

MERSIHA VELEDAR / R.A.

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NY STATE LICENSE # 045737-01



- > The genesis of my professional work and studio pedagogy on material architectonics and building integrated housing, originate in my “Architecture could 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 design of intimately scaled architectural elements such as walls, columns, doors and windows to quotidian objects such as chairs and tables, 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 captures an array of public and private programs ranging in scale from schools, museums, to the surreal intimacy and construction details 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 since 2005, grounded in the development of elemental typologies, civic framework, building integrated housing and foundational architectonics. My studios have been recognized by the prestigious Studio Prize by Architect Magazine for top Studio in North America, RIBA Royal Medal award for “World’s Best Projects”, and showcased in numerous exhibitions, conferences and publications. I also direct and coordinate the new summer program[s] at The Cooper Union which have expanded to [-/+]100 annual participants with my leadership. The initial eight years of my teachings on civic urbanism have been published in “Open City: Existential Approach,” by Charta and my recent research on “Healing the City: Elemental Constructions and The Universal Language of Architecture” was selected and published by the ACSA New Instrumentalities Chapter. These elemental conditions were deployed in my new building integrated ‘collective living’ housing studio initiative that I taught and coordinated in collaboration with Help USA non-for-profit organization and the New York City Public Housing Authority, with a focus on alleviating homelessness through affordable housing initiatives in New York City. Furthermore, I am currently working on a forthcoming book publication “Catalogue of Architectonic Elements and The Common Ground” that captures my teaching in 1st year, Architectonics with the support of Acting Dean Eber, Archives Director Steven Hillyer and the 2024 President’s Office Grants at The Cooper Union, alongside Gilbert Hansen at Architectural Publisher [B.](#)

THE COOPER UNION SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, FALL 2005 - PRESENT

Assistant Professor, Fall 2017 - present [Adjunct Fall 2005 - Spring 2017]

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

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS [CON'T]

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

ARCH 141B, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Domus - Locus - Spatium - Limine w/ Diane Lewis, Spring 2006

ARCH 141A, Year 4 Urbanism Studio: Architectural Verticality, New York w/ Lebbeus Woods, Fall 2005

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 pedagogical curriculum, weekly calendar, assignments and workshop structure for [-/+] 100 students

> program expanded in size since curriculum update and generates around **300-400K annually**

> responsible for hiring and training needs, providing work opportunities for B. Arch and M. Arch students to gain teaching experience

THE COOPER UNION, COMMITTEE WORK

Dean Search Committee 2022-23, Administrative Committee 2021-2023, Senate Committee 2019-2022, Chair of Undergraduate Admissions 2017-2024, Graduate Admissions Committee – M. Arch II 2016, Curriculum Committee [NAAB] 2015-2017

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 2009 + 2018

Visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer, FunderSted Graduate Program in collaboration w/ Program Director Anne Romme

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- > The last twenty years of my professional experience in architecture as a registered architect, captures a variety of project scales and programs such as High School of Art & PS 59, Net Zero Energy School in Staten Island to numerous DOB approved domestic residences in New York, New Jersey and overseas. My design approach balances experimental sensibility through rigorous attention to construction details and materiality, that is innovative, playful, inspiring and inviting to its users. My recent professional work on multi-functional domestic objects explores the surreal effects of phenomena of nature and community interaction within public parks 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, multitude of functions and 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, encourages spatial flexibility that can be customized directly by its users to bring joy through unexpected re-shaping of space, materiality, and programmatic function within their daily lives.

VELEDAR WORKS, NY FALL 2013 - PRESENT

Founder

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE [CON'T]

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, 2,000SF, 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 - Staten Island, NY, 68,000 SF, 2011-2012
Elizabeth Academic High School, School Development. Authority - 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, 008
Skyscraper Museum Canopy, w/ James Turrell, Concept Design, 2008
Oberoi Garden City Apartments, Oberoi, India, Concept Design 300,000 SF, 2008
Poddar House Towers, Poddar, India, Concept Design, 500,000 SF, 2008
SOM Evening Lecture Series, Curator (Art, Architecture, Engineering), 2009-2011

CONFERENCES, LECTURES & AWARDS

The Cooper Union President's Office Grant for "Catalogue of Architectonics Elements and The Common Ground" \$10,000, 2024
* Symposium: Nuance and Intimacy in Civic Space, The Cooper Union w/ Scott Cohen, Nader Tehrani, Pippo Chiara – 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 Veledar 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
* 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
George Ledlie Fund \$1,000, 2003
AIA NY Chapter for Architecture Grants Eleanor Allwork Scholarship \$3,000, 2002
AIA/AAF Scholarship for First Professional Degree Candidates \$2,000, 2001
United Federation of Teachers, (UFT) Scholarship Fund \$4,000, 1998-2001

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, Gallerie 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

Catalogue of Architectonic Elements and The Common Ground by Architectural Publisher B, Forthcoming 2024 - 2025

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

* 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 Projeť 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, iSBN 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

SOFTWARE SKILLS

3d Max Studio (V Ray), AutoCAD, Rhino, Revit Architecture, Adobe Suite, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Hayley Eber, Acting Dean, The Cooper Union School of Architecture, Principal Studio Eber > E: Hayley.Eber@cooper.edu

Nader Tehrani, Professor and former Dean of The Cooper Union School of Architecture. Principal NADAAA > E: Nader.Tehrani@cooper.edu

Ben Aranda, Assistant Professor at The Cooper Union, Principal Aranda/Lasch > E: Ben@arandalasch.com

Steven Hillyer, Director, The Cooper Union School of Architecture Archive > E: Steven.Hillyer@cooper.edu