

SANDY ISENSTADT

Professor, History of Art

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

isnt@udel.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

2019-Present: Department Chair

2014-Present: Professor

2014-2019: Co-Director, Center for Material Culture Studies

2011-2014: Associate Director, Center for Material Culture Studies

2009-2014: Associate Professor

Yale University, New Haven, CT

2002-09: Assistant Professor

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

1998-01: Assistant Professor

AWARDS / FELLOWSHIPS

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

2009-10: Member, School of Historical Studies

Nuckolls Fund for Lighting Education, Putnam Valley, NY

2007-08: Edison Price Fellowship, *Electric Modernism*

Yale University, New Haven, CT

2006: Yale Center for International and Area Studies Publication Award, *Modernism and the Middle East*

2004-06: Getty Collaborative Research Grant, Eero Saarinen and Postwar American Culture

2005-06: Morse Fellowship in the Humanities

2005: Hilles Publication Fund, *The Modern American House*

National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C.

2000-2001: Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago, IL

2006: Graham Foundation Publishing Award, *Modernism and the Middle East*

2001: Graham Foundation Publishing Award, *The Modern American House*

Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts (CASVA), National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

1995-97: Mary Davis Predoctoral Fellowship

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

1997: Ph.D. in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

1985: Master of Architecture

Washington University, St. Louis, MO

1979: Bachelor of Arts: Major in Architecture

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Modelwork: The Material Culture of Making and Knowing, co-edited with Martin Brückner and Sarah Wassermann (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021).

Elusive Archives: Material Culture in Formation, co-edited with Martin Brückner (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 2021).

Electric Light: An Architectural History, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, Fall, 2018).

Cities of Light: Two Centuries of Urban Illumination, co-edited with Dietrich Neumann and Margaret Maile Petty (New York: Routledge, February, 2015).

The Modern American House: Spaciousness and Middle-Class Identity, (New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 2006). 2008 Spiro Kostof Award, Society of Architectural Historians.

Modernism and the Middle East: Politics of the Built Environment, Introduction written and essays co-edited with Kishwar Rizvi (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008).

Essays

“Introduction: Modelwork,” co-authored with Martin Brückner, in *Modelwork: The Material Culture of Making and Knowing*, co-edited with Martin Brückner and Sarah Wassermann (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2021), vi-xix.

“The Elusive Archive in Material Culture Studies,” co-authored with Martin Brückner, in *Elusive Archives: Material Culture in Formation*, co-edited with Martin Brückner (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 2021).

