



- > The genesis of my professional work and studio pedagogy on architectonics and building-integrated housing originates in my “Architecture can Heal: Universal Elements and The Common Ground” Thesis [advised by Lebbeus Woods] from The Cooper Union, which received numerous awards for its experimental focus on how environment—light, air, water, wind—can influence the architectonic framework of intimately scaled architectural elements such as walls, columns, doors, and windows and quotidian objects such as chairs and tables, serving as a universal alphabet of design fundamentals. In 2013, I started an independent atelier where I continue to develop elements and objects through rigorous project testing and actualization of built form. My extensive professional work and experience encompasses an array of public and private programs, ranging in scale from schools and museums to the intimate and carefully detailed construction of domestic residences, with built work across New York, New Jersey, and overseas.

EDUCATION

Princeton University Graduate School of Architecture, Masters in Architecture II, 1.5 Year Degree, 2003-2005

The Cooper Union School Of Architecture, Bachelors of Architecture w/ Distinction, 5 Year NAAB Accredited Degree, 1998-2003

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- > I have been dedicated to teaching and coordinating a wide range of award-winning studios and research seminars at The Cooper Union School of Architecture since 2005, with a focus on universal elements, building-integrated housing, and architectonics. My teaching and the work of my students have been recognized by the prestigious Studio Prize from Architect Magazine for Top Studio in North America, the RIBA Royal Medal for “World’s Best Projects,” and featured in numerous exhibitions, conferences, and publications. I also coordinate, teach and structure the curricular framework for The Cooper Union’s summer program for high school and college students, which has since quadrupled in size (130+ annual participants) and provides exciting teaching opportunities for both our students and faculty. The first eight years of my teaching on civic urbanism were published in “Open City: Existential Approach by Charta,” and my recent research, “Healing the City: Elemental Constructions and the Universal Language of Architecture,” was selected and published in the ACSA New Instrumentalities chapter. These elemental conditions were implemented in my new building-integrated “collective-living” housing studio initiative at The Cooper Union, which I taught and coordinated in collaboration with HELP USA, a not-for-profit organization, and the New York City Housing Authority, NYCHA. This collaborative studio framework focused on providing affordable housing in New York City for individuals living alone; families and individuals with children; multigenerational households; the elderly; and people living with disabilities.

Since 2024, I have served in a leadership role as the Acting Associate Dean at The Cooper Union School of Architecture, where I recently led the school’s successful re-accreditation review by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), a major milestone that occurs every eight years. Additional highlights include advancing institutional goals and leading the development of our curriculum, faculty advisor program, public partnerships, and planning and assessment protocols—in collaboration with the Schools of Art, Engineering, and the Humanities Department—to ensure the highest level of education for our students.

THE COOPER UNION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, FALL 2005 - PRESENT

Acting Associate Dean, Fall 2024 - present & Assistant Professor, Fall 2005 - present

Summer Program Coordinator 2019 - present

- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Collective Housing NYC, Spring 2026 - upcoming
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Animate Elements, Lines and Volumes, Fall 2025, Coordinator
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Housing NYC, Spring 2025
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Animate Elements, Lines and Volumes, Fall 2024, Coordinator
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Housing NYC, Spring 2024, Coordinator, NAAB Reviewed Studio
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Animate Elements, Lines and Volumes, Fall 2023, Coordinator
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Blurring Boundaries - Baltimore w/ Nader Tehrani, Spring 2023, Coordinator
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Figures and Solids, Fall 2023
- ARCH 141B Year 4 Advanced Options Studio: Playful Objects: Prototyping Novel Elemental Constructions in Central Park, Spring 2022
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Tectonic Doubles, Fall 2021
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Housing Los Angeles, Spring 2021
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Masked Rituals, Fall 2020
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Housing and Material Transitions - New York, Spring 2020
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Experiments in Points, Lines, Volumes & Material Shifts, Fall 2019, Coordinator
- ARCH 151B Year 5 Thesis Advisor to Daniel Hall, Spring 2018
- * **Recipient of RIBA President’s Medal for World’s Best Projects**
- ARCH 131B Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Re-Configuring Homelessness - New York w/ HELPUA*, Spring 2018, Coordinator

