

# George J. Schafer, Ph.D.

AIA, LEED AP BD+C

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## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D., Planning Design & the Built Environment**

Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson SC

August, 2015

Concentration: Technology, Materials & Construction

Dissertation Title: *The LIT Room: The Design, Implementation and Evaluation of a Multi-Media, Architectural-Robotics Embedded Installation in a Public Library for Augmenting Children's Interactive Picturebook Read-Alouds*

Description: The LIT Room installation aims to cultivate children's literacy and creativity in an environment that is digital, physical and evocative of a picturebook. This exemplar of research-through design features an interactive, interdisciplinary process involving architects, engineers, educators and librarians. During a two-year, participatory design process, children and librarians were engaged as co-designers in the creation of a technologically sophisticated, robotic environment that fosters literacy in an increasingly digital society. A summative evaluation of the full-scale, working prototype engaged librarians and two classrooms of second grade children in an experiment to determine the overall usability of the system as well as its impact on children's meaning-making when compared to read-alouds in a traditional setting. The LIT ROOM concept won funding from the National Science Foundation, and will be used by Richland Library over the next year to facilitate innovative programming and outreach opportunities for children, teens and adults in this one-of-a-kind, technology-enhanced space for literacy acquisition and creativity support.

### **Master of Architecture**

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA

Class of 1996

Thesis: *Language of the Architect: Descriptions of Architectural Discourse*

### **Bachelor of Arts in Architecture**

Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson, SC

Class of 1992

Clemson Architectural Center, Charleston SC, Fall 1991

Honors: Pella Design Award for Senior Thesis Project

## TEACHING

### **Professor-in-Residence / Co-Director**

Charles E. Daniel Center for Urban Studies, Genoa, Italy

Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson SC

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

*ARCH 353/857 / LARCH 452 – Studio Genoa*

Interdisciplinary, "fluid" vertical studio comprised of architecture and landscape architecture students, undergraduate and graduate levels. ARCH 353 - Addresses architectural problems with varied scales and programs in the context of Genoa, Italy, and historic Europe. Emphasizes the relationship between architecture and context. Projects include analysis, conceptual development, and architectonic resolutions. Design problems vary every semester according to current issues. ARCH 857 - Design studio for increasingly comprehensive design projects, with varied scales and programs, with an emphasis on pre-design, site design, sustainability, and collaborative processes. Emphasizes the relationship between architecture, site and context. LARCH 452 - Off-campus

## TEACHING (continued)

landscape architecture studio in Genoa. Students participate in an interdisciplinary project linked to one of the focus areas in the department: restoration (environmental or cultural/historical), growth and change.

### *ARCH 416/616 / LARCH 419 – Field Studies in Architecture and Related Arts*

Intensive study of place in an off-campus setting as context for design. Documentation and analysis of architectural structures observed during European travels in graphic and written form.

### **Lecturer (Teaching Assistantship)**

Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson SC  
2011 – 2015

### *ARCH 351/452 – Studio Clemson / Synthesis Studio / Fluid Studio*

Senior undergraduate vertical studio. ARCH 351 - Addresses architectural problems with varied scales, programs and locations. Emphasizes the relationship between architecture and context. Projects include analysis, conceptual development, and architectonic resolutions. ARCH 452 - Continued development of graphic and oral communication skills. Design problems vary every semester according to current issues. Integrates acquired skills, abilities, and interests from previous architecture studios. Projects emphasize the accumulation of architectural experiences and knowledge.

### *ARCH 151 – Architecture Communication*

Introduction to the principles of architectural design. Collaborative foundation studio offering instruction in the specific skills of formal composition, visual communication, oral presentation, and computer literacy.

### *ARCH 401 – Architectural Portfolio*

Senior undergraduate seminar cultivating graphic communication skills and the development a cohesive design identity. Students develop an architectural brand through a suite of portfolios (physical and digital, academic and professional, info-graphic and three-dimensional), and are guided to develop a practice of indexing, communicating and evaluating their design artifacts.

