

Robert Kirkbride, Ph.D.
Long Bio

[Robert Kirkbride](#), Dean of Parsons School of Constructed Environments and Associate Professor of Architecture and Product Design, is a scholar-practitioner who directs the design atelier *studio 'patafisico* and is also Spokesperson and a founding Trustee for *PreservationWorks*, a non-profit organization for the adaptive reuse of Kirkbride Plan Hospitals. Robert received his Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture from McGill University, and a Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Arts in Design of the Environment from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kirkbride's work integrates scholarship and practice, exploring forms of knowledge and know-how that don't quite fit; things that have been lost or overlooked, including everyday habits and their impressions on the constructed environment. His research on physical and mental infrastructures of memory, identity and learning has been recognized for its methodology and innovative use of digital media. Close readings of artifacts, buildings, texts and contexts fuel Robert's design practice, writing and teaching. His desire to understand how artifacts and buildings are used, beyond what they mean from an historian's hindsight, illuminates the physicality of thought and the roles of multisensorial perception in shaping the built environment.

Dr. Kirkbride designed the *Morbid Anatomy Museum*, in Brooklyn, NY, with collaborator Anthony Cohn, AIA, and authored the multimedia online book, *Architecture and Memory*, which reconstructs pedagogical and rhetorical uses of two Renaissance memory chambers. *Architecture and Memory* was awarded the Gutenberg-e Prize, and a second version has been launched online by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) as part of its Humanities E-Book series. Kirkbride has continued to explore the interplay of architecture and memory in a chapter on architecture and rhetoric in the Renaissance for *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*, and the volume, *Geometries of Rhetoric*, guest-edited for the *Nexus Network Journal*.

At Parsons/The New School, Dr. Kirkbride recently received the University Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to his ongoing contributions to the Memory Studies Group at The New School, Robert established the Giuseppe Zambonini Archive at the Kellen Design Archives, a collection that offers a unique slice of 1970's and 80's architectural pedagogy and practice in New York City. Materials include online digitized lectures and research materials, and one of the earliest NYC exhibits of work by the Venetian architect, Carlo Scarpa.

Dr. Kirkbride has been a visiting scholar at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, architect-in-residence at the Bogliasco Foundation in Genoa, Italy, and an editorial board member of the *Nexus Network Journal* (Birkhäuser), and *Alphabet City* (MIT Press). Robert was a founding partner of the furniture design company, Studiolo, and the low-impact land planning company, Hawk Circle. His design and research projects have been featured in the film *XX/XY*, the *Montreal Architectural Review*, The National Academy of Science's *ISSUES* magazine, *Vogue*, *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Chora 4*, *Mark Magazine*, *C3*,

Alphabet City's *FUEL*, *WATER*, and *AIR*, among others. Kirkbride has been a visiting critic at the University of Edinburgh, guest professor at the University of Montréal, and conducted design workshops at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.