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Curriculum vitae
June 2025

Biography

Don O’Keefe is the principle architect of O’Keefe & Associates, an architecture and urban design practice in New York City, Tokyo, and Richmond. Current projects include a sake brewery in northern Japan, a home renovation in Tokyo, and a gallery in Brooklyn. O’Keefe is currently assistant professor adjunct at the Cooper Union, and previously held appointments at Harvard University and Keio University. His writing has been published in *the Architectural Review*, *the Japan Times*, and the recent book “Sharing Tokyo” (Actar Press, 2023). He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Architectural Institute of Japan, the City Planning Institute of Japan, the American Planning Association, the US National Book Critics Circle, and the advisory board of the Branch Museum of Design.

Education

Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Master of Architecture with Distinction, 2020

Dean’s Merit Scholar and recipient of the 2020 Gregory S. Baldwin Fellowship

Virginia Commonwealth University

BS Magna Cum Laude, Urban Studies and Planning, 2014

Experience

Full-time

Principal Architect — O’Keefe

May 2024 — present

Architecture and urban design practice in the US and Japan. Active projects include a sake brewery in rural Japan, a home renovation in Tokyo, a Brooklyn art gallery, and a Richmond townhouse.

Adjunct Assistant Professor — The Cooper Union

June 2025 — present

Teaching a seminar on contemporary issues in design practice in the School of Architecture.

Architect — Gluck+ Architecture and Construction

October 2022 — May 2024

Design and construction coordination for a 35,000 m² film studio and office in New York City.

Director of Design Research, Teaching and Research Associate — Harvard University

December 2020 — July 2022

Supervising a team within the Japan Research Initiative to produce drawings and text for publication. Coordinating with authors, editors, and translators. Co-teaching studio and seminar courses.

Assistant Professor of Architecture — Keio University

March 2021 — May 2022

Supervising undergraduate design-build teams and teaching courses on sustainability in the built environment and design history. Helping to launch the Fumihiko Maki Archive, a center for the preservation and critical study of the work of a Pritzker Prize-winning architect.

Designer — Kobayashi Maki Design Workshop + SOM Japan

April 2014 — May 2017

Cultural buildings, homes, schools, and mixed-use developments. Designed and built several disaster relief projects including housing and schools in Croatia, the Philippines, Nepal, and Japan.

Experience**Architectural Designer — Fumihiko Maki and Associates - 2018***Part-time*

Contributed to schematic design and design development of the Museum Reinhard Ernst in Wiesbaden, Germany, including material schedules, drafting, and digital and physical models.

Freelance Designer — Fultz Architects / BAM Architects - 2012-13

Projects included a quarry office, medical education center, and residential conversion. Work primarily consisted of schematic design, as-builts, site surveys, and mock-up fabrication.

Architectural Designer — Brett Webber Architects - 2011

Contributed to design development and construction documents for the Avalon Beach House in Avalon, NJ. Participated in schematic design of a day school in Philadelphia, PA.

Skills

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|-------------|------|-------------|------|--------------|------|--------------|------|
| AutoCAD | | Detailing | | MS Office | | Revit | ... |
| Adobe Suite | | Drafting | | Mac OS | | Rhino | |
| ArcGIS | .. | Fabrication | | Model making | | Text editing | |
| Bluebeam | | G Suite | | Rendering | ... | Writing | |

Languages

English (native) and Japanese (professional working proficiency)

Honors

Harvard University Gregory S. Baldwin Fellowship, 2020
Research grant, Harvard Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, 2019
Harvard GSD Dean's Merit Scholarship, 2017
Merit Award, Tokyo Designers Week, 2013
VCU Traveling Research Grant, 2013

Writing

I have written for venues including *The Architectural Review*, *Home & Design*, *The Japan Times*, and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch* and published academic articles through Springer, Actar, and the Harvard GSD. I have co-edited *ArchitectureRichmond*, a web journal, for 13 years, and am a member of the US National Book Critic's Circle.

**Teaching
Lecturing**

Adjunct Assistant Professor — The Cooper Union
June 2025 - present

Project Assistant Professor — Keio University
April 2021 - May 2022

Teaching Associate — Harvard University Graduate School of Design
January - May 2021

Guest Lecturer or Critic — *institutions including . . .*

Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio
Bahá'í Institute of Higher Education
Harvard University
Meiji University
Hosei University
Rhode Island School of Design

Waseda University
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
University of Melbourne
Kyoto Institute of Technology
Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy
Branch Museum of Design

| Date | Selected Publications and Lectures |
|---------|---|
| 09.2024 | Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, Annual Conference Ambivalent Urbanism: Wright, Detroit, & the Civic Imagination (lecture, article forthcoming 6/25) |
| 08.2024 | Branch Museum of Design City Planning: A Narrative (exhibition, texts) |
| 01.2023 | <i>Sharing Tokyo</i>, Mostafavi and Ota, editors, (Actar Press) Director of Design Research, contributor (chapter, essay, drawings, editing, text) |
| 08.2018 | The Architectural Review Floor Polish: Floor as Furniture in Japan |
| 08.2016 | Aida Atelier's Unplan Hostel turns a transient space into a forum for connection |
| 07.2016 | Reinvigorating the Fading Holiday Culture of Lake Chuzenji: Nikken Sekkei |
| 10.2021 | Harvard Graduate School of Design Japan Story: Design Research (contributing writer) |
| 10.2020 | Miami Health City |
| 03.2019 | Adapting Miami (associate editor) |
| 03.2019 | Infrastructure, Imagination and the Possibility of Meaningful Change in Miami |
| 10.2019 | <i>Digital Wood Design</i>, Bianconi and Filippucci, ed. (Springer) <i>Empathic Architecture</i> , co-authored with Professor Hiroto Kobayashi, Keio University |
| 10.2020 | The Richmond Times-Dispatch Column: Why We Should Support Richmond 300 |
| 07.2019 | ArchitectureRichmond Book Review: Spying on the South |
| 01.2016 | Neighborhood Profile: Gilpin Court |
| 06.2014 | In Support of Pear Street |
| 03.2019 | The Japan Times 'Japan in the World': A comprehensive analysis of Japan's international image |
| 10.2018 | 'Studies in Intellectual History of Tokugawa Japan': political theory of the Edo Period |
| 09.2017 | 'The Making of Urban Japan': The best introduction to Japanese planning in English |
| 04.2017 | 'MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975' |
| 07.2016 | Arata Isozaki and the search for a national identity |
| 08.2015 | 'Allegories of Time and Space' tunnels into the history of modern Japanese aesthetics |