

Michael Ezban RA, ASLA, LEED AP

mezban@umd.edu

Education

2013 Master in Landscape Architecture with Distinction
Harvard University
Thesis: “Landscape as Lure: Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
Advisor: Charles Waldheim, Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture

2007 Master of Architecture with Distinction
University of Michigan
Thesis: “Better Homes and Gardens: Cultivating an Aberrant Domesticity”
Advisor: Karen M’Closkey, Assistant Professor of Architecture

1998 Bachelor of Science in Architecture
University of Virginia

Academic Appointments (selected)

2024-pres Associate Clinical Professor
Architecture Program
UMD School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

2020-23 Assistant Clinical Professor
Architecture Program
UMD School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

2019-20 Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture
University of Virginia, School of Architecture

2014-19 Visiting Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture
Virginia Tech, Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center

2013-14 Lecturer
Architecture Program
UMD School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

2011 Adjunct Instructor
Corcoran College of Art + Design

2009 Visiting Instructor
Virginia Tech, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

2008-09 Lecturer
University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Administrative Appointments at UMD

2023-pres Assistant Director of Graduate Architecture
Architecture Program
UMD School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

2022-23 Interim Assistant Director
Architecture Program
UMD School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation

Professional Practice

2008-24 Principal
VanderGoot Ezban Studio, Silver Spring, MD
research based practice

2007-08 Project Manager + Staff Architect
PLY Architecture, Ann Arbor, MI
residential and research based practice

2004-05 Project Manager + Staff Architect
Wiedemann Architects, Bethesda
residential based practice

2000-04 Project Manager + Staff Architect
Blackburn Architects, DC
equestrian based practice

1998-00 Staff Architect
Bowie + Gridley Architects, Washington, DC
educational facilities and commercial based practice

Professional Certifications, Licenses, and Memberships

2013-pres Full Member
American Society of Landscape Architects

2009-pres Registered Architect
Michigan

2007-pres LEED Accredited Professional
US Green Building Council

Books Authored

2027 Ezban, M. (2027). *Seeing Blinds: Architecture for Avian Landscapes*. Birkhauser.
(Forthcoming)

2020 Ezban, M. (2020). *Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm*.
Routledge. ISBN 9780367783808

Book Chapters

2026 Ezban, M. "Coastal Cohabitation," in *New Approaches to Coastal Adaptation in Landscape Architecture*, Ed. Kees Lokman. Routledge. (Forthcoming)

2022 Ezban, M. (2022). "Attune and Entangle: A Pedagogy for Designing Multispecies Relations in the Anthropocene," in *Studio Ecologies: Designing Landscape Architectural Education for Unpredictable Futures*. Eds. Dr. Brigit Keane, Roselea Monacella. Routledge.

2017 Ezban, M. and VanderGoot, J. (2017). "Coastal Portage: Sediment Landscapes as Great Lakes Infrastructure," in *Third Coast Atlas: Prelude to a Plan*. Eds. Charles Waldheim, Clare Lyster, Mason White, Daniel Ibanez. Actar.

Refereed Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings

2025 Ezban, M., May, L, and Williams, B. (2025). "Training Architect-Curators: Rethinking Iteration in the Age of AI," in ACSA 2025 Intersections Conference Proceedings (forthcoming)

2025 Ezban, M., May, L, and Williams, B. (2025). "AI + Design Thinking: Expanding Architecture Pedagogies with Artificial Intelligence," in ARCC 2025 Annual Conference Proceedings

2014 Ezban, M. (2014). "Midden Mutations: Civic Aggregation and Material Migrations at Monte Testaccio," in Landscape Architecture Frontiers, Vol. 12.

2013 Ezban, M. (2013). "Decoys, Dikes, and Lures: Polyfunctional Landscapes of Waterfowl Hunting," in Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. Vol. 33, No. 3.

