



**CYNTHIA ÖTTCHEN** is a registered architect and a published author. She has taught design studios and history of architecture at Florida International University in Miami continuously since 2013 as an adjunct professor. She has combined teaching with practice, and has worked on several high profile projects in Miami in collaboration with other firms. She has also completed her own interior projects in Paris and Rio.

Prior to her involvement in teaching, she was Manager Internal Affairs at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, working directly with the founder Rem Koolhaas, the CEO Victor van der Chijs, and the other partners to oversee the projects in the office on a daily basis and communicate issues to Rem as they arose. She was in charge of staffing the projects and vetting and hiring new architects, among other managerial responsibilities. She also developed and directed OMA's Research and Innovation cell for exploring new design methodologies (including parametrics and sustainability), and for forming strategic technological collaborations for the office. This role followed a brief period in Zaha Hadid's London office where she helped implement new protocols for dealing with the office's growth.

Cynthia's research in digital methodologies and her peer-reviewed published articles on the subject led to a role as the 2008 Gerald Sheff Visiting Professor at McGill University SOA, teaching a studio and seminar in New Computational Design Strategies. She developed parametric approaches for rapid UAE urbanization in Dubai, was a Visiting Design Critic at Harvard GSD, and has been Project Architect for the Interiors of the innovative Porsche oceanfront tower in Miami utilizing giant car elevators. She has also collaborated with William Lane (Miami Beach iconic lifeguard stands), Chad Oppenheim and with Porsche on the Porsche Tower in Miami.

Cynthia received her Master of Architecture from Rice University, Houston TX. After graduation she gained practical experience working on buildings by Phillip Johnson, Cesar Pelli and Robert A.M. Stern for KHA and Gerald Hines Development and then went on to postgraduate studies in the History and Philosophy of Architecture at the University of Cambridge, England. Her research at Cambridge focused on new modes of thought in the Enlightenment, the theory of the Sublime, and their effect on design methodology and architectural meaning.

Cynthia is the co-author of best-selling books on Shakespeare and language, published by Random House, and the designer of related merchandise.

**Professional qualifications:**

**US Registered Architect** (Currently licensed in the State of Florida since '02)

**NCARB Certification**, North America (National Council of Architectural Registration Boards) '02--

Successful completion of IDP [Intern Development Program] and 5-day professional examination.

**RELEVANT  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE  
[SELECTED]**

**ÖTTCHEN Architects, '10 to present**

**PRINCIPAL**

Selected Design Projects:

- 4000sf Apartment Renovation in Ipanema, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for Art Collector. Ongoing
- 7610 Biscayne -1951 Church by architect Igor Polevetsky, Programming study. Restoration and adaptive reuse for new cinema/restaurant use.
- Codec Apartment, 500sf renovation in central Paris for a Corporate Executive and Art Collector. Completed 2013.

**COLLABORATIONS:**

**WLA (WILLIAM LANE ARCHITECTS).** *Miami FL USA, 2013 to present*

Consulting Project Architect. Projects included Miami Beach Lifeguard Stands, Miami Beach City Hall, renovations, City Parks – small public buildings and park planning.

Selected lifeguard stands by WLA (Tommy Kwak, photographer):



**OPPENHEIM ARCHITECTS.** *Miami FL USA, '13*

225 Bay Bal Drive. Concept and development of a 23,000sf luxury house on speculation for Indian Creek Village. Collaboration on concept and schematic phases of design with Chad Oppenheim.

**PORSCHE DESIGN TOWER.** *Miami FL USA, '13*

Consulting Project Architect. Unique 57-story oceanfront condo featuring private car elevators with parking next to unit. Responsible for design redevelopment of public interiors (car entry sequence, lobby, spa, restaurant, bar, gym, etc).

**X-Architects.** *Dubai UAE, '09*

**PROJECT ARCHITECT**

This young Emirati office was involved in rapid large-scale new developments sponsored by the state (essentially the scale of new cities) particularly one involving the historical city of Al Ain. Typical professional strategies were leading to unsatisfactory and homogenous results in terms of community and experiential quality. My role was to form a research cell and develop a direction for new urban design strategies which could take advantage of technology to address the rapid pace with which new cities were being built, the huge scale, the issues of sustainability and feasibility and context, while respecting and building on the local Emirati cultural sensibilities.

