

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Schaeffer Somers is a registered architect and assistant professor in Architecture and Public Health at the University of Virginia. Schaeffer incorporates a human-centered approach in all of his research and teaching in the School of Architecture and Medicine. His current research focus in Architecture concerns the design of healthcare environments. His courses in Public Health Sciences explore evidence-based and collaborative research methods with the goal of creating a healthy, equitable and resilient future. Schaeffer has co-developed a course, Built Environment & Public Health: Local to Global, to explore the relationships between the environment and health through an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning. A related workshop, Health Impact Assessment (HIA), applies systems thinking to understand how design and policy impacts social and environmental determinants of health as the basis for evidence-based design and planning. Schaeffer is the Principal Investigator of a HIA awarded through the Pew Charitable Trusts and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to assess the impact of housing and community development projects on the population health of the Santo Domingo Pueblo, a Native American tribe in New Mexico. Schaeffer also has funded research to analyze and evaluate the design of Maggie's Centers in the United Kingdom as healing spaces for cancer survivors. The analysis combines traditional architectural field work with quantitative simulation of spatial configurations. Schaeffer's undergraduate degree is a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and his first professional experience was designing software for astronaut training in the Space Station Program at Johnson Space Center.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2014 Public Interest Design Institute: Preserving Equity, Social Economic Environmental Design (SEED) Certification, Feb 2013
- 2012 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Practitioners Training, Program on Health, Equity, and Sustainability San Francisco Department of Public Health | Environmental Health Section, Oakland, California, July 16-19, 2012
- 1996 Master of Architecture,
University of Virginia School of Architecture
- 1988 Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering
University of Virginia School of Engineering

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2002 Steedman Prize, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis, \$30,000
- 1996 Clark/Omni Award in Construction Technology
- 1995 Fellowship in Sustainable Design: Toxicity of Construction, Nathan Cummings Foundation, \$2,500

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2016— University of Virginia, Assistant Professor (Non-Tenure Track, Full-Time)
2017 School of Architecture, Department of Architecture
School of Medicine Department of Public Health
- 2012— University of Virginia, Lecturer (Full-Time)
2016 School of Architecture, Department of Architecture
School of Medicine Department of Public Health
- 2009 University of Virginia, Research/Teaching Fellow
School of Medicine Department of Public Health

COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT

- 2017 Foundation Studio IV, ARCH 3020: Health Design Studio
- 2016 Undergraduate Thesis Research Workshop, ARCH 4500-01
- 2016, 2014 Architectural Design Thinking Studio, ARCH 3011/3021: Design Thinking Health
- 2015 Health Impact Assessment, PHS 5621
- 2013— 2016 Built Environment + Public Health: Local to Global with Wendy Cohn, PHS 3620/5620
- 2013— 2015 Foundation Studio III, ARCH 2020: Rethinking Suburbia Studio
- 2012— 2014 Health Impact + Design, PHS 5559, PLAN/ARCH 5500
- 2012— 2013 Research Studio with Peter Waldman, Structural Operations and Health, ARCH 3010/4010
- 2012 Baltimore Studio with Lucia Phinney, ARCH 3020
- 2011 Introduction to Architectural Design with Anselmo Canfora, ARCH 2010
- 2009 Built Environment and Community Health with Nisha Botchwey, PHS 5621

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2015— 2016 Design Thinking Concentration Undergraduate Advising
- 2014— 2015 University of Virginia, M.Arch Accreditation Review, Architecture Program Report (APR) and Digital Exhibit of Work
- 2013— present University of Virginia, Hereford Residential College, Fellow
- 2012— 2015 University of Virginia School of Architecture, IDP Coordinator
- 2011— present University of Virginia School of Architecture, M.Arch Admissions Committee
- 2009— 2012 University Montessori School, Board of Directors

EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Fit Nation and Global Health Week. Center of Global Health, University of Virginia
- 2012 Intersection: Health + The Built Environment. University of Virginia School of Architecture
- 2004 Phenomenal Landscapes. Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis

INVITED DESIGN CRITIC AND LECTURES

- 2016 Trajectories: Star Wars to Design Thinking. Technology Leaders Program (TLP) Design Speaker Series. School of Engineering & Applied Science, University of Virginia.
- 2014 Empathy and Architectural Education. Lecture presented at: Tom Tom Founders Festival; April 2014, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2010 Jordan Geiger Studio. Review at: University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning; Buffalo, New York.

2004 The Work of Travel. Lecture presented at: Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University; St. Louis, Missouri.

ARTICLES, PAPERS, AND PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Somers SE, Rupa VS, Cohn WF. Transdisciplinary framework: synthesizing methods in design thinking, instructional design, and systems engineering. (in progress)
- 2016 Somers SE et al. Final Report, Santo Domingo Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow Community Development Health Impact Assessment
- 2016 Somers SE, Roe J. et al. Applying architectural and space syntax methods to explore place and wellbeing interactions in Maggie's Cancer Care Centre's. (in progress)
- 1997 Somers SE. Aldo Rossi's San Cataldo Cemetery: An Urban, Agrarian Artifact in a Postmodern Landscape. *Critiques of Built Works of Landscape Architecture*. 1997; 4: 15-19.

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND PANELS

- 2016 Somers SE, Sturz V, Lovato V, Kunkel J. Demonstration of how a community-based design process and a Health Impact Assessment can be used to address health inequities in a Native American community. Abstract accepted: American Public Health Association 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo; October 2016; Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 Somers SE. HIA & Evidence-Based Practice. Presentation at: AIA Conference, From Research to Practice: Metrics of Health & Resilient Housing; May 2015; Atlanta Georgia.
- 2015 Somers SE, Eslocker A. Re-Defining Social Space & Entrepreneurship in our Community. Presentation at: Social Innovation Summit; February 15, 2015; University of Virginia.
- 2014 Cohn WF, Somers SE, Alday I, Bernheim RG. Training the Next Generation of Community Health Practitioners Through a New Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Course. Presentation at: American Public Health Association 142nd Annual Meeting & Expo; November 15-19, 2014; New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2012 Somers SE. Health Impact + Design: Coursework at the Intersection of Health and the Built Environment. Presentation at: Architecture Exchange East (Arch-EX) Conference, Design for Human Health & Well-Being session; November 7-9, 2012; Richmond, Virginia.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

- 2015—
2016 Architectural Analysis of Healing Spaces: Maggie's Centers Case Studies, Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation, \$10,000
- 2014—
2016 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation & Pew Charitable Trusts, Health Impact Project Demonstration Health Impact Assessment Grant, (Principal Investigator) \$108,000
- 2014—
2016 Design Robotics and Health: Building Capacity for Digital Fabrication in Design Thinking & Research Studios, Innovations in Practice, University of Virginia School of Architecture, \$19,000
- 2013 Built Environment + Public Health: Local to Global, Development and Application of New Technologies in the Classroom, Teaching Resource Center Hybrid Challenge Grant, (grant with Wendy Cohn) \$10,000
- 2013 Blue Zones Research for Graduate Students, Asa Eslocker and Harriet Jameson, University of Virginia Center for International Studies, (grant with Wendy Cohn) \$15,000
- 2012 Integrating Health Impact Assessment in the Architectural Design Studio, Center for Design and Health, \$3,000

PRINT, MEDIA, AND CITATIONS

- 2016 Abbasy-Asbagh, Ghazal. Design, Health, and Structural Operations. *Catalyst: Lineages and Trajectories*. Actar. 64-69.
- 2016 Abbasy-Asbagh, Ghazal. Lineages: Schaeffer Somers. *Catalyst: Lineages and Trajectories*. Actar. 168-171.
- 2014 HI+D Spring 14. Issuu.com. https://issuu.com/schaeffer_s/docs/hi_d_issuu_100514

- 2013 Abbasy-Asbagh, Ghazal. Structural Operations and Health. *Catalyst: Conditions*. Actar. 145-148.
- 2006 Lamb, William. Teaching by Example: Charlottesville Waldorf School. *Dwell*. 2006; 6(5): 114-116.
- 1996 Somers SE, Jones TM. *An Architecture of Geographic Transformation*, a studio publication of the 1995 Harry Shure Visiting Professor, University of Virginia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2004—
present Independent design practice
- 2003 Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, designer
- 1998—
2001 William McDonough + Partners, designer
- 1996—
1998 Clark & Menefee Architects, designer
- 1994 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), field surveyor and draftsman
- 1990—
1993 Booz Allen & Hamilton, Space Station Training Facility, Senior Consultant-Aerospace Engineer

SELECTED RESEARCH AND DESIGN PROJECTS

- 2016 Healthy Homes Workshop with the Harvard Department of Environmental Health and JPB Fellows, Santo Domingo Pueblo, May 23-24, 2016
- 2014—
2016 Santo Domingo Enterprise Rose Architectural Fellow Community Development Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- 2012 Connect: Short Stay Patient Facility, AIA Design and Health Charrette 2012; Phoenix, Arizona, Faculty Advisor
- 2012 Outdoor Classroom, University Montessori School, Principal
- 2006—
2007 House for Two Scientists, Earlysville, Virginia, Principal
- 2004—
2005 River Bend House, Charlottesville, Virginia, Principal
- 2004—
2006 Charlottesville Waldorf School, Charlottesville, Virginia, Principal
- 2004—
2005 Flight 93 National Memorial International Design Competition, Principal
- 2002 Meeting of the Rivers, Steedman International Design Competition, First Prize
Jurors: Glenn Murcutt, Patricia Patkau, Juhani Pallasmaa
- 2000—
2001 Ford River Rouge Assembly Building, William McDonough + Partners, Designer
- 1996—
1998 8 Bedons Alley, Clark + Menefee Architects

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2017 Registered Architect, Virginia
- 2015 American Institute of Architects
- 2009 USGBC LEED AP Accredited Professional New Construction NC 2.2