2012 Ezban, M. (2012). "The Trash Heap of History," in Places Journal.

Non-Refereed Journal Articles

2013 Ezban, M. (2013). "Better Homes and Gardens: Cultivating an Aberrant Domesticity," in PLAT. Volume 3.5: Model Misbehavior. Rice School of Architecture

2013 Ezban, M. (2013). "Aqueous Ecologies: Parametric Aquaculture and Urbanism," in Scenario Journal, Volume 3: Rethinking Infrastructure

2008 Ezban, M. (2008). "Better Homes and Gardens: Cultivating an Aberrant Domesticity," in Dimensions. Volume 21. Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Fellowships, Prizes and Awards

2025 Outstanding Faculty Award
UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

2022 Outstanding Faculty Award
UMD Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS)

2020 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize
Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm
Foundation for Landscape Studies

2014	Maeder-York Family Fellowship in Landscape Studies “Working Water: The Productive Tailwater Fishery as Landscape Architecture” Fellow in-residence Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA (\$15,000)
2014	Honorable Mention “Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral” North Coast Design Competition
2013	Charles Eliot Traveling Fellowship “Scaling the Fish Farm: A Global Survey of Aquaculture Landscapes” Highest award of the Department of Landscape Architecture Harvard University, Graduate School of Design (\$44,000)
2013	National Geographic Award in Mapping, Honorable Mention “Hunting the Emergent Lake Erie Littoral” Association of American Geographers
2011	Penny White Award “Exhuming the Rust Belt: Metrics and Ecologies of Pointe Mouillee” Department of Landscape Architecture Harvard University, Graduate School of Design Co-PI w/ Jana VanderGoot (\$1,000)
2011	Merit Award (2nd Place) “Filter Strips” James River Green Building Council 2011 Green Spaces Competition: Uncovering Manchester (w/ VanderGoot Ezban Studio)
2007	Taubman College M.Arch Thesis Award “Better Homes and Gardens: Cultivating an Aberrant Domesticity” University of Michigan, Taubman College of Architecture + Urban Planning

Sponsored Research and Programs

2024	Teaching and Learning Grant “AI and Design Thinking” UMD Teaching and Learning Transformation Center Co-PI, w/ L. May. PI: B. Williams (\$55,000)
2023	Healthy Places Matter Grant “Seeing Blinds: Architecture for Avian Landscapes” exhibition UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation PI (\$10,000)
2022	Teaching and Learning Grant “Decolonizing Education to Meet Climate Change Demands: reACT Testbed Lab” UMD Teaching and Learning Transformation Center Co-PI, w/ M. Binder, H. Koliji, P. May, B. Quinn. PI: P. Cossard (\$55,000)

2016	Design and Development Award “Resilient Infrastructure” Virginia Tech/ Office of Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies PI, w/ Laurel McSherry (\$8,000)
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Invited Lectures

Mar 2022	Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm” Food for Thought Lecture Series
Oct 2019	Harvard University Graduate School of Design “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm” Charles Eliot Fellowship Lecture
Mar 2017	Auburn University School of Architecture, Planning, Landscape Architecture “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm” 2017 Spring Lecture Series
Feb 2016	University of Maryland, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm” 2016 Kibel Gallery Lecture
Jun 2014	Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, MA “Michael Ezban in Conversation with Charles Waldheim” 2014 Maeder-York Fellowship in Landscape Studies Lecture
Jul 2014	Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy “Culture of Waste”

Symposia and Conferences

Sep 2025	ACSA Intersections Conference: Artificial Intelligence Design Practices Wentworth Institute of Technology “Training Architect-Curators: Rethinking Iteration in the Age of AI” w/ Lindsey May and Britt Williams Organized by ACSA
Apr 2025	ARCC Annual International Conference: Emerging Challenges University of Maryland and Howard University “AI + Design Thinking: Expanding Architecture Pedagogies with Artificial Intelligence” w/ Lindsey May and Britt Williams Organized by ARCC
Jan 2025	A2ru AI Symposium University of Maryland “Opportunities and Limits: Integrating AI into Design Studio Pedagogy” w/ Lindsey May and Britt Williams Organized by A2ru
Oct 2024	AI + Design Thinking Symposium University of Maryland Organized w/ Lindsey May and Britt Williams