ACADEMIC POSITIONS [CON'T]

- ARCH 111A, Year 1 Architectonics: Material Indexes, Fall 2018
- M. Arch. II Graduate Thesis, Towards a New [Hypo] Thesis, Summer 2018, Coordinator
Published by Gotham Art & Culture; Curated Exhibition at The Cooper Union [9/11/2018 Public Opening]
- ARCH 131B, Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Housing in the Aftermath of a Disaster Traveling Studio w/ University of Puerto Rico
*** Published by Architectural Record, NADAAA and Cooper Union, Spring 2018**
- ARCH 111A, Year 1 Architectonics: Structural Configurations between Points, Lines & Volumes, Fall 2017, Coordinator
*** Recipient of THE STUDIO PRIZE by Architect Magazine; Published by Architect Magazine, Dezeen, NADAAA, Cooper Union**
- ARCH 131A Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Civic Programs Analysis, Mexico City Traveling Studio, Spring 2017
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Figures, Doors, Windows, Skylights, Columns & Stairs w/ Nader Tehrani, Fall 2016, Coordinator
- ARCH 225.55, Seminar: Elemental Urbanism, B.Arch and M. Arch. II, Spring 2016
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Figures, Doors, Windows, Skylights, Columns & Stairs, Fall 2015, Coordinator
- ARCH 225.55, Seminar: Elemental Urbanism, B.Arch and M. Arch. II, Spring 2015
- ARCH 111A Year 1 Architectonics: Figures, Doors, Windows, Skylights, Columns and Stairs, Fall 2014, Coordinator
*** Single Studio Exhibited for NYC X Design Week at The Cooper Union**
- ARCH 131B, Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Library Analysis and Design, Spring 2013
- ARCH 141 A Year 4 Urbanism Studio: On The Bowery, w/ Diane Lewis, Fall 2013
*** Recipient of The Young Kiesler Award**
- ARCH 131B, Year 3 Building Integrated Studio: Library Analysis and Design, Spring 2012
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Templum, New York w/ Diane Lewis, Fall 2012
- ARCH 141A, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Civic Ground, Spring 2011
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Art and The Civic Framework - New York w/ Diane Lewis, Fall 2011
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Vuotare / The Void w/ Diane Lewis, Spring 2010
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Tower - Acropolis w/ Diane Lewis, Spring 2009
- ARCH 141A, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: 21st Century University w/ Lebbeus Woods, Fall 2008
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Art, City, Structure, Space-Block NYC, w/ Diane Lewis, Spring 2007
- ARCH 141A, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: The Wall Game w/ Lebbeus Woods, Fall 2007
- ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Disaster Architecture Inspired by the Cities of Catastrophe from Atlantis to Hiroshima, Architecture for Post-flood New Orleans w/ Diane Lewis, Fall 2006

THE COOPER UNION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, SUMMER 2019 - PRESENT

*** Summer Program[s] Coordinator**

Introduction to Architecture and Portfolio Development for College and Pre-College Students

- responsible for curriculum structure, weekly calendars, assignments and workshop concepts for [-/+] 100 students
- program expanded in size since curriculum update and generates around **400K-500K annually**
- responsible for hiring and training needs, providing work opportunities for B. Arch and M. Arch students to gain teaching experience
Feature Article: [Summer Program Reaches a New Milestone](#), July 3, 2025

THE COOPER UNION, COMMITTEE WORK

Dean Search Committee 2022-23, Administrative Committee 2021-2024, Senate Committee 2019-2022, **Undergraduate B. Arch Admissions, Chair 2017 - present**, Graduate Admissions Committee – M. Arch II 2016, Curriculum Committee 2015-2017; **Curriculum Committee, Chair 2024 - present, Planning and Assessment Council Committee, 2024 - Present**

PRATT UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK - UNDERGRADUATE B. ARCH PROGRAM, 2025

Eminent Analyst of First Year B. Arch Program Curriculum / Thirteen Studios w/ Stephen Slaughter and Jason Lee

ROYAL ACADEMY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Program Exchange, in collaboration w/ Anne Romme and Arne Høj, 2026 (upcoming)

Visiting Professor + Guest Lecturer, FINDERSTED Graduate Program in collaboration w/ Program Director Anne Romme, 2009, 2018

THE BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, CITY COLLEGE, NEW YORK, 2012

Visiting Assistant Professor, Landscape Graduate School of Architecture in collaboration w/ Catherine Seavitt Nordenson
Inside Central Park: The Ramble, Graduate Studio

Design Jury: Harvard Graduate School of Design + University of Miami 2022, 2023; Yale University 2018-22; Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT 2018-20; Pratt University, City College; Parsons School of Design; Rensselaer Institute 2023-25

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- > My professional experience in architecture over the last twenty years captures a variety of project scales and programs, including the High School of Art & PS 59 in New York, a Net Zero Energy School in Staten Island, Elizabeth Academic High School in New Jersey, and numerous DOB-approved domestic residences in New York, New Jersey, and overseas. My design approach balances experimental sensibility with rigorous attention to construction details and materiality that are innovative, playful, inspiring, and inviting to its users. My recent professional work on multi-functional domestic objects, which explores the surreal effects of nature-activated phenomena and community interaction within Central Park in New York, was published in "Conceiving the Plan: Nuance and Intimacy in Civic Space" by SKIRA. This project was also exhibited at the recent Venice Biennale for Architecture. The multi-scalar framework these elements hold is conceptually linked through the lens of design universality, a multitude of functions, accessibility, and an embrace of diverse groups—from children to the elderly and individuals with physical disabilities. Hidden dynamic aspects within these architectural elements and objects encourage spatial flexibility that can be customized directly by their users to bring joy through the unexpected re-shaping of space, materiality, and programmatic function within their daily lives.

VELEDAR WORKS, NY FALL 2013 - PRESENT

- Residence 16, 120 5th Avenue Duplex, New York, NY, 2022-24
- Healing Objects, Hypothetical [exhibited at The Venice Biennale, Italian Pavilion], 2021 - ongoing
- Residence 15, 105 Park Avenue - II, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2021-22
- Residence 14, 101 Park Avenue - II, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2020
- Residence 13, 91 Central Park West, New York, NY, 2,400SF, 2019-2020
- Residence 12, 215 West 95th Street, New York, NY, 3,500SF, 2019
- Residence 11, 110 Riverside Drive, New York, NY, 3,500SF, 2018
- Residence 10, 1125 Park Avenue, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2018
- Residence 9, 37 Riverside Drive Duplex, New York, NY, 6,000SF, 2018
- Residence 8, 101 Central Park West, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2017-2018
- Residence 7, 1105 Park Avenue - I, New York, NY, 2000SF, 2017
- Residence 6, 3 East 70th Street, New York, 2,000SF, 2016
- Residence 5, 105 Park Avenue Street, New York, NY, 3,500SF, 2015
- Residence 4, 55 E. 72nd Street, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2014
- Residence 3, 4 E. 72nd Street, New York, NY, 4,000SF, 2014
- Residence 2, 1220 Park Avenue, New York, NY, 3,000SF, 2013,2014
- Residence 1, 129 E. 69th Street, New York, NY, 2,000SF, 2013,2014
- The Protagonist Installation with Artist Tim Richardson; Visionare World, NY, 2014
- 30 Artists, 30 Days, Winter Wonderland, Visionare World, New York, NY, 2013

SKIDMORE, OWINGS AND MERRILL, LLP, NEW YORK, NY 2005-2012

Roger Duffy Education Lab Studio, Design Architect [+ Evening Lecture Curator & SOM Journal 5 Associate Editor]

