

[LETTERS OF SUPPORT]

May 2, 2011

Dear Jeremy,

On behalf of the students and faculty in the Department of Architecture at the American University of Sharjah, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your participation in DesignWeek 2011.

Our Department thrives on interaction with the leaders in our discipline and we recognize the generous commitment of time, effort and expertise you have provided to our program. I have heard very positive reviews from our students regarding both your workshop and your lecture. Clearly, we all benefited from your presence and participation.

In addition, the faculty have been particularly glowing in their review of our 'faculty roundtable discussion'. Your insight into the role of research, outreach and peer review was timely as we work to establish and/or refine evaluation criteria and mentorship. Further, our digital fabrication faculty are convinced that your visit saved them, and the College, months of work and struggle our new CNC equipment. Your expertise proved invaluable.

I hope you had a pleasant journey home and have recovered from your journey-induced jet lag.

I look forward to our next visit. Until then, thank you again for your contribution to DesignWeek 2011.

Best,

Michael

Michael Hughes

Head | Department of Architecture  
Associate Professor | Architecture  
American University of Sharjah  
United Arab Emirates

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**AUS** | الجامعة الأميركية في الشارقة  
American University of Sharjah

North Carolina State University is a land-grant  
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**College of Design**  
Brooks Hall / Campus Box 7701  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

May 14, 2007

Mr. Jeremy Ficca  
Assistant Professor, School of Architecture  
415 Frank Street  
Raleigh, NC 27604

Dear Jeremy:

It is with reluctance that I write to you on behalf of the College of Design Community to accept your resignation. I understand that a wonderful career opportunity awaits you in your new position. It is my belief that talented people move with opportunity. You are another proof of my belief.

During your time with us, you established yourself as an excellent teacher and as an individual with the potential to build a scholarly reputation. Our students have often mentioned to me that you have had a considerable influence over them in their ability to master digital media and to understand the implications of this world of information and interoperability. I appreciate the contributions you made to the successful conduct of the NAAB Accreditation Team Visit. The Team Room provided a rich collection of work that demonstrated our commitment to professional education. In particular your influence over the visiting lecture series this past year was a significant contribution to broadening the horizons of your colleagues within the faculty as well as enriching the student learning experience. It has been equally interesting to follow the development of your work through the exhibitions you mounted in the College. I hope you do not lose the interaction between theory and making.

I understand your desire to embark on a career of academic leadership. It is a path I have followed with great pleasure. Remember, it is a career that flows out of the dignity of the work of your hands and joy in the success of others, not in posturing and machinations. I believe you have great potential to lead. Seize the opportunity when it is presented to you.

I wish you well and all possible success in your new position. Let us know your progress and your successes as they will accumulate I am sure.

Sincerely,



Marvin J. Malecha, FAIA  
Dean  
ACSA Distinguished Professor  
AIA/ACSA Topaz Laureate

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10 May 2007

Jeremy Ficca  
415 Frank Street  
Raleigh, NC 27604

Dear Jeremy,

On behalf of the faculty and students of the School of Architecture, and with respect for your contributions, I accept your resignation from your position as Assistant Professor.

In your five years at the school you have made significant contributions in teaching, scholarship and service. Your design studios have skillfully integrated digital media and addressed contemporary issues in inventive ways. You have been a popular and sought-after studio teacher and the work of your students has been of the highest quality. You have also successfully transformed the ARC 251 course, now titled "Digital Representation," and have consistently been on the leading edge of emerging trends in digital media and its design applications. Your research on digital media, materials and processes and your engagement in critical practice have resulted in design and teaching awards, funded projects, and new seminars. These efforts, evocatively documented in the recent exhibition of your work, have strengthened the school's traditional integration of theory and practice. All have made important contributions to the national reputation of the School of Architecture.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with you. I remain grateful for all of your efforts during our accreditation year and your service as the school's ACSA Faculty Counselor. I have grown to value the fresh opinions, insights and perspectives that you have brought to the school. You will be missed by faculty and students.

I want to personally wish you and your family the very best and hope that you will stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Thomas Barrie AIA  
Director

Cc. Dean Malecha, file

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4 October 2005

ACSA New Faculty Teaching Award Selection Committee

Dear Selection Committee Members:

I am honored to have this opportunity to express strong support for Jeremy Ficca as a candidate for the New Faculty Teaching Award. Professor Ficca is eminently qualified for this award. His research and scholarly work combine with his teaching to form an exemplary body of work that is exceptional, especially for someone at such an early stage in his career. I have known Professor Ficca for four years, and have the pleasure of serving as his 'mentor' on our faculty.

Prof. Ficca's excellent skills as a designer and as a teacher combine to make him an outstanding resource for the education of our undergraduate and graduate students. As you may know, Professor Ficca last Spring received the very competitive Outstanding Teacher Award in the entire College of Design. Last year he also earned the ACSA Faculty Design award, recognizing the excellence of his research-based design explorations. Though I am a veteran construction materials teacher, through Jeremy I have become reacquainted with common materials such as wood and clay masonry, and have been introduced to slump-molded glass and the latest digital manufacturing processes. His design curiosity is revealed in every task he undertakes, be it the formulation of a studio assignment, a commission he is working on, or a research paradigm. His personal investigations have garnered national attention in the *Technology, Performance, Ornament* traveling exhibit, and at Harvard's *Immaterial / Ultramaterial* exhibit and publication.

