

OLGA MESA, LEED AP

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EDUCATION

- 2015 **Harvard Graduate School of Design**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Masters in Design Studies (MDes) Concentration: Technology
Graduated with Distinction
Recipient of Daniel L. Schodek for Technology and Sustainability Award for thesis titled:
"Anima: Choreographed Matter"
- 2000 **Rhode Island School of Design**, Providence, Rhode Island
Bachelor of Architecture
Recipient of AIA Henry Adams Gold Medal for Excellence in Design

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2017 Associate Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 214: Architectural Design Core Studio IV"- 5 credit Undergraduate Core Studio
2019 - 2023 Coordinator. 2017 & 2018 Co-coordinator with Ginette Wessel
- 2023 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2018 Associate Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 588: Advanced Graduate Digital Manufacturing Seminar"- 3 credit Graduate Elective
- 2022 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2020 Associate Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 282_II: Architectural Analysis"- 3 credit Undergraduate Core Course
Coordinator
- 2020 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 515: Performance²: Dynamic Skins"- 5 credit Architectural Advanced Graduate Design Studio.
Co-taught with Nathan Fash
- 2019 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 515: Tourism and Habitat Regeneration"- 5-credit Architectural Advanced Graduate Design Studio.
Co-taught with Nathan Fash
- 2019 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 430/530.01: Macro Seminar: Designing Ecology"- 3 credit Graduate Elective.
Co-taught with Nathan Fash

- 2023 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2018 Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 588: Advanced Graduate Digital Manufacturing Seminar"- 3 credit Graduate Elective
- 2019 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2017 Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 587: Advanced Graduate Computer Applications Seminar"- 3 credit Graduate Elective
- 2018 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 515: Redressing Wastelands."- 5 credit Architectural Advanced Graduate Design Studio.
- 2017 - **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
2016 Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 287: Introduction to Computer Applications"- 3 credit Undergraduate Core Course
- 2017 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 413: Makers Space: Designing for hackers, makers and breakers"- 5 credit Architectural Advanced Undergraduate Design Studio
- 2016 **Roger Williams University (RWU)**, Bristol, Rhode Island
Assistant Professor, Faculty School of Architecture and Historic Preservation (SAAHP)
"ARCH 515: Geometric and Material Gradients in Architecture"- 5 credit Architectural Advanced Graduate Design Studio
- 2016 **Northeastern University (NEU)**, Boston, Massachusetts
Studio Instructor, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Comprehensive Studio"- 6 credit Advanced Studio
- 2016 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
Studio Instructor, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Clay in Context: Tecne in Architecture"- 3 credit Graduate and Undergraduate Advanced Studio
- 2015 **Northeastern University (NEU)**, Boston, Massachusetts
Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Introduction to Building Systems"- 3 credit Undergraduate Seminar
- 2015 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
Studio Instructor, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Making of Design Principles" - 6 credit Core Graduate and Undergraduate Design Studio
- 2015 **Building Local Organization (BL)**, Quindío, Colombia
Invited Studio Instructor and Lecturer
"Building with Bamboo in Quindío" - Design-Build Workshop