- PS62R Net Zero Energy School, School Construction Authority (SCA) - Staten Island, NY - 68,000 SF, 2011-2012
- Elizabeth Academic High School, School Development Authority (SDA) - Elizabeth, NJ - 183,000 SF, 2009
- Abu Dhabi University, ADEC Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2007
- High School of Art & Design & PS59, School Construction Authority, 250 E. 57th St. New York, NY - 104,380 SF, 2006 - 2010
- Ali Al Sabah Kuwait Academy, Master Plan and Mosque, Kuwait - 1,200,000 SF, 2010
- Lisbon International Airport, Lisbon, Portugal (Competition, 1st place) - 800,000 SF, 2009
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport, Mumbai, India, Design Development - 2,200,000 SF, 2008, 2009
- Pulkovo International Airport, Competition, 2nd Place - 900,000 SF, 2008
- Skyscraper Museum Canopy, w/ James Turrell, Concept Design, 2008

CONFERENCES, LECTURES & AWARDS

- * Dean's Roundtable 2025 at The Architecture Center - November 21, 2025
- * Elemental Constructions and The Universal Language of Architecture Lecture, Pratt University November 3, 2025
- The Cooper Union President's Grant for "Catalogue of Universal Architectonic Elements" \$10,000, 2024
- * The Education of An Architect, National Arts Club, November 15, 2023
- * Symposium: Nuance and Intimacy in Civic Space, The Cooper Union w/ Scott Cohen, Nader Tehrani, Pippo Ciora – April 9, 2022
- * Pedagogies of Risk and Control, KADK [Denmark] in Conversation with The Cooper Union – September 22, 2019
- * In Conversation: Female Catalysts: Elizabeth O'Donnell & Mersiha Veleidar The Cooper Union, Panelist – March 19, 2019
- Women in Architecture, interview by Eva Geitel, Vice Chairman, Finnish Association of Architects, Interview – February 10, 2019
- Architecture of Healing – The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Copenhagen, Lecture – May 31, 2018
- Open Cities: 2018 ACSA/COAM Madrid International Conference, Panelist – June 14-16, 2018
- * Gallery Round Table: Architecture Between Environmental Change and Planning Resilience, The Cooper Union, Panelist – 2018

CONFERENCES, LECTURES & AWARDS [CON'T]

- * Mexico City Reflections, Cooper Union ArchLog - October 10, 2016
- * Open City: Existential Urbanity Symposium (Day 2) Titus Theater – MoMA, Panelist – 2015
- * Open City Existential Urbanity Symposium (Day 1) The New Museum, Panelist – 2015
- * In Celebration of Lebbeus Woods: The Cooper Union Great Hall Symposium, Panelist – 2014
- * Faculty Evening Lecture Series – Mersiha Veledar, The Cooper Union – February 10, 2013
- Architecture could Heal, Evening Lecture at The Royal Academy School of Architecture, Copenhagen, Lecture – 2009
- Irma Giustino Weiss Prize Thesis Award & Traveling Fellowship awarded to one Cooper Union Graduate who demonstrates the greatest potential for future success upon the receipt of a Bachelor's Degree from The School of Architecture \$15,000, 2003

EXHIBITIONS

- Mana Contemporary - Conceiving the Plan: Healing Objects, Monira Foundation - January 31, 2023
- * Un-War Exhibition at Art, Culture and Technology Department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT - June 13 - Oct. 28, 2022
- * Nuance and Intimacy in the Construction of Civic Space: Healing Objects, The Cooper Union April 7 - April 29, 2022
- Pedagogies of Risk, Control & Productive Failure: Playful Objects, Royal Academy in Copenhagen 2022
- Nuance and Intimacy in The Construction of Civic Space: Healing Objects, Venice Biennale, Italian Pavilion, Oct. 8th - November 22, 2021
- * Linee Occulte Exhibition: Domestic Objects and Traces, New York 2021
- * Archive & Artifact: Virtual & Physical: Architecture can Heal: Universal Elements and The Common Ground, Cooper Union 2018
- The Great White Whale is Black: Vertical Gardens & Space-Frames by Mersiha Veledar, The Cooper Union 2010
- * Cultural Territories Exhibition: Architecture can Heal, Universal Elements, Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig 2005
- XXI World Congress of Architecture/UIA, International Fare Messegelände and Mitte: Stolen Obelisks - Berlin, Germany 2002