### **Adjunct Lecturer**

University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning, Boulder CO  
2009 – 2010

### *ENVD 4510 - Studio 3*

Senior undergraduate architectural studio emphasizing an iterative, exploratory design process, the development of design concepts, and critical evaluation and discourse. Exploration through precedent research, site mapping / analysis, programming and conceptual development culminating in a complex architectural proposal in an urban context.

### *ENVD 1004 – Introduction to Environmental Design*

Interdisciplinary, foundation design studio introducing the complexity of forces that interact to shape the physical environment. A lecture sequence and parallel set of design exercises integrates environmental design theory and practice, elucidating seminal issues guiding the work of architects, landscape architects, urban designers and urban planners.

### **Student Instructor**

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA  
Summer 1996

### *Career Discovery Design Studio*

Six week intensive design studio for high school and college students interested in exposure to design education. Projects focused on analysis of urban conditions and conceptual development of short, intensive design interventions. Using portfolios consisting primarily of work from the six-week program, students from my studio were accepted into graduate programs in architecture at Harvard, MIT, UC Berkeley and RISD.

## AWARDS

### **Excellence in Teaching**

Clemson University College of Architecture, Arts & Humanities

Academic Year 2014

Student-nominated award for demonstrated excellence in teaching at the undergraduate and/or graduate level in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. Recipient exhibits excellence in promotion of the subject, classroom activities and involvement and provides an environment that holds true to the college mission that includes focusing on transformative education, knowledge development and creative expression to anticipate and meet the needs of rapidly changing local, regional, national and global environment.

## LECTURES / WORKSHOPS

### **Career Expo Prep Courses**

Clemson University School of Architecture, Clemson SC

Spring 2014 & 2015

*Portfolio 101 / Portfolio Workshops*

Two separate courses, one a lecture focusing on tricks and tips for making professional resumes and portfolios, another a workshop offering one-on-one intensive review and critique of individual student portfolios in an atelier setting.

### **AP Peers Lunch Lecture Series**

University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning, Boulder CO

Spring 2010

*Everything You Need To Know About Architecture You Can Learn From Lady Gaga*

Lecture on the way that verbal and visual language function within architectural discourse.

### **AP Peers Portfolio Design Series Lecture / Workshop**

University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning, Boulder CO

Spring 2010

Lecture and subsequent workshop on fundamental portfolio design strategies for composition, organization, flow and content management.

## STUDENT SUPERVISION

### **Senior Thesis Practitioner Advisor**

University of North Carolina College of Arts + Architecture, Charlotte NC

Spring 2006

*Claiming Space* – Chrissy Burton

Practitioner supervision of senior thesis adaptive-reuse project for the historic Morgan School in Charlotte, NC including programming, project development and documentation.

## PROFESSIONAL

### **George Schafer, Architect**

Columbia SC, Boulder CO, Charlotte NC

2008 - present

Project Manager / Project Architect / Designer

*Lamar / Weimer House*, Boulder CO

*Grissom Residence*, McAdenville NC

*Schafer Residence*, Shelby NC

### **The Preston Partnership, LLC**

Charlotte NC

2006 - 2008

Project Manager / Project Architect

*Post Wade Mixed Use*, Raleigh NC

PROFESSIONAL  
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**SchenkelShultz Architects**

Charlotte NC  
2002 - 2006  
Project Manager / Designer  
*Mecklenburg County Courthouse, Charlotte NC*  
*Sara Collins Elementary School, Greenville SC*  
*Washington Center School, Greenville SC*  
*Asheville Regional Airport Terminal Renovation, Asheville NC*

**Burgess Design Studio**

Davidson NC  
2000 - 2002  
Project Manager / Designer  
*WDAV Headquarters, Davidson NC*  
*Eleven Eleven Central Adaptive Reuse, Charlotte NC*

**Middleton McMillan / SchenkelShultz Architects**

Charlotte NC  
1997 - 2000  
Project Manager / Designer  
*Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology, Charlotte NC*  
*Sara Collins Elementary School, Greenville SC*  
*Western Carolina University Fine & Performing Arts Center, Cullowhee NC*

REGISTRATION

**Licensed Architect**

North Carolina #10567  
2008 – present

PUBLICATIONS

**Peer-Reviewed Papers & Posters**

Schafer, G., Green, K. E., Walker, I. D., Fullerton, S. & Lewis, E. **“An Interactive, Cyber-Physical Read-Aloud Environment: Results and Lessons from an Evaluation Activity with Children and their Teachers.”** *In Proceedings of DIS 2014, the ACM conference on Designing Interactive Systems*, June 21-25, Vancouver, B.C., pp. 865-874.

