

## Eric Anderson

Professor and Department Head, Theory and History of Art and Design  
Rhode Island School of Design

### Research in progress

*The Chromatic Unconscious: Sigmund Freud's and the Experience of Design in Vienna's Age of Color.* Completed book manuscript. A history of design in and around the life and work of Freud in Vienna, 1860-1891.

*Interiors on the Edge: Decoration, Domesticity, and Belonging.* Collection of essays in progress. On home decoration and experiences of modern selfhood. Based on the Frances Sewell Plunkett Lectures in the Decorative Arts.

*Ulm in the World: Global Networks of Modern Design.* Research in progress for a book. A History of the Ulm School of Design and its international engagements, 1953-1968. Tracks exchanges with designers and design institutions in Latin America, South Asia, and East Asia. Examines the role of modern design and pedagogy in the politics of post-nationalist and postcolonial reconstruction in West Germany, India, Japan, Argentina, Chile, and Brazil.

### Publications

Review of *London's Lost Interiors* by Steven Brindle. *The Burlington Magazine*, forthcoming in 2025.

"Ulm's Development Pedagogy," peer-reviewed article forthcoming in *Cultures of Design: Proceedings of ICDHS 2025* (Berlin: Springer, 2025)

"Design History's Funhouse: The Ornament Museum and Vienna 1900," invited chapter for the forthcoming book, *Design on Display: Exhibition Practices and Curatorial Views*, (London: Bloomsbury, 2025).

"Design's Chromatic Modernity," review essay on *The Rainbow's Gravity: Color, Materiality and British Modernity* by Kirsty Sinclair Dootson; *William Burges's Great Bookcase and The Victorian Color Revolution* by Charlotte Ribeyrol; and *The Color of Modernism: Paints, Pigments, and the Transformation of Modern Architecture in 1920s Germany* by Deborah Ascher Barnstone. *Journal of Design History*, 2025.

"The Plastex Wall and the Analytic Couch: Surface, Subject, and the Psychotherapeutic Interior," chapter in *On Edge: Interior Provocations*, E. Morawski, D. Schneiderman, and K. Zieve, eds. (London: Routledge, 2024), 62-80.

Double review of *The Naked Truth: Viennese Modernism and the Body* by Alys X. George, and *Liberalism, Nationalism and Design Reform in the Habsburg Empire: Museums of Design, Industry and the Applied Arts* by Matthew Rampley, Markian Prokopovych, and Nóra Veszprémi. *German History* 38 (2020): 673–678.

"Marketing Arts and Crafts Furniture in Britain around 1900," in Monica Penick and Christopher Long, eds., *The Rise of Everyday Design: The Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain and America* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019), 74-89.

Review of *Staatskunst oder Kulturstaat? Staatliche Kunstpolitik in Österreich, 1848-1914* by Andreas Gottsmann, *Austrian History Yearbook* 50 (2019): 216-217.

"Dreams in Color: Sigmund Freud's Decorative Encounters," in Elana Shapira, ed., *Design Dialogue: Jews, Culture and Viennese Modernism* (Vienna: Böhlau, 2018), 161-178. Reviewed by Sabine Wieber in *The Burlington Magazine* 161 (2019): 1069-1070; and by Renate Wagner in *Online Merker: Die Internationale Kulturplattform*, Feb. 25, 2019.

Review of *Rebel Modernists: Viennese Architecture Since Otto Wagner* by Liane Lefaivre, *The Burlington Magazine* 160 (2018): 705-706.

Review of *Alois Riegl in Vienna 1875–1905: An Institutional Biography* by Diana Reynolds Cordileone, *Journal of Design History* 29 (2016): 301-303.

"La vie domestique médiévale selon Viollet-le-Duc," [Viollet-le-Duc's Medieval Domesticity] in Viviane Delpéch, ed., *Viollet-le-Duc (1814-2014), villégiature et architecture domestique, actes de colloque* (Villeneuve-d'Ascq: Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, 2016).  
[www.septentrion.com/fr/livre/?GCOI=27574100149260](http://www.septentrion.com/fr/livre/?GCOI=27574100149260)

"Owl Beaker," *Manual* 6 (spring 2016): 13.

