



GUTKNECHT
CONSTRUCTION

June 11, 2021

AIA Ohio
400 W. Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 120
Worthington, OH 43084

RE: Emerging Professional Award Recommendation

Dear AIA Jury:

Please accept this letter of nomination for Matthew Teismann for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. I first met Matthew in 2016 when I hired him as Director of Design at MKC Architects. Matthew made very strong initial impressions on me. Our preliminary conversations came at a busy and difficult time for him. He had just moved back to the United States from teaching architecture in Australia, and was also trying to resituate his family. In spite of his busy schedule, I was enamored with his confidence in both his work and ability. His unwavering commitment was unquestionable. The quality of his work undeniable.

During my time at MKC Architects, I worked closely with Matthew on numerous projects - from complex student housing projects to urban framework plans. His ability to quickly shift between scales is a talent I seek in young architects. Moreover, Matthew's leadership in both academia and practice offers an excellent historical and theoretical schema for the particular complexity of our profession in the 21st-century. His past work and current research make a compelling point about progressive architectural programs that explore domesticity through practical, communal, and cultural viewpoints. Having mentored many emerging professionals at the numerous architecture firms for which I have practiced, I understand the characteristics of young design talent and leadership that transcend practice. Matthew exudes them.

Perhaps my favorite quality of Matthew, however, is his steadfast altruism. He is open, personable, and giving with his time and energy for others. Matthew joined the AIA Columbus leadership team in 2016 as Co-chair of the Committee of Design. After three years he left this position to serve on the Board of Directors - a move I strongly supported. As current President of MKC Architects, Matthew encourages the growth of his younger staff - orchestrating social and community events for MKC Architects and the AIA Columbus Chapter. Matthew was integral in past award-winning submissions to the AIA Columbus Architecture Awards, leading small teams in the concept and completion of 'Graffiato' and 'Sophronia,' his most recent submissions to the Lego high-rise competition held annually by the AIA Columbus. Matthew has unlimited potential.

Inherent to Matthew and his work as a young architect, these qualities are reason for me to enthusiastically recommend Matthew Teismann for the Emerging Professional Award. I fully endorse his application without hesitation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Meegan, AIA, LEED AP
Principal Architect Gutknecht Construction
AIA Ohio, Secretary, 2021



AIA Ohio
Attn: AIA Ohio Awards Committee
400 W. Wilson Bridge Rd., Ste 120
Worthington, OH 43085

June 10, 2021

Dear Awards Committee,

It is an honor and a joy to pen a letter of support for Matthew Teismann, AIA, for the AIA Ohio Emerging Professionals Award. Over the past four years, I have gotten to know Matthew professionally and personally. I have always been impressed with his breadth of knowledge, experience, and creativity. He has become a colleague, trusted advisor, and friend. I always value his candor and perspective.

Matthew especially shines as a designer. In just a few years practicing in Columbus he has won two AIA Columbus Architecture Awards—one for "BadSeed House" an off the grid house for a family of three and the Madonna University Felician Heritage and Welcome Center. The BadSeed House, one of my favorites, is extremely interesting as it is embedded within the earth. It utilizes passive design strategies, making it entirely self-sufficient. The project is 99.9% toxin-free. Matthew was lead designer for both projects.

Matthew is a natural leader. Of no surprise to me, Matthew is now President of MKC Architects, a 15-person firm which is one of the oldest continuously operating firms in Ohio. He is working to reposition the firm, fusing experienced staff with an insurgence of young, energetic staff to form an innovative delivery system while also mentoring the next generation of leaders. Recently, he was able to manage the firm through the challenges of the pandemic, while also relocating their offices from the suburbs to downtown Columbus.

Matthew is not just a leader in his firm but also within AIA Columbus. Matthew has served on the AIA Columbus Board of Directors since 2019 and was co-chair of the Committee on Design from 2017 to 2019. During his tenure, he pushed the Committee to consider marginalized voices for juries and jury chairs. Matthew clearly understood representation was critically important in terms of diversity and inclusion. Not just one year, but all three years the committee selected jury chairs from underrepresented populations in the profession. Even today the legacy of diversity continues for the Committee on Design. Matthew deserves much credit for setting a new direction for the Committee. As a Board Member, Matthew brings a unique perspective to the discussions—something I always appreciate. I attribute this to his global experiences in the industry in Ireland, Australia, Italy, and Indonesia and his variety of teaching positions at no less than five institutions.

Clearly, Matthew's resume speaks for itself. I, along with the Board of Directors, strongly support Matthew's submission for this award. Matthew is a remarkable person who has accomplished so much as an emerging professional. I cannot think of a more deserving person.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth McLaughlin-Krile".

Elizabeth McLaughlin-Krile, CAE
Executive Director

AIA Columbus
50 W. Town St.
Ste. 110
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 580 4432

www.aiacolumbus.org

MEET MATTHEW:

Practice Based Research



Matthew Teismann is a registered architect with over 10 years of practice experience whose research focuses on history and philosophy of design, in particular spatial ontology. Teismann attended Kansas State University and Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and has previously taught design studios and history and theory at Kent State University (KSU), University of Technology Sydney (UTS), and Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

He has published on topics such as the space of globalism, geopolitical spatial encounters, and counterculture architecture.

Teismann has studied, practiced, and lectured in the US and Europe. In 2014 he was awarded a grant from the Harvard Kennedy School's Indonesia Program for his project '(Architecture) Without Origins' to analyze cultural and social estrangement in outlying societies on the island of Nias, Indonesia. His peer-reviewed published work in architecture journals includes 'Impossible Friendship,' 'Futureless,' and 'Anti-Haptic

Experience: a critical analysis of the role of the sense of touch.' This work and others led him to co-found Lantern journal in 2012.

His thesis completed at Harvard Graduate School of Design titled *The Inverted View: Spheres, Mirrors, and Architectural Allegory in the Monster Globe*, develops a global model of cartography, narrative, and spatial conception that redefines perception through a hidden architectural impulse. Matthew has published numerous sections of 'The Inverted View,' and presented his findings at conferences in Serbia and the United States.

Matthew's work spans not only geographical borders, but also traditional expectations. As an emerging professional, Matthew has received accolades for his work and ideas in both academia and practice. As such, this application highlights Matthew's achievements in all (4) four of the criteria: Design // Leadership in Practice // Leadership in Education // Service. Through his service to communities - both architecture and society - Matthew has expanded what it means to be an architect in the 21-century.

EXHIBIT 1: ACHIEVEMENTS



Matthew Teismann AIA

Role

President

Education

Master of Design Studies, 2015
Harvard University GSD

BArch. 2007 Kansas State University

Registration

Architect: Ohio
+ 4 Other States

Practice

MKC Architects	Columbus
President	Ohio, 2016-Present
LIONarchitecture	Columbus
Founding Partner	Ohio, 2010-19
StudioTechné Architects	Cleveland
Project Designer	Ohio, 2011-13
Murray O'Laoire Architects	Dublin
Project Designer	Ireland, 2007-10

Publications

'Living Within the Absurd: Albert Camus and Social Estrangement,' in Alessandra Gola, Ashika Singh and Anamica Singh (eds.), *Displacement & Domesticity since 1945*: Leuven: KU Leuven [2017]

'An Ideological City: Koolhaas' Exodus in the Second Ecumene,' *Joelho 08* [2018]

'An Emerging International: The Imperial Gaze of the Monster Globe in 1851' *Fabrications 27:1* [2017]

'The Inverted View: Of Crystals, Mirrors, & Globes,' *Radical Space in Between Disciplines Conference Proceedings* [2015]

'The Impossible Friendship' *PLOT Revista_30*

'Futureless,' *KTISMA: University of Oregon Department of Architecture Journal*, 1.1 [2012]

'Imagination's Shadow: perception, conception, and (un)known in architecture' *Lantern Journal* [2012]

'Anti-Haptic Experience: Critical Analysis of the Role of the Sense of Touch,' *Oz Architecture Journal_vol 30* [2008]

Notable Projects

BrightPath Active Learning Center [2020]

Madonna University Welcome Center [2015-Present]



AIA Merit Award, Columbus Design Awards [2017]

BadSeed House at Urbavore Farm [2012]



AIA Merit Award, Columbus Design Awards [2019]

AIA Award Winner, Monsters of Design Kansas City

Urban Green-House Project [2012]

Top Selected Project: D3 Natural Systems Competition

Dendrite

Winner: LAND-Studio Sculpture Competition [2012-2014]

Affiliations



AIA Columbus, Board of Directors

2019-Present



AIA Columbus, Chair of Committee of Design

2015-19

Lantern Journal Co-founder and Design Editor

2012-15

Honors and Awards

Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program: Research Grant Award 2014



AIA Monsters of Design: Best Unbuilt Project

2012

Product Runway Award: Best in Show

2011



AIA Henry Adams Certificate of Excellence

2007



AIA / AAF Scholastic Award in the Field of Architecture

2005

Presentations

Vernacular Architecture Forum: A Shared Heritage, Urban and Rural Experience on the Banks of the Potomac Alexandria Virginia, 2018

'Architecture Without Origins'

Society of Architecture Historians [SAH] Annual Conference 2018 St. Paul Minnesota, 2018

'The Inverted Sphere: Birth of the Georama'

Le Corbusier: What Moves Us? Conference Aarhus School of Architecture Aarhus Denmark, 2015

'Closed Hands: Disembodiment in Le Corbusier's Postwar Paintings'

Radical Space In Between Disciplines Conference Novi Sad Serbia, 2015
Scen Centre for Scene Design, Architecture and Technology, University of Novi Sad

'The Inverted View: Of Crystals, Mirrors, & Globes'



AIAS Special Lecture, Kansas State University APDesign

Manhattan Kansas 2014

'Non-Operational Architecture: Meta-Phenomenology and the (Un)known'

Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Cambridge Mass. 2014

'Redesigning Cities: Well-being, Identity and History'

[in]Arch Conference: Interiority and Interior Architecture, Universitas Indonesia Jakarta Indonesia, 2014

'Inner Territories: Capacious Geometries in Space and Mind'

Teaching

Ohio State University Columbus Ohio, 2018

Adjunct Professor

University of Technology Sydney Sydney Australia, 2015-16

Subject Coordinator // Lecturer

Rhode Island School of Design [RISD] Providence Rhode Island, 2014

Adjunct Professor

Kent State University Kent Ohio, 2012

Adjunct Professor

Leadership Positions

University of Technology Sydney DAB Faculty Board Member Cambridge Mass, 2013-2015

Academic Administration Committee

Open Letters, Distribution Manager Cambridge Mass, 2013-2015
Student Publication Harvard University Graduate School of Design

EXHIBIT 2: DESIGN

Practice-Based Research.

From my first architectural internship in New York City in 2005, Matthew's career spans 16-years. The ambition of my research is to probe artistic and architectural thought relative to design theory, ontological psychology, and cultural identity. The pieces of work I produce are a theoretical and practical approach to understanding social implications and their integration with human experience through architecture.



BadSeed House @ Urbavore Farms

Location: Kansas City, Missouri

Completion Date: 2017

Project Size: 800 s.f. // \$85,000

Awards: Monsters of Design - Best Unbuilt Project [2012]



AIA Columbus Merit Award - Project Innovation [2019]

The 800 sf house is submerged into the earth, and utilizes passive design strategies - making it entirely self-sufficient. The first of its kind in Kansas City, the farm is entirely off-grid, and is self-sufficient in power, water, and waste, and also includes a greenhouse and barn. In 2017 PBS featured the BadSeed House in a documentary about urban farming. The show highlights some of the challenges of the project from its inception through completion.

BrightPath Active Learning

Location: Westerville, Ohio

Completion Date: 2020

Project Size: 6,500 s.f. // \$1.5m

A primary design driver of BrightPath is efficiency through modularity. Pre-engineered, the building regularity creates a rhythm and sequence of 'function-modules' that connect in different configurations to create smaller or larger spaces. Two buildings connected with a glass entrance, this scheme most readily represents a farmstead - a multi-functional // multi-textural ensemble. The building is conducive to multiple-phases.



Madonna University Welcome Center

Location: Livonia, Michigan

Expected Completion Date: 2021

Project Size: 33,000 s.f. // \$10.2m

Awards: AIA Columbus Merit Award - Unbuilt Project [2017]



The University desired a contemporary welcome center - the first visit for all incoming students - while the nuns were looking for something steeped in history and a site where their order could take a pilgrims journey. Based on historical research, this modern interpretation of the St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral weds exhibit spaces, archival facilities, institutional outreach offices, and places of leisure - all organized around a central cloister.

M.A.R.S. [Manufacturing And Research System]

Location: Valles Marineris, Mars

Expected Completion Date: 2085

Project Size: 50,000 square meters

Project Cost: \$12b

M.A.R.S. is a fully functional system that inherently produces its own means of existence. Drilling, mining, and production facilities on-site create the raw materials [iron / marscrete] to build the buildings. M.A.R.S., therefore, also provides habitation spaces for three botanists [vegetation production] and two geologists [mining].



EXHIBIT 3: LEADERSHIP IN PRACTICE:

Helping Others Grow.

I have worked at MKC Architects for 5 years. During this time period I have been fortunate enough to guide and mentor dozens of students and young architects in the early phases of their careers. Each one of them is different. As I taught them, they too taught me. Through publications, design charrettes, and conferences, I am happy that many of these young minds will look back at their time at MKC with reverence.



MKC Architects President

Matthew was hired by MKC Architects in 2016 as Director of Design. He set out to transform the struggling firm, to meet the demands of today's clients in a most dramatic fashion. He embraced technology like never before. He took a fresh approach to our staffing needs by fusing an experienced staff with an insurgence of young/energetic/talented group of individuals to form a truly lean/innovative delivery system. A simple notion, traditional at its core, but one that allowed MKC to serve a diverse client base and mentor future leaders in the architectural field. Resulting from his guidance, Matthew was promoted to Principal & Director of Architecture in 2019, and recently made President of the firm in 2021.

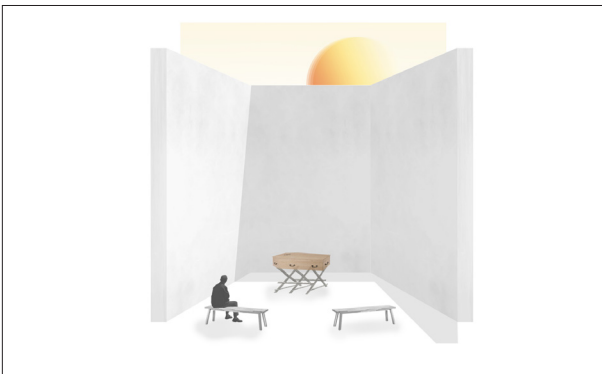
Mentorship

A primary aspect of MKC Architects is the firm's leadership in mentoring young designers. Annually MKC brings on 1-2 high-school students from Olantangy Orange's STEM program. These students show initial promise in the architecture and engineering profession, and are considering it for their collegiate studies. Moreover, MKC annually hires 1-2 interns from local architecture schools, in particular Kent State and Ohio State Universities. Matthew, as primary supervisor to the young students, encourages growth through collaboration.



Conferences and Publications

Stemming from his background in academia, Matthew brings critical theory into his practice. Since joining MKC, Matthew has presented at four different international conferences, and published in 3 peer-reviewed journals. Most recently, Matthew presented research on Displacement and Domesticity in Belgium. This research was a collaborative effort with a young designer from MKC Architects, Rachel Ghindea, and focused on the writings of Albert Camus. Its aim was to illustrate how people - when removed from their 'home' - tend to detach themselves from an understanding of their environments, abstracting reality into simple forms and mass.