Oct 2022 Makeover Montgomery County 5
 MG Planning Department Headquarters
 “Climate Change and Strengthening Maryland’s Coast”
 Organized by Montgomery County Planning Department

Apr 2021 LA + ARCH Interdisciplinary Seminar
 University of Maryland
 “Multispecies Entanglements”
 Organized by the SASLA, UMD

Mar 2017 Penn Landscape Dialogues Symposium
 University of Pennsylvania
 “Protein and Pleasure: Designing the Productive Aquatic Landscape”
 Organized by the UPenn Department of Landscape Architecture

Aug 2015 DredgeFest Great Lakes Symposium
 University of Minnesota
 “Sediment and Shotguns: Ecologies of Dredging and Waterfowling at Pointe Mouillee”
 Organized by the Dredge Research Collaborative

Mar 2014 CELA—Annual Conference of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
 Baltimore, Maryland
 “Dredging Landscapes of the Great Lakes.”
 Organized by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture

Sep 2012 DredgeFest NYC Symposium
 Columbia University GSAPP’s Studio-X, NYC
 Panel: “Dredge and the Anthropocene”
 Organized by the Dredge Research Collaborative

Sep 2012 TRASH Conference
 University of Sussex, United Kingdom. “The Trash Heap of History.”
 Panel: “(Re)making the Metropolis”
 Organized by the Sussex Center for Cultural Studies

Exhibitions and Installations, Solo

Oct 2024 “Seeing Blinds: Architecture for Avian Landscapes”
 Kibel Gallery
 UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

Mar 2017 “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm”
 Dudley Commons Gallery
 Auburn University School of Architecture, Planning, Landscape Architecture

Mar 2016 “Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm”
 Kibel Gallery
 UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation

Exhibitions and Installations, Group

Mar 2017 “Protein and Pleasure”
 Penn Landscape Dialogues Symposium
 PennDesign Gallery
 University of Pennsylvania School of Design

May 2014 “Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
 IABR—International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2014
 Rotterdam, NL

Apr 2013 “Big Ass Carp!”
 Deconstruction/ Construction: The Cheonggyecheon River Project in Seoul
 Van Alen Institute, NY

Apr 2013 “The Trash Heap of History”
 Kirkland Gallery
 Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Feb 2013 “Aqueous Ecologies: Parametric Aquaculture + Urbanism”
 After Sandy: The Renewed Urgency for Green Infrastructure Symposium
 Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Citations and Reviews

Book Review

Nov 2019 Heavers, Nathan. “Fish, Food,” Landscape Architecture Magazine
 book review: *Aquaculture Landscapes*

Courses Cited

Nov 2022 Haslam, Maggie. “To Design for the Future, Class Looks to the Past”
 Maryland Today
 course cited: ARCH 460: Site Analysis and Design

Nov 2022 Haslam, Maggie. “A Climate for Thinking Big”
 Inhabit Magazine
 course cited: ARCH 601: Adapting Assateague

May 2022 Levin, Sala. “Safer Flights”
 TERP Magazine
 course cited: ARCH 408: Anacostia Aviary

Aug 2021 Haslam, Maggie. “Surviving a Sea Change”
 Maryland Today
 course cited: ARCH 601: Adapting Assateague

Research Cited

Dec 2024 Landscape Architecture Magazine. “Seeing Blinds: Architecture for Avian Landscapes”
 Landscape Architecture Magazine
 research cited: “Seeing Blinds” exhibit

2024 Haslam, Maggie. “In New Exhibit, Architecture Soars”
 Maryland Today
 research cited: “Seeing Blinds: Architecture for Avian Landscapes” exhibit

2021 Cheramie, Kristi. *Through Time and the City: Notes on Rome*. Routledge.
 research cited: “The Trash Heap of History”

2017 M’Closkey, Karen and VanDerSys, K. *Dynamic Patterns: Visualizing Landscapes in a Digital Age*. Routledge.

design work cited: “Saturation Scenarios”

2014 Reed, Chris and Nina-Marie Lister. *Projective Ecologies*. Actar.
research cited: “Ichthyo Scenarios”

May 2012 Berg, Nate. “Can Inactive Landfills Become Assets?” The Atlantic: Cities
research cited: “The Trash Heap of History”

2012 Archinect News. Editor’s Picks
research cited: “The Trash Heap of History”

Invited Workshops

Mar 2015 Columbia University, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
“Aquaculture Fields”
ARCH 4104 Studio: Scales of Environment
invited by Adjunct Professor Julia Watson

Guest Course Lectures

Oct 2025 Tulane University, School of Architecture and the Built Environment
“Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm”
ARCH-4041/5051/6051 Research Studio
invited by Assistant Professor Liz Camuti

July 2023 University of Hong Kong, Division of Landscape Architecture
“Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
ARCH7291 Thesis Preparation
invited by Assistant Professor Dr. Xiaoxuan Lu

Mar 2023 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
“Watersheds”
ARCH 678T Ecological Design Thinking
invited by Clinical Assistant Professor Julie Gabrielli

Nov 2022 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
“Aquaculture Landscapes”
LARC 151 Urban Agriculture: Designing Productive Landscapes
invited by Assistant Professor Deni Ruggeri

Nov 2022 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
“Decolonizing Site Analysis and Design”
LARC 640 Design Studio
invited by Assistant Professor Naomi Sachs

Oct 2022 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
“Aquaculture Landscapes”
LARC 440 Urban Design Studio
invited by Professor Jack Sullivan

Feb 2022 University of Hawaii, School of Architecture
“Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm”
ARCH 201: Design Studio
invited by instructor David Campbell

Mar 2021 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Watersheds”
 ARCH 678T Ecological Design Thinking
 invited by Clinical Assistant Professor Julie Gabrielli

Nov 2017 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Farm the City”
 ARCH 460 Sites and Systems
 invited by Assistant Professor Jana VanderGoot

Nov 2016 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Dredge: Process and Landscapes”
 ARCH 478/678 Adaptation
 invited by Assistant Professor Michele Lamprakos

Oct 2015 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
 “Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
 GSD 9341 Preparation of MLA Design Thesis
 invited by Assistant Professor Gareth Doherty

Mar 2015 Columbia University, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Aquaculture Landscapes”
 ARCH 4104 Studio: Scales of Environment
 invited by Adjunct Professor Julia Watson

Mar 2015 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Topographies of Trash”
 ARCH 460 Sites and Systems
 invited by Assistant Professor Jana VanderGoot

Mar 2015 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
 “Decoys, Dikes and Lures: Polyfunctional Landscapes of Waterfowl Hunting”
 HIS 04446 Histories of Nature Conservation and Landscape Preservation
 invited by Adjunct Professor Mark Laird

Feb 2015 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “Ecological Infrastructure: 2 Case Studies”
 ARCH 601 Architecture Studio
 invited by Assistant Professor Hooman Koliji

Oct 2014 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
 “Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
 GSD 9341 Preparation of MLA Design Thesis
 invited by Lecturer Gareth Doherty and Assistant Professor Robert Pietrusko

Mar 2014 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
 “Decoys, Dikes and Lures: Polyfunctional Landscapes of Waterfowl Hunting”
 HIS 04446 A History of Nature Conservation and Landscape Preservation
 invited by Adjunct Professor Mark Laird

Apr 2014 UMD, School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
 “The Trash Heap of History”
 ARCH 460 Sites and Systems
 invited by Assistant Professor Jana VanderGoot

Nov 2013 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
“Landscape as Lure: Hybrid Hunting Grounds for the Lake Erie Littoral”
GSD 9341 Preparation of MLA Design Thesis
invited by Associate Professor Sonja Duempelmann

Apr 2013 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
“Aqueous Ecologies”
GSD 1212 Landscape Core Studio IV
invited by Associate Professor in Practice Chris Reed

Masters Thesis Advising (Chair)

2025 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Andrew Kozy
“Designed Wild: Cultivating Connections to the Natural World Through Architecture”

2025 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Dieu Merci Kamate
“Roots To Reefs: Transforming Ghost Forests into Oyster Promenades in the Age of Sea Level Rise”

2024 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Chase Deist
“Fragmended.”

