

ALEJANDRO LAPUNZINA

Suzanne & William Allen Professor of Architecture

Biographical

Born in New York (1960), Alejandro Lapunzina grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he completed his first professional degree (*Arquitecto*, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 1983). He returned to the United States in 1986 with a scholarship to attend the Master of Architecture program at Washington University in Saint Louis; he graduated in 1987 and received the AIA Medal of Excellence in the study in architecture.

An architect who practiced in Argentina, the United States and France, he has dedicated the last twenty-five years to full time teaching, administration and research. He began teaching at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville (1989-1991) and joined the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's School of Architecture in the Fall 1991. At the School of Architecture, he held several administrative positions, including Director of the School's Study Abroad Program in Versailles (1994-1999 and 2002-2013), Chair of International Programs (1999-2002) and Associate Director for Graduate Studies (2000-2002). He is Director of the Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona-El Vallès since its inception in 2014. He was named as the School's first *Suzanne & Allen Professor of Architecture* in January 2020.

Teaching

Since joining the School of Architecture in 1991, Professor Lapunzina has been primarily dedicated to teaching Architectural Design courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He regularly offers a series of introductory lectures as part of a seminar built into the structure of the Architectural Design courses offered at the School's overseas program, as well as coordinates the course on architectural representation offered at the study abroad program. He also taught a variety of seminars at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Research and Creative Work

Alejandro Lapunzina's research and creative activities include writing and, to a lesser degree, architectural work. His research encompasses areas of architectural history and criticism, with a focus on modern and contemporary architecture issues and on the study of Le Corbusier's work in the Americas.

He authored two books –*Le Corbusier's Maison Curutchet* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1997) and *The Architecture of Spain* (Greenwood Publishers, 2005). Currently, he is working on a book dedicated, precisely, to the architectural work of Le Corbusier in the American continent. He also authored numerous articles on various topics, and presented both his research and creative work through invited public lectures and conference presentations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

As an independent architect he worked on a variety of projects, from private commissions to international competitions. Some of these projects were published and exhibited internationally.

CURRICULUM VITAE [short version]

EDUCATION

Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri; Master of Architecture, 1987.

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina; Arquitecto (Professional degree & license), 1983.

ACADEMIC TEACHING and ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Suzanne & William Allen Professor of Architecture [named Professorship], 2020-present

Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture, 2009–present.

Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture, 1997-2009.

Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture, 1991-1997.

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, School of Architecture, 1989-1991.

Member of numerous School/College/University-level committees, 1991-present.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Kromm, Rikimaru & Johansen Architects, Saint Louis, MO; 1988-1989 (junior architect).

Abal & Cassola Arquitectos, Buenos Aires, Argentina; 1983-1986 (junior architect).

INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL and CREATIVE WORK [selection]

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Week-end house Mr and Mme Pepin (project),
Courselles-sur-mer, Normandie, France, 2004.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Chicago Schools Competitions (competition entry);
Chicago, Illinois, 2001.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Summer residence Mme G. de Boissier (project);
Le Pègue, Provence, France, 1998.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Headquarters for the Fondation Mies van der Rohe (competition entry);
Barcelona, Spain, 1998.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Reorganization of the Konrad-Adenauer Allee (proposal, by invitation);
Bonn, Germany, 1997.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Prototype for a Municipal Kindergarten (project);
Ituzaingó, Buenos Aires, 1995.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Exhibit House in Robeson Meadows (project);
Champaign, Illinois, 1993.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Flows, a drive through restaurant (competition entry, third place);
Clayton, Missouri, 1992.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), Matteson Public Library (competition entry);
Matteson, Illinois, 1990.

Lapunzina, A. (architect), A School for the Information Age (competition entry, honorable mention);
Urbanity, Missouri, 1990.

Lapunzina, A. & Lorens Holm (architects), Clemson Univ Performing Arts Center (competition entry);
Clemson, South Carolina, 1989.

Lapunzina, A. & José M. Piñol (architects), COMI Health Center (competition entry);
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1985.

PUBLICATIONS [short selection]

Books

- Lapunzina, A. *Le Corbusier's Maison Curutchet*,
New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997.
- Lapunzina, A. *The Architecture of Spain*,
Greenwood, CT and London, UK: Greenwood Publishers, 2005.
- Lapunzina, A. *Acerca de la Arquitectura*.
Buenos Aires: Editorial Nobuko, 2023.