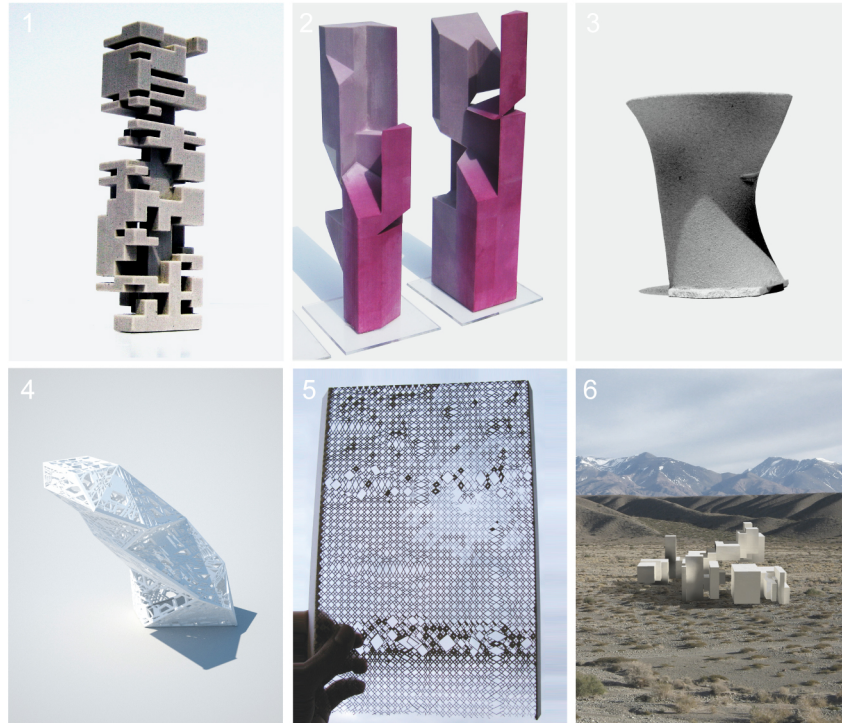
**OMA – Office for Metropolitan Architecture.** *Rotterdam NL, '06 to '08*

**HEAD OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

This role included initiating a new Parametric Research Cell in order to research new design methodologies (especially digital software such as parametric, BIM, and new rapid prototyping methods such as 3D printing to

replace the blue-foam orthodox methodology) and to develop innovative yet 'OMA-specific' digital design approaches. The brief was that these new approaches should be realistic (ie buildable) for building and planning projects. Experimental scripting strategies were initially based on programmatic and adjacency parameters (a typical OMA strategy but hardly been explored in other offices or universities). Later projects included other data such as daylighting, view, site and zoning information. Recently, research and scripting teams operated in parallel alongside real projects to develop innovative alternative solutions for evaluation and assessment. Many scripts were subsequently utilized in these real projects. This role also included forming and developing strategic external collaborations and software consortiums to invent and utilize generative digital design methods. Collaborations and cooperations were developed with the the AA EmTech programme [London], Building Technology Department at the Delft School of Design [TUDelft], SOM / NY Digital Design Department, and Gehry Technologies.

*Selected design research projects using scripting methodologies while at OMA:*



*Other Professional architectural experience:*

**Independent work as LICENSED ARCHITECT, Miami, FL 01-04**

Residential Projects and Innovative Housing Schemes.

Phases: *Feasibility, Concept through Construction Administration.*

**Adams Architects. ARCHITECT [IDP], Houston, TX, 89-90**

Design-led office whose principal had been mentored by Colin St. John Wilson.

Cultural and Residential Projects, including Galveston Museum Project, *Concept and Schematic Design*

**Kendall/Heaton/Associates, ARCHITECT [IDP], Houston, TX, 87-99**

Executive Architects for Philip Johnson, Cesar Pelli, Robert Stern, OMA, SANAA, etc.

Selected High rise and Commercial Projects:

191 Peachtree Tower [Johnson/Burgee Architects], 50 stories. *Construction Docs, Consultant Coordination*

Wells Fargo (Norwest) Tower, Minneapolis, MN. [Cesar Pelli & Associates], 57 stories. *Construction Docs*

Texas Commerce Tower, Houston TX, *Project Architect, Concept Design [Interiors]*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE [SELECTED]** **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR - Florida International University** . *Miami FL, 2013 to present*  
Housing, urbanism and open studios integrating scripting design and digital fabrication techniques. Design 5, 6, 7.  
History of Architecture 1, 2, 3 (Modern Architecture) Seminars and Lectures.

**Harvard University Graduate School of Design.** *Cambridge MA, Spring '10*

**VISITING DESIGN CRITIC IN ARCHITECTURE**

4<sup>th</sup> semester core studio for a Community Recreation Center in Queens. The syllabus prescribed a period of collaboration with the Landscape Architecture students for potential site strategies and the aim was a community center building program that could be 'dissolved' into the city via Landscape Urbanism strategies.

**McGill University School of Architecture.** *Montreal CA, Fall '08*

**GERALD SHEFF VISITING PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE**

The Gerald Sheff Visiting Professorship is for the development of innovation in architecture. My Graduate Studio involved teaching the students rhinoscript while helping them develop innovative scripted approaches to the design of a context- and environmentally-responsive residential condominium project in the Flatiron district in Manhattan, NYC. I also taught a Graduate Seminar on New Design Methodologies which covered critical and post-critical design approaches from 1970 to the present and looked specifically at current design offices and their digital methodologies.

**ACADEMIC [SELECTED]**

**Degrees:**

**Master of Philosophy**, History and Philosophy of Architecture, University of Cambridge, UK. 91-96

*Areas of Research: Enlightenment Modes of Design Thinking, Historicism, Domesticity, Aesthetics*

*Supervisors: Dalibor Vesely and Peter Carl; External examiners: Robin Middleton, Karsten Harries.*

*Papers: 1) Robert Adam and the Problem of Historicism in the Enlightenment*

*2) Alexander Pope's Garden at Twickenham: the Phenomenon of Domesticity in the 17C*

*Final Thesis: "The Architecture of the Eighteenth Century and the Phenomenon of the Sublime" [UNPUBLISHED]*

*Final Thesis selected for Inclusion in UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY*

The premise of the final thesis was based on the trajectory of greater instrumentalization in architectural thinking and production which began to dominate in the Enlightenment through the development of rationalism and aesthetic theory, and a parallel trajectory of greater immanentization in the 'metaphysical' object of symbolization evident in the domestication and immanentization of the phenomenon of the sublime in the Romantic movement in England and France. In philosophical terms this thesis analyzed works from Longinus to Shaftesbury, Burke, Kant and Lyotard while relating to key contemporary scientific developments and modes of thought.

**Master of Architecture**, Rice University, Houston, TX [Professional Degree]

*Awarded Morris R. Pittman Traveling Fellowship for Best Graduate Student*

**Bachelor of Science**, University of Texas, Austin, TX

*Concentration in Sciences, member of computer programming team for UT's "Texas Union" Database*

*Secondary Concentration in Design (Interior Architecture)*

**Conferences, papers, workshops:**

**"The Future of Information Modelling: Less is Limited, More is Different",**

*PUBLISHED March 09, in AD (Architectural Design Journal) "Closing the Gap", ed. Richard Garber.*

*Material covered: the effect of digital software on the design process and creativity*

**"The Future of Form: The Location of Meaning in Data-Driven Design", BLIND PEER-REVIEWED PAPER**

*PUBLISHED, May 08 in Seeking the City: Visionaries on the Margins, Proceedings of the 2008 ACSA Annual*

*Meeting, eds. Froehlich & Pride. PRESENTED, 27 March 08, Houston TX at the National ACSA Annual Meeting*

**Reviews/Teaching:**

**Adjunct Professor**, Florida International University (Miami FL) since 2013- ongoing, Design Studios, Summer Study Abroad (Japan, Berlin, London), Master Project Seminar and Studio, History 1,2,and 3 (lecture/seminar).