2023 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Yan Konan
“Banished Into Existence: Architecture at the Intersection of Architecture and Agriculture”

2022 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Eric Resnick
“Beyond the Barrier: The Resilience of Connecting People to Place”

2016 Committee Chair, Architecture Master’s Thesis
Student: Jeannine Mueller
“The Architecture of Waste: Designing New Avenues for Public Engagement with Trash”

Invited Critic

2022 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
graduate landscape architecture final reviews

2021 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
graduate landscape architecture final reviews

2021 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
graduate landscape architecture final reviews

2020 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
graduate landscape architecture thesis reviews

2020 Cornell University, Department of Landscape Architecture
graduate landscape architecture thesis reviews

2019 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
undergraduate landscape architecture final reviews

2018 University of Pennsylvania, School of Design
graduate landscape architecture studio final reviews

2017 University of British Columbia, Department of Landscape Architecture
graduate landscape architecture review

2016 Cornell University, Department of Landscape Architecture
graduate landscape architecture thesis reviews

2015 University of Pennsylvania, School of Design
graduate landscape architecture studio final reviews

2013 Carnegie Mellon University, School of Architecture
undergraduate architecture studio review

2013 UMD, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
graduate and undergraduate landscape architecture studio reviews

2011 Virginia Tech, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
undergraduate architecture studio final review

2011 University of Virginia, School of Architecture
undergraduate architecture studio review

2009 University of Virginia, School of Architecture
graduate thesis architecture final review

2009 University of Michigan, Dana School of Natural Resources and the Environment
graduate landscape architecture studio review

Invited Competition Juror

2009 Virginia Tech, College of Architecture and Urban Studies
"Primitive Hut + the Third Landscape," undergraduate architecture competition

Student Awards

2025 Student Design Award: Graduate, Upper Level Design
AIA Maryland
Student: Dieu Merci Kamate
Project: "Roots To Reefs: Transforming Ghost Forests into Oyster Promenades in the Age of Sea Level Rise."

2024 Director's Award
UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Student: Chase Diest
Project: "Fragmended."

2023 Thesis Award
UMD School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Student: Yan Konan
Project: "Banished Into Existence: Agritecture at the Intersection of Architecture and Agriculture."

2023	Undergraduate Student Design Award + Scholarship AIA Baltimore Excellence in Design Awards Student: Shannon Sinnicki Project: "The Quoin Urban Development Project"
2023	Student Design Award: Undergraduate, Upper Level Design AIA Maryland Student: Xuan Vo Project: "Building in the Landscape – Urban Ecology."
2022	Student Design Award: Graduate, Upper Level Design AIA Maryland Student: Eric Resnick Project: "Beyond the Barrier: The Resilience of Connecting People to Place"
2020	SARA National Design Awards Excellence Award Student: Zhilu Wang, University of Virginia Project: "Redirecting Nutrients in the Sacramento River Basin"

Reviewing Activities for Journals and Presses

2021	"Beastmode: Livestock and the Architecture of Biopower," Forbes Lipschitz Routledge
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Professional Service

2025-pres	Silver Spring Design Advisory Panel (DAP) Academic Contributor
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Program Service

2022-pres	National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Lead Coordinator
	Teaching/Graduate Assistant Assignments and Organization Lead Coordinator
	Graduate Admissions Lead Coordinator
	Minors and Certificates Lead Coordinator
	Program Lecture Series Co-Coordinator
	Summer /Winter Course Development and Recruitment Co-Coordinator
	Architecture Program Curriculum Committee Committee Member ex officio
	Adjunct Lecturer Recruitment Co-Coordinator

University Service

2025-pres Workday Faculty Advisory Committee
University of Maryland
Committee Member

2021 AgroEcology Corridor Steering Committee
University of Maryland
Committee Member

Inter-institutional and Regional

F2022 Interschool Student Design Competition (ISDC)
UMD School of Architecture
Lead Coordinator

Expert Testimony

2022 Council of the District of Columbia
B24-710: “Migratory Wildlife Legislation and CLEAN Act Legislation”
Testimony provided