

Erin Eckhold Sassin

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.

Jan. 2012 **Department of the History of Art and Architecture, Brown University**
Providence, Rhode Island

Dissertation:

Examining the German Ledigenheim: Development of a Housing Type, Position in the Urban Fabric and Impact on Central European Housing Reform

Dissertation Director:

Dietrich Neumann

Colloquium Committee:

Dietrich Neumann (Brown), Carol Poore (Brown), Eve Blau (Harvard/GSD)

Oral Examination Fields:

(Major) European and American Architecture and Urbanism, 1850-1950

(Minor) German Reform Architecture and Design, 1870-1914

(Minor) German History 1870-1933, with a Focus on the City and its Discontents

A.M. 2004 **University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts**

Concentrations: (1) Nineteenth Century Architecture

(2) Northern and Italian Renaissance Art

B.A. 2000 **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Summa cum Laude

Phi Beta Kappa, 1998

Majors: (1) History of Art (2) German Language and Literature

DISSERTATION SYNOPSIS

My dissertation is an interdisciplinary project encompassing architectural history, social history, political history, and aesthetics, amongst other fields. The *Ledigenheim*, or home for single workers, was a building type developed by German architects, industrialists, and both secular and denominational reformers in the middle of the nineteenth century to house single workers while combating the “lodger problem” endemic to working class life. This housing type featured prominently in contemporary debates on improved housing as a solution to societal unrest and illustrates one of the prominent themes of architectural modernism, the delicate balance between personal freedom and societal harmony. My work traces the

evolution of the *Ledigenheim* as a building type and focus of community life from the 1860s to 1933. I also investigate the *Ledigenheim's* position as an important architectural and social model for a number of architects and urban planners in German speaking lands during the 1920s, functioning as a touchstone for numerous social experiments utilizing housing, and considerably influencing significant modernist building programs and theories during the 1920s and 1930s.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Housing Reform and the Concept of the Familial Home Through the Present Day
- Identity Politics and Nationalism in Art, Architecture and Design
- Central European Architecture/Design of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
- Issues of Class and Gender in Housing and Reformist Movements

PUBLICATIONS

“Gendered Spaces in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Germany”
Working Papers Series
Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Andrea Sutton, ed. (MIT)
In Press, Forthcoming 2012

“The Visual Politics of Upper Silesian Settlements in the First World War”
In Empires in the First World War
Andrew Jarboe (Northeastern University) and Richard Fogarty (University of Albany-SUNY), eds.
In Press, Forthcoming 2012

“Single Women, Public Space, and the German *Ledigenheim*”
In Bourgeois Femininity and Public Space in Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture
Temma Balducci (Arkansas State) and Heather Belnap Jensen (BYU), eds.
In Press, Forthcoming 2012 (Ashgate)

Ira Rakatansky: As Modern as Tomorrow
(Rhode Island School of Design Architecture Series)
Contributor (text) with: Lynette Widder (RISD), Mark Rakatansky (Columbia), Joan Ockman (Columbia) and John Caserta
Richmond, CA: William Stout Publishers, 2010

“Design Research: The Store that Brought Modern Living to American Homes”
Promotional brochure to solicit interest for upcoming exhibition
December 2008
RISD Museum, Rhode Island School of Design

“The Austrian Avant-Garde of the 1950s”
Article to accompany exhibition, *Friedrich StFlorian: A Retrospective*,
May 26-July 2, 2006
David Winton Bell Gallery, List Art Center, Brown University

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Catholicism and Social Reform

Panel: Enacting Social Reform: Religion, Charity and Social Movements

GWZO (*Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas an der Universität Leipzig*)

Leipzig, Germany

(June 14-16, 2012)

Models of Reform: Protestant Resort Communities and Loeb Farm

Panel: Design Reform in the Great Lakes

Society of Architectural Historians, Annual Conference

Detroit, MI

(April 18-22, 2012)

Extra-Urban Settlements and Identity in World War One

Panel: Representations of German Identity in Visual Culture

Visual Culture Network, German Studies Association Annual Conference

Louisville, KY

(September 22-25, 2011)

Space, Class and Luxury in Early Twentieth Century Housing

Panel: Women and the Privileges of Space

New England Women's Studies Association Conference

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

(April 29-30, 2011)

Gendered Spaces and the Control of Single Men

New Faculty Institute

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

(March 23, 2011)

