

Gretchen Von Koenig C.V.

Historian • Designer • Educator

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Gretchen is a PhD candidate in the Hagley Program for the History of Capitalism, Technology and Culture at the University of Delaware. She is a designer and design historian interested in histories of consumer electronics and the built environments they live in. She has taught design history and theory at Parsons School of Design, Michael Graves School of Design, and is currently a University Lecturer of Design History and Theory at New Jersey Institute of Technology. Her writing and research has been published in the *Winterthur Portfolio*, *Interiors on Edge* (Routledge 2024), *Metropolis Magazine*, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, Carnegie Art Museum and she is an editor for *Dense Magazine*, an independent publication investigating the designed conditions of New Jersey. She has chaired sessions and presented at the Historic Interiors Group of the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH), Design History Society (DHS), College Art Association (CAA) and National Conference on the Beginning Design Student (NCBDS). Her PhD focuses on the design and use of home security and surveillance systems in the 1960s-80s, studying the material manifestations that resulted from new cultural definitions of domestic safety through the Cold War era.

Education

2021- PhD Candidate, History of Capitalism, Technology & Culture
University of Delaware. Hagley Scholar | Dissertation Title: *Feeling Safe: The Design of Domestic Safety 1960-1990*, Advisor: Dr. Arwen Mohun

2018 M.A. History of Design & Curatorial Studies, Parsons School of Design, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum | Thesis: *Undergraduate Industrial and Product Design Pedagogy & the History Curriculum: How We Teach History to Practitioners in Training*

2015 B.S. Industrial Design & B.A. Theater Arts & Technology, College of Architecture & Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology | *2015 School of Art & Design Medal Recipient*

Academic Employment

2023- University Lecturer of Design History & Theory
School of Art & Design, Hillier College of Architecture & Design, NJIT
Courses Include: AD 490 *Design of Surveillance*
INT 310 *History of Furniture*
AD 161 + 162 *History of Art & Design I + II*
STS 205 *Intro to Research Proposal*
INT200 *History of Architecture*

2016 - 23 Adjunct Instructor, Parsons School of Design, The New School. New York City, NY
Courses include: PGIN 5000 *Industrial Design History* (Graduate)

PGID 5015 *Form, Function & Meaning of Constructed Spaces (Interior Design History)* (Graduate)
PLSD 3500 *Advanced Research Seminar: Constructed Environments*
PAMT 3500 *Advanced Research Seminar: Art & Design Practice*

Honors College, University of Delaware. Newark, DE
Michael Graves School of Design, Kean University. Union, NJ
School of Art & Design, Montclair State University

Courses include: HONS 280 *The Material Culture of Technology*, AD 101 *World History of Design: Pre History to Industrial Revolution*, IND 300 *History of Industrial Design 1850-2010*, CoPLVS 2000 *History of Product Design*

Invited Lectures and Panel Speaking

2025 Parsons School of Design: PLDS 200 Intro to Design Studies
Guest Lecturer: Research Methods for Studying *Design of Surveillance*

2023 Panel Presenter/Speaker: *Designers/Writers Roundtable: Parallel Practices or Double Metier?*
Hillier College of Architecture and Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Fall 2023.

Historic Interiors Group, Society of Architectural Historians, Research Roundtable.
Presenting research methodologies to complete the essay ““The Production of the Traveling Public: Rest Stop Interior Design 1950–1970,” Moderated by Erica Morawski, Assistant Professor Pratt Institute. Panelists: Von Koenig, NJIT; Yang Yang, cityLAB-UCLA; Sam Vanhee, U of Antwerp.

2022 *Interiors of Rest Stops: The Politics of the Everyday*, Presentation and Interview with
Claudia Marina. PLDS Intro to Design Studies, Required Sophomore course for all Parsons
School of Design.

2021 Guest Crit MFA Interiors Design, Parsons School of Design Second Year Spring
Presentations.

2020 *The Future of Design Education*, Interviewed by Renee Collins for Montclair Design Week
Design Education & Industry, Guest Lecturer at Pratt Institute MFA Industrial Design

2018-20 Guest Crit at Parsons Capstone Review, Senior Showcase, Parsons School of Design

Academic Presentations:

2024 Workshops for *Imagining Disability Technology Futures (IdTF)*. University of Leeds, UK.
Jan 2024 & April 2024 Conference Presentations on WIP

2022 Design History Society, Paper Titled: "American Public Space and Capitalism: A Political Reading of Rest Stop Interior Design 1950-1970," Session Moderated by Freddie Flore, session titled: "Commercial Transformations of Interiors," Izmir, Turkey Sep 8-10.

Session Moderator *Tech Resistance* with Abi Lua. The Disability Gaze: Material and Visual Approaches. Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware. April 29-30.
Rachael Gillibrand, *Assistive Aids and Identity: The Use of Disability Technologies as Visual Signifiers in the Middle Ages*. Aberystwyth University.
Frank Mondelli, *FM Unit: A Deaf Musical Response to Hearing Exams*. Stanford University.
Aparna Nair, *Representations of Guide Dogs in Twentieth-Century Visual and Material Culture*. University of Toronto-Scarborough.

2021 Co-Chair *Towards a Socialist History of US Design: The Material Culture of Progressive Movements* with Rachel Hunnicutt. College Art Association, New York, Feb 12-15.
Prof. Amanda Horton, *Alternative Movie Posters: An Examination of Progressive Practice in Film Poster Design*, University of Central Oklahoma
Jessica Fletcher, *The District Health Center in New York City: From "Wall Street's Back Yard" to City-Wide Program (1913-1937)*, The Graduate Center, CUNY
Prof. Danielle Aubert, *Contemporary Graphic Design on the Left*, Wayne State University
J. Dakota Brown, *Phototypesetting and the "Life-Cycle" of Socialism*, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Ellen Christen and Christopher Cote, *Common Goods: Everyday Objects in New Rituals of Care During the Covid-19 Pandemic*, San Francisco State University

2020 Co-Chair *Beyond the Bauhaus: Histories of American Design Education* with Colin Fanning. College Art Association, Chicago, Feb 12-15.
Prof. Holly Gore, *Cooperative Projects: The Socially-Engaged Woodworking Classroom of Molly Gregory*, UC Berkeley
Dr. Tim Stott, *Sim Van der Ryn's Outlaw Building*, Dublin School of Creative Arts
PJ Carlino, *De-centering the Bauhaus: Industrial Design Education at Parsons School of Design and RISD*, Boston University
Prof. Brockett Horne, *Teaching Taste through Typography: American Pedagogy for a*

Consumer Culture, Maryland Institute College of Art.

2019 “*American Industry & Design Schools: Tracing Influence from Enterprise to Education*”
Design History Society Annual Conference. School of Art, Design and Social Sciences
Northumbria University Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. Sep 8-10.

Session Co-Chair *Teaching Design Studies: Practice, Methods, & Resources*, with Dr. Carla Cesare. College Art Association, New York, Feb 14.

Claudia Marina, *Ephemeral Materiality: Problematizing Design*, Parsons School
Dr. Kjetil Fallan, *Making Design History Matter*, University of Oslo
Prof. Keren Ben-Horin and Sarah C. Byrd, *Teaching the Unpredictable: Co-Teaching in Museum Practicum Courses*, Fashion Institute of Technology
Prof. Kenneth Segal & Dr. J. Ventura, *Designing Cultural Objects: Cultural Design Anthropology as Innovation in the Classroom*, Hadassah Academic College Jerusalem

Panelist: Ellen Lupton (Cooper Hewitt), Dr. David Raizman (Drexel University)

National Conference on the Beginning Design Student “*History As Context: Case Study on Activating History Classroom*” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 12-14.

2018 Chicago Design: Histories and Narratives, Questions and Methods “*Chicago and the Precedent Of Design Education: Pedagogy, Curricula, and Capitalist Influences*” School of the Art Institute of Chicago, November 8-10.

National Conference on the Beginning Design Student “*Iciting Criticality in Design Education: How We Teach History to Product Design Students*” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 1-3.

2017 Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association, “*Bauhaus: A Capitalist Fetish Beyond Socialist Intentions & Historical Representations*”, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2017

Parsons Graduate Symposium, “*Business Practices of the Bauhaus & The Bard Textbook*”, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY May 4-6

2016 Parsons Graduate Symposium Spring 2016 “*Bruce Rogers & Modernism: How Euclid Changed His Aesthetic*”, Parsons School of Design, New York, NY May 3-4

Published Works

2026 Exhibition Catalog Essay: “H is for Home,” *Design Lexicon*, Carnegie Art Museum,

Pittsburgh, PA. *Forthcoming*

2024 Peer-Reviewed Research Article: “Deaf-Led alarm design: technology and disability in home, work and parenthood.” Special Issue: *Imagining technologies for disability futures* of the *British Medical Humanities Journal* 50, no. 4 (December 2024): 639–47. Institute of Medical Ethics, United Kingdom. <https://doi.org/10.1136/medhum-2024-013029>.

Book Review: Gretchen Von Koenig, *In the Midst of Things: The Social Lives of Objects in the Public Spaces of New York City*, by Mike Owen Benediktsson. Winterthur Portfolio 57, University of Chicago Press Journals. <https://doi.org/10.1086/727752>

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter: Gretchen Von Koenig, “The Production of the Traveling Public: Rest Stop Interior Design 1950–1970,” in *Interior Design on Edge: History, Theory, Praxis*, ed. Erica Morawski et al. (Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2024), 177–99.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003457749>

2023 Book Review: Gretchen Von Koenig, “A Review Of Kristina Wilson’s Mid-Century Modernism And The American Body: Race, Gender, And The Politics Of Power In Design” Review Of Kristina Wilson’s Mid-Century Modernism And The American Body: Race, Gender, And The Politics Of Power In Design,” *Objective: Journal of History of Design and Curatorial Studies*. Parsons and the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum 6 (Fall 2023) <https://adht.parsons.edu>

2018 “Inciting Criticality in Design Education: How We Teach History to Product Design Students,” University of Cincinnati, vol. 34 no. 1 (2018): *The 34th National Conference on the Beginning Design Student*. Published Sep. 2018.

Fellowships, Awards & Press:

2025 Unidel Louise Roselle Collections-Based Research Travel Award
Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware

NJIT University Lecturer Professional Development Funds
Consumer Electronic Design Archives Research

2022 Research Assistantship, University of Delaware Anti Racism Initiative, Committee of Enslavement & Dispossession

2020 *Health Hero* for the City of Jersey City for Covid response on managing testing sites and conveying constituent results. Managed results for all senior citizen housing.

2020 “More of Collector’s Dutch and British Objects to Go to Museums”, New York Times feature on curatorial efforts at the Van Wagenen House, Gretchen Von Koenig interviewed by author Eve Kahn, Art & Design section, Jan 31, 2020.

2019 Parsons Part-Time Faculty Development Grant, Design History Society

2018 Research Development Stipend, Office of Student Success, Parsons School of Design

2015-18 Parsons Dean Scholarship

2016-17 National Art Dealers’ Association Funding Recipient - Smithsonian Scholarship

2015-16 Smithsonian Institute Fellow

2015 School of Art & Design Medal, College of Architecture and Design, NJIT.

2014 Undergraduate Presidential Leadership Award, NJIT.

2014 Student Excellence Award - Top Junior Industrial Design Student, College of Arch & Design

University & Academic Service

2025 First Year Coordinator. School of Art and Design, Hillier College of Architecture and Design.

2023- Committee Member, Curriculum Committee, School of Art & Design, Hillier College of Architecture & Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology. Chair, Martina Decker, Director School of Art and Design

2023-2024 Committee Member, Tenure Track/Tenure Faculty Search for the School of Art & Design, Hillier College of Architecture and Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology

Committee Member, Dean Search for Hillier College of Architecture and Design
New Jersey Institute of Technology. Chair: Dr. Louis Hamilton, Dean Albert Dorman Honors College.

2018 - 20 Peer Reviewer
2020 Council of Readers for College Arts Association - Conference Sessions
2019 National Conference on the Beginning Design Student - Conference Sessions
2018-20 Plots Journal of Design Studies - Journal Article Submissions

2017 - 19 Academic Advisor for BFA Product Design and BFA Design and Technology
Parsons School of Design. The New School.

Professional Experience

2019- Director of Design, Art Fair 14C (501c3). Jersey City, NJ.
Recognizing that Art Fairs are now 46% percent of the global art market, but that most small and medium sized galleries are shut out, ART FAIR 14C is a nonprofit that addresses this imbalance to help strengthen careers in the visual arts. As the Deputy Director of ArtFair 14C, I have worn many hats that include design director for event infrastructure and print assets, grant writer and sponsorship outreach, exhibitor relations and event management.

2021-2024 Editor, *Dense Magazine*. Design Shed, 501c3
I am an editor at *Dense Magazine*, a print publication that explores the relationship between the built environment and New Jersey, the densest state in the US. *Dense* is operated by DesignShed, a Montclair NJ based non-profit that aims to advance the awareness of design through programming and grantmaking. We raised \$43,000 to start the magazine and printed our first issue on the NJ Turnpike this past fall. Our second issue will be on the Paterson Silk Strikes.

2022-2023 Editorial Assistant for Academic Programs, *Winterthur Portfolio*
Manuscript & Book Review Editorial assistance, duties include: reading and evaluating submitted articles, researching and outreach to peer reviewers for accepted articles, researching and reading book titles for internal review, outreach and administrative management of book reviewer solicitation.

2022 Research Assistant, University of Delaware Anti-Racism Initiative, Legacies of Dispossession & Enslavement Committee. February - June 2022.

2019-2021 Curator & Grant Specialist, Van Wagenen House (NRHP, 2006)
Office of Cultural Affairs. Grant Portfolio: Action Grant, New Jersey Council of the Humanities; Hudson County History Program, Hudson County Office of Tourism & Culture; Cooperative Marketing Grant, New Jersey Department of Tourism. Curatorial work featured in New York Times: “*More of Collector’s Dutch and British Objects to Go to Museums*”. Eve Kahn, Art & Design Section, Jan 31, 2020.

2017 Research Assistant to Caroline Dionne, Towards a Theory of Participatory Design Methods

2016-17 Contributor on Design, TL Magazine

2015 Curatorial Intern, Brooklyn Museum, Department of Decorative Arts, Brooklyn, NY.

2012-15 Archival Cataloguer, Jim Wise Theater Archive, Newark NJ

2012-13 Digital Cataloguer Intern, SAH Archpedia
Society of Architectural Historians. Under supervision of Dr. Gabrielle Esperdy

Design Writing

2024 “The DeSIGN of Remembrance,” *Dense Magazine Issue 2: The Paterson Silk Strikes*. Newark, New Jersey

2023 “Handheld: A Take on the History of Mirrors,” *American Design Club* in conjunction with New York City Design Week. Brooklyn/Manhattan New York.

2022 “5049 Miles on the Turnpike,” *Dense Magazine Issue 1: Booth Please/Opening of the Turnpike*, Montclair, New Jersey.

2021 Editor, *1951: The Turnpike*. Dense Magazine Issue 1.

2016- 17 Contributor on Design Education, Metropolis Magazine. Selected Writings:
[How to Get More Minority Students in Architecture? Look to 1968](#)
[At Cooper Hewitt, Socially Responsible Design Takes Center Stage](#)
[RISD Students Disrupt the Gendered Nature of Wearable Tech](#)
[Diversity Champions: 8 Schools That Aren’t Just Paying Lip Service To Diversity](#)
[College for Creative Studies’ New MFA Pairs Design with Industry](#)
[The New School’s New Hire Asserts Design’s Role in the Refugee Crisis](#)
[SCI-Arc Launches Scholarship for L.A. Public School Students](#)
Book Review, David Brody’s *Housekeeping by Design* (Print only)

Design Practice, Press & Awards

2020-2023 Freelance website designer
[History Fair website](#) for Jersey City Public School’s social studies curriculum
University of Delaware’s Anti-Racism Initiative online portfolio for [Legacies of Enslavement and Dispossession at UD](#)

2019-2022 Director of Design, *Art Fair 14C*. Non-profit visual art organization with annual

programming that attracts over 10,000 over the calendar year. I direct all aspects of design: fair infrastructure and design valuing over \$150,000 in walls, lighting, desks, lounge furniture; all graphic design including logos, sponsorship decks, fair brochures and wayfinding.

2016 Seed Packet Design selected for GROWTH Exhibition, NYCxDesign, Astor Place
Sponsored by AmDC, The Sill & NYC Department of Design & Construction. With artist Allison Underwood.

2014-16 Studio Manager, Kiel Mead Designs, Brooklyn NY
Sales Representative, American Design Club, Brooklyn NY
NYCxDesign events, public shows in Astor Place, Times Square, Wanted Design, ArchDigest Show & NYNow

2012-15 Graphic Designer, Jim Wise Theater, Newark NJ

2014 Pillow Design, *Cheaper than the Real Thing*, selected for AmDC *Field Day* Exhibition at Wanted Design @ Industry City

2014 *Rubber Ottoman*, featured in DesignMilks Best in Show for ICFF 2014

2013 Design Intern, WorkHorse Design, Set design for Radiolab live show *Apocalyptic*
Design Intern, POD Design, Principle Brooks Atwood

2012 Graphic Designer, Newark Downtown District, Special Improvement District

Service & Leadership

2021 Jersey City Arts Council 501c3, Grants committee

2018-20 Jersey City Arts Council (501c3), Co-Chair Architecture & Design Committee
Exhibition: Urban Crossroads, Hudson County Community College

2018-17 Co-Chair - Assessment Committee for Institutional Effectiveness
Faculty Advisor, IDSA Student Chapter, Parsons School of Design
Faculty Advisor, Alpha Rho Chi, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Committee Member - Assessment Committee for Academic Advising Surveys
Committee Member - Careers Committee for Academic Advising

2017 ADHT Graduate Symposium Organizer

Professional Membership Past & Current:

Design History Society (DHS)
Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)
College Art Association of America (CAA)
Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA)
Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD)
Design Research Society (DRS)

References

Dr. David Brody, Professor of Design Studies
Parsons School of Design
BrodyD@newschool.edu

Dr. Arwen Mohun, Henry Clay Reed Professor of History
University of Delaware
mohun@udel.edu

Dr. Roger Horowitz, Director of Center For The History Of Business, Technology, And Society
Hagley Museum and Library, University of Delaware
rhorowitz@hagley.org

Dr. Gabrielle Esperdy, Dean Hillier College of Architecture & Design
Professor of History, New Jersey Institute of Technology
esperdy@njit.edu