Neil Leach is an architect and interdisciplinary scholar. He is currently Visiting Professor at FIU. He is also Visiting Professor at Harvard GSD and Tongji University, Professor at the European Graduate School, a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Fellow and an academician of the Academia Europaea. Previously he has taught at SCI-Arc, Architectural Association, Cornell University, Columbia GSAPP, USC, University of Nottingham and Dessau Institute of Architecture. He holds MA and Dip Arch degrees from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD degree from the University of Nottingham.

His first publication was a translation from the Latin of Leon Battista Alberti’s treatise on architecture, de re aedificatoria, undertaken under the supervision of Joseph Rykwert, and published as On The Art of Building in Ten Books (MIT, 1988). This experience taught him the importance of publishing and interdisciplinary thinking.

With his first academic appointment at the University of Nottingham he shifted into a more contemporary theoretical arena, influenced heavily by ongoing research in Continental Philosophy in the School of Critical Theory. His second publication, Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory (Routledge, 1997), a best selling collection of essays on architecture and urbanism by key thinkers of the twentieth century, such as Georges Bataille, Siegfried Kracauer, Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, Michel Foucault, Jean Baudrillard, Helene Cixous, Jacques Derrida and Gilles Deleuze, informed many of his subsequent publications.

Invitations to teach at leading design schools, such as the Architecture Association and Columbia GSAPP, further influenced his thinking. As an academic who had always taught both design and theory, he began to realize the limitations of cultural hermeneutics from a design perspective, and to engage increasingly with the materialist philosophies of Gilles Deleuze, Manuel de Landa, and emerging scientific thinkers. These philosophies suggested a more constructive engagement with the world of technology in general and computation in particular. Many of his more recent publications have dealt with computational design theory. He is currently working with Behrokh Khoshnevis and others on a NASA-funded project to develop robotic fabrication technologies for printing structures on the Moon and Mars.