**Jury Member, Mid and Final Project Reviews**, Yale School of Architecture (New Haven CT) *Spring '13, 1<sup>st</sup> year*  
Studio/Build Studio, Coordinator: Alan Organaschi

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**Jury Member, Final Project Reviews, FIU (Miami) Spring '12**, Van Alen Studio / Graduate Sustainability Studios

**Jury Member, Final Project Review, Cooper Union (New York) Fall '11**, Landscape Urbanism Studio, Rafi Segal

**Jury Member, Mid and Final Project Reviews, Yale School of Architecture (New Haven CT) Spring '11**, 1<sup>st</sup> year Design/Build Studio, Coordinator: Alan Organaschi

**Jury Member, Graduate and Graduate Thesis Reviews, Harvard GSD (Cambridge MA) Spring '10**  
Studio/Thesis Tutors: Preston Scott Cohen, Mack Scogin, Eric Howeler, Michael Meredith, Susannah Drake, et al

**Jury Member, Mid and Final Review, American University of Sharjah (UAE) 3rd Year Undergraduate Studio, Spring term 08**, Studio Tutor: George Katodritis

**Jury Member, Graduate Thesis Reviews, McGill University (Montreal CA) Fall term 08**

**Jury Member, Final Review, TUDelft Final Year Undergraduate Studio, May 08**

**Jury Member, Final Review, NJIT Third Year Undergraduate Studio, May 07**  
Studio Head: Peter C. Papademetriou, Professor

**Design Studio, University of Houston, 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 3, Intensive Masters Program (1<sup>st</sup> Professional) Degree**,  
Co-taught with Patrick A. Peters, Associate Professor of Architecture, Director, Graduate Design/Build Studio  
*Spring 90 - Student projects exhibited.*

**Design Studio, Rice University, Architecture Studio for Non-architecture Students, Spring 87**

*Professional and academic conferences/workshops:*

**Rhinoscript for Architects, Dubai, Spring 09**

**Bentley BE Conference, London, June 07**

Professional plenary, technical and training sessions for Microstation Generative Components software.

**Gehry Technologies, [IN-HOUSE], April 08 and in progress**

Investigation of use of Digital Project in the both concept (generative) phase and design development.

**SOM Digital Design Department [IN-HOUSE], since Jan 08, workshop May 08**

Investigation of formation of software consortium for generative techniques and methodologies.

**Computational Intelligence for Design Applications, Delft School of Design, Nov 07 [GUEST]**

Research seminar/workshop centered on advanced methods of analysis for applications in architecture, engineering, and urbanism including neural networks, fuzzy logic, and genetic algorithms.

ACADEMIC  
REFERENCES

**Rem Koolhaas**

Professor in Practice of Architecture and Urban Design, Harvard GSD

**Mack Scogin**

Kajima Professor in Practice of Architecture, Harvard GSD

**Michael Jemtrud**

Associate Professor and Director (former), McGill University School of Architecture, Montreal CA

**Michael Weinstock**

Director of Emerging Technologies, AA, London

**Peter Carl**

(Supervisor, MPhil at Cambridge)

Director of Studies, University of Cambridge, Department of Architecture, Cambridge UK and London Metropolitan

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**Patrick A. Peters** (co-taught design studio at UH)

Associate Professor of Architecture

Director, Graduate Design/Build Studio, University of Houston, Houston, TX

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PERSONAL

**Visa status:** US Citizenship; UK Permanent Residency;

**Languages:** native English, fair knowledge of French, Dutch and German

**Co-Author** of six books on language and Shakespeare. [Publisher: Random House]

[Critically acclaimed in NYT and London Times, UK National Bestseller]

*Independent project:*

**"Naked Name" [MULTIMEDIA PROJECT].** *Cambridge, England and Miami, In progress.*

**WRITER, DIGITAL DESIGNER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCE**