

THOMAS OLIPHANT

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CV

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Education

Cranbrook Academy of Art
Department of Design, Department of Architecture
Master of Fine Arts 1993

University of Minnesota
School of Architecture, Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Architecture (professional) 1988

Professional-select

THOMAS OLIPHANT / TOMOCO, inc.
sole proprietor 1994—99. Incorporated 2000—present
design and manufacturing nationwide
Architect 1986—91 / registered MN #24191, retired
Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle Architects (MSRdesign)
Hammel Green Abramson (HGA)
Architectural Alliance
Andrew Leicester, Public Artist
tasks appropriate for young (design) architect

Academic Adjunct-semesters:

University of Minnesota College of Design
—Design Minor Academic Faculty

Furniture Design Exploration des3321 / 2010 —2016: eight sections to date
(formerly desi3040) broad survey introducing, history, theory, design method & pro-practice
Furniture Design Practice des3160 / 2013—2016: four sections to date
introductory furniture projects: structural, material, economic & aesthetic consideration
developed to expand upon des3321; open U enrollment; direct construction methods; proof-of-concept craft
Furnishing the Pedestrian Streetscape des3160 / 2014: one section to date
introductory projects: a collaboration between UMN CDeS & the Minneapolis Downtown Council to establish a
workshop in the downtown where students identified need, built & tested prototypes on downtown streets;
open U enrollment; direct construction methods; proof-of-concept craft

—Design Institute, Fellow

Furniture Design Seminar desi3040 / 2006 —2009: four sections
broad survey introducing, history, theory, design method & pro-practice
developed expressly by DI to augment existing UMN “design” offerings; open UMN enrollment

College of Visual Arts (closed 2013)

3D Foundation fd122 / 2006—2012: fifteen sections

3D Foundation fd123 / 2007—2013: sixteen sections

exclusively developed sequence introducing 3D concepts to very diverse types of digital-millennial art students
taught on desktops w/personal & portable hand tools; sticks, paper, thread, cardboard & plaster
exploration of meaningful form: process, problem definition, material and aesthetic languages

Materials & Methods id211 / 2007: one section

expanding on fd123; introducing simple mechanisms & project briefs of greater complexity

Minneapolis College of Art and Design

—Mentor Faculty, graduate

Chris Held (2 years MFA merit scholar) / 2008—10

Patrick Meyer / 2003—5

exclusive dialogue & critique over 2 years; global & intense unlike any other teaching experience

—Fine Arts Faculty, undergraduate

3D foundation / 2000: one section

exploration of meaningful form: process, problem definition, material and aesthetic language

Saint Olaf College

Foundation Sculpture / 2001: one section

introduction to form generation: emotive & practical, analysis, precision, technique and predictability

University of Wisconsin Stout

—School of Art & Design

Interior Design Senior Studio / 2000: one section

capstone project

Interior Design Senior Studio / 2000: one section

capstone project

Furniture Design / 1996: one section

introductory furniture projects: structural, material, economic & aesthetic consideration

Advanced Design / 1995: one section

exploration of meaningful form: process, problem definition, material and aesthetic languages

Presentation Techniques / 1994—1995: four sections

perspective drawing: constructed and freehand techniques, color, composition, presentation

Interior Design 2 / 1994—1995: three sections

housing & human needs: design process, problem definition & solution

Workshops, Clinics & Honoraria:

Perpich Center for the Arts, K-12 Arts Educators Conference

“Make a Chair for Yourself or Another Person”

Guest & Presenter / June 2015

UMN College of Design Innovation Lab Resident Fellow

“How can anyone govern a nation that has two hundred and forty-six different kinds of cheese?”

Spring 2014

UMN Levine Oaxaca Mexico Studio

Guest & Presenter / 2010, 2011

Tunghai University, Taiwan

International Conference on Innovative Furniture Design

Guest & Presenter / 2008

UMN Design Institute

Inaugural Summer Design Camp for Teens / 2003

developed expressly by DI to introduce teens to the broad expressions of design thinking and practice

Janet Abrams, mastermind

MCAD

Welding Fabrication “J-term” / 2002

UMN School of Architecture

Cass Gilbert Endowment: Assistant Undergraduate Studio Critic to Andrzej Piotrowski / 1989±

I owe Professor Gunter Ditmar for recognizing something in my potential...

Presentations: By Invitation:

- Creative Enterprize Zone, Saint Paul / 2016
“What we Know is How we Know”
- UMN cDES Student League / 2014, 2011 Creative Enterprize Zone, Saint Paul / 2016
“What we Know is How we Know”
“Work”
- UMN CDes Adjunct Faculty Slam / 2011
“Ode to Gravity”
UMNdesignCHANNEL / youtube.com
<http://www.youtube.com/user/umn-design/search?query=thomas+oliphant+adjunct+faculty+slam>
- UMN Levine Oaxaca Mexico Studio / 2011, 2010
“What is it, Really?”
“How to Begin...”
- WAC / Cooper Hewitt conference on K-12 design education / 2008
“Notes on Criteria and Method of Critique”
- Tunghai University, Taiwan / 2008
“2008 Design Trends Report”
- School of the Art Institute, Chicago / 2008
“Work”
- UMN CDes Dirty Laundry / 2005
“What is it, Really?”
- UMN CDes Drawing Conference / 2003
“Templates & Issues of Scale & Abstraction”
- Saint Olaf College Visiting Artist Series / 2002
“Risk, Certainty and Scale”

Print: Peer Reviewed Contributions

- “The Future of the Foundation Course in Art and Design”
Chloe Briggs, Paris College of Art, Paris & Hester Westley, Tate Research, London. 2013
3D exercise: “Pimp My Ride”

Print: Editorial, Featured, Studio Work

- “Open Field: Conversations on the Commons” + <http://www.walkerart.org/open-field-conversations-on-the-commons>
edited by Sarah Schultz and Sarah Peters. Walker Publications, 2012
- “Functional Sculpture: Furniture from the Upper Midwest”
Bradley & Gordon. Carleton College Press 2008
- “American Contemporary Furniture”
Bartolucci. Universe Press, 2000

Print: Citations-select

- “American Craft” magazine; features and citations: 4/2014
<http://craftcouncil.org/post/heck-yes-craft-gifts-2012#>
- “Minneapolis Saint Paul” magazine; features and citations
9/2003, 10/2003, 3/2008 (the design 50!), 3/2012
- “Midwest Home and Garden” magazine; features and citations
spring 2004, fall 2005, 2006, 2/2008, 9/2008, 10/2010
- “TBHome” Beijing magazine; citation: 11/2007
- “Financial Times”, London newspaper; citation: 26/5/2007
- “MARQ” magazine; cover+ feature: spring 2007
- “Architecture Minnesota” magazine; features & citations: 9/1986, 1/1989, 1/1991, 9/2006
- “DWELL” magazine; feature: 7/8/2005
- “Fine Furnishings International” magazine; citation: summer 2003
- “Fabrics in Architecture” magazine; feature: 6/1998
- “Interiors” magazine; feature: 6/1993

Collections

Goldstein Museum of Design Collection
James Dayton Collection
Walker Art Center (Open Field furnishings by commission)
anonymous private and corporate clients 1994 - present

Exhibitions-select

Morlen Sinoway Guerilla Truck Show
Fulton Market, Chicago 2013
Form and Content Gallery, Minneapolis
collaboration w/Jay Isenberg 2010
Carleton College, Northfield
"Midwest Furniture Design" 2008
Minnetonka Center for the Arts
2007 Biennial 2007
Gallery 526, St.Paul
group show 2005 06
Minnesota History Center / MS&R Architects, Minneapolis
group show 2005
Gallery 360, Minneapolis
group show+front window 2003
Goldstein Museum of Design, St. Paul
Minnesota Design Biennial 2003
Marshall Arts Gallery, Minneapolis
solo show 2002
redlurered, Minneapolis
Stumpf Assoc./LOOM/BluDot/TOMOCO 2001
Walker Art Center Bookstore, Minneapolis
Emily McClellan/BluDot/TOMOCO 2000
Chicago Design Show, Chicago
TOMOCO, et al. 1999
Lill Street Gallery- SOFA, Chicago
group show 1994
Anderson and Anderson Gallery, Minneapolis
group show 1988
Thomson Gallery, Minneapolis
group show 1986

Professional Services & Fabrication Collaborations

Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle, Minneapolis
Julie Snow Architects, Minneapolis
Vincent James and Associates, Minneapolis
Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen, Seattle (via Petrucelli)
Albertssen Hanson Architects, Minneapolis
Peterssen/Keller Architects, Minneapolis
City Desk Architects, Minneapolis
RedLureRed, Minneapolis
Locus Architecture, Minneapolis
Newland Architects, Minneapolis
Alchemy Architects, Saint Paul
Jay Isenberg, Architect, Minneapolis
James Dayton, Minneapolis
U+B Architects, Minneapolis
Lazor Office, Minneapolis
Cramer Studio, Minneapolis
Woodsport, Saint Paul
...
McAlpine Booth Ferrier, Nashville
Carver & Schicketanz, Carmel by the Sea
Babey Mouton Jue Booth, San Francisco
Skogstrom Rodriguez Interior Design, Minneapolis
BARNHOUSEoffice, Saint Paul
...
Choice Wood Company, Minneapolis
Streeter & Associates, Wayzata
Madison Services, Chicago
Opus Corporation, Minneapolis (via Bart)
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Petrucelli+Petrucelli Law Office, Iron River MI
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
JAMF Software, Minneapolis
Ham in the Fridge Creative, Minneapolis
Union of Cyclists International (via Larry Martin)
Harriet Bart, Artist, Minneapolis
David Dick, Artist, Minneapolis