

MATTHEW A. COHEN, Ph.D., AIA

Architect, Professor of Architecture, Architectural Historian

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EDUCATION

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

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

Syracuse University, Master of Arts (Renaissance Art).

University of Vermont, Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Department of Architecture, University of Washington

Lecturer, Studio Instructor, 2023–2024

School of Design and Construction, Washington State University

Professor of Architecture Emeritus, 2003–present; Architecture Program Head, 2018–2019. Graduate Program Head, 2012–2018.

School of Architecture, University of British Columbia

Sessional Lecturer and August Workshop Director, 2001–2002.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Registered Architect, State of Washington, 2000–Present.

MTHW Architecture, Seattle, Washington

Principal, Sole Owner, 2022–present.

Bassetti Architects, Seattle, Washington

Senior Architect, 2000–2001.

William Rawn Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts

Project Designer and Project Manager, 1997–1999.

Payette Associates, Architects, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts

Architectural Designer, 1994–1997.

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Boston, Massachusetts

Preservation Planner, 1987–1989.

Bozeman City Planning Commission, Bozeman, Montana

City Historic Preservation Officer, 1985–1986.

Historic Preservation Consultant

Self-Employed, 1984–1985.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont

Survey Supervisor, 1983–1984.

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.

Proportional Systems in the History of Architecture: A Critical Reconsideration. Edited by Matthew A. Cohen and Maarten Delbeke. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2018.

Contributions: Introduction (Chap. 1), Conclusion (Chap. 25), Interview with James S. Ackerman (Chap. 24), and editing contributions of twenty-five leading scholars.

Articles and Collections:

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

Edited by Matthew A. Cohen and Maarten Delbeke. Special collection of *Architectural Histories*, the Journal of the European Architectural History Network (EAHN):

Contributions: "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," overall editing.

"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, 330-351. 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, facoltà di architettura-università degli studi di Firenze* 13-14 (1995): 48-58.

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

Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, "Revitalize WA"

Vancouver WA, October 2023.

"Changing the Narrative: Equity & Preservation," Co-author with Ellen Mirro and Nicole McKernan.

The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting

Toronto, March 2019.

Round Table Presenter and Participant: "Materials and Practices of Renaissance Architecture."

The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting

Chicago, March 2017 .

"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.

"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

Leiden, The Netherlands, Leiden University, 17-19 March 2011.

"Simultaneity: A Distinguishing Characteristic of Medieval and Early Renaissance Architectural Proportional Systems"; and pre-recorded video interview with James S. Ackerman.

The Renaissance Society of America, Annual Meeting

Venice, Italy, April 2010.

"The Design and Construction History of the Basilica of San Lorenzo in

Florence: Five Contentious Issues.”

Villa I Tatti, Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies:

San Lorenzo: A Florentine Church

Florence, Italy, May 2009.

“New Research on the Fifteenth-Century Basilica.”

University of Karlsruhe and Werner Oechslin Library Foundation: The Basilica: An Outstanding Building Type

Einsiedeln, Switzerland, September 2007.

“Proportion and Design Principles of Late Medieval and Renaissance Architecture in Florence.”

The Welsh School of Architecture: Quality Conference

Cardiff, Wales, UK, July 2007.

“Ugly Little Angels: Deliberately Uneven Construction Quality In Brunelleschi’s Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence.”

Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting

Savannah, GA, April 2006.

“How Much Brunelleschi? Prior Dolfini’s Contributions to the San Lorenzo/Old Sacristy Complex.”

Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting,

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2005.

“A Late Medieval Proportional System in Brunelleschi’s Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence.”

The Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) Annual Conference.

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2005.

“Integrated Scholarship in Built Environment and Culture: An Emerging Knowledge Community at Washington State University,” Co-author with Keith Diaz Moore, Phil Gruen and David Wang.

INVITED LECTURES

University of Oklahoma, Gibbs College of Architecture, Norman, OK.

“Visual Training for Designers: The Cultural Dimension,” 4 April 2016.

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, "Architectural Proportional Systems in Medieval and Renaissance Florence."

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, 2002 "Architectural proportional systems of the basilicas of San Lorenzo and Santo Spirito in Florence."

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, 1991 "Measuring 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

Politecnico di Torino, "Dialoghi intorno alla Rappresentazione" Book Series, Scientific Committee Member, 2022–Present.

American Institute of Architects, Washington Council, Historic Resources Policy Committee, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, 2023–Present.

Society of Architectural Historians, April–November 2020
—Open Session Chair, 2020 Virtual Conference, April 30–May 1, 2020
—*JSAH* Founders Award Committee Chair, 2020

Spokane Preservation Advocates, Spokane, Washington
Past President, Board Member, Member, 2003–Present