Schafer, G., Green, K. E., Walker, I. D., Lewis, E., Fullerton, S., Soleimani, A., Norris, M., Fumagali, K., Zhao, J., Allport, R., Zheng, X., Gift, R. & Padmakumar, A. **“Designing the LIT KIT, an Interactive, Environmental, Cyber-Physical Artifact Enhancing Children's Picture-book Reading.”** *Proceedings of IDC 2013: the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, June 24-27, New York, pp. 281-284.

Schafer, G., Green, K. E., Walker, I. D., Lewis, E. & Fullerton, S. **“The LIT ROOM: Advancing Literacy in Children Through a Networked Suite of Architectural Robotic Artifacts.”** *Proceedings of IDC 2013: the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, June 24-27, New York, pp. 643-646.

PUBLICATIONS  
(continued)

Schafer, G, Green, K. E., Walker, I. D. & Lewis, E. “**A Networked Suite of Mixed-Technology Robotic Artifacts for Advancing Literacy in Children.**” *Proceedings of IDC 2012: the 11th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, June 12-15, Bremen, Germany, pp. 168-171.

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTATIONS

**Literacy Research Association**

Carlsbad, CA December 2015

*Initial Findings from the Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of the LIT ROOM: A Mixed-Technology Architectural-Robotic Embedded Environment for Augmenting Interactive Picturebook Read-Alouds*

Co-Presenter: Dr. Susan King Fullerton

*Do Experts' Book Selections Promote Literacy, Equity, and Imagination?: An Analysis of Read-Aloud Recommendations and Rationales*

*From Children's Librarians and Children's Literature Professors*

Co-Presenters: Dr. Susan King Fullerton, Erin L. McClure, Koti Hubbard, Rachel Huber & Leslie Salley

**The European Conference on Literacy**

Klagenfurt, Austria

July 2015

*Interactive Read-Alouds of Picturebooks within Multi-modal Environments: Implications for Interdisciplinary Design and Research.*

Co-Presenter: Dr. Susan King Fullerton

**American Reading Forum**

Sanibel Island, FL

December 2014

*The LIT KIT: How Interactive-Read Alouds Within a Cyber-Physical, Multisensory Environment Impact Children's Responses to Picturebooks.*

Co-Presenter: Dr. Susan King Fullerton

**Literacy Research Association**

Marco Island, FL December 2014

*A Review of Research in the Design of Technology-Enhanced Literacy Tools and Texts: Implications for the Dialogic Construction of Literacy.*

Co-Presenter: Dr. Susan King Fullerton

**American Reading Forum**

Sanibel Island, FL

December 2013

*Looking Back to Envision What Lies Ahead: A Comparative Review of Research in Interactive Read-Alouds and Technology-Enhanced Literacy Texts and Tools.*

Co-Presenter: Dr. Susan King Fullerton

SERVICE

**Peer Reviewer, IDC (International Conference on Interaction Design and Children) (2013-present)**

**Board Treasurer, Out Boulder, Boulder CO (2009-2010)**

**SERVICE**  
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**Member, Boulder Public Library Arts Selection Committee, Boulder CO (2009)**

**Board Secretary, Jacob's Ladder Job Center, Charlotte NC (2005-2008)**

**Mentor, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Academic Internship Program, Charlotte NC (1988-2006)**

**Tutor, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Community Partnership Program, Charlotte NC (1998-2006)**

**Program Director, Seigle Avenue Partners Afterschool Program, Charlotte NC (2002-2004)**

**Board Member, The Lesbian & Gay Community Center of Charlotte, Charlotte NC (2000-2002)**

**Member, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Educational Partnerships Committee, Charlotte NC (2001)**

**Committee Chair, Southpark Educational Campus Revitalization Project, Charlotte NC (2000-2001)**