

## Plenary

April 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM

### Toward a Culture of Material Engagement in Architecture

Over the past two decades architectural practice has been called on to be more responsible. These conditions call for a radical transformation in design thinking. As research becomes accepted as an integral part of design culture, the relationships between research results and practice applications – indeed that between researchers and designers -- become paramount.

For this panel discussion, we intend to gather individuals whose multi-faceted work addresses design-research projects at the intersection of architecture academy and practice. These panelists will highlight their workflow, and/or a particular project and elaborate how their focus on the evolving notion of materiality, material culture, and politics of representation would bring together the design and research under the same umbrella within the architecture discipline.

This will be a 90-minute moderated panel discussion with active participation of the audience.

**MODERATOR:** Zahra Safaverdi, Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University

## PARTICIPANTS



**Linda Zhang**, OAA, AIA,  
NCARB, NCIDQ

Linda Zhang is a registered architect (OAA, AIA), interior designer (NCIDQ), drone pilot (RPAS advanced operations), assistant professor of architecture, and co-founding principal at Studio Pararaum (Toronto—Zürich).

She is a 2022 Artist-in-Residence at the EKWC, and 2021-2022 visiting scholar at NYU's A/P/A Institute. Previously, she was the recipient of the 2019 Multicultural Fellow at NCECA, 2017-2018 Boghosian Fellowship at Syracuse University SoA as well as 2017 Fellowship at the Berlin Center for Art and Urbanistics. She currently holds the 2020 Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Exploration Tri-council Fund and the 2021 SSHRC Exploration Fund. She was a Dean's Merit Scholar at Harvard GSD where she received the James Templeton Kelley Thesis Prize, and the AIA Henry Adams Certificate. Prior to joining Waterloo Architecture, Zhang was an assistant professor at Toronto Metropolitan University and Syracuse University. Her work has been exhibited and presented internationally in Canada, China, Germany, Korea, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States, including the London Festival of Architecture, Milan Architecture Design Expo, The Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, Toronto Offsite Design Festival and the Canadian Centre of Architecture.



**Maya Alam**

Maya Alam is an architect, artist, and designer. She is one of the founding partners of A/P Practice and currently holds the chair 'Theory and Discourse of Design' at the School of Architecture and Engineering, Bergische University Wuppertal.

Since 2014 she has taught bachelor & graduate-level architecture design studios and seminars at several universities, including the [University of Pennsylvania](#), [Yale University](#), [Syracuse University](#) & the [Southern California Institute of Architecture](#). Alam was awarded the AIA Henry Adams Certificate, a Selected Best Thesis Award, and was the inaugural recipient of the Boghosian Fellowship, the Dekoloniale Berlin Residency, and the Schloss Solitude Fellowship. She has worked in Germany, India, Switzerland, China, Italy, and the United States. Amongst others with [P-A-T-T-E-R-N-S](#), [NMDA](#), [UNStudio](#), and [Studio Fuksas](#). A/P's work has been exhibited internationally at the [Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC](#) (2019), the [Anchorage Museum in Alaska](#) (2020) and the [A+D Museum in Los Angeles, CA](#) (2018, 2021) among many others. She have been invited to teach workshops at institutions such as [ACADIA - The Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture](#) and the [STRELKA Institute for Media, Architecture and Design](#) in Moscow, Russia and [Yale University School of Architecture](#).



**Katie MacDonald, AIA, NCARB**

[Katie MacDonald](#), AIA NCARB is a licensed architect, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia School of Architecture, Cofounder of After Architecture, Director of the Before Building Laboratory, and Co-Director of the [Hemp Co-Lab](#) at UVA.

Her scholarship has been supported by the AIA Upjohn Research Initiative, the Arnold W. Brunner Grant, the Robert James Eidlitz Fellowship from Cornell University, and the Paul M. Heffernan International Travel Award from Harvard University. After Architecture has completed projects in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, Washington D.C., California, and Europe including a memorial in Washington D.C. and an installation at the Oslo Architecture Triennale 2019 "Enough: The Architecture of Degrowth." For her work at After Architecture, MacDonald has been recognized as "Next Progressive" by Architect Magazine. Recent accolades include the Research Prize in the Architect's Newspaper Best of Design Awards, multiple AIA design awards, and a Society of American Registered Architects National Design Honor Award. Prior to joining UVA, MacDonald was the 2019-2020 Tennessee Architecture Fellow at the University of Tennessee and Collegiate Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech, receiving the

Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) national  
Housing Design Education Award in 2020 for her teaching.