

# Curriculum Vitae

Keefer Dunn. Updated June 2022.

## Contact Information

### **Keefer Dunn, Architect**

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## Biography

Keefer Dunn is a licensed architect based in Chicago, Illinois. He is a sole practitioner, an active member of the Architecture Lobby, an Assistant Professor Adjunct at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has hosted a radio show about architecture and politics called Buildings on Air. His practice is deeply rooted in his home neighborhood of Bridgeport, and emphasizes bringing new aesthetic strategies and philosophical inquiry to common construction techniques and materials.

## Education & Certifications

**Licensed Architect, State of Illinois.** Initial Registration 2017.

**Registered Energy Professional,** City of Chicago.

**M. Arch, Illinois Institute of Technology,** College of Architecture, May 2015. 4.0 GPA.

**B.S. Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology,** School of Architecture, August 2012.

## Academic Appointments

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Associate Professor, Adj.;** Fall 2020 - Present.

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Lecturer;** Fall 2017 - Spring 2020.

**Illinois Institute of Technology; Part-Time Professor;** Spring 2015 - Spring 2017.

## Professional Experience

**Sole Practitioner (Keefer Dunn, Architect);** Feb 2019 - Present.

Keefer Dunn, Architect is a one person neighborhood architecture practice working on projects all over Chicago with a special emphasis on the south and west sides of the city. Since 2019 the practice has completed dozens of projects ranging from permitting assistance and humble bath and kitchen remodels all the way through to highly considered residential gut rehabs and additions.

**Buildings on Air, Host;** Aug 2016 - July 2021.

Creator and host of a monthly radio show on the community FM station WLPN Lumpen Radio. The show's aim is to discuss architecture and politics and bring discussions in an accessible format into the public realm.

**Pigeon Studio, Co-Founder and Architect;** June 2017 - Feb 2019.

Projects include a large scale residential rooftop in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, the rehabilitation of a mechanics garage into a multi unit apartment building in the Pilsen neighborhood, and graphic design and identity projects for Fillo's Sofrito Beans and Justice of the Pies. In 2019 Keefer amicably departed Pigeon Studio amidst a relocation of the business to New York.

**HDR Inc., Architectural Coordinator II;** June 2015 - May 2017.

Participated in dozens of architectural projects in all phases. Notably acted as project architect in charge of four healthcare clinic renovations totaling 10,000 sf.

**Tipping Fitzpatrick Architecture and Design, Intern Architect;** Jan 2013 - Aug 2013.

Notable project participations include construction oversight of retrofits in the Lathrop House designed by McKim, Meade, and White in 1892; renovation plans for residential units and common gardens at the I.M. Pei and Harry Weese designed University Apartments; and a partial restoration of the 1910 Wilson House designed by Howard van Doren Shaw.

## Courses Taught

### SAIC Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects

**Construction and Design.** Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022 (anticipated).

**Undergraduate Studio 2.** Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022.

**Unwrapping Design and Architecture.** Spring 2021.

**Design Communications.** Spring 2018 and Fall 2018, Fall 2019.

**Mater and Material.** Fall 2019.

**Practice Economies.** Spring 2018. Co-taught with Mike Newman.

**Design Drawing.** Spring 2018.

**Parametric Construction: Revit, SAIC.** Fall 2017.

### IIT College of Architecture

**Mies: Piece by Piece, IIT.** Spring 2015 and Spring 2017.

**Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize Seminar, IIT.** Fall 2016.

**Master of Science Research Seminar, IIT.** Spring 2014-Fall 2015. As Teaching Assistant.

**Introduction to Architecture, IIT.** Fall 2014. As a "Cloud Scholar" Mentor.

## Publications

**"How to Think About Hard Skills"**

Contributor. "Welcome to the Grind" Pamphlet. June 2022

**"In Conversation: Peggy Deamer and Keefer Dunn"**

Essay, Co-Author. Very Vary Veri Journal. March 2021.

**“A Response to AIA Values”**

Essay. The Avery Review. Co-Authored with Peggy Deamer and Manuel Schwartzberg. March 2017.

Re-published by Columbia Books on Architecture and the City in the compilation “And Now: Architecture Against a Developer Presidency” in September 2017.

Re-published by Routledge in the collected essay volume “Architecture and Labor” by Peggy Deamer in 2020.

**“Political Architecture and the Proletarian Ethic”**

Essay. Avery Review Shorts. November 2019.

**“Insulation and Ideology; Politicizing the Technical Space of Architecture”**

Essay. Room One Thousand Issue 7: Material. June 2019.

**“Architect’s Debate Design’s Role in Immigrant Detention”**

Respondent. The Atlantic City Lab. July 2018.

**“Against Employability”**

Essay. Room One Thousand Issue 6: Work or Sim. May 2018.

**“Employability and Professional Practice”**

Essay on behalf of the Architecture Lobby. Paprika. December 2017.

**“Making Change and Other Delights”**

Catalogue Essay for the Unsolicited Sideshow exhibit at the Chicago Architecture Biennial. September 2017.

**“First the City, Then the World!”**

Essay. Lumpen Magazine. Co-Authored with Marianela D’Aprile. August 2017.

**“The Architecture Lobby Pocket Guide to Labor Law”**

Contributing Writer and Editor. Self-published pamphlet. August 2017.

**Crown Hall Dean’s Dialogues: 2012-2017**

Book. Student interviewer for various segments of the publication. July 2017.

**“Home in Practice”**

Essay. Free Association Magazine, Issue #4. July 2017.

**“AIA Convention 2017: Message Over Substance?”**

Article. Architects Newspaper. May 2017.

**“The Architecture Lobby Goes to The AIA Convention”**

Contributor and Editor. Self-published pamphlet. April 2017.

**“Radical Praxis: Activism Within and Beyond Architecture”**

Essay. Transect Magazine. February 2017.

**“The Precarious Architectural Worker”**

Essay. Free Association Magazine, Issue #3. January 2017.

**“The Tragedy of the Tragedy of Commons”**

Essay. Free Association Magazine, Issue #2. March 2016.

**“Tafuri’s Utopia... A Primer”**

Essay. Free Association Magazine, Issue #1. December 2015.

**“Mining Difference”**

Essay. CLOG, Rem. July 2014.

## Exhibitions, Presentations, and Panels

### **On Labor and Consciousness**

Keefer Dunn in Conversation with Naila Opiangah. Rhode Island School of Design  
“Systems of Power” Fall 2020 Lecture Series. September 2020.

### **Reassembling the Profession Symposium**

Invited Speaker and Panelist. Georgia Institute of Technology. March 2020.

### **Dinner With Designers**

Invited Dinner Host. November 2019

### **Mimarlıkta Dayanışmacı Taban Hareketi (Solidarity Movement in Architecture) Forum.**

Invited Speaker. Istanbul, Turkey (remote presentation), October 2019.

### **Australasian Student Architecture Congress: Dissent 2019**

Keynote Speaker. Christchurch, New Zealand. October 2019.

### **The Design Of Public Institutions**

Panelist. Panel in conjunction with Now What?!. Chicago, September 2019.

### **Activism Within & Against The Biennial Complex**

Panelist. Panel in conjunction with Now What?!. Chicago, September 2019.

### **Now What?! Advocacy, Activism & Alliances in American Architecture Since 1968**

Chicago Liaison for traveling exhibition. Chicago, September 2019.

### **Interstices Conference 2019: Political Matters Spatial Thinking Of The Alternative**

Presentation “Theories of change: Labor Against Solutionism.” Wellington, New Zealand  
(remote presentation), July 2019.

### **Organizer Training for Architectural Workers and Activists**

Digital Architecture Lobby Workshop. Multiple occasions and locations June 2017, March  
2018, November 2018.

### **Infrastructure: The Architecture Lobby National Think-In - Labor Panel**

Panelist. New York City, June 2018.

### **Immigration and Architecture: Architect as Citizen & Architect as Worker.**

Invited Panelist. Panel at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. US Pavilion. May 2018.

### **Architects Meet in Fuoribiennale - 5° Edizione: No Borders Panel**

Invited Panelist. Panel at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale. May 2018.

### **“The Architectural Lobby: Changing Architecture to Change the World”**

Invited Speaker. AIA DC Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program.  
Washington DC, April 2018.

### **Labor Issues in the Academy Roundtable.**

2018 Society of Architectural Historians Conference. Panelist. Minneapolis, April 20, 2018.

### **“The Politics of Architectural Labor”**

Lecture. IIT PhD Research in Progress Forum. Chicago, March 2017.

### **“Introducing The Architecture Lobby”**

Lecture. AIAS Midwest Quad Conference. Chicago, February 2017.

### **“(re)Working Architecture” Panel Discussion**

Panelist. Slought Foundation; Philadelphia, May 2016.

### **(re)Working Architecture**

Group Exhibition and Performance. Curator and Organizer. Chicago, October 2015.

## **Illinois Institute of Technology Open House**

Group Exhibition. Chicago, May 2014 and May 2015.

## **Georgia Tech Design and Research Annual**

Group Exhibition. Atlanta, May 2009, May 2010, May 2011, May 2012.

## **Interviews and Media Mentions**

### **“Chicago’s Only Theater Bookstore and Cafe Will Soon Take the Stage”**

Project press article by Aimee Levitt in Chicago Eater. April 2022.

### **“Will the Understudy be a star in Andersonville?”**

Project press article by Kerry Reid in Chicago Reader. April 2022.

### **“The Understudy, A Theater-Themed Bookstore And Cafe, Is Coming To Andersonville”**

Project press article by Joe Ward in Block Club Chicago. April 2022.

### **“Global Design Practice: Themes, Critiques, and Radical Alternatives”**

Reading List featuring “Against Employability.” Compiled by Aneesha Dharwadker for Places Journal. May 2020.

### **“If You’re a Self-Described Archiphile, You’ll Love These Podcasts”**

Review of Buildings on Air by Samuel Medina for Architects Newspaper. May 2020.