Lodging and German Individual in *The Lean Years*

"The Lean Years" Conference on Architecture and Urbanism

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning,

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

(March 19, 2011)

Gendered Spaces in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Germany

"Gender, Sexuality and Urban Spaces"

Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at MIT

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

(March 12, 2011)

Educating the Workers: Libraries in Wilhelmine Germany

"Luxuries of the Literary Mind"

McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

(March 5, 2011)

The *Ledigenheim* Adapted: Single Women, Single Men and Social Convention
Society of Architectural Historians, Annual Conference
Graduate Student “Lightning Talks”
Chicago, IL
(April 23, 2010)

The German *Ledigenheim*: Local, National and Transnational Exchange
“Positioning Global Systems”, Graduate Student Symposium
Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, CT
(April 15-16, 2010)

Ledigenheim: Inclusion and Integration in the Urban Fabric
New England Chapter/Society of Architectural Historians
Student Symposium
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
(February 20, 2010)

OTHER CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Panel Commentator-Political Sites of Spectacle

Visual Culture Network
German Studies Association Annual Conference
Milwaukee, WI
Upcoming: October 4-7, 2012

Panel Participant-Preparing for Your First Year as a Faculty Member

Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning
Brown University, Providence, RI
Participated on a panel intended to help current graduate students in the
Humanities and Social Sciences refine their approaches to teaching
May 9, 2011

Moderator-Roundtable on Teaching Architectural History

Pedagogy and Technology
Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA
April 15, 2011

Panel Participant-Research Colloquium on Architecture

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
Reviewed B.A. qualifying research papers
May 9, 2009

Graduate Student Symposium in Architecture and Urbanism

Brown University, Providence, RI
Conceptualized, Organized and Implemented (with two colleagues):

Urban Transformations / Shifting Identities
September 26-29, 2007

Mellon Graduate Student Proctor

Museum of Art, *Rhode Island School of Design*, Providence, RI
(September 2008-May 2009)

Worked with James Hall, Assistant Director, on development and implementation of upcoming exhibitions:

Marcel Breuer, April-July 2009, with Vitra Design Museum, Germany

Design Research, 2010

Ira Rakatansky Retrospective, 2011

(September 2004-September 2005)

“Thedlow Collection Project” with Curator of Decorative Arts

Formulated and implemented cataloging project of 500 design drawings from 1920s to 1960s.

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Faculty Fellow, GWZO (*Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum Geschichte und Kultur Ostmitteleuropas an der Universität Leipzig*), June 13-22, 2012
Leipzig, Germany

R. F. Johnson Faculty Development Fund, *Connecticut College*, Spring 2012
Travel Funding to Present a Paper at the SAH Annual Conference, Competitively Awarded

President’s Fund for Student-Faculty Engagement, *Connecticut College*, Spring 2012
Competitively Awarded

Travel and Presentation Funding, *Brown University*, Fall 2012
Graduate School Funding to Present at Paper at the GSA Annual Conference

Travel and Presentation Funding, *Brown University*, Spring 2011
Graduate School Funding to Chair a Session on Pedagogy at the SAH Annual Conference, New Orleans

Travel and Presentation Funding, *University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*, Spring 2011
Departmental and University Funding to Present Papers at Conferences held at McGill, MIT, and the University of Michigan

Humboldt University (Berlin) Fellowship, March-August 2008
Competitive Fellowship awarded by the Brown University German Department in Concert with Humboldt University

Summer Research Funding, *Brown University*, Summers 2007, 2008 and 2009
Departmental and University Funding, Competitively Awarded

Travel and Presentation Funding, *Brown University*, Spring 2010

Departmental and Graduate School Funding to Present at Paper at the SAH Annual Conference, Chicago

Phi Beta Kappa, *University of Michigan*, 1999

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

- Survey of Art History: Ancient to Contemporary
- Survey of Architecture, Design and Urbanism:
Ancient to Modern
1400-Present
- Methodological Approaches to Visual Culture
(with a focus on contemporary art)
- Focused: 18th through 21st Century Art, Architecture, Design and Urbanism
Including:
 - History of Art
 - History of Design
 - History of Architecture
 - History of Illustration
 - The American Home, 1750-Present
 - History of Art, Architecture and Urbanism in Berlin, 1750-Present
 - Central and Eastern European Art, Architecture, Design and Urbanism, 1850-Present
 - Art, Architecture and the Victorian City
 - Nationalism and Identity in Art and Design
 - Race, Ethnicity and Gender in Art and Architecture
- Focused: Italian and Northern Renaissance Art and Architecture: 1300-1600
- Focused: Museums and the Place of the Museum Exhibition in Artistic Production