[Review of] *Der Ring: Pionierjahre einer Prachtstrasse*, exhibition at the Wien Museum, Vienna, July 11 – October 4, 2015, *Nineteenth-Century Art Worldwide* 15:1 (Spring 2016).

"The Media of Objects: Design and Display in Ringstrasse Vienna," *Centropa* 15:2 (May 2015): 105-118 [special issue "Popularizing Architecture," guest editor Eric Anderson].

"Introduction," *Centropa* 15:2 (May 2015): 103 [special issue on "Popularizing Architecture"].

"Hans Makart's Technicolor Dreamhouse: Decoration and Subjectivity in Nineteenth-Century Vienna," *West 86<sup>th</sup>* 22:1 (Spring/Summer 2015): 3-22.

"Jakob von Falke und der Geschmack / Jakob von Falke and Ringstrasse-Era Taste" in Alexander Klee, ed., *Klimt und die Ringstrasse* (Vienna: Belvedere Museum, 2015), 24-33.

"[Review of] *The Poetic Home: Designing the 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Domestic Interior*" by Stefan Muthesius, *Centropa* 12 (May 2012).

"From Historic Dress to Modern Interiors: The Design Theory of Jakob von Falke," in Fiona Fisher and Patricia Lara-Betencourt, eds., *Performance, Fashion and the Modern Interior: From the Victorians to Today* (Oxford: Berg, 2011), 17-29.

"How Memorials Happen." Review of *Structures of Memory: Understanding Urban Change in Berlin and Beyond* by Jennifer Jordan, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online ([www.h-net.org](http://www.h-net.org)), July 2007.

"German Ideas and American Buildings." Review of *Adolph Cluss, Architect: From Germany to America*, edited by Lessoff and Mauch, H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online ([www.h-net.org](http://www.h-net.org)), June 2006.

### **Exhibitions curated**

*What is a Color Lab?* Storefront display on the history of color research in art and science, Rhode Island School of Design Color Lab, April 8-May 9, 2024.

"Garden Communities in Queens, 1909–1949." Exhibition of architectural photographs, plans, and publications. Queens Museum of Art, Queens, NY, June-November 2005.

## **Invited Public Lectures**

"Freud and the Occult," invited lecture, Bard Graduate Center, November 20, 2025.

"Ulm's Development Pedagogy," invited lecture for the Modern Design History seminar series, Bard Graduate Center, New York, November 19, 2025.

"Ulm in the World," invited presentation, Bard Graduate Center, November 22, 2024.

"Breaking Down Walls: Design and the Psychological Interior from Freud to the Fallout Shelter," invited lecture at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India, October 8, 2020 (virtual).

"Ulm in the World: Global Networks of Modern Design," invited lecture at Industrial Design Center, IIT Bombay, India, January 22, 2020.

"Mickalene Thomas's Cozy Corners," invited talk for the RISD THAD Research Colloquium, May 6, 2019.

"Psychoanalysis and the Arts: Music, Color, and Freud," invited talk for the Brown University Psychoanalytic Society lecture series, April 23, 2019.

"Interiors on the Edge: A History of Decoration and Belonging." Frances Sewell Plunkett Lectures in the Decorative Arts, endowed biennial lecture series, three invited public lectures, February 20-21, 2019, Mercer University, Georgia.

1. "Not at Home: Interior Decoration from the Victorian Cult of Domesticity to Postwar Queer Critique"
2. "Breaking Down Walls: The Psychological Interior from Freud to the Fallout Shelter"
3. "Lost and Found Homes: Nomads, Refugees, and Homelessness from 1960s Counterculture to 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Global Migrations"

"Color Cure: Freud, Optical Science, and Design Theory," invited public lecture at the Sigmund Freud Museum, Vienna, Austria, May 3, 2017.

"Design in and Out of the Vitrine: Museums and Exhibitions in Nineteenth-Century Vienna," invited public lecture sponsored by Fulbright Greece and Fulbright Austria, National Technical University, Athens, Greece, April 5, 2017.