EDITOR, CURATOR & MODERATOR

- Venice Masked Exhibition, Italy - Symposium, Moderator - November 25th, 2023
- * Towards a New [Hypo]Thesis Exhibition, Curator - The Cooper Union 2018
- SOM Journal 5, Associate Editor w/ Kenneth Frampton, Juhani Pallasmaa, Francesco Dal Co 2008
- UIA Berlin, XXI World Congress of Architecture Exhibition, Curated w/ Diane Lewis - Messegelände Mitte, Berlin 2002
- Rome, Berlin, New York – The Literary Dimension of The City, Editor - Published by The Cooper Union 2002

PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

- * Architecture Summer Program Reaches a New Milestone, July 3rd, 2025
- * Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture Appoints Benjamin Aranda, Acting Dean - The Architect's Newspaper, June 2nd, 2025
- * New Appointments in the School of Architecture, September 26th, 2024
- Catalogue of Universal Architectonic Elements and The Common Ground by Architectural Publisher B, Forthcoming
- Nuance and Intimacy in the Construction of Civic Space: Healing Objects, pgs. 98-99 by Mersiha Veledar, SKIRA 2022
- * Linee Occulte: Drawing Architecture Exhibition, Architect's Newspaper 2021
- * Linee Occulte Drawing Architecture Exhibition, The Cooper Union 2021
- * ACSA: The New Instrumentalities Publication, Healing the City: Elemental Constructions and the Universal Language of Architecture 2018
- * Shelter from the Storm: Cooper Architects in Puerto Rico, by Cooper Union and NADAAA Blog 2018
- * Architecture Studios Incorporate Resiliency into Their Designs, by Erin Hudson / Architectural Record 2018
- * RIBA President's Medals for World's Best Projects, RIBA Journal 125, ArchDaily, Dezeen Magazine, Bustler 2018
- * ARCHITECT Magazine Studio Prize, Mersiha Veledar Interview by Clay Risen 2018
- * Mexico City Reflections, The Cooper Union ArchLog, 2016
- * OPEN CITY, An Existential Approach – (p.185-237, 197) published by Charta 2015
- * 30 Artists, 30 Days, Winter Wonderland, by Visionare World 2013
- Fortnight Journal – Edition 3, Mersiha Veledar Video Interview 2012
- Architects Draw, Freehand Fundamentals: WTC Memories by Princeton Architectural Press -10: 1568987404 (p.159), 2008
- Urban Omnibus & New York Architectural League, Design in 5 Winners - Mersiha Veledar and Fiyel Levent 2012
- * Bio-Machine Projet Catálogos de Arquitectura, N°. 20, ISSN 1138-2430, N°. 20, 2007, págs.130-133 2007
- Architecture can Heal, Camera Austria, Nr.88 2004
- Architecture can Heal, Ein Architektur - Novum, Südwest Presse, 25 November 2004
- Architecture can Heal, StadtBauwelt, (48/04), 23 December 2004, Mersiha Veledar, Neue Generation Architekt 2004
- * Balkan Urbanismus, Die bosnische Chronik Die Zukunft ist nicht, was sie einmal WAR' 'Architecture can Heal' Publication, iISBN 3-88375-925-2, 2005, p. 364,365, 384-389
- Irma Giustino Weiss Prize, p. 20-24, 'Architecture can Heal' Thesis Project and War Architecture Research, Cooper Union Magazine 2003
- Text, Intertext, Context: The Literary Dimension of the City: Rome, Berlin, New York - Published by The Cooper Union 2002

REFERENCES

Ben Aranda, Acting Dean at The Cooper Union School of Architecture, SOA, Principal Aranda Lasch > E: Ben@arandalasch.com
Hayley Eber, AIA Executive Director at Van Allen Institute and former Acting Dean at The Cooper Union SOA > E: Hayley.Eber@cooper.edu
Steven Hillyer, Archive Director, The Cooper Union School of Architecture > E: Steven.Hillyer@cooper.edu
Nader Tehrani, Professor and former Dean of The Cooper Union School of Architecture, Principal NADAAA > E: Nader.Tehrani@cooper.edu