

SHARON IRISH

Research Scholar
School of Architecture
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DEGREES

- 1985 PhD, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
Art History
- 1982 MA, Northwestern University. Evanston, Illinois
Art History
- 1976 BA, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico
cum laude in Art, *magna cum laude* in General Studies

CURRENT TITLES

Research Scholar, School of Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1985-

Community Informatics Initiative Project Coordinator, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2007-

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

- 2007-2008, Assistant Director, Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices Collaborative, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2003, Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture
- 2001, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2000-2001, Fellow, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 1998; 1993-1995 and 1986-1987, Visiting Assistant Professor, Program on Art History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 1997, Visiting Lecturer, History of Architecture and Art Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 1996, Assistant Professor, Extramural Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

1987-1988, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

1984, Instructor, University College, Northwestern University, Chicago Campus

1983-1984, Lecturer, History of Art and Architecture Department, University of Illinois at Chicago

1982, 1981, Lecturer, Art History Department, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

AWARDS

2008, Creative Research Award, College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2000-2001, Fellowship, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

1982-1983, Dissertation Year Fellowship, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

1982-1983, Fellowship, Howard Phalin Foundation for Graduate Study, Chicago

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

***invited**

*Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House Centennial, New York, New York, February 15, 2007, "Cass Gilbert as Interloper"

Building in the Public Realm, Savannah College of Art and Design, February 8-10, 2007, Savannah, Georgia, "Convergence: The IDS Center and 'The Crystal Quilt' Project"

Three Cities Conference, "New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: Cultures and Representations II," April 3-4, 2003, University of Nottingham, England, "City as Palette: Los Angeles and Chicago in the Work of Suzanne Lacy"

*"Exploring Jane Addams" Conference, University of Dayton, Ohio, November 8-9, 2002, "Rocking Chicago in Service to Women: Suzanne Lacy's Full Circle Project"

Participant in critics' panel on Suzanne Lacy's project, "Code 33," June 9, 2001, Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco, California

"Producing Cities/Consuming Cities," Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, April 1, 2001, Urbana, Illinois, "Modulating the Miesian Modernism of Chicago's Civic Center"

"The Politics of Space," Women's Caucus for Art, February 26, 2001, Chicago, Illinois, "Layers

in the Loop”

*Cass Gilbert Symposium at The New-York Historical Society, New York City, October 14, 2000, “Beyond Modern Traditionalism: The Architecture of Cass Gilbert in the Twentieth Century”

*Cass Gilbert Society Lecture, April 25, 2000, St. Paul, Minnesota, “Beyond Modern Traditionalism: The Architecture of Cass Gilbert in the Twentieth Century”

*Herbert M. Greene Lecture at School of Architecture, University of Texas, April 21, 2000, Austin, Texas, “Beyond Modern Traditionalism: The Architecture of Cass Gilbert in the Twentieth Century”

*National Building Museum, September 7, 1999, Washington, D.C., “Cass Gilbert, Architect: Traditional Forms for the Modern Age”

*School of Planning and Architecture, April 6, 1999, New Delhi, India, “From Palm Prints to the Open Hand: Thoughts on History and Architecture in India”

*“Cass Gilbert, Life and Work: From Regional to National Architect” Conference, November 13-14, 1998, New York City, “Cass Gilbert’s Brooklyn Army Terminal”

Crossing Boundaries in Practice/Forum on Built Form and Culture Research, October 15, 1993, Cincinnati, Ohio, “Physical Spaces and Public Life”

*St. Louis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, October 13, 1991, St. Louis, Missouri, “The St. Louis Art Museum and Perpetual Discovery”

*Wabash College, October 16, 1985, Crawfordsville, Indiana, “The University of Chicago Gothic: A Pseudo-Event”

Buell Talks on American Architecture, Columbia University, April 13, 1985, New York City, “Cass Gilbert’s West Street Building”

Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, April 1985, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, “Cass Gilbert, Halsey Cooley Ives and the Saint Louis Art Museum”

Goodson Symposium on American Art, Whitney Museum, April 21, 1980, New York City, “Reinforced Concrete Structures by Frank Bone and their Relation to Later Architectural Designs”

Victorian Society in America, “Transatlantic Connections,” 1979, Washington, D.C., “J.W. Mould’s Central Park Terrace”

GRANTS

2003-2005, University of Illinois Research Board, “The Embodied Art of Suzanne Lacy”

2000-2001, University of Illinois Research Board, “Layers in the Loop: ‘Full Circle’ by Suzanne

Lacy”

1993, University of Illinois Research Board, “Documentation of Full Circle by Suzanne Lacy”

1991-1992, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, “Cass Gilbert in Minnesota”

1985-1987, University of Illinois Research Board, “The Career of Cass Gilbert, Architect”

1985, James J. Hill Fellowship, J.J. Hill Reference Library, St. Paul, Minnesota, “Hill as a Patron of Cass Gilbert”

PUBLICATIONS:

Books

Spaces Between: The Art of Suzanne Lacy. [under contract at University of Minnesota Press]

Cass Gilbert, Architect: Modern Traditionalist. New York: Monacelli Press, 1999. *(invited)*
Winner of David Gebhard Book Award of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, 2000; Winner of Publication Award, Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, 2000; Finalist, Minnesota Center for the Book Award in History, 2000

Reviewed in:

Stanley Abercrombie, “Review of Cass Gilbert, Architect: Modern Traditionalist,” Interior Design 70:12(October 1999): 128.

Federico Bucci, “L’America tra modernita e tradizione,” Domus no. 830(October 2000): 2-3.

Elizabeth Collins Cromley, “Review of George B. Post, Architect and Cass Gilbert, Architect: Modern Traditionalist,” Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 59:3(September 2000): 389-93.

Richard Longstreth, “Review of Cass Gilbert, Architect: Modern Traditionalist,” American Studies International 38:3(October 2000): 131.

D.C. Ward, “Review of Cass Gilbert, Architect: Modern Traditionalist,” Archives of American Art Journal 40:3-4(2000): 39-42.

Edward N. Kaufman and Sharon L. Irish. Medievalism: An Annotated Bibliography of Recent Research in the Architecture and Art of Britain and North America. New York: Garland Publishing, 1988.

Reviewed in:

American Book Review Annual 20(1989): 360.

CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries 26(April 1989): 1305.

Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 49:1(March 1990): 112-13.

Reference and Research Book News 3(October 1988): 21.

TLS: Times Literary Supplement (June 16, 1989): 676.

Edited Volume

Special Issue of Technology and Culture: Essays in Honor of Carl Condit 30(April 1989).

Book Chapters

“‘Great Gray Buildings’: The United States Army Supply Base in Brooklyn, New York.” Pp. 163-174. In Cass Gilbert, Life and Work: Architect of the Public Domain. Edited by Barbara S. Christen and Steven Flanders. New York: W.W. Norton, 2001. (*invited*)

“Cass Gilbert in Practice, 1884-1934.” Pp. 1-34. In Inventing the Skyline: The Architecture of Cass Gilbert. Edited by Margaret Heilbrun and Mary Beth Betts. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000. (*invited*)

Articles in Journals and Encyclopedias

“Preservation, Polemics and Power,” Technology and Culture 49:1(January 2008): 202-214. (*invited*)

Critical Spatial Practices Group [Nicholas Brown, Ryan Griffis, Kevin Hamilton, Sharon Irish, Sarah Kanouse]. “What Makes Justice Spatial? What Makes Spaces Just? Three Interviews on the Concept of Spatial Justice.” Critical Planning 14(2007): 6-27. (*refereed*)

“Shadows in the Garden: ‘The Dark Madonna’ Project by Suzanne Lacy.” Landscape Journal 26:1(Spring 2007): 98-115. (*refereed*)

“Skyscrapers.” Encyclopedia of American Urban History. Pp. 724-726. Volume 2. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2007.

“Awareness through Movement: Anish Kapoor’s ‘Cloudgate’ in Chicago.” Senses and Society 1(March 2006): 97-99. (*invited*)

“Tenant to Tenant: The Art of Talking with Strangers [on Stephen Willats].” Places 16.3 (2004): 61-67.

“Intimacy and Monumentality in Chandigarh, North India: Le Corbusier’s Capitol Complex and Nek Chand Saini’s Rock Garden.” Journal of Aesthetic Education 38(Summer 2004): 105-15. (*invited*)

"New York City Skyline, about 1915." Technology and Culture 43(January 2002). (*invited*)

Biographical entries on Charles Ellet, Jr.; John Gaw Meem; Paul Starrett; William A. Starrett; and Thomas E. Tallmadge. In American National Biography. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

"Memorial: Carl W. Condit (1914-1997)." Technology and Culture 38(October 1997): 1026-1030. (*invited*)

"Physical Spaces and Public Life." Nordic Journal of Architectural Research 4(1994): 25-34.

"West Hails East: Cass Gilbert in Minnesota." Minnesota History 53/5(Spring 1993): 196-207. (*refereed*)

"Introduction to Essays in Honor of Carl Condit." Technology and Culture 30(April 1989): 249-254.

"A 'Machine that Makes the Land Pay': The West Street Building in New York." Technology and Culture 30(April 1989): 376-397. (*refereed*)

"Can the Law Save Beauty?" Update on Law-Related Education 7(Winter 1983): 26-29, 63-64.

"Beaux-Arts Teamwork in an American Architectural Office: Cass Gilbert's Entry in the New York Custom House Competition." New Mexico Studies in the Fine Arts 7(1982): 10-13.

Exhibition

Guest Curator, "From Site to Insight: The Design and Renovation of Cass Gilbert's United States Custom House," Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, New York City, October 8, 1998 to February 7, 1999

Conference Proceedings

"What Might a Polluted Creek Teach Us about Architecture?" In Design for the Environment/Proceedings of the 1995 ACSA West Central Regional Conference (October 1995): 79-84.

Doctoral Thesis

"Cass Gilbert's Career in New York, 1899-1905," Northwestern University, 1985
Advisors: David Van Zanten; Carl Condit

Book Reviews

The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City by Carl Smith. Technology and Culture 49:1(January 2008): 279-280. *(invited)*

The Digital City: The American Metropolis and Information Technology by Michel S. Laguerre. Technology and Culture 47:4(October 2006): 850-851.

Chicago Architecture: Histories, Revisions, Alternatives edited by Charles Waldheim and Katerina Rüedi Ray. Technology and Culture. 47:3(July 2006): 663-65. *(invited)*

The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories edited by Roberta Moudry. Technology and Culture. 47:2(April 2006): 431-433. *(invited)*

Engineering Architecture: The Vision of Fazlur R. Khan by Yasmin Sabina Khan. Technology and Culture 46:3(July 2005): 633-634. *(invited)*

“Corporate Architecture: Review of Tower and Office by Iñaki Ábalos and Juan Herreros; The Organizational Complex by Reinhold Martin; and The Chicago Tribune Tower Competition by Katherine Solomonson.” Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 64(March 2005): 123-126. *(invited)*

Big Plans: The Allure and Folly of Urban Design by Kenneth Kolson. Technology and Culture 44:1(January 2003): 212-14. *(invited)*

The American Statehouse: Interpreting Democracy’s Temples by Charles Goodsell. Journal of the American Planning Association 68(Winter 2002): 115-6. *(invited)*

The Fireproof Building: Technology and Public Safety in the Nineteenth-Century City by Sara Wermiel. Technology and Culture 42:2(April 2001): 359-361. *(invited)*

“Paradise Sold [Review of Visions of Paradise: Glimpses of our Landscape’s Legacy by John Warfield Simpson].” Design Book Review 43(Fall 2000): 92-95. *(invited)*

From Craft to Profession: The Practice of Architecture in Nineteenth-Century America by Mary N. Woods. Technology and Culture 41:3(July 2000): 590-91. *(invited)*

Building Lives: Constructing Rites and Passages by Neil Harris.” H-URBAN@H-NET.MSU.EDU (January 2000) *(invited)*

The Architecture of Additions: Design and Regulation by Paul Spencer Byard. Design Book Review 40(Fall 1999): 72-74.