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR

Connecticut College

Department of Art History and Architectural Studies

As a visiting professor within the Art History and Architectural Studies department, beginning in September of 2011, I have created and implemented lecture and seminar courses to serve the needs of the architectural studies program at Connecticut College, in addition to advising senior thesis and independent study projects:

(Spring 2012)

Seminar on Artistic and Architectural Utopias

The American Home

Survey of Architecture and Urbanism, 1400-Present

(Fall 2011)

**Seminar on Reform and Identity Politics in Central European
Architecture and Design
Architecture and Design in the Long Nineteenth Century**

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

College of Visual and Performing Arts, Art History Department

As a full-time lecturer, devised and implemented courses geared towards art and design students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as the general student body:

(Summer 2011)

History of Illustration (fully online)

(Spring 2011)

**Studies in Visual Culture (Methodologies)
Art, Architecture, Design and Urbanism in Berlin
Home: The Why Behind the Way We Live
Nationalism and Identity: Art, Design and Architecture**

(Fall 2010)

**History of Design: 1850-Present
Studies in Visual Culture (Methodologies)**

Brown University, Department of Summer Studies and Continuing Education

(Summer 2009 and 2010)

Devised and implemented a course for pre-college students:

Architecture and the City: Berlin

Rhode Island School of Design, Department of Continuing Education

(Fall 2009)

Devised and implemented a course for Continuing Education students:

Survey of Renaissance to Modern Art and Architecture

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Brown University, Department of the History of Art and Architecture

(September 2005-May 2010)

Taught sections and graded exams/papers for the following courses:

**19th Century Architecture
Modern Architecture (Head Teaching Assistant)
Contemporary Architecture
The Age of Rubens and Rembrandt
Florence and Tuscany in the Quattrocento
Ancient to Modern Art**

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Department of Art and Art History

(September 2002-May 2004)

Taught sections and graded exams/papers for the following courses:

**Survey of Art: Ancient to Renaissance
Survey of Art: Renaissance to Modern
Introduction to the Visual Arts**

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Class of '57 Teaching Seminar Series for New Faculty

Joy Shechtman Mankoff Center for Teaching and Learning
Connecticut College, 2011-2012

Certificate I in Higher Education, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning,
Brown University, Spring 2007

Certificate III in Higher Education, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning,
Brown University, Spring 2010

SERVICE

Academic Advisor-Senior Integrative (International) Projects

The Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts
Connecticut College, 2012

Speaker-Becker House Series on Faculty Research

Connecticut College, October 8, 2011

Participant-Open Classroom Program

Joy Shechtman Mankoff Center for Teaching and Learning
Connecticut College, 2011-2012

Participant-Research Matters Workshop Series

Connecticut College, 2011-2012

University Service-Member of the Curriculum Committee

Department of Art History, *University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*
Spring 2011

Graduate Student Liaison

Brown University, Providence, RI
Liaison to Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning
September 2006-May 2008

LANGUAGES

- German: fluent
- French: proficient

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Society of Architectural Historians, New England and National Chapters
- Historians of German and Central European Art and Architecture
- College Art Association
- German Studies Association

REFERENCES

Professor Dietrich Neumann, *Brown University*, History of Art and Architecture
dietrich_neumann@brown.edu, 401-863-1174

Professor Joseph Alcherme, *Connecticut College*, Art History and Architectural Studies
jdale@conncoll.edu, 860-439-2734

Professor Michael Taylor, *University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth*, College of Visual and
Performing Arts, Chair of the Art History Department
mtaylor@umassd.edu, 508-999-8547

Professor Carol Poore, *Brown University*, German Studies
carol_poore@brown.edu, 401-863-2596

Francoise McAree, *Rhode Island School of Design*, Continuing Education Coordinator
fmcaree@risd.edu, 401-454-6200

James Hall, *Rhode Island School of Design*, (former) Assistant Director, Museum of Art
jhall@ppsri.org, 401-330-8953

Additional References Available Upon Request