

Thomas Leslie, FAIA

Research Interests:

My practice-based approach to architectural history seeks to explain how technical, economic, political, and social factors influence design and construction. This counters traditional biographical or stylistic narratives by arguing for the importance of buildings as technical objects, and it makes connections between architecture and construction to broader contexts—economic, industrial, and labor histories, in particular. It has also drawn connections between seemingly disparate periods and figures, showing how similar processes of experimentation and negotiation have informed 19th century skyscrapers, postwar concrete shells,

Peer Reviewed Publications:

Books + Book Chapters

- 2018 Co-Editor, with Cristiana Chiorino. *Pier Luigi Nervi: Aesthetics and Technology in Building* (50th Anniversary Edition, Champaign: University of Illinois Press).
- 2017 *Beauty's Rigor: Patterns of Production in the Work of Pier Luigi Nervi*. (Champaign: University of Illinois Press).
- 2015 "Building Technology," in Hugh Sletten, ed., *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the History of American Science, Medicine, and Technology* (New York: Oxford University Press).
- 2014 With Jason Alread and Robert Whitehead, *Design-Tech: Building Science for Architects*. (2nd Edition, Oxford: Routledge).
- 2013 *Chicago Skyscrapers, 1871-1934*. (Champaign: University of Illinois Press).
- 2012 "'Unavoidable Nuisances': Engineering and Engineers in the Work of Louis I. Kahn" in Jochen Eisenbrand, ed., *Louis I. Kahn: The Power of Architecture* (Basel: Vitra).
- 2012 "'Hollow Stones, Hollow Floors: Structure, Space, and Services in Louis Kahn's Floor Systems," in Roberto Gargiani, ed., *Architraves, Platbands, and Floors*. (Lausanne: PPUR).
- 2012 With Norman Foster and David Jenkins, ed. *Millau Viaduct*. (Berlin: Prestel)
- 2012 "Glass and Light: The Role of Interior Illumination in the Chicago School," reprinted in Kiel Moe and Ryan Smith, eds., *Building Systems: Technology, Design and Society* (London: Routledge)
- 2012 "Environmental Education," in Joan Ockman, ed., *Architecture School*. (Cambridge, MA; MIT Press). 306-312.

- 2012 "Les 'Quatre Causes' de l'Architecture, ou la Réponse de Dankmar Adler au Texte de Louis Sullivan, 'de la Tour de Bureaux Artistiquement Considérée'" in Nikola Jankovic, ed., *Form Follows Function: de la Tour de Bureaux Artistiquement Considérée* (Paris, Editions B2). 49-74.
- 2009 "Millau Viaduct," "Oresund Bridge," "Repsol Service Station," and "Dresden Station."
Norman Foster: Works 5 (Berlin: Prestel)
- 2007 *Country Comes to Town: The Iowa State Fair*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press)
- 2006 With Jason Alread, *Design-Tech: Building Science for Architects*
(Oxford, UK: Architectural Press)
- 2005 *Louis I. Kahn: Building Art, Building Science*
(New York: George Braziller)

Journal Articles

- 2018 "Insulation with Vision: Notes Toward a History of Insulated Glazing."
Association for Preservation Technology Journal. (In Review).
- 2018 With Saranya Panchaseelan, Shawn Barron, and Paolo Orlando, "Deep Plan, Thin Skin: Environmental Precursors to the Postwar Skyscraper." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, March, 2018.
- 2017 "'Holy Ground in the True Modern Sense': Pier Luigi Nervi's Unbuilt Fermi Memorial at the University of Chicago." *Journal of Illinois History*, 18:2. Summer, 2017.
- 2014 "The Monadnock Building Technically Re-Considered" *Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats Journal*, Winter, 2014.
- 2013 "Carpenter's Parametrics: Economics, Efficiency, and Form in Pier Luigi Nervi's Concrete Designs." J. F. Abel, G. Arun, and M. A. Chiorino, eds. Special issue of *Journal of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures*. 54: 2&3. September, 2013.
- 2013 Guest Editor (with Bill Addis and Nick Bullock). Special Issue of *Construction History*, "Construction History in the Americas." 28:1. July, 2013
- 2010 "'Built Mostly of Itself': The Chicago Brick Industry and the Masonry Skyscraper in the Late 19th Century." *Construction History*. 25. 2010.

- 2010 "Henry Ives Cobb and the Chicago 'Postoffice Botch.'" *The Journal of Illinois History*. 13:4. Winter, 2010.
- 2010 "'It May be Well to Amend Mr. Sullivan's Statement:' Dankmar Adler's Response to 'The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered.'" *The Journal of Architectural Education*, 64:1. Oct., 2010.
- 2010 "Built Like Bridges: Iron, Steel, and the Importance of Riveted Steel to the Nineteenth Century Skyscraper." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. 69:2. June, 2010.
- 2008 "'As Large as the Situation of the Columns Will Allow': Building Cladding and Plate Glass in the Chicago Skyscraper, 1885-1905." *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 49, no. 2. April, 2008.
- 2007 "'A Museum of Living Architecture': Continuity and Contradiction at the Des Moines Art Center" (Co-authored with Jason Alread). *The Journal of Architectural Education*, Volume 61, no. 2.; November, 2007
- 2006 "1:1" (Theme Issue, Co-Edited with Jori Erdman, Clemson University) *The Journal of Architectural Education*, Volume 60, no. 2.; November, 2006
- 2006 "Just What is it that Makes Capsule Homes so Different, So Appealing? Domesticity and the Technological Sublime, 1945-1975." *Space and Culture*, Vol. 9, no. 2.; May, 2006
- 2005 "From Jetport to Worldport: The Pan Am Terminal at Idlewild/Kennedy and the Transition from Jet Age to Space Age." *Design Issues*, Volume 21, no. 1.; Winter, 2005.
- 2004 "Glass and Light: The Role of Interior Illumination in the Chicago School." *The Journal of Architectural Education*, Volume 58, no. 1; September, 2004
- 2003 "Form as Diagram of Forces: The Equiangular Spiral in the Work of Pier Luigi Nervi." *The Journal of Architectural Education*, Volume 57, no. 2; November, 2003
- 2003 "Things in Their Best Order: Technical Aspects of the Salk Institute and Their Role in its Design." *The Journal of Architecture*, (RIBA/Routledge) vol. 8. 95-113; Spring, 2003.
- 2001 "Energetic Geometries: The Dymaxion Map and the Skin/Structure Fusion of Buckminster Fuller's Geodesics." *Architectural Research Quarterly*, (Cambridge University Press) Vol. 5., no. 2; September, 2001