Essays and Articles [short selection]

- Lapunzina, A. "Scope and purpose of architecture;" [keynote and conference paper presentation]
2nd ICTAC International Conference on Trends in Architecture & Construction. Mohali, India,
2024. Published in conference proceedings, Singapore: Springer, 2025; pp. 1459-1469.
- Lapunzina, A. "Arquitecturas de la llanura: poéticas de la inmensidad;" [conference paper]
Arquitectura y paisaje; transferencias históricas, retos contemporáneos, Vol. II.
Madrid: Abada Editores, 2022, pp. 1027-1037
- Lapunzina, A. "Fructíferos Desencuentros," [chapter essay]
Le Corbusier y el Sur de América; Maximiano Atria, editor (pages 56-67)
Santiago de Chile: Editorial Universitaria, 2018.
- Lapunzina, A. "Un legado vigente: homenaje a Le Corbusier," (bilingual Spanish/Portuguese)
Summa+ #148, February 2016, Buenos Aires, Argentina (pages 106-115).
- Lapunzina, A. "Reflejos y Transparencias: el nuevo museo del Louvre en Lens,"
Summa+ #132, October 2013, Buenos Aires, Argentina (pages 92-105).
- Lapunzina, A. "De la pampa al altiplano, los planes reguladores de Le Corbusier en América,"
Le Corbusier en Bogotá 1947-1951; tomo 2; María Cecilia O'Byrne, María Cecilia (editor),
Bogotá: Ediciones Uniandes, 2010 (pages 50-65).
- Lapunzina, A. "El Plan Régulateur de Buenos Aires y la Oficina del EPBA,"
Massilia: Encuentro de Granada (Barcelona & Granada, Spain), 2008 (pages 216-241).
- Lapunzina, A. "A ras del suelo: la Maison Louis Carré de Alvar Aalto,"
Summa+ #98, December 2008, Buenos Aires, Argentina (pages 58-65).
- Lapunzina, A. "Ilots, barres, ensembles; le Plan Régulateur 1938-1940," [chapter essay]
L'espace du jeu architectural, Mélanges offerts à Jean Castex; Anne-Marie Châtelet, M. Denès,
R. Rouyer and J. Sautereau (editors),
Versailles: Editions Recherches, 2007 (pages 84-102).
- Lapunzina, A. "The Pyramid and the Wall: notes to an unknown Project of Le Corbusier in Venezuela,"
arq [architectural research quarterly] volume 5, #3; Cambridge University Press, United Kingdom,
(pages 255-270).
- Lapunzina, A. "*Le Corbusier et l'Argentine / Le Corbusier and Argentina*,"
eav [enseignement, architecture, ville] #4, December 1998, Versailles, France (pages 62-72).
- Lapunzina, A. (guest editor) *Desde el Margen: jóvenes arquitectos de Rosario /*
From the margins: young architects from Rosario. Arquis Monographs #15:
Buenos Aires: Universidad de Palermo, 1998.
- Lapunzina, A. "A Public Library for Matteson,"
JAE, volume 47/38, February 1994, ACSA and The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA;
(cover + pages 152-158).

PUBLIC LECTURES and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS [short election]

