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Animate tracings in Michelangelo's paper modani at San Lorenzo

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Animate tracings in Michelangelo's paper *modani* at San Lorenzo

This paper opens an inquiry into Michelangelo's unusual, yet highly ordered, exercise of the classical vocabulary through a close examination of his 1:1 scaled paper *modani*. Unlike *modani* from his contemporaries such as Antonio da Sangallo il Giovane and Bartolomeo Ammannati, Michelangelo's *modani* exhibit no evidence of the use of compass or rule, a realization that has led scholars to conclude that he drew them free-hand. However, new observations reveal that his *modani* were constructed by means of a deliberate and highly ordered working method linked through cutting and tracing. Although Michelangelo did not rely on instruments of geometry or mathematics, manipulative tracing nevertheless generated a sequential order of guide marks, ticks, and smears. While tracing, he would freely shift, rotate, or flip the template, trace only part of it, or combine it with other sketches or tracings. Far from capricious inventions, his extraordinary implementation of paper *modani* provides a wealth of clues as to how Michelangelo conceived of the elasticity and anatomical potential of the classical vocabulary.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. / Architecture and Design Research :: 2007-2013
    Virginia Polytechnic Institute   Alexandria, VA
    Dissertation title: *Well-Tempered Building:*
    Michelangelo's full-size template drawings at San Lorenzo

Master of Architecture :: 1998-2001
    Virginia Polytechnic Institute   Blacksburg, VA
    Thesis title: *On Making*

Bachelor of Arts / History :: 1994-1998
    Indiana University   Bloomington, IN

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Director of Graduate Programs :: 2013 - 2014   Boston, MA
    Department of Architecture
    Wentworth Institute of Technology
    Coordinator of Study Abroad Programs

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer :: 2014 - present   San Luis Obispo, CA
    California Polytechnic State University
    Fifth Year UG Thesis; Theory Seminar; Digital Fabrication

Associate Professor :: 2013 - 2014   Boston, MA
    Wentworth Institute of Technology
    Graduate Studio; History Survey; Thesis Studio; Design/Build

Visiting Docent :: 2011 (Sommersemester)   Weimar, Germany
    Bauhaus-Universität Weimar
    International Advanced Design Studio (Grad)

Visiting Lecturer :: AY 2004-06; AY 2010 - 2013   Alexandria, VA (WAAC)
    California Polytechnic State University
    Grad/UG Design; Theory Seminar; Design/Build; Furniture Design

Adjunct Faculty :: AY 2007 - AY 2009   Alexandria, VA (WAAC)
    Virginia Polytechnic Institute
    Grad/UG Design; Theory Seminar; Design/Build; Furniture Design

PRACTICE

Atelier U:W, LLC :: 2006-present
    Special projects in Design and Fabrication
    website: www.atelier-uw.com

Director of Workshops :: Fall 2004-2013   Alexandria, VA (WAAC)
    Wood, Metal, Concrete, Glass, and Digital Fabrication

Studio 3 Architects, P.C. :: 2001-2005   McLean, VA
    Intern Architect, IDP Certificate 2005

_____BOOKS

☞ (2015) *Michelangelo, Architecture and the On-Site Imagination*, (Ashgate), forthcoming.

_____ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS

☞ (2015) "Tales from the Scaffold: Michelangelo's Wall Drawings at San Lorenzo", book chapter in *Confabulations: Storytelling in Architecture,* Paul Emmons, Marcia Feuerstein, and Carolina Dayer, eds. (Ashgate), forthcoming

☞ (2014) "Extracting Desire: Michelangelo and the *forza di levare* as an Architectural Premise", book chapter in *The Material Imagination : Reveries on Architecture and Matter,* Matthew Mindrup, ed. (Ashgate)

☞ (2013) "The On-Site Architect: Millimetric Translations in Construction" in *Wentworth Architecture Review,* Volume 4 (Boston)

☞ (2012) "Design_Build : Build_Design" in the *Journal of Architectural Education*, May 2012

☞ (2012) "Making Plans: Ichnographia as a cultural artefact", book chapter co-written with Paul Emmons for *Architecture and Culture*, Adam Sharr, ed. (Routledge)

☞ (2011) "Ethos Logos Pathos: Architects and their Chairs" in *Scale: Perception, Imagination and Practice in Architecture*, edited by Gerald Adler, Brittain-Catlin & Fontana-Giusti (Routledge)

☞ (2011) "Proximate distance : Tactile musings on digital production" in *Horizonte: Zeitschrift für Architekturdiskurs,* No. 4 [Building Matters]

☞ (2008) "L.B. Alberti's ad ungeum: Longing for unhindered productions," Ann Katrine Gelting and Ebbe Herder, eds., *Eaae / Arcc Conference, Copenhagen, 2008 : Changes of paradigms in the basic understanding of architectural research. Architectural research and the digital world*, Copenhagen (2008)