

## **MATTHEW A. COHEN, Ph.D.**

Professor of Architecture, Washington State University

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### **EDUCATION**

**Leiden University, Faculty of Humanities**, Ph.D. in Architectural History, 2010.

**Harvard University Graduate School of Design**, Master in Architecture, 1994, with distinction.

**Syracuse University**, Master of Arts (Renaissance Art), 1988.

**University of Vermont**, Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, 1983.

### **TEACHING APPOINTMENTS**

August 2003–Present

**School of Design and Construction, Washington State University**

*Professor of Architecture and Graduate Program Head for Architecture*

Responsible for graduate and undergraduate design studios, history and theory seminars, global history survey courses, and international modern architecture study tours in Europe and Asia. Spokane Graduate Coordinator, Fall 2007—Spring 2012.

July 2001–May 2002

**School of Architecture, University of British Columbia**

*Sessional Lecturer and August Workshop Director*

Full-time instructor in the M. Arch. program.

### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

#### Books:

*Beyond Beauty: Reexamining Architectural Proportion Through the Basilicas of San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito in Florence.* **Venice: Marsilio Editori, S.p.A., 2013.** Recipient of the James Ackerman Award, 2012.

*Objects of Belief: Proportional Systems in the History of Architecture.*

Edited by Matthew A. Cohen and Maarten Delbeke. Leiden University Press. Forthcoming. Collection of essays by leading scholars, currently appearing (Phase I) as a special issue of *Architectural Histories*, the journal of the European Architectural History Network (EAHN; see also Conferences, below):

<http://journal.eahn.org/collections/special/objects-of-belief-proportional-systems-in-the-history-of-architecture>.

Contributions by Matthew A. Cohen: "Introduction: Two Kinds of Proportion," "Proportional Systems in the History of Architecture: A Conversation with James S. Ackerman," and "Conclusion: Ten Principles for the Study of Proportional Systems in the History of Architecture."

#### Articles:

**"Face to Face with the Angels: The Early Sculpted Friezes (c. 1446-c. 1450) of the Basilica of San Lorenzo."** In *San Lorenzo: A Florentine Church*. Edited by Robert W. Gaston and Louis A. Waldman. Florence: Harvard Center for

Italian Renaissance Studies, Villa I Tatti, 2017.

**“Provocative Similarities: Roriczer's Gothic Pinnacle as a 'Riposte' to Vitruvius and Alberti's Corinthian Columns?”** In *Encountering the*

*Renaissance: Celebrating Gary M. Radke and 50 Years of the Syracuse University Graduate Program in Renaissance Art*, edited by Molly Bourne and A. Victor Coonin, 59-70. Ramsey, New Jersey: WAPACC Organization, 2016.

**“Quantification and the Medieval Mind: An Imperfect Proportional System in the Basilica of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence.”** In *Some degree of happiness, Studi di storia dell'architettura in onore di Howard Burns*, edited by M. Beltramini and C. Elam, 1-30. Pisa: Edizioni della Normale, 2010.

**“Ugly Little Angels Revisited.”** In *Quality Out of Control: Standards for Measuring Architecture*, edited by Allison Dutoit, Juliet Odgers, and Adam Sharr, 79-91. London: Routledge, 2010.

**“The Lombard Connection: Northern Influences in the Basilicas of San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito in Florence.”** *Annali di architettura* 21 (2009): 31-44.

**“How Much Brunelleschi? A Late Medieval Proportional System in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence.”** *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 67 (2008): 18-57.

**“Ugly Little Angels: Deliberately Uneven Construction Quality in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence.”** *arq: Architectural Research Quarterly* 11 (2007): 276-89.

**“The Bird Capitals of the Basilica of Santo Spirito in Florence: Some Observations, and a Proposed Iconographical Interpretation.”** *QUASAR: Quaderni del dipartimento di storia dell'architettura e restauro delle strutture architettoniche facolta di architettura-universita degli studi di Firenze* 13-14 (1995): 48-58. □

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Registered Architect**, State of Washington, 2000–Present.

January 2000–June 2001

**Bassetti Architects, Seattle, Washington**  
*Senior Architect*

Project Architect for \$13 million, 100,000 s.f. Issaquah Middle School No. 5, The Ivanhoe Youth Theater, Bellevue, Washington, and other projects. Responsible for architectural design, team coordination, and marketing.

April 1997–November 1999

**William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts**  
*Project Designer and Project Manager*

Responsible for design, documentation, and construction administration for concert halls, amphitheaters, luxury and affordable housing, and a New Urbanist resort community.

- January 1994–April 1997 **Payette Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts**  
*Intern Architect*
- Conceptual design through construction administration for new \$4 million Ambulatory Surgical Unit, Goodall Hospital, Sanford, Maine.
- September 1987–July 1989 **Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, Massachusetts**  
*Preservation Planner*
- Part of three-person team managing an annual \$6 million, historic preservation grant program. Team received 1989 Boston Society of Architects Historic Preservation Award.
- June 1985–June 1986 **Bozeman City Planning Commission, Bozeman, Montana**  
*City Historic Preservation Officer*
- Established the first city historic preservation office in Bozeman. Developed and managed a city-wide historic preservation program. Initiated nominations of ten historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places.
- October 1984–May 1985 **Independent Historic Preservation Consultant**
- Recommended building conservation strategies for public and private properties. Prepared National Register nominations and tax credit documents.
- June 1983–September 1984 **Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont**  
*Survey Supervisor*
- Conducted surveys of historic resources statewide for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Sites. Supervised seven architectural historians conducting similar surveys.

## AWARDS

### **Historic Preservation Advocacy Award**

Spokane Preservation Advocates, Spokane, WA, 2015.

### **The James Ackerman Award in the History of Architecture**

Centro Internazionale di Studi di Architettura Andrea Palladio, 2012.

**Student Choice Award for Excellence in Teaching**–Associated Students of Washington State University-Spokane, 2006-2007.

**2007 Career Achievement in Historic Preservation Award Nomination**, Washington State Historic Preservation Office, Olympia, Washington.

**Student Choice Award for Excellence in Teaching**, Associated Students of Washington State University-Spokane, 2003-2004.

**Letter of Commendation for Outstanding Record of Achievement, 1994**  
Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

### **Thesis Distinction, 1994**

Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

### **Elizabeth Gilmore Holt Prize, Syracuse University, 1987**

Best graduate paper in Art History.

## CONFERENCES

**The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2017.** Session: The Historiography of Early Modern Architectural History; Paper Title: "Narrative Tyrannies: The Question of Architectural Refinements in the Basilica of Santo Spirito in Florence"

**The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2016.** Session: Honoring Gary Radke I: Reexamining Renaissance Sources; Paper Title: "Provocative Similarities: Roriczer's Gothic Pinnacle as a "Riposte" to Vitruvius and Alberti's Corinthian Columns?"

**Co-Organizer and Presenter:**

**Proportional Systems in the History of Architecture: An International Conference Hosted by Leiden University, 17-19 March 2011**

The purpose of this conference was to frame a rigorous new scholarly discussion of pre-modern proportional systems, and in the process, to help define appropriate methods, standards and limits for it. Presented: "Simultaneity: A Distinguishing Characteristic of Medieval and Early Renaissance Architectural Proportional Systems"; and Video Interview with James S. Ackerman, recorded November 15, 2011, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for this conference.

**The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting, Venice, Italy, April 2010, Session Sponsored by Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies: "San Lorenzo: A Florentine Church II,"** Paper Title: "The Design and Construction History of the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence: Five Contentious Issues."

**Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy, May 2009, Conference Title: San Lorenzo: A Florentine Church,** Paper Title: "New Research on the Fifteenth-Century Basilica."

