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BEN CHECKWITCH

Ben Checkwitch (M.Arch.99) moved to Halifax to pursue a graduate degree at TUNS in 1996 after receiving a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Manitoba. Prior to this move he had lived on Vancouver Island, working for both architects and naval architects and pursuing his own design studies. During the summer after graduation Ben remained at TUNS to teach a freelab in which students designed and built a stage and backdrop for a rock concert on the front lawn of the architecture school.

In the fall Ben moved to New York and worked for Rafael Vinoly Architects before moving to Gluckman Mayner Architects, where he is currently employed. While at Gluckman Mayner, Ben has worked on a private studio/gallery for the artist **Richard Serra** and as the project architect for the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego.

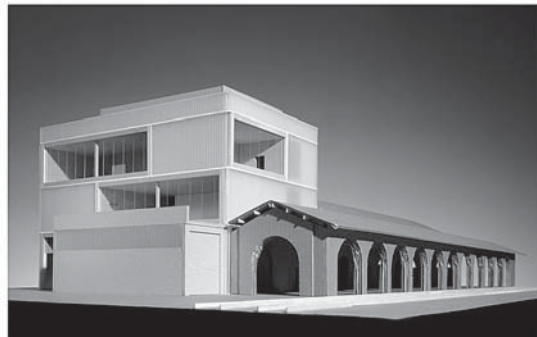
In 2002 he co-founded MINK design, a furniture and industrial design collaboration with artist **Peter Cunningham**. Through this alliance, Ben has continued exploring materials and construction first hand. He has also developed his ideas pertaining to digital media and architectural representation. He designed and built a table/screen that fuses CAD and hand drawing onto the same surface, allowing a more symbiotic relationship between these somewhat disparate modes of working. In a more theoretical project, Ben modeled a hypothetical tool called Digital Clay. Composed of a 3D matrix of capacitive sensors suspended in a polyurethane gel, this malleable mouse is offered as a way of introducing haptic learning into digital design.

As well as working with other architects and his work with MINK, Ben has developed his own projects, both theoretical and tangible. Living in a converted industrial space in Brooklyn, he built a portable bedroom known as "The Pod." This multi-component, mobile room, composed of wood, polypropylene, polyurethane foam, and lycra, earned him a Design Distinction award in *I.D. Magazine's 2003 Annual Design Review*. In the Spring of 2003, Ben was among the 6 winners of the Young Architects Forum, which involved him in an exhibition and lecture series at the Architectural League of New York and

publication in *Young Architects 5: Inhabiting Identity*, available from Princeton Architectural Press in 2004. Ben can be found at <www.checkwitch.com>.



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