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TERRANCE GALVIN

After graduation from TUNS, **Terrance Galvin (M.Arch.87)** pursued post-professional studies in history and theory obtaining an MArch at McGill University and a PhD at the University of Pennsylvania. He is presently in his fifth year of teaching at Dalhousie, where he offers courses on architectural history, the history and theory of cities, and cultural studies in housing and human settlement patterns.

Terrance's teaching experience began when he worked as a tutor with **Essy Baniassad**. He then travelled with **Michael Carroll (M.Arch.87)** and Essy to Peru as part of a research team that began to work on appropriate technology and culturally relevant forms with a material called 'quincha.' This culminated in the building of a school that was also used as a gathering hall in the squatter town of Villa El Salvador. Subsequent housing and settlement projects have included the master plan of a factory town near Calcutta, the documentation of a traditional Indian village in West Bengal, and the reconstruction of several villages after a major earthquake in Bhuj and Kutch (Gujarat). This last project, done in conjunction with the office of Balkrishna Doshi's Vastu-Shilpa Foundation, ended in an exhibition and publication entitled "Reconstruction and Cultural Expression". Each of these architectural research projects examined the idea that culture is by definition 'sustainable' and that there is much to exchange in true collaboration. His interest in form and design continued in work and teaching at McGill University, where he is currently a Research Associate, working with Vikram Bhatt and the Minimum Cost Housing Group.

Terrance also taught in the first year and thesis studios at McGill for five years before heading to Penn to be a University Fellow, studying there with Marco Frascari and Joseph Rykwert. His final dissertation, "The Architecture of Joseph Michael Gandy and Sir John Soane: An Exploration into the Masonic and Occult Imagination of the Late Enlightenment", grew out of a decade of study that included fellowship and residence at the spectacular Sir John Soane's Museum in London. His interest in the 19th century quest for the origins of architecture, language, and religion has supported subsequent courses at

Dalhousie, visiting studios at the Université de Montréal and lectures at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

His teaching philosophy is heavily rooted in questioning our assumptions as designers and in not being afraid to explore ideas in an open-ended and intellectually rigorous manner. At Dalhousie he initiated a summer travel-abroad program for students that has led to studies of Rome, Florence, Prague, Bologna and Havana. His courses on the Renaissance and in the History and Theory of Cities similarly emphasize a hands-on approach where students tackle complex buildings or building situations, and thereby acquire embodied knowledge through an intensive process of making/thinking. This has produced some very poetic and well-crafted collective work between teacher and students. In studio teaching, he has guided a diverse group of thesis projects ranging from the symbolism of Zoroastrian villages in Iran to a lobster festival celebration in Pictou, Nova Scotia, to an archaeological adaptive reuse at the Palace of Diocletian in Split, Croatia.

In 2004, Terrance became a member of a NAFTA consortium which includes Canadian universities Dalhousie and McGill; Ball State and University of Texas in the USA; and UNAM and Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. The exchange program is focusing on housing and sustainability while allowing 20 students from each of Canada, Mexico and the United States to study in one of the two other host countries.

Terrance is also a principal in Praxistudio4architecture (www.praxistudio.com) in Montreal. In 2002 this collaborative studio executed the renovation of a triplex on Hutchison Street in Montreal that was published in *Le Devoir*. Current design projects include a study for 'aging-in-place' housing in Halifax Regional Municipality with **Niall Savage (M.Arch.89)**.

His upcoming research includes an article on the National Art Schools of Havana, a complex visual representation of the structure of Dante Alighieri's epic *Commedia*, and the completion of his bathroom renovation. For further details on research and publications, please see archplan.dal.ca/architecture/visitors/faculty/galvin.shtml or contact terrance.galvin@dal.ca