- "Pandemic Teaching" *Places*, (April, 2020).
- "Ornamental Transparency in the Modern Kitchen," *Flow: Interior, Landscape and Architecture in the Era of Liquid Modernity*. Sparke, Penny, Brown, Patricia, Lara-Betancourt, Patricia, Lee, Gini and Taylor, Mark, eds. (London, U.K.: Bloomsbury, 2018), 218-228.
- "White Space: An Interior Monolog," *House Tour: Views of the Unfinished Interior*, Adam Jasper, ed. (Zurich: Park Books, 2018), 102-107.
- "Glasgow 2017," *Architectural History*, Winter 2017.
- "Neutra's Nature," *Landscript*, Albert Kirchengast and Christophe Girot, eds., (Zurich: ETH, 2017), 45-66.
- "Architects and Artificial Light," *Histoire de l'énergie / History of Energy*, Comité d'histoire de l'électricité et de l'énergie (Alain Beltran, Léonard Laborie, Pierre Lanthier and Stéphanie Le Gallic), ed., (Peter Lang: Frankfurt am Main, 2016), 81-102.
- "Lighting the Future City," *Envisioning Future Cities. ISOCARP Review*, v.12, Jim Reilly, ed., (The Hague, The Netherlands: International Society of City and Regional Planners, 2016): 68-83.
- "Future Archive: "Metropolis Regained"" *Places*, (November, 2015).
- "Introduction," "New York," and "Los Angeles," chapters in *Cities of Light. Two Centuries of Urban Illumination* (London: Routledge, February, 2015).
- "The Spaces of Shopping," in *The Material Culture of Shopping*, Deborah Andrews, ed. (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 2014).
- "Good Night," *Places/Design Observer*, (Spring, 2014).
- "House and (Haunted) Garden," *Sanctioning Modernism*, Monica Penick and Timothy Parker, eds. (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2014), 244-268.
- "Luminous Urbanism: L.A. After Dark," in *Overdrive: L.A. Constructs the Future, 1940-1990*, Wim de Wit and Christopher James Alexander, eds., (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2013), 49-63.
- "The Future is Here: Norman Bel Geddes and the Theater of Time," in *I Have Seen the Future: Norman Bel Geddes Designs America*, Donald Albrecht, ed., (Austin, Tex.: Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas Press, 2012), 136-153.
- "Groping in the Dark: The Scotopic Space of Blackouts," *The Senses and Society* 7:3 (Nov., 2012): 302-328.
- "The Lure of Tomorrow: Making Consumers Modern," in *A Modern World: American Design from the Yale University Art Gallery, 1920-1950*, John Gordon, ed., (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011), 1-9.
- "Auto-Specularity. Driving through the American Night," *Modernism/Modernity*, 18:2 (Spring, 2011): 213-231.
- "Introspective Outlook. The Architecture of Brad Cloepfil," *Allied Works Architecture*, Diana Murphy, ed., (Baden, Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers, 2011), 43-53.
- "Foreword," *Cellophane House* (Philadelphia: KieranTimberlake, 2011), vi-xi.
- "The Modern Light of Richard Kelly," *Richard Kelly. Space Light Architecture*, Dietrich Neumann, ed., (Yale University Press, 2011), 43-62.
- "Le Passé est un Prologue – La Caserne Dalhousie, Centre Multimédia d'Ex Machina," (trans. from English), *Architectures du Spectacle au Québec*, sous la direction de l'architecte Jacques Plante, (Québec: Les Publications du Québec, 2011), 22-24.
- "Million \$ View," *American Art* 25:1 (Spring, 2011): 19-21.
- "An Archipelago of Centers," *Cabinet. A Quarterly of Art and Culture* (Fall, 2010), 102-103.
- "Levittown. Modern Life on Long Island," in Erik Neil, ed., *Long Island Moderns, From Edward Steichen to Cindy Sherman* (Huntington, NY: Heckscher Museum of Art, October 2009), 114-127.
- "Soon We Will All Be Architects," *Modern Painters* 26 (July-August, 2008): 66-71.
- "Simmering Statecraft," *Cabinet. A Quarterly of Art and Culture* 26 (Summer, 2007): 34-35.
- "Four Views, Three of Them Through Glass," in Dianne Harris and J. Fairchild Ruggles, eds., *Sites Unseen: Essays on Landscape and Vision* (University Park, Penn: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007), 213-40. Winner, Allen G. Noble Award, best edited book, Pioneer America Society.
- "Between Worlds: A Place for Modernism," in Enrique Vivoni, ed., *Henry Klumb and Modern Architecture in Puerto Rico* (San Juan: La Editorial Universidad de Puerto Rico, Spring, 2007), 221-42. Trans. into Spanish.
- "Theater of Form: Eero Saarinen and the Function of Style," Donald Albrecht and Eeva Pelkonen, eds. *Eero Saarinen: Architect of the American Century* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006), 98-115.
- "Floodlighting: Surfaces Unbound," in Dietrich Neumann, ed., *Luminous Buildings: Architecture of the Night* (Stuttgart, 2006), 72-73. Translated into German.
- "Ground Plan for the Future: Time on the Site of Sert's American Embassy in Baghdad," in Josep Maria Rovira and Jaume Freixa, eds., *The Architecture of Josep Lluís Sert* (Barcelona: Fundacio Miro, 2005), 207-17.
- "Contested Contexts," in Carol Burns and Andrea Kahn, eds., *Site Matters*, (Abingdon, U.K.: Routledge, 2005), 157-84.
- "Perspecta Since 1987," in Robert A. M. Stern, Peggy Deamer, and Alan Plattus, eds., *Re-Reading Perspecta. The First Fifty Years of the Yale Architectural Journal*, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2005), 787-95.
- "Modern in the Middle," *Perspecta* 36, (Fall, 2005): 62-72.
- "What's Past is Prolog: Caserne Dalhousie in Québec City, The Ex Machina Multimedia Center, Plante et Julien,