Lantern Journal

In 2012, Matthew Co-Founded Lantern Journal - an online journal publishing myriad forms of art in digital form: poetry, short fiction, essays, images, music, and architecture. The journal was interested in thought, expression, and connection. It aimed to value work for its strength of character and for its contribution to a whole that seeks something better. Each issue was themed, and work that viewed these creatively or destructively, literally or figuratively, were encouraged. Matthew served as editor until the journal's end in 2015

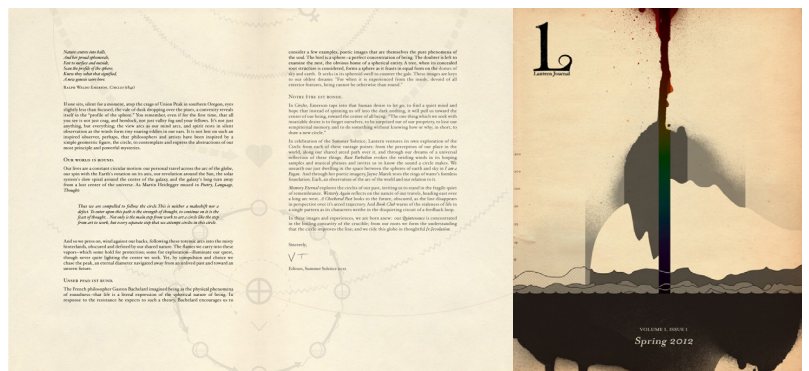
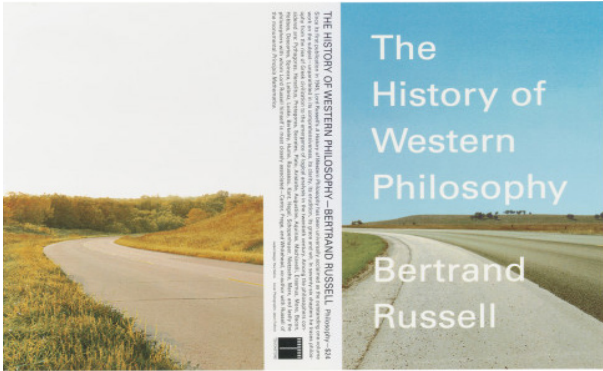


EXHIBIT 4: LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Architecture as Idea.

I have taught architecture studios, seminars, and theory on two different continents and five different universities - where I received excellent evaluations from students and faculty alike. Independently and collectively, I prepared syllabi, design briefs, and lectures. During this time I encouraged students to think critically with regard architecture: design, materials and craft, and theories of space.

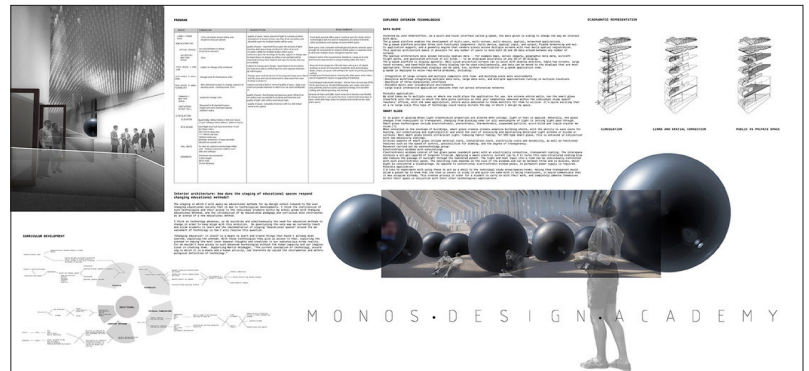


Harvard Graduate School of Design [GSD]

During Winter Intercession at Harvard, Matthew created and taught a course for students at the GSD. The course introduced major philosophical movements in Western Philosophy from the Rousseau to Karl Marx. Titled 'An Abbreviated History of Western Philosophy', was intended for those with intermediate knowledge of the major philosophers and philosophical problems. This course focused on foundational issues, such as Kant's Sublime and Hegel's Dialectic. Why, according to Kant, do human beings have a different kind of value, which is incomparably greater than the sort of value than inanimate things or even plants or non-human animals? What are the modern implications of Marx's conception of Aesthetics, or Rousseau's Social Contract?

