

CV - Executive Summary

Edward G. Becker, SAFA
Associate Professor
College of Architecture, Arts, and Design - Virginia Tech
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Faculty Biography:

Edward Becker is a tenured Associate Professor at Virginia Tech's School of Architecture + Design and founder of Helsinki-based Vor, a climate-focused design and consulting practice that develops "climate ready" spatial solutions for the public and private realms. His award-winning, bio-focused design and research work is positioned at the intersection of architecture, landscape urbanism, and public art.

Winner of national and international design awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, Architizer, Architects Newspaper, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, and others, his collaborative work across academia and industry has been published internationally by Actar, ARK, Archinect, ARQ-XP, Phaidon, Routledge, Wood Design Magazine, and World Landscape Architecture, among others, including being featured in AN's "Best of the Best" design awards publication and Phaidon's "Architizer: World's Best Architecture 2020."

As a former Program Coordinator for Research and Technology (2020-2022), Becker's academic research, teaching, and engagement concentrate on two impactful catalysts of change in the built environment – digital technologies and climate change mitigation through sustainable design – and link them through the topic of bio-based design and construction, namely with mass timber. His timber-focused research and teaching efforts have garnered five teaching-related awards at Virginia Tech, including the prestigious university-level Certificate of Excellence in Teaching, bestowed on less than 1% of university faculty, and he is regularly invited/selected for public lectures, critique, and scholarly presentations both nationally and internationally. He has developed academic partnerships with industry-leading companies including AECOM, Trimble, and the U.S. timber industry who have provided over \$10 million USD in sponsored funding to support his teaching and research efforts, including the largest industry gift in the history of the college.

Prior to joining the School of Architecture + Design at Virginia Tech, Mr. Becker taught housing and urbanism in Aalto University's Masters Degree Programme in Espoo, Finland. He is an urbanist, scholar, educator, and practitioner who is a registered architect in Finland and a member of the Finnish Association of Architects.

He holds a Master of Architecture, with Distinction, from Harvard University, where he was awarded the Outstanding Research and Design Prize in Housing (JCHS) and a National Honor Award in Residential Design (ASLA), among other commendations. He is an American Scandinavian Foundation Fellow (Finnish Fund) and a fellow of the Bundanon Trust, Australia.

Becker has worked for Tommila Architects (Helsinki), MAD Architects (Beijing), and WEarchitecture (Copenhagen) on large cultural and institutional projects. He has also worked for the Harvard Journal of Real Estate, serving as an Assistant Editor and Publication Chair while overseeing the journal's inaugural publication "Navigating Investments with Ethical Risk."

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Professional Registration

2015 - pres Architect, SAFA, Suomen Arkkitehtiliitto (Finnish Association of Architects)
Jäsennumerosi (Registration): #9127

Education

2013 Master of Architecture, with Distinction (MArch II, Post-Professional Degree)
Harvard University
2011 Bachelor of Architecture (BArch, Professional Degree)
California Polytechnic Institute and State University - San Luis Obispo

Full-Time Academic Appointments

2022 - pres Associate Professor, with tenure, School of Architecture, College of Architecture, Arts,
and Design, Virginia Tech
2016 - pres Assistant Professor, School of Architecture + Design, College of Architecture
and Urban Studies, Virginia Tech

Academic Leadership Appointments

2021 - 2022 Program Coordinator for Research, School of Architecture + Design, Virginia Tech
2020 - 2021 Program Coordinator for Technology, School of Architecture + Design, Virginia Tech

Professional Practice

2016 - pres Director and Co-founder of VÖR; Helsinki, Finland; Architecture and Urbanism
2014 - 2016 Architect, Tommila Architects. Helsinki, Finland

Awards and Recognition

Design (selected)

2022 "Best Mass Timber Project," Offsite Construction Award [International Award]
2022 ACSA Design-Build Award [National Recognition]
2020 Architects Newspaper "Best of Design" Award - 1st Prize [International Award]
2020 Architizer A+ Award: Architecture + New Materials - Jury Prize [International Award]
2020 Case study for innovative timber construction - AHEC [International Award]
2019 Artist-in-Residence at the Bundanon Trust - NSW Australia [International Award]

Academic (selected)

2022 Excellence in Creative Scholarship [University-level Research Award]
2021 University Certificate for Excellence in Teaching [University-level Award]
2020 AIA Virginia - Architectural Design Merit Award [State-level Professional Award]
2020 Excellence in Creative Achievement Award, Virginia Tech [School-level Award]
2020 Excellence in Scholarship Award, Virginia Tech [School-level Award]
2019 Certificate for Excellence in Outreach, Virginia Tech [College-level Award]
2018 AIA Blue Ridge Design Honor Award [Regional Professional Award]
2018 New Faculty Teaching Award, Virginia Tech A+D [School-level Award]
2014 National Honor Award in Residential Design, ASLA [National Award]

Research Fellowships (selected)

2013 American Scandinavian Foundation Fellow, Finnish Fund [International Award]
2013 SOM Prize, Finalist (1 of 5 nationally) [National recognition]
2012 Hart Howerton Fellowship, Finalist (1 of 4 nationally) [National recognition]

Recent Scholarly Publications (selected)

"Modular Construction with Low-Grade Hardwood Cross-Laminated Timber," World Conference on Timber Engineering. Oslo, Norway. NYP

"Completing the Cycle: An alignment of open-source digital technologies and the distributed manufacturing of advanced biomaterials." Architectural Research in Finland, Vol. 3, No. 1 NYP

"It's Hard to Beat a 2x4: Digital infrastructure for rapid-build affordable housing with mass timber" Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. St. Louis, MO. NYP

"[Local] Materials Matter" 2020 American Institute of Architects and Association Collegiate Schools of Architecture Intersections Research Conference: CARBON. Philadelphia, PA

"Hybrid Practices: Risk and reward within the evolving landscape of cross-laminated timber utilization." Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Palo Alto, CA.

"Mass Timber Construction for Multi-family Urban Housing: Carbon12 and the Canyons." EAAE-ARCC. Valencia, Spain [with Kevin Lee, co-author]

"Chasing lines of Engagement: Uncovering the City through Active Resource Transfer." Book chapter in *Chasing the City: Models for Extra-Urban Investigations*. Routledge, J. Nesbit and N. Nason, Editors.

"Completing the Cycle with Hardwood CLT: Innovation in material development and utilization." Building Technology Educators' Society (BTES). Amherst, MA

"Affordances and Limitations of Cognitive Bias Reduction in Introductory Digital Design Pedagogy." Architectural Research in Finland, Vol. 2, No. 1.

"Design Cognition: Optimizing Knowledge Transfer in Digital Design Pedagogy." Architectural Research in Finland, Vol. 1, No. 1

Recent Exhibitions (selected)

"Networked technologies and sustainable biomaterials for enhanced urban environments."

Aalto Gallery, Aalto University, Otaniemi, Finland.

Timber SmartWall Exhibit.

Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Camouflage: Architectural Origins Everywhere and Nowhere

Portmanteau Exhibit. Milwaukee Art Museum, Schroeder Gallery. Milwaukee, Wisconsin

University of Nevada - Las Vegas. Priscilla Flowers Gallery. Las Vegas, Nevada

University of Colorado - Denver. Design Gallery. Denver, Colorado

"Completing the Cycle with Hardwood CLT: Innovation in material development and utilization."

John Olver Design Gallery, Univ. of Massachusetts - Amherst. Amherst, Massachusetts