I have observed that the quality of his students' learning experience is consistently of the highest caliber. Professor Ficca has the ability to quickly assess the student's experience level with the subject matter, and then he takes them to the next level, over and over again. Whether sophomores in the undergraduate program or advanced graduate students, Professor Ficca delivers optimum rigor and sophistication in the exchange. Yesterday afternoon I had the pleasure of serving on a graduate design studio jury with Jeremy and a visiting architect of national prominence; we were reviewing the work of students in a colleague's studio. Prof. Ficca consistently made the most insightful, constructive comments about every student's work, conveying subtle observations about their projects' compositions, technical merits, site responses and presentations. His breadth and capability were evident, but students chiefly left with his urging and direction as their most lasting message.

Professor Ficca's courses and studios are rich in content, superbly organized, and rigorously but fairly evaluated. He is frequently sought by the most ambitious students to serve on their graduate committees or to guide them in individual pursuits. Jeremy and I co-taught a technically oriented design studio for juniors in the undergraduate program in Spring 2004. It was the most rewarding studio teaching experience I have ever had, in large part because of Jeremy's effectiveness in shaping a series of projects and a syllabus that matched the student's needs perfectly.

Jeremy rebuilt from the ground up our Architectural Representation course; it is now one of the most innovative such courses in the country. It has substantially improved the students' abilities to creatively engage advanced digital modeling tools. They can now design buildings that they would have had difficulty engaging previously. He is also adept at teaching the student how these representation capabilities can be translated into physical products, using advanced digitally controlled manufacturing processes. Jeremy is a valuable resource for our students and for senior professors such as myself.

I was delighted to hear that Jeremy is submitting for this award. It is appropriate that his accomplishments be recognized with your selection for this important distinction.

Sincerely,



J. Patrick Rand,  
Alumni Distinguished Professor of Architecture

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**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**

October 10, 2005

ACSA / AIAS  
New Faculty Teaching Award  
Selection Committee:

To Members of the Selection Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Jeremy Ficca as the recipient of this year's New Faculty Teaching Award. As his colleague here at NC State, and in my role as Director of Graduate Programs and Associate Director of the School of Architecture, I can say that I consider Jeremy to be an indispensable member of our teaching team. I know that whatever teaching role I ask him to take on, he will approach the task with diligence, thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and alacrity. While students find him demanding, they also respect and admire him. He is one of the most sought-after critics on reviews, and instructors of seminar and studio courses.

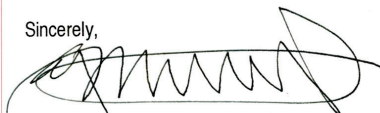
In his short time here, Jeremy has made huge strides in successfully integrating digital technology into our studio curriculum at a number of levels; from his introductory course on representation, to required studios integrating digital technology, to elective seminars experimenting with digital fabrication. While this has been an ongoing effort at our School, Jeremy's particular approach and perspective has been successful because it is inclusive and integrative: he manages to satisfy the students' sometimes insatiable desire to incorporate the 'latest' technology, and at the same time balance this infatuation for 'the new' with an understanding and appreciation of timeless architectural issues. As a result, new skills, methods, and models of design are incorporated successfully into the broader spectrum of an architectural education. This is a refreshing alternative to an approach to digital technology that seeks to supercede or replace traditional modes of architectural inquiry; one that is far more common as I have observed. Another way of saying this, is that Jeremy's approach to teaching in general is mature; surprisingly so for one so young and so new to academia.

Jeremy's own research and creative work has been outstandingly productive in his first years of teaching. Through numerous exhibitions, awards, and articles, he is already starting to gain a national reputation for his design work and experimentation with digital fabrication. While his work has alliances to a body of work being conducted both nationally and internationally, I am confident that his own voice and his own mind will bear an indelible print on this movement in design; his personal integrity, intelligence, and independence will allow for nothing less.

Perhaps above all, Jeremy cares about students. He holds them to very high standards, but provides them the support, encouragement, and assistance to meet these ambitious goals. Students feel lifted up by Jeremy's thoughtful comments on reviews, and by the day in day out feedback at the desk. He is able to inspire students to seek and achieve their highest potential – not with the force of threat, but with the model he provides, and the very high view of the importance of architecture he invokes.

Jeremy Ficca has the mark of a great and legendary teacher. I consider our faculty and students extremely lucky to have him in our midst, and urge you to consider this nomination with the greatest seriousness. As a past recipient of this prestigious award, I can think of no other junior colleague anywhere more worthy of this honor.

Sincerely,



Wendy Redfield, Director of Graduate Programs and Associate Director  
School of Architecture  
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April 30, 2005

Jeremy Ficca  
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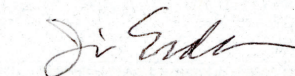
Jeremy:

Thank you very much for participating in our annual Oral Defense Week for the Master of Architecture Thesis students. As you could probably tell, this event is still extremely important in the academic career of our graduate students, as they present for the final time in an academic setting. Your criticism, guidance and insight were appreciated by all of us.

The whole School also benefited from your involvement as many students and faculty observed the discussions and learned from them as well. And we in the Graduate Program particularly want to thank you for the time you spent discussing the overall merits and weaknesses of the thesis process, we will remember those conversations as we move into continued revisions of the Master of Architecture Curriculum.

Thank you again for your time and energy....we hope to see you again soon!

Sincerely,



Jori Ann Erdman, RA  
Director of Graduate Studies



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