- "The archicities and archilandscapes of Clorindo Testa"*; 16th International Conference in Architecture. The Athens Institute, Athens, Greece; July 2026.
- "Beyond Architectural Thinking"*; 19th Singapore Archifest "Don't just think like an architect" Singapore, Singapore; June 2025
- "Chandigarh & Ahmedabad: Le Corbusier in India"*
Colegio de Arquitectos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires; La Plata, Argentina; August 2024.
- "Purism, Language, Poetry: Le Corbusier's promenade architecturale at Maison Curutchet"*
The Berlage Institute of Architecture at TU Delft; Delft, The Netherlands; April 2024.
- "Memoria, símbolo y poesía: una arquitectura transcendental"*; Ciclo "Debates y Pensamiento."
Alliance Française; Buenos Aires, Argentina; August 2023.
- "Acerca de la Arquitectura"* ("On Architecture"); series of four interrelated lectures delivered as an online live video seminar organized by Casa Curutchet and the Colegio de Arquitectos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina; July 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2020.
- "Arquitectura Moderna nel Rio de la Plata, 1930-1975"* ("Modern Architecture in the Rio de la Plata, 1930-1975), (delivered in Spanish); Facoltà d'Ingegneria e Architettura; Università degli Studi Enna 'Kore,' Enna, Italy; May 2019.
- "Fructíferos Desencuentros: Le Corbusier y América del Sur"* ("Le Corbusier and South America"), (delivered in Spanish); Colegio de Arquitectos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires; La Plata, Argentina; October 2018.
- "La Utopía [Sud]Americana de Le Corbusier"* ("Le Corbusier's [South]American Utopia"); Seminar "Arquitectura y Utopía" ("Architecture and Utopia,"); Stanislaus von Moos, Carlos Eduardo Dias Comas and Alejandro Lapunzina; organized by Maximiano Atria; Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo, Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile; January 2017.
- "La Construcción del Poema"* ("The Construction of the Poem"); commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Le Corbusier's death (delivered in Spanish); Colegio de Arquitectos de la Provincia de Buenos Aires; La Plata, Argentina; October 2015
- "Reflections and Transparencies: SANAA's new Louvre Museum in Lens,"* Oklahoma State University, School of Architecture Lecture Series, Stillwater, OK, October 2013.
- "De la Pampa al Altiplano: los planes urbanos de Le Corbusier en América"* ("From the pampas to the mountains: Le Corbusier's urban plans in America"), keynote lecture, International Conference «LC BOG,» Bogotá, Colombia, April 2010.
- "Dogma, Ideal y Poesía"* ("Dogma, ideal and poetry"), Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo (cátedra Justo Solsona), Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 2009.
- "Une Modernité Ignorée: l'architecture du Rio de la Plata 1930-1970"* ("Ignored Modernity"), Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nancy, France, April 2008.
- "Embedded Narratives: Le Corbusier's architectural poetics,"* The Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, February 2007.
- "La Pirámide y el Muro"* ("The Pyramid and the Wall"), Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo, Universidad del Desarrollo, Santiago de Chile, Chile, July 2001.
- "The Design Process of Maison Curutchet,"* keynote lecture, Seminar on Maison Curutchet at Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands, April 1997.
- "Tendencias en la arquitectura europea"* ("Trends in contemporary European architecture"), Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 1996.
- "Five Projects (on own architectural work),"* V International Biennial of Architecture Buenos Aires '93; Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 1993.

HONORS, AWARDS and SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS [selection]

Named as the *Suzanne & William Allen Professor of Architecture* (endowed professorship), School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2020

Honorable mention, University-wide Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2000.

Excellence in teaching award [first place], awarded by the School of Architecture's student body in recognition of outstanding teaching, 1993.

Third place, The Steedman Traveling Fellowship Design Competition, Architectural Design Competition; Washington University & Steedman Committee, St Louis, MO, 1992.

Honorable Mention, The Steedman Traveling Fellowship Design Competition, Architectural Design Competition; Washington University & Steedman Committee, St Louis, MO, 1990.

American Institute of Architects Medal for Excellence in the Study of Architecture, AIA St. Louis and Washington University in Saint Louis, 1988.

Frederick Widmann Prize in the Study of Architecture (co-recipient), Washington University in Saint Louis's School of Architecture, 1988.

GRANTS RECEIVED [selection]

Lapunzina, A., College of Fine and Applied Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Research Grant Award: Le Corbusier in the Americas, 2008.

Lapunzina, A., Research Board, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Research Grant: The Architecture of Spain, 2002.

Lapunzina, A., Research Board, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Travel and Research Grant: Le Corbusier in the Americas, 1999.

Lapunzina, A., Graham Foundation for Advancement in the Visual Arts, Research Grant: Le Corbusier in the Americas, 1998.

Lapunzina, A., Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Publication Subvention, Research Board Grant: Le Corbusier's Maison Curutchet, 1995.

Lapunzina, A., National Endowment for the Humanities, Travel to Collections Research Program: Le Corbusier's Curutchet House, 1992.

OTHER [selection]

Participated in numerous juries and review panels for student competitions, design studio reviews, and conference papers in Argentina, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Member of scientific committees, juries for academic promotion and/or research proposals in France, Italy, Spain, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Research work and publications cited regularly, including books written by highly influential authors and scholars. Own architectural work and pedagogic/teaching activity presented at various exhibition venues in Argentina, France, Germany, Spain and the United States.

LANGUAGES

Spanish [native], English [second], and French [third]: spoken, read and written fluently.
Portuguese and Catalan [read rather fluently]; Italian [functional reading ability]