Minnesota Architect: The Life and Work of Clarence H. Johnston by Paul Clifford Larson. Minnesota History 56/1(Spring 1998): 44-45. *(invited)*

The Architects and the City: Holabird and Roche of Chicago, 1880-1918 by Robert Bruegmann.

H-URBAN@H-NET.MSU.EDU (January 1998) *(invited)*

“The Sky's the Limit [Reviews of Carol Willis, Form follows Finance, Sarah B. Landau and Carl Condit, Rise of the New York Skyscraper, and John Tauranac, The Empire State Building].” Design Book Review 39(1997): 62-64. *(invited)*

The American Courthouse: Planning and Design for the Judicial Process. Judges' Journal 22(Winter 1983): 33, 35, 50. *(invited)*

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Public Service

Team member on “Living on the Prairie,” an interdisciplinary, interactive website and outreach program to central Illinois secondary school teachers, funded by the Silicon, Carbon, Culture initiative, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2002-04

Commissioner, Urbana Historic Preservation Commission, 2000-2003

Consultant, G.G. Heye Center of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Docent-Trainer and Interpreter for tours of the United States Custom House, June and November, 1998

Steering Committee Member, “Full Circle: Monuments to Women,” A Project by Suzanne Lacy, Chicago, 1993

Service to Professional Societies

Member, Nominating Committee, Society of Architectural Historians, 2006-08

Manuscript reviewer, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, 2008

Session Chair, “Architectures of (Un)be)longing,” Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA, April 2006 with invited discussant, Michel Laguerre

Editorial Board member, eTC (online forum on issues of technological concern), 2005-

Reviews Editor for H-Urban, 2004-

Advisory Editor, Technology and Culture: The International Quarterly of the Society for the History of Technology, 2001-

Panel Organizer, “The Politics of Space,” Women’s Caucus for Art, February 26, 2001, Chicago, Illinois

Session Chair, "Political Uses of Built Space," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 29, 1994

Session Chair, "Claiming Space," Crossing Boundaries in Practice/Forum on Built Form and Culture Research, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 15, 1993

Session Chair, "Writing the History of Chicago and Its Buildings," Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 15, 1988

University Service

Co-organizer and participant, Race, Space and Law Reading Group, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2008-

Co-organizer and participant, Critical Spatial Practices Reading Group, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2006-08

Coordinator (Fall 2005, 2006-07) and participant, Critical Studies of Whiteness Reading Group, Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Spring 2003-2008

Discussant, Warhol Foundation Panel: Sexuality, Gender and the Nation, "American Art Histories and Transdisciplinary Practices" conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 20, 2007

Discussant, "Imagining Bodies: Visions of the Nation through Race, Gender, and Space" Symposium, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, March 16, 2006

Organizer for lectures by Faith Wilding, Performance, Art Institute of Chicago, March 2004 and Moira Roth, Trefethen Professor of Art History, Mills College, Oakland, California, October 2005

Discussant, "Constructing Race: The Built Environment, Minoritization, and Racism in the United States," symposium at University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, March 6, 2004

Organizer and coordinator of "Arts and Humanities in Civic Life" Reading Group, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, including a 10-day visit to campus of artist Suzanne Lacy (November 2001) and co-organizer of Institute of Planning and Zoning, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, April 2002

Participant in design reviews for Professors Michael Andrejasich, Lynne Dearborn, David Hays, Joy Malnar, Henry Plummer, and James Warfield, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1987-2008

Reader for UIUC Landscape Architecture department, thesis committees of Matthew Hannon (2007), Alison Krohn (1988)