**University of Karlsruhe and Werner Oechslin Library Foundation, Einsiedeln, Switzerland, September 2007, Conference Title: The Basilica: An Outstanding Building Type of European Architectural History,** Paper Title: "Architectural Proportion as a Tool for Exploring the Design Principles of Late Medieval and Renaissance Architecture in Florence."

**The Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff, Wales, UK, July 2007, Quality Conference,** "Ugly Little Angels: Uneven Construction Quality as a Reflection of Skillful Construction Management In Brunelleschi's Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence."

**Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, 2006,** "How Much Brunelleschi? Prior Dolfini's Contributions to the Proportions and Overall Design of the San Lorenzo/Old Sacristy Complex," Savannah, Georgia, April 2006.

**Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, 2005,** "A Late Medieval Proportional System in Brunelleschi's Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence." Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2005.

**The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Annual Conference**, "Integrated Scholarship in Built Environment and Culture: An Emerging Knowledge Community at Washington State University's School of Architecture and Construction Management," Symposium with Keith Diaz Moore, Phil Gruen and David Wang. Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2005.

## INVITED LECTURES

**Wesleyan University, Department of Art and Art History, Middletown, CT.**  
"When Seeing Really is Believing: Proportional Systems as Narrative in the Early Renaissance Architecture of Filippo Brunelleschi," 4 April 2016.

**Politecnico di Torino, Dipartimento di Architettura e Design, Turin, Italy.**  
"Le Proporzioni nell'Architettura Brunelleschiana e Tardo-Medievale: Uno Strumento Pragmatico o Iconografico?," 17 June 2014.

**RATS (Renaissance Architecture & Theory Scholars), Annual Symposium, Worcester College, Oxford.** "The Double Life of Proportion: Origins of a Metaphysical Morass," 7 June 2014.

**La Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy.** "Lo studio delle proporzioni in architettura: il caso Brunelleschi," 12 June 2007.

**Columbia University Department of Art History and Archaeology, New York City, The Howard Hibbard Forum Lecture**, "Brunelleschi and the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence: New Archaeological Evidence," 28 March 2007.

**Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max Planck Institut, Florence, Italy,**  
"Observation-Based Approaches to the Study of Architectural History," 29 June 2006.

**New York University Department of Fine Arts, New York City,**  
"Architectural Design Principles in Early Renaissance Florence: Methodologies and Discoveries," 6 October 2005.

**Department of Architectural History, University of Venice** (Dipartimento di Storia dell'Architettura, Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia, IUAV), "Late Medieval Proportional Systems in the Works of Brunelleschi." Lecture to the doctoral program, School of Architecture and Urban Design, Venice, Italy, 21 June 2005.

**Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, Massachusetts, History of Architecture Forum**, "The Architectural Proportions of Brunelleschi's Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence: Report of Recent Findings," 8 April 1993.

## GRANTS

**Washington State University Foundation and Washington State University Office of Research, 2005 New Faculty Seed Grant**, competitively awarded for the project: "Architectural Proportional Systems in Medieval and Renaissance Florence."

**Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Grant, 2002**

For continued research in the architectural proportional systems of the basilicas of San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito in Florence.

**Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Grant, 1991**

For one year of measuring and other research activities in Florence, pursuant to architectural proportion in the work of Brunelleschi.

**INVITED JURIES**

**Washington State University Faculty Travel Grant Award Reviewer,**  
Office of Grant and Research Development, April 2007

**United States National Endowment for the Arts,** Panel Member for the  
"Innovation 2006" Arts Grants, Washington, D.C., August 11-12, 2005

**American Institute of Architects Washington Council,** Civic Design  
Awards Jury Member, Seattle, Washington, 2005 and 2009. □

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

October 2003–Present

**Spokane Preservation Advocates, Spokane, Washington**

*Past President and Board Member*

Managed board of directors and overall goals for this 800-member, 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization, the mission of which is to maintain and enhance the quality of Spokane's built environment.