"Design in and Out of the Vitrine: Museums and Exhibitions in Nineteenth-Century Vienna," invited public lecture sponsored by Fulbright Greece and Fulbright Austria, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, April 4, 2017.

"Sigmund Freud, Interior Decorator," invited talk for Fulbright Austria, Sigmund Freud Museum, Vienna, Austria, March 30, 2017.

"Museums and Design Reform in the Nineteenth Century: Vienna and Beyond." Invited lecture delivered at the China Design Museum, "The Bauhaus and Modern Western Design Seminar," Hangzhou, November 16, 2016.

"Freud's Colors: Design and Psychology in Nineteenth-Century Vienna." Invited public lecture delivered at the China Academy of Art, Department of Architecture, Hangzhou, November 18, 2016.

"Freud's Colors: Design and Psychology in Nineteenth-Century Vienna." Invited public lecture delivered at the Middlebury College Museum of Art, October 10, 2016.

"Dreams in Red: Color and the Interior from Goethe to Freud." Invited public lecture delivered at the Sainsbury Centre World Art Research Seminar, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, April 27, 2016.

"The Gründerzeit and the Aesthetic of Germanness," guest lecture delivered to a graduate seminar on German design, Bard Graduate Center, New York, September 11, 2015.

"Sigmund Freud, Interior Decorator." Invited lecture delivered as the annual Esman Lecture in the Humanities, Richardson Research Seminar in the History of Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Medical School, New York, March 18, 2015.

"The Power of Design in Nineteenth-Century Vienna." Invited lecture for the annual series "Cultures of Power in the Long Nineteenth Century," Oxford University, Oxford, UK, October 13, 2014.

"Österreichs Museum für Kunst und Industrie." Invited paper delivered at the symposium on "Keywords in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Material Culture," Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY, May 3-4, 2010.

"Hans Makart's Polychrome Interiors." Invited presentation at a symposium on the domestic interior, Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons MA Program in the History of Decorative Arts, New York, NY, December 5, 2008.

"The Historicist Interior in Germany and Austria" Invited lecture, Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons M.A. Program, November 5, 2008.

"Decorative Arts in Germany and France, 1851-1890." Invited lecture, Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons M.A. Program, February 8, 2007.

### **Conference Papers**

"Ulm's Development Pedagogy," paper to be delivered at the International Committee on Design History and Studies biennial conference, New Delhi, India, October 10, 2025.

"Ulm's Development Economy and India's Craft Economy," paper to be delivered at the Design History Society Annual conference, Ankara, Türkiye, September 5, 2025

"Otl Aicher's India Excursion: Promises and Perils of Designing Across Borders circa 1960," paper delivered at the Design History Society annual conference, Canterbury, UK, September 5, 2024.

"Design History's Funhouse," paper delivered at the Design History Society annual conference, Porto, Portugal, September 7-9, 2023.

"The Plastex Wall and the Analytic Couch: Surface, Subject, and the Psychotherapeutic Interior," paper delivered at the symposium Interior Provocations: OnEdge, Pratt Institute, New York, NY, April 9, 2022.

"The Parade and Viennese Exhibition Culture in the Nineteenth Century." Paper delivered at the College Art Association annual conference, Washington, D.C. February 3-6, 2016.

"Viollet-le-Duc's Medieval Domesticity." Paper delivered at the International Colloquium Viollet-le-Duc: villégiature et architecture domestique, Hendaye, France, October 9-10, 2014.

"Emotional Interiors." Paper delivered at the workshop "Memory and Emotion in Nineteenth Century German Visual Culture," University of London Centre for the Study of Cultural Memory, London, June 6, 2014.

"The Viennese Interior and its Media." Paper delivered at the College Art Association annual conference, panel on "Popularizing Architecture," Chicago, February 15, 2014

"Design History, Psychology, and the Interior in Ringstrasse Vienna." Paper delivered at the German Studies Association annual conference, Denver, October 5, 2013.