University of Technology Sydney [UTS]

During his time teaching at UTS, Matthew exhibited leadership in multiple ways. In addition to teaching, he was subject coordinator for 2nd-year students, a role in which he developed the studio program, lecture series, and end-of-year exhibition. Titled 'Inhabitations,' his lecture series [re]-examined modern housing projects using philosophy, sociology, and critical theory. Moreover, Matthew served on the faculty board as an officer. He also organized the school's lecture series - which included inviting and scheduling guests, as well as designing the posters.



Charrette This!

While teaching at UTS Matthew developed and executed the Charrette This! student architecture competition. Charrette This! was a 36-hour design challenge between teams of 1-3 students working on an actual international design competition. The top five teams received a financial award. The project brief for the competition was kept secret until the opening of the challenge. At the conclusion of the challenge, teams presented their projects to a local jury with an award ceremony immediately following. Make no doubt, the effort was be intense, the projects were provocative, and the outcomes radically unexpected.

Borders, Power, Space

In 2015 Matthew led a group of 15 architecture students from UTS on a 2-week study abroad trip to Ireland & Northern Ireland. The Ireland Global Studio provided a rich and cultural diverse experience for students, who collaborated with interior designers and architects in a two-part immersive studio. This studio was of particular relevance with the current migrant crisis in Central Europe. We asked questions like, how do religious and political differences manifest themselves spatially? How do borders restrict, but also create liminality?



EXHIBIT 5: SERVICE

Leadership in the Community.

Since returning to Ohio in 2016, I have focused some of my time and energy in community engagement. Through service to the AIA Columbus, as well as local and international communities, it is my aim to give back what I have been so fortunate to have gained in my career. Below are some of the initiatives that I have undertaken to these ends.



AIA Committee on Design

As Co-Chair of the Committee on Design, Matthew led two initiatives annually: jury selection and themed tours. Matthew developed the themed tour program titled '[Re]Visiting the House', which included three house tours that focused chronologically on sub-themes of the house over the last one hundred years: spatial planning, materials & fabrication, and lifestyle. [Re]Visiting the House will conclude with design lecture from AIA Award-Winning Horton Harper Architects, who debated the future of the house - both architecturally and discursively. In an era of capricious hyper form-making, a revisiting of the house as a vessel of living may shed some light on the importance of returning to a once proud architectural construct.

AIA Board of Directors

Matthew has served on the AIA Columbus Board of Directors since 2019, and is planning on joining the Executive Committee in 2022. His aim on the Board of Directors is to encourage younger voices to have say in the architectural profession. Through community outreach initiatives, Matthew's goal is to increase membership, retention, and participation of younger and associate members. Moreover, Matthew helped guide the chapter through financial restructuring and the Covid-19 pandemic.



Nicholas Bittner,
AIA
Director
BOT Architects & Designers



Laurie Gunzelman,
AIA
Director
GUNZELMAN architecture & interiors



Melissa Olson, AIA
Director
Burns & McDonnell



Erin Reilly-Sanders,
AIA
Director
Schoolley Caldwell



Matthew Teismann,
AIA
Director
MKC Architects



Jerome Scott, AIA
Director
Jerome M. Scott Architects



Parking Day

Each year MKC Architects, under the guidance of Matthew, design and construct an installation for Parking Day [ASLA]. Their 2020 installation proposed an alternative perspective on flexible spaces amid the Covid-19 Pandemic. Outdoor working, much like all activities outdoor, is in high demand as employees begin returning to the office. Organizations are implementing a range of measures to help create safe workplaces - and to help employees feel safe. Outdoor work spaces are often used for eating your lunch, taking a break, or making a private phone call. But why cant we rethink these spaces and use them as a solution for this critical moment in history. MKC's 2020 installation was featured on the front page of the Columbus Dispatch.

Without Origins Research Grant

In 2014 Matthew was awarded a prestigious research / travel grant by the Harvard Kennedy School Indonesia Program to study how cultural and social estrangement in remote Indonesia has been influenced by the disappearance of deeply rooted and rich architectural heritage. My investigation aimed to articulate a broader discourse that will not only enable architecture to address the cultural crisis of the larger social field within which it is embedded, but also to map and document the impact on social identity from post-colonial architecture itself.

