"Recent Work and Its Context," Smith College, Department of Art, December 2006.

"Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century," guest lecture for *Building Modern Society*, Prof. Sandy Isenstadt, Yale University Department of the History of Art, October 2002.

"The Role of Theory in Contemporary Art and Architecture," Institut für Theorie und Kunst, Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Zürich, June 2002.

## **INTERVIEWS FOR TELEVISION, RADIO AND PRINT**

Bethany Hubbard, "Windy City Soars Sky-High," *Medill Reports*, Northwestern University, 12 April 2011. Article and audio slideshow. Article appeared in the *Northwest Indiana Times*, 4 May 2011.

Lydia Lee, "Random Acts of Architecture," *Metropolis*, August, 2010. Interview for article on the work of Ogrydziak/Prillinger Architects.

Interview for a segment on the renaming of the Sears Tower, *Evening News*, NBC5, Chicago, 13 March 2009.

Jerome McDonnell, host, "The Ethics of Building for the Olympics," *Worldview*, WBEZ Chicago Public Radio (also broadcast on XM Satellite Radio), 19 August 2008. Interview.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Semi-Automatic: Motivating Architecture After Modernism*, book.

*Munich '72*, book (with Christine Mehring).

## **SERVICE TO FOUNDATIONS**

Board of Trustees, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, 2011-present.

Board of Directors, Chicago Architectural Club, 2010-present.

Chicago Architecture Foundation, Advisory Committee and Participant for *One Nation, Under Construction*, broadcast program awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Planning Grant (\$40,000), 2010.

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Review Panelist, Carter Manny Award, 2009/11.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Architecture, IIT, ongoing.

Strategic Plan Assessment Advisory Board, IIT, 2011-present.

Curriculum Committee, IIT College of Architecture, 2010-present. Lead for subcommittee on architectural history and theory. Subcommittee for graduate curriculum revisions, 2008-9.

Faculty Appointments and Retention Committee, IIT College of Architecture, 2007-2010.

Faculty Councilor to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, IIT, 2008-10.

Graduate Admissions Committee, IIT College of Architecture, 2008-present.

Graham Resource Center [Library] Committee, IIT College of Architecture, 2007-present.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees, IIT College of Architecture; 2 completed, 3 in progress.

Masters Project Advisor, Chris Phillips, Award of Excellence, IIT College of Architecture 2011.

Graduate Student Open House presentations, IIT College of Architecture, 2008-present.

Committee to select the student commencement speaker, IIT, 2011.

Manuscript Referee, University of Chicago Press, 2010-11.

Master of Environmental Design thesis reviews, Yale University School of Architecture, 2001/ 2006.

Reader, undergraduate theses, Yale University, Department of the History of Art, 2006.

Graduate Fellow, Rockefeller College, Princeton University, 1993-4.

## **ARCHITECTURE STUDIO REVIEWS**

IIT College of Architecture, graduate and undergraduate reviews, 2007-present.

Yale University School of Architecture, graduate and undergraduate reviews, 2002-7; 2011.

University of Pennsylvania School of Design, graduate review, 2006.

Wesleyan University, undergraduate review, 2005/2007.

Rhode Island School of Design, undergraduate thesis review, 2000.

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, graduate reviews, 1997-2000.

## **ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE**

Independent practice, residential architecture, 1997-2005.

Joel Sanders Architect, New York, 1991. Design team for the Kyle Residence, which was included in the NY MoMA *Light Architecture* exhibition and received awards from *Progressive Architecture* and *Japan Architecture*. Responsible for construction of the project model now in the collection of NY MoMA.