

Little thesis is...

a collaborative of MArch students, investigating the architectural thesis as both a transition and an interlude between academia and the profession.

During thesis, for the first time the student frames her own architectural inquiry and attempts to tie her lofty visions to grounded realities.

At this moment when her most fervent beliefs about architecture are exposed, what are the critical questions that the thesis student asks of herself and of those around her? How does she communicate her ideas to her peers, others in related disciplines, and ultimately to the outside world?

Little thesis aims to serve as a forum for inviting open conversations about these and other questions about the past, present and future of the architectural thesis.

Visit littlethesis.mit.edu for a full description of our project!

thesis
littlethesis.mit.edu

A Quick thresholds Production
MIT Department of Architecture

Little thesis Calendar of Events

Public Reviews & Important Dates

september

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 **11** 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

1st design review

october

01 **02** 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 **29 30 31**

1st full committee review

mid review

november

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 **19 20** 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

penultimate review! // lecture mini-series

december

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 **14** 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

final review!!

january

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 **15** 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

thesis book hand-in!!!

Outside Reader Lecture Mini-Series

Little thesis presents:

Cynthia Brooks & Stacey Murphy

on Brownfield Redevelopment

on Decentralized Urban Farming

Thurs 11/19/09 & Fri 11/20/09

12:30-1:00 pm

Lectures will be held in the AVT, following the Penultimate Thesis Reviews.

Little thesis Micro-Journalism

Visit littlethesis.mit.edu for more!

A Survey of Theses Past

Excerpt from the online questionnaire.

MARY HALE
MArch 2009, MIT

1.) Where are you now? Do you define yourself as an architect?

I am still living in Cambridge only now I commute to Wellesley every day for work. Unfortunately I am not working in architectural design, but I still like to think of myself as an architect... an architect who dabbles in a lot of other things. I am coming up with ways to incorporate design into my life, outside of work. I am also in a state of utter euphoria, relishing, like no non-architect could, copious, stress-free, un-dedicated time after 5pm on the weekdays and all day on the weekends.

2.) What role did your thesis play in concluding your architectural education and how did it influence your professional choices after MIT?

The thesis semester was my favorite semester at MIT. My committee had great chemistry and they really encouraged me to pursue the aspects of my project by which I was the most compelled. It was a fantastic experience to derive (through lots of struggle) a clear argument that dealt with the social and philosophical ideas I most wanted to explore spatially. Since social and philosophical dilemmas have always been an interest of mine, I would say that my thesis did help lead me to where I am now... working for a large community development non-profit.

3.) What are your thoughts on the relationship between professional practice and academic theory?

First, I think that architects should be brilliant spatial problem solvers. Then, I personally can't imagine practice without theory. This is so subjective though. There are some "fabulous" (read: cool) designers who are completely superficial in their approach. Sure they degrade the whole profession, but... different designers, different approaches.

4.) Do you have any advice for the thesis students?

(a) Take a really awesome but low key class during thesis... something that won't require too much work, but will inspire your process. I took a film theory course at Harvard, and it was wonderful.

(b) Try to remind yourself that the thesis is essentially a self-directed studio project... it's great for personal development and can also be useful for professional development, but it's not more important than, say, your family or your health or any of the things that typically get neglected during architecture school. How many famous architects' careers were launched because of their theses? I can name one off the top of my head. That's not to say that you shouldn't take it super seriously! I just think it should be seen as an opportunity, and it shouldn't be paralyzing.

Rogue Reporters

Watch out for us!
As Little thesis conspirators,
we might ask you some
questions and **broadcast**
your reactions on the website!



go to
littlethesis.mit.edu
for webcasts
and more!

Student Awards & Recognitions

Visit littlethesis.mit.edu for more!

Schlossman Research Awards

Charles Curran

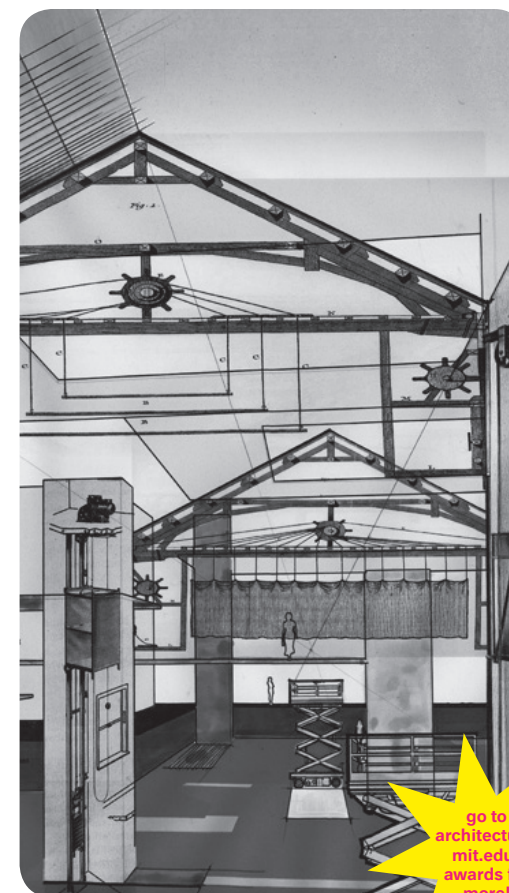
Laura Rushfeldt



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Rosemary Grimshaw Thesis Prep Award Salomé Francpourmoi

Featured in Volume #20 Marissa Cheng & John Pugh



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more!

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