- 2014 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
Studio co-instructor and Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Future Health Systems"- 6 credit Advanced Graduate and Undergraduate Design Studio
- 2013 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Studio Instructor and Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"4.113 Architectural Design"- 6 credit Core Design Studio
- 2012 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
Studio Instructor and Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Habitat and Construction in Pile"- 6 credit Advanced Graduate and Undergraduate Design-Built Studio
- 2012 **Universidad Tecnológica Equinoccial (UTE)**, Quito, Ecuador
Studio Instructor and Lecturer, Department of Architecture
"Instrument Installations with Recycled Material" - Design-Build Workshop at Architecture Biennale
- 2011 **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
Studio Instructor and Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Habitat and Construction in Selva Viva"- 6 credit Advanced Graduate and Undergraduate Design-Build Studio
- 2010 **Northeastern University (NEU)**, Boston, Massachusetts
Studio Instructor and Lecturer, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Advanced Digital Representation" - 3 credit Advanced Design Studio
- 2008 - **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
2007
2008 Coordinator of Making Design Principles Studio and Studio Instructor
2007 Co-coordinator of Making Design Principles Studio with Kyna Leski "Making Design Principles" -
6 credit Core Graduate and Undergraduate Design Studio
- 2007 - **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
2011
Studio Instructor, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Architectural Design" - 6 credit Core Graduate and Undergraduate Design Studio
- 2006 - **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
2013
Studio Instructor, Faculty Department of Architecture
"Making of Design Principles" - 6 credit Core Design Studio
- 2006 - **Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)**, Providence, Rhode Island
2016
Degree Project Second Adviser, Faculty Department of Architecture
- 2006 - Visiting critic at Cornell University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard University
Present Graduate School of Design (GSD), Yale School of Architecture, Washington University in St. Louis (WashU), Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Northeastern University (NEU), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Roger Williams University (RWU) and Otis College of Art and Design.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - Present **Nuvola Studio**, Inc 501 (c)3, Somerville, Massachusetts
Co-founding Principal
Designed collaboratively a series of research and community-based projects such as Comfort Kitchen Patios, Boston, USA; Gemela Project, Copán Ruinas, Honduras; Chuspata Weaver Market, Ihuatzio, México; Pacífico Water Harvesting Pavilion, Bahía Málaga, Colombia.
- 2016 - 2022 **2Story Design Build**, Providence, Rhode Island
Principal
Lead a series of residential and commercial projects from schematic design through construction administration.
- 2014 - Present **Harvard Graduate School of Design**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Material and Performance Systems Group (MaPs)
Research Associate / Consultant
Research on material systems, processes and performance of compliant composite structures and buckling structures and design of architectural applications using these materials. Research is conducted in collaboration with the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.
- 2014 - 2016 **Harvard Graduate School of Design**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Responsive Environments and Artifacts Lab (REAL)
Research Associate
Research on material processes and performance of buckling structures. Study and design of potential applications into architectural components.
- 2012 - 2013 **Gensler Architecture**, Boston, Massachusetts
Project Manager and Project Designer
Worked on a series of commercial projects from schematic design through construction documents including: One Federal Lobby and Quest Diagnostics Laboratory.
- 2007 – 2012 **3six0 Architecture**, Providence, Rhode Island
Associate / Project Designer and Project Architect
Lead residential and commercial projects from schematic design through construction administration, including: Stone House Inn Restaurant and Spa, Paschke Danskin Residence and Wildflour Café. Worked on competitions such as: 2012 Yeosu Pavilion, Polish History Museum, and Atlanta History Center.
- 2006 – 2007 **Friedrich St. Florian Architects**, Providence, Rhode Island
Project Designer
Lead schematic design and design development for the College Hill Residence. Work on the winning entry for the America's Cup Hall of Fame Exhibition and Education Center Competition.
- 2004 – 2006 **Lorcan O'herlihy Architects**, Culver City, California
Project Designer and Project Architect
Lead residential and mixed-use projects including: Artisan Multifamily Housing, Norton Multifamily Housing, Pritchett Residence and Stuart Residence.