### **“Organize, Proletarianize: An Interview With Keefer Dunn”**

Interview by Deo Deiparine and Andrew Economos Miller for Yale Paprika! 5-18 “Out of Work // Out of Control.” April, 2020

### **“Event review: Dissent 2019”**

Review by Elise Cautley and Alistair Munro for Architecture New Zealand Issue 6. November 2019.

### **“The Martyrdom of the Individual is Irrelevant’: Contemplating Dissent at ASAC”**

Article by Jacques Chevrant-Breton for ArchitectureAU. November 2019.

### **Failed Architecture Podcast: “Architects Unionise!”**

Interview by Failed Architecture. Podcast. October 2019.

### **“Dissent 2019 comes to Christchurch”**

Article by editors for ArchitectureNow. October 2019

### **“An Architecture Advocacy Group Is Boycotting the Biennial”**

Article by Justin Kamp for Chicago Magazine. September 2019.

### **“While boycotting Chicago Architecture Biennial, ArchiteXX debuts Windy City run of ‘Now What?!’ exhibition”**

Article by Antonio Pacheco for Architect. September 2019.

### **“How To: Not Make An Architecture Magazine,”**

Interview for Canadian Center for Architecture’s How To Project. August 2018.

### **“The Architecture Lobby Stages a Radical Alternative to the AIA Conference”**

Article by Drew Zeiba for Metropolis Magazine. June 2018.

### **Chicago Creatives Shoot the Shit “Episode 52: Keefer Dunn”**

Podcast Interview. May 2018.

### **“Workplace Organizing for #Now: Interview with Keefer Dunn”**

Interview. #NotOurWall (pp. 71-76) by The Architecture Lobby. April 2018.

### **“Razgovor s Keeferom Dunnom”**

Interview for the Croatian Language Hervatski Radio Program Stvarnost Prostora, hosted by Vesna Vuković. February 2018.

### **Talkin' Socialism: "Housing In Chicago"**

Interview. Podcast from Chicago Democratic Socialists of America. March 2018.

### **"Middle-class Guilt is Weaponised to Keep Architectural Labourers from Demanding Reform"**

Article by Phineas Harper for Dezeen, October 2017.

### **"Frank Gehry, Architectural Education, and 'The Future of Prisons'"**

Article by Leo Shaw for Archinect, April 2017.

### **"Design Competition - or Ideological Crises?"**

Article by Allison Arieff. The New York Times, March 2017.

### **"Editor's Pick #463"**

Article by Nam Henderson. Archinect. February 2017.

### **"Game Changers 2017: Architecture Lobby"**

Article by Samuel Medina. Metropolis Magazine, January 2017

### **"Don't Hate This: "Episode 26"**

Interview. Podcast. June 2016

### **"(Re)Working Architecture at the AIA Convention 2016"**

Article by William Menking. Architects Newspaper, May 2016.

### **Focus IIT: "Keefer Dunn"**

Video Interview, May 2016

## **Academic Service**

**Manuscript Reviewer.** Journal of Architectural Education. 2019.

**SAIC Strategic Plan "Building Continuity After Art School" Action Group Member,**  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Spring 2019.

**Final Review Juror, School of the Art Institute Chicago.** Multiple occasions Spring 2016 through Spring 2022.

**Final Review Juror,** Syracuse University. December 2014.

**Guest Lecture Interview Committee,** IIT. Fall 2014 - Spring 2015

Member of a small group of students that conducts interviews for future publication with guest lecturers coming to the school. Interviewees include Mauricio Pezo and Sofia von Ellrichshausen, Kees Christiaanse, and Rafael Vignoly.

**Student Committee, Mies Crown Hall America's Prize,** IIT. Fall 2014.

This committee coordinated the student involvement with the MCHAP Prize ceremony and symposium which encompassed analytic and representational models of selected projects, and coordinating a student led conversation between the selected architects (which included Herzog + de Meuron, Alvaro Siza, and Joshua Prince Ramus).

## **Professional Memberships and Service**

**The Architecture Lobby;** Member 2014-Present, Chicago Chapter Steward 2014-2015, National Organizer 2015-2018.

The Lobby is an organization of architecture workers advocating for the value of architectural work in the profession and beyond. Keefer has served in many leadership capacities in the organization, successfully introducing governance and organizational procedures in the establishment of the organization, growing membership, and spreading the message of the organization in many venues.

**ACE Mentor Program;** Mentor. October 2015 - May 2016

Mentored and taught high school students from Chicago Public Schools who were interested in a career in architecture, engineering, and/or construction.

## **Awards and Scholarships**

**Henry Adams Medal and Certificate.** Winner, 2015.

This award is given to the top-ranked graduating student in each accredited architecture school.

**Schiff Foundation Critical Architectural Writing Fellowship.** Nominee 2014 and 2015.

The Schiff Critical Writing Fellowship is a Chicago-wide inter-school competition for best graduate student architectural history paper. Essays selected to represent Illinois Institute of Technology in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

**Cloud Scholar Program Scholarship.** Winner, 2014.

**Women's Architectural League Foundation Scholarship.** Winner, 2014