"Decorative Arts in the Ringstrasse Era: Schorske, Burckhardt, and Liberalism." Paper delivered at the Austrian Studies Association annual conference, Waterloo, Ontario, May 2-5, 2013

"Medieval Domesticity." Paper delivered at the conference New Directions in Gothic Revival Studies Worldwide, University of Kent, UK, July 12-14, 2012.

"Apostle of Beauty in a Barren Land? David Wolcott Kendall and Grand Rapids Furniture." Paper delivered at the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Detroit, April 21, 2012.

"'Opium Rush': Hans Makart, Richard Wagner, and the Aesthetic Environment in Ringstrasse Vienna." Paper delivered at the College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, February 23, 2012.

"Jakob von Falke's Medievalist Cultural History and the Gothic Revival in the Applied Arts." Paper delivered at the German Studies Association Annual Conference, Louisville, KY, September 24, 2011.

"The Afterlife of an Interior: Hans Makart's Vienna Studio." Paper delivered at the Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, April 15, 2011.

"Transylvanian Villages to Viennese Salons: Culture on Display at the 1873 World's Fair." Paper delivered at a symposium on world's fairs at the University of Texas, Austin, October 26, 2007.

"The Design Theory of Jakob von Falke: Dress and Interior Decoration as Cultural Expression." Paper delivered at the Modern Interiors Research Centre annual conference at Kingston University, Kingston, England, May 17, 2007.

"The Architecture of Urban Utopia: Garden Communities in Queens, NY, 1909–1949." Paper delivered at the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association annual conference. New Brunswick, NJ, November 2005.

"Jakob von Falke's Theory of the Home." Paper delivered at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum annual symposium on the history of the decorative arts. New York, NY, April 2005.

### **Professional Service**

External promotion reviewer, Parsons School of Design, 2023.

External thesis reviewer, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India, 2021.

External promotion reviewer, Parsons School of Design, 2021.

Peer reviewer, MIT Press, 2019.

Conference panel co-organizer and co-chair, "Design and/as Cultural History," College Art Association annual conference, New York, February 15, 2019.

Graduate Program Director, Global Arts and Cultures MA, Rhode Island School of Design, 2017-2019 and 2022-present.

MA Thesis reader, Bard Graduate Center MA Program, 2017.

Editorial committee member, *Design Territories* book series, Umberto Allemandi & Co., Turin, 2014.

Peer reviewer, *19<sup>th</sup> Century Art Worldwide*, 2013.

External reviewer, Northern Illinois University Research and Artistry internal grant program, 2013.

### **Awards & Grants**

RISD Color Lab faculty research fellowship, 2023.

RISD Global Engagement and Curricular Development Fund grant, 2020.

Fulbright-Freud Visiting Scholar of Psychoanalysis, Vienna, Austria, 2017.

RISD Professional Development Fund grants for research travel, 2023, 2022, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2013.

RISD Kyobo Fund grant for interdisciplinary course development, 2014.

Washington University in St. Louis, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, 2010-2012. Project title: "Design, Social Science, and the Home" (declined).

Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Baird Society Resident Scholarship, 2009.

DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service, dissertation research grants, Berlin, Germany, 2005 and 2004.

Graham Foundation, Carter Manny Dissertation Award, Certificate of Special Recognition, 2005.

### **Teaching**

2012 – present

Rhode Island School of Design

Associate Professor of Art History 2016-present

Assistant Professor of Art History 2012-2016

Spring 2017

University of the Applied Arts, Vienna

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Design History and Theory

2010 – 2012

Kendall College of Art and Design, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Assistant Professor of Art History

2006 - 2010

Cooper-Hewitt/Parsons School of Design, New York City

Lecturer, M.A. Program in the History of Decorative Arts

2001 - 2007

Columbia University, New York City

Art Humanities preceptor and graduate teaching assistant, Department of Art History

**Education**

Columbia University, New York City  
Ph.D., Art History, 2009

Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts  
B.A. with honors, art history and German studies, 1999

Humboldt Universität, Berlin, Germany  
Matriculated coursework in art history and German studies, fall 1997-spring 1998