- Architects," www.exmachina.qc.ca, (2003).
- "Image Renewal: Polemic and Presentation in the Urban Theory of Rem Koolhaas and Leon Krier," in Lawrence Vale and Sam Bass Warner, Jr., eds. *Imaging the City: Continuing Struggles and New Directions*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Urban Policy and Research/Rutgers University, 2001), 213-36.
- "Three Problems in Preserving the Postwar Landscape," *Preservation Forum Journal*, 15:3 (Spring, 2001), 35-42.
- "Recurring Surfaces: Architecture in the Experience Economy," *Perspecta* 32, (Spring, 2001): 108-119.
- "Richard Neutra and the Psychology of Architectural Consumption," in Sarah Goldhagen and Rejean Legault, eds., *Anxious Modernisms: Architectural Culture, 1945-1968*, (Montreal: CCA, 2001), 97-118.
- "The Visual Commodification of Landscape in the Real Estate Appraisal Industry, 1900-1992," *Business and Economic History*, 45, (Winter, 1999): 60-69. Adapted for *Thresholds*, 18, (1999), 17-23.
- "Visions of Plenty: Refrigerator Design in America around 1950," *Journal of Design History*, 11:4 (Autumn 1998): 311-321.
- "Rise and Fall of the Picture Window," *Harvard Design Magazine*, (October 1998): 27-33. Reprinted in Barbara Miller Lane, ed., *Housing and Dwelling: Perspectives on Modern Domestic Architecture* (London: Routledge), 298-306
- "The Interpretive Imperative: Architecture and the Perfectibility of Memory," *Harvard Design Magazine*, 1:2 (October 1997): 58-62.
- "Faith in a Better Future': Sert's American Embassy in Baghdad," *Journal of Architectural Education*, 50:9 (February 1997): 172-188.
- "Spectacular Tectonics," *ANY Magazine*, 14 (1996): 44-47.
- "Dimensioning Democracy: An American Embassy in Baghdad," *Architecture + Culture*, Tim Donais, Trevor Boddy, Enn Kayari, eds., Conference Proceedings, (Ottawa: Carleton University, 1992), 191-197.

Reviews

- "Modernism's Visible Hand," Review of Michael Osman, *Modernism's Visible Hand* (2019), *Winterthur Portfolio* (Winter, 2020)
- "Desperately Seeking a Center, in the Postwar American Suburb," review of Victor Gruen (2017). Shopping Town, and Adam Arenson (2018). *Banking on Beauty. Journal of Urban History* (scheduled spring, 2019).
- "Dieter Rams: Principled Design," Exhibition Review, Philadelphia Museum of Art, in W86th, April 2019.
- "Little White Houses," by Dianne Harris, in *JAE*, Winter, 2013.
- "Building a Market. The Rise of the Home Improvement Industry, 1914-1960," by Richard Harris, in *American Historical Review* (Dec., 2013): 1547.
- Atomic Dwelling. Anxiety, Domesticity, and Postwar Architecture*, Robin Schuldenfrei, ed., (London: Routledge, 2012), in *JAE* 67:1 (March, 2013): 138-39.
- Constance Classen. *The Deepest Sense. A Cultural History of Touch*. Urbana, Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2012, in *The Senses and Society* 8:1 (March 2013): 113-16.
- Penny Sparke, Anne Wealleans, Trevor Keeble and Brenda Martin, eds. *Designing the Modern Interior: From the Victorians to Today*. Oxford: Berg Publishers, 2009, in *Winterthur Portfolio* (2012), 108-109.
- "Food Network," *ArtForum* (January, 2011): 43-44.
- "American Glamour," Review of Alice Friedman, "American Glamour," (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010) in *Places and Design Observer* (January, 2011).
- "Bauhaus Legacies," review of "The International Legacy of the Bauhaus," a symposium held at MoMA, Jan. 22, 2010, European Architectural History Network, June, 2010.
- Gabrielle Esperdy, *Modernizing Main Street. Architecture and Consumer Culture in the New Deal* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), in *American Historical Review* (Dec., 2009): 1487-88.
- Jonathan Massey, *Crystal and Arabesque. Claude Bragdon, Ornament, and Modern Architecture* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009) in *Places and Design Observer* (Fall, 2009).
- Robert Moses and the Modern City*, Hilary Ballon and Kenneth Jackson, eds., (New York: Norton, 2007), *Art Bulletin* 90:4 (December, 2008).
- "Blurred Reflections," review of *Glass House* (New York: Monacelli Press, 2007) in *The Architect's Newspaper* 14 (September 5, 2007).
- "Modern Medievalist," review of Douglass Shand-Tucci, *Ralph Adams Cram. An Architect's Four Quests* (Amherst and Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2005) in *Kentucky Historical Register* (Fall 2006).
- "Light Construction," review of John Jakle, *City Lights. Illuminating the American Night* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001) and Dietrich Neuman, ed. *Architecture of Night. The Illuminated Building* (Munich: Prestel, 2002) in *Harvard Design Magazine* (Fall/Winter, 2003).
- "Picture This," description of "Windows on the American Home," exhibition at National Building Museum, *Options Magazine* (for the homebuilding trade), Summer, 2003, and *Associated Press* wire story.
- "Concrete Analysis," review of Amy Slaton, *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900-1930* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001) in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 100:1 (Winter, 2002) pp. 98-100.
- "Houses from Books," review of Daniel Reiff, *Houses from Books*, (Penn State Press, 2000) in *The Register of the*

Kentucky Historical Society, pp. 183-85.

"Looking at Visual Culture," book review essay, *Design Book Review*, 43, (Fall, 2000), pp. 36-43.

"The Ontological Centaur: Louis Kahn and the Capitol Complex in Dhaka," (co-author, Imran Ahmed), *AKP Newsletter*, 4:2 (Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University and M.I.T., Spring 1992).

Current Research Projects

"Progressive Architecture": A re-reading of nineteenth-century American architecture in the light of contemporaneous notions of progress and evolution.

"Modern Shopping": An essay co-authored with Professor Jay Gitlin focusing on the spatial infrastructure of shopping--where shops are and how we get to them, how they are arranged inside and how we move through them--as it changed from the Renaissance through today.

"Global Modernism": A treatment of the spread of modern architecture, defined as the aesthetic exploitation of new materials and methods of construction, from Europe to nations throughout the world.

"Vermont Marble": A materials-driven book length essay drawing on the archives of the Vermont Marble Company, which supplied marble for a wide range of mid-century American buildings.

SELECTED CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA and LECTURES

Association of Architecture Schools Librarians, Los Angeles, CA, March 2022

"Empower: New Light on Reading"

Society for the History of Technology, Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November, 2021

"Sound and Color as Infrastructure: Electrifying the Built Environment in the 20th Century," Commentator

Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA, October, 2021

"Modern Spaces of Electric Light"

Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, July, 2021

"The Switch to Modernity," and panel discussion, as part of "Electric Summer School"

University of Hawaii, Manoa, HI, March 2021

"Driving through the American Night"

George Washington University, Washington, D.C., November, 2019

"Immaterial Effects," "It's Material" Faculty Forum

Bard College, New York, NY, April, 2019

"Glass House Horror: Modernism's Haunted Landscapes"

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, February, 2019

"Matriculated Modern: The Future Was Then," Campus of the Future Symposium

Cornell University, October, 2018

"Driving Through the American Night"

Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Science, Prague, Czech Republic, November, 2017

"The Social Space of the Headlight"

Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, Obama Research Fellowship, May-June 2016

Three public lectures on the spatial consequences of electric lighting

University of Delaware, Newark, DE, October, 2015

Chair, "Green Light," Art & Science: Connections and Intersections

Introduction: "Good Night. A Short History of Urban Light"

The Glass House, New Caanan, CT, October, 2015

"Landscape and Light at the Glass House"

Society of Architectural Historians, Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April, 2015

Session Co-Chair, "Architecture in a New Light"

Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, December 2014

"Architects and Electricity," Electric Worlds Conference

AIA-CRAN Conference, Charleston, SC, September 2014

Invited Speaker, National Conference

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, November 2013

Invited Speaker, Graduate Student Colloquium on Research Methods

University of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC, October 2013

Keynote Speaker, "Modernism in North Carolina"

Northwestern University, Chicago, Ill., April, 2013

Invited speaker, "N/LIGHT: Cultural and Art Histories of Light and the Night after Dark"

Society for American Regional and City Planning History, Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, Nov., 2011

Invited session respondent, "Architecture and Urbanism in the Twentieth Century City"