2000 – 2004 **Gensler Architecture**, Design and Planning Worldwide, Santa Monica, California
Project Designer and Project Manager in the “*Building and Campuses Group*”
Lead the design and construction administration of the USC Law School Café, Biola University School of Theology and Warner Bros. Studios. Junior Designer and Job Captain for the San Pedro Apartments and 2000 Avenue of the Stars. Responsibilities covered all phases of the design process for institutional and interior projects including client management, code analysis, schematic design, consultant coordination.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 **17th Advanced Building Skins Conference and Expo (ABS)**
Mesa, O., & Fash, N. (2022). Skin as Habitat: Performance through species integration, 17th Advanced Building Skin Conference & Expo 20-21 October 2021, Bern, Switzerland, Proceedings 2022, Advanced Building Skins GmbH, pages 296 - 305, ISBN 978-3-9524883-3-1
Chairs: Nathan Fash and Olga Mesa Session: Living Building Skins Session
- 2021 **16th Advanced Building Skins Conference and Expo (ABS)**
Mesa, O., & Fash, N. (2021). Performance2: Responsive and Adaptive Building Skins, 16th Advanced Building Skin Conference & Expo 21-22 October 2021, Bern, Switzerland, Proceedings 2021, Advanced Building Skins GmbH, pages 432 - 439, ISBN 978-3-9524883-6-2
Chair: Olga Mesa. Session:
- 2020 **IJAC Article**
Mesa, Olga, Mhatre, Saurabh, & Aukes, Dan. (2020). CREASE: Synchronous gait by minimizing actuation through folded geometry. *International Journal of Architectural Computing*, 18(4), 385-403.
- 2020 **2020 Sociedad Iberoamericana de Gráfica Digital (SIGraDi)**
Mesa, Olga. “Choreographed Matter”. Proceeding of 24rd SIGraDi Conference – Transformative Design. Medellín, Colombia, Nov 18- 20, 2020.
- 2020 **2020 International Conference on Architecture and Built Environment (S.ARCH)**
Mesa, Olga, Fash, Nathan: “Designing ecology: collaborative teaching and practice” in Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Architecture and Built Environment with Architecture Awards 2020 S.ARCH Conference.
- 2020 **2020 38th Education and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe (eCAADe)**
Mesa, O., Mhatre, S., & Bechthold, M. “Woven Compliant Composites” in Proceedings of Education and Research in Computer Aided Architectural Design (eCAADe): Anthropologic. T.U Berlin, Sept 16-17, 2020
- 2019 **2019 37th Education and research in Computer Aided Architectural Design in Europe (eCAADe) and 23rd Sociedad Iberoamericana de Gráfica Digital (SIGraDi)**
Mesa, Olga, Mhatre, Saurabh, Singh, Malika and Dan Aukes: “CREASE: Synchronized Gait Through Folded Geometry” in Proceedings of the 37th eCAADe and 23rd SIGraDi Conference (Architecture in the Age of the 4th Industrial Revolution) – Volume 3, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, 11-13 September 2019, pp. 197-206

- 2019 **2019 11th Wyss Institute Retreat**
Mesa O., Mhatre S., Bechthold M. "Inclined Kinematics Auxetics" [Abstract] 11th Wyss Institute Retreat Book of Abstracts, 2019, pp. 12.
- 2019 **2019 11th Wyss Institute Retreat**
Mhatre S., Mesa O., Fernandes M., Bertoldi K., Bechthold M. "Inclined Buckling Auxetics" [Abstract] 11th Wyss Institute Retreat Book of Abstracts, 2019 , pp. 12.
- 2018 **2018 IASS International Association for Shell and Associated Structures**
Seibold, Z., Mesa, O., Stavric, M., Bechthold, M.: *Ceramic Tectonics: Tile Grid Shell* – Proceeding of the IASS Symposium 2018, Boston, MA July 16-20, 2018. *Forthcoming*.
- 2017 **2017 ACADIA Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**
Mesa, O., Mhatre, S., Stavric, M., Norman, S., Grinham, J., Sayegh, A., and Bechthold, M.: "Non-Linear Matters: Auxetic Surfaces" in Proceedings of ACADIA, 2017, pp. 392 – 403
- 2015 **2015 National Council of Education on Ceramic Arts (NCECA)**
Vroman, R., King, N., King, K., Mesa, O. "Innovating Ceramics: Collaboration, Technology, and Pedagogy" NCECA Publishing, 2015
- 2014 **2014 RoboArch: Robotic Fabrication in Architecture, Art and Design Research**
Friedman, J., Kim, H., and Mesa, O. "Experiments in Additive Clay Depositions." Robotic Fabrication in Architecture, Art and Design 2014. Springer International Publishing, 2014. 261-272.

A W A R D S

- 2023 **Roger Williams University**
-2018 Foundation to Promote Scholarship and Teaching Grant
- 2015 **Harvard Graduate School of Design**
Daniel L. Schodek Award Recipient for Technology and Sustainability
Thesis: "*Anima: Choreographed Matter*"
- 2014 **Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Travel Grant**
Global Health Institute ArtScience Prize Fellowship
Research project: "Hydrajel".
- 2011 **AIA Rhode Island, Design Awards, Honor Award** given to 3six0 Architecture
Wildflour Vegan Bakery and Juice Bar
- 2011 **AIA Rhode Island, Design Awards, Honor Award** given to 3six0 Architecture
Paschke Danskin Loft
- 2011 **AIA Rhode Island, Design Awards, Honor Award** given to 3six0 Architecture
Pettaquamscutt River Residence

- 2011 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Silver Medal Wildflour** given to 3six0 Architecture
Vegan Bakery and Juice Bar by 3six0 Architecture
- 2011 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Gold Medal** given to 3six0 Architecture
Paschke Danskin Loft by 3six0 Architecture
- 2011 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Gold Medal** given to 3six0 Architecture
Pettaquamscutt River Residence
- 2011 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Silver Medal** given to 3six0 Architecture
Paschke Danskin Loft
ArchDaily “Paschke Danskin Double Loft” Aug. 15/2011
- 2010 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Silver Medal** given to 3six0 Architecture
Stone House Barn, Restaurant and Spa
- 2009 **AIA Rhode Island, Design Awards, Merit Award** given to 3six0 Architecture
Stone House Inn by 3six0 Architecture
- 2009 **AIA Rhode Island, Design Awards, Merit Award** given to 3six0 Architecture
Stone House Barn, Restaurant and Spa
- 2009 **Rhode Island Monthly, Design Awards, Gold Medal Award** given to Friedrich St. Florian Architects
Decof Residence, College Hill Residence
- 2000 **Rhode Island School of Design**
American Institute of Architects Henry Adams Gold Medal for Excellence in Design
- 1999 **X-Large Grant for multi-disciplinary study in design, RISD, Providence, Rhode Island**

EXHIBITS

- 2018 **Cevisama 2018**
“Ceramic Tectonics: Tile Grid Shell” Flat tile ceramic structure by: Olga Mesa, Yonghwan Kim and Milena Stavric, Zach Seibold (project manager) and Martin Bechthold (director).
- 2016 **Ten Degrees Exhibition by Chuck Hoberman**
“Crease” origami robot by Olga Mesa, Malika Singh and Saurabh Mhatre featured at the exhibition.
- 2015 **2015 Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering Retreat**
“Auxetic Surfaces: Performance through Deformation and Instability (PTDI)” by Olga Mesa, Malika Singh and Saurabh Mhatre.
- 2015 **Design Symposium: “Informal Robotics” with Robert Wood, Conor Walsh, and Rob MacCurdy; Moderated by Chuck Hoberman.**
“Crease” origami robot by Olga Mesa, Malika Singh and Saurabh Mhatre featured in symposium

exhibition, poster and lecture.

- 2014 **Ceramics Exhibition at Office for the Arts at Harvard University**
Art and Architecture pieces: “Experiments in Additive Clay Deposition: Woven Ceramics” by Olga Mesa, Heamin Kim and Jared Friedman.
- 2014 **2014 Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineer Retreat**
“Crease” origami robot by Olga Mesa, Malika Singh and Saurabh Mhatre featured in Retreat Exhibition.
- 2012 **Re:making Architecture 2012 RISD Architecture Symposium**
Work by Olga Mesa featured in exhibition and featured interview.
- 2007 **De/construct I Architectural Installations Exhibition**
Work by Olga Mesa featured in exhibition

INVITED LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

- 2021 **2021 UMSNH Invited Lectures and Workshops**
Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo.
Lecture: “Performance²” by Nate Fash and Olga Mesa
Workshop: “Choreographing Fall” by Olga Mesa
- 2018 **2020 Virtual Frictions**
Louisiana State University (LSU) School of Architecture.
Workshop: “Interdimensional Narratives.” by Olga Mesa.
- 2015 **Deconstructing Design Practice Symposium.** Alternative Design Practices in Latin America, Harvard Graduate School of Design. Moderated by Luiz Valenzuela and Felipe Hernandez.
Lecture: “Listo! Vamos.” by Olga Mesa.
- 2015 **Building Local Symposium**
Lecture: “Habitat and Construction” by Olga Mesa.

PROFFESIONALS QUALIFICATIONS

- 2010 N.C.A.R.B. Certificate, Completion of the Intern Development Program
- 2002 LEED AP. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional