

Mark D. Francis

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Education

Master of Architecture

2010 – 2014

The University of British Columbia

Honors Bachelor of Fine Arts

2006 – 2010

York University

Work Experience

Installation Director at Philip Beesley Architect Inc.

July 2017 - September 2020, Toronto, ON

- Lead rigging and structural designer, site supervisor and team lead on several projects.
- Major installations acting as project lead at PBAI include Astrocyte (Toronto), Amatria (Indiana), Noosphere (Toronto ROM and Berlin), Radiant Soil (South Korea), and Meander (Cambridge, ON).
- Took active role in leading design teams and guiding interns through the design and production process.
- Successfully developed new structural typologies and interactive system designs, leading to more prominent commissions with larger budgets for the studio.

Installation Artist (self-employed) at Interspatial

March 2016 - Present, Toronto, ON

- Interspatial is a design collective co-founded by myself and Natalia Bakaeva in early 2016.
- Focused exclusively on architectural installations and interventions situated in interstitial urban spaces.
- A well received installation at Evergreen Brick Works in 2016 titled “Inverted Valleys” launched subsequent projects, elevating the conversation surrounding site-specific installations in Toronto.

Junior Architect at Bernard Watt Architect

September 2015 – May 2016, Toronto, ON

- Responsibilities consisted of documenting existing buildings and site conditions, schematic designs, working drawings, submitting permits, and site visits.
- A particular emphasis was placed on the adaptive reuse of historical structures.

Intern Architect and Urban Designer at Urban Strategies Inc.

January to July 2015, Toronto, ON

- Role consisted of both analytic and design responsibilities included: gathering GIS data to produce maps, creating massing options for developers, producing diagrams of concepts, creating shadow studies, and conducting community consultations.
- Major projects included a master plan for Troy, New York, transit-oriented development at Mount Dennis in Toronto, a regional plan for the Edmonton Capital Region, and a community vision for Malton in Mississauga.

Skills

- **Primary:** Rhino 3D, Grasshopper, Revit, AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, In Design), Microsoft Office (Word, Power Point, Excel), 3D printing, laser cutting, hand drawing, and physical model-making.
- **Secondary:** Vectorworks, ArchiCAD, Sketch Up, water jet cutting (OMAX), metal and wood fabrication.
- **Installation and rigging:** Skyjack lift certificate, working at heights certified, WHMIS.
- **Languages:** Fluent in English and French. Some Persian.

Selected Exhibitions + Installations

With PBAI

- **Gaslight Cambridge** (Cambridge, Ontario, 2020)
- **Noosphere 2.0** (Futurium, Berlin, 2019 - 2021)
- **Aesop Storefront** (Aesop Queen West, Toronto, January - February 2019)
- **Nebula Prototype** (Museum fur Angewandte Kunst, Vienna, 2018 - Present)
- **Radiant Soil** (Daejeon Museum of Art, Daejeon, South Korea, July - October 2018)
- **Aegis/Noosphere** (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, June - October 2018)
- **Amatria** (Indiana University's computer engineering department, Bloomington, Indiana, 2018 - Present)
- **Astrocyte** (DX EDIT Festival, Toronto, September - October 2017)

With Interspatial

- **Inverted Valleys 2.0** (DesignTO Festival, Toronto, January 2020)
- **Worm Hole** (Place and Placement exhibition, Galleria Mall, Toronto, May 2017)
- **Volume and Void** (Pulp Paper Art Party, Toronto January 2017)
- **Inverted Valleys Model** (The Laneway Summit, Toronto, November 2016)
- **Laneway Canopy** (Nuit Blanche, Toronto, September 2016)
- **Inverted Valleys** (Evergreen Brick Works, Toronto, June - November 2016)
- **Urban Nomad Food Cart** (The Stop's Night Market, Toronto, June 2015)

Volunteering and Advocacy

Landscape Inc.

- Worked with laneway housing advocacy group Landscape Inc, contributing drawings, official plan research, and implementation guidelines for a report ultimately approved by Toronto's city council.
- Coordinated campaign resulting in laneway housing becoming as-of-right for the city. (Toronto 2016 - 2017)

Community Consultation Facilitator:

- Served as a facilitator at three community consultations for laneway housing (Toronto, 2016 - 2017)

Interior Design Studio Critic:

- Guest critic for a fourth year interior design studio at (Ryerson University, Toronto, September - December 2016)

Open Architecture Collaborative T.O. (Formerly Architecture for Humanity Toronto)

- Volunteer designer for refugee housing in Somalia and a boys' orphanage in Rishikesh, India.
- Fundraising coordinator and artist for "city sections" poster campaign. (Toronto, 2014 - 2017)

Michael Green Architects and U.B.C.

- Design-build initiative to help orchard businesses in the Okanagan Valley.
- Designed and built a new fruit cart and fruit stand for a small operation in (Naramata, British Columbia, 2012)

Living Architecture Guest Speaker - Kamehameha School, Hawaii

- Conducted two guest lectures for design students covering the design processes of PBAI (Hawaii, USA, 2020)

References

Philip Beesley

Architect: Philip Beesley Architect Inc.
P: 416-766-8284
E: philip.beesley@uwaterloo.ca

Timothy Boll

Design Director: Philip Beesley Architect Inc
P: 647-504-8331
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Natalia Bakaeva

Architect: Co-founder of Interspatial
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