





*"In the waves of change,
we find our true direction."*

—UNKNOWN



STEVEN R. FUCHS, AIGA
Designer · Professor · Maker

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DESIGN STATEMENT

As a designer, professor, and maker, I balance professional & disciplinary “creative flows” —where symbiotic connections to energies beyond human understanding coexist. Design, and life in general, is all about learning to balance and flow with these energies in our environment, complex systems, and diverse cultures. Whether in studio, teaching, or in a flow state, living an empathetic & creative journey drives my research and visual-spatial interests. In particular, being within and exceeding boundary conditions to connect with dynamic systems and unknown processes is invigorating. Visually, I’m highly influenced by Southern California and Polynesia’s design and action sports communities. Intellectually, my research focuses on collective intelligence, maker culture, computational design, and emerging media. Personally, I’m drawn to the ocean, the horizon(tal), and optimism.

EDUCATION

- 2011– **Doctor of Computer Science**, *Colorado Technical University*, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2006 **Master of Architecture**, *Southern California Institute of Architecture*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 **Bachelor of Science**, *Thomas Edison State University*, Trenton, NJ
- 2002 **Associate of Arts**, *Los Angeles Harbor College*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2001 **Associate of Science**, *Los Angeles Harbor College*, Los Angeles, CA

RESEARCH: *Collective Intelligence, Maker Culture, Computational Design, and Emerging Media*

ACADEMIC

- 2012– **Professor (tenured)**, Architecture Studio & Digital Fabrication
ARCHITECTURE, *Orange Coast College*, Costa Mesa, CA
- 2014– **Professor (adjunct)**, Bachelor of Design & Interior Design programs
DESIGN, *Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2010– **Graduate Faculty**, Program Co-Leader & Thesis Coordinator
2012 INTERIOR DESIGN, *Harrington College of Design*, Chicago, IL
- 2004– **Teaching Assistant**, Architecture Studios & Seminars
2008 ARCHITECTURE, *Southern California Institute of Architecture*, Los Angeles, CA
- 1998– **Faculty (adjunct)**, Professional Expert & Supplemental Instruction
2007 ARCHITECTURE, *East Los Angeles College*, Los Angeles, CA
ARCHITECTURE, *Los Angeles Harbor College*, Wilmington, CA

PROFESSIONAL

- 2001– **Design Director**, *SRF Concepts*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 **Education Consultant**, *Robert McNeel & Associates*, Seattle, WA
- 2007 **Senior Project Consultant & Trainer**, *Gehry Technologies, Inc.*, Los Angeles, CA
- 2005 **Design Manager & Fabricator**, *Panelite*®, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 **Fabrication Assistant**, *Southern California Institute of Architecture*, Los Angeles, CA
- 1998 **Designer & CAD Manager**, *Obelisk Architects, Inc.*, Torrance, CA
- 1996 **Designer & Research Assistant**, *John Wiley & Sons, Inc.*, New York, NY
- 1991 **CAD Drafter & Permit Specialist**, *Eidson Fire Protection*, San Pedro, CA
- 1989 **Drafter & Assistant**, *R.T. Wolfenden, General Contractor*, Wilmington, CA
- 1988 **High School Intern**, *BOA Architecture*, San Pedro, CA

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2017– **Makerspace**, *Co-Founder (\$1 million grant)*, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA
- 2014 **MANA: The Film**, *Featured Artist*, Premiere: Kona Surf Film Festival, Kona, HI
- 2007 **Design Life Now**, *Conservatory Installation*, Cooper-Hewitt Triennial, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Prof. Steve Fuchs is a West Coast multidisciplinary designer (with 30+ years of experience), architecture & design professor, lifelong maker, adventurer, and world-traveled surfer. His depth of knowledge ranges in scope from designing and fabricating complex art, interiors, and architectural systems for OMA, Bernard Tschumi, and Morphosis to designing, constructing, and managing digital design systems for mega-projects in Los Angeles, New York, Miami, and the Middle East for Frank Gehry, Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, including: Gehry's The Grand, Beekman Tower, New World Symphony, Lou Ruvo Brain Institute, and a Guggenheim Museum, AS+GG's 1 Dubai, and SOM's Qatar Petroleum Campus. At Gehry Technologies, a research lab of architect Frank Gehry, Steve was a Senior Project Consultant that specialized in project organization, collaborative building information systems, parametric design, computer-based fabrication, and advanced 3D visualization.

As a design professional, Steve has owned his own practice and worked with an array of design firms to enable multidisciplinary concepts, strategies, and solutions. He's been recognized as an "Emerging Professional" by the National Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for being a leader in challenging the structure of design internship and taking introspective looks at disciplinary boundaries—*asserting that creative professionals themselves are design currency*. Steve's collaborative work with Matter Design while at Panelite | Los Angeles as a lead designer included an entry in the 2006-2007 Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum's third Triennial exhibit, "Design Life Now." The New York Times favorably reviewed the entry as *"one of the show's most brilliant and promising moments."* In addition, Steve's been an invited participant to *"Design Futures: The Interiors Entity"* a global think tank of The International Federation of Interior Architects/Designers (IFI); among his colleagues, he's highly regarded for his insights about the future of design education and practice. Steve actively supports multiple charitable organizations, including: Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) and The Surfrider Foundation. He is also an active member of AIGA, a global professional organization for design. Recently, Steve co-founded and now leads Orange Coast College's (OCC) Makerspace, funded with a \$1 million grant (California Community College Chancellor's office).

As a designer & artist, Steve draws influence from Southern California and Polynesia's design and action sports communities, he uses digital

processes to shape innovative surfboards, and continuously breeds a generative art series using fluid dynamics & computational design, which has been the subject of gallery shows and academic publications, including a book titled *The Art of Artificial Evolution: A Handbook on Evolutionary Art and Music* (Springer, 2007).

Art Series 1: "Butterfly Machines" evolved out of a fascination with self-intersecting, wave-like surfaces as a parametric system.

Art Series 2: "ArchiMusic" continues exploring the relationship between flowing surfaces using an interactive, computational environment.

Art Series 3: "Lono & Pono" attempts to realize these previously unmakeable, generative surfaces, while testing and hacking the limits of many digital fabrication techniques used in the Maker Movement.

In 2014, Steve starred in a feature-length documentary titled *MANA: The Film*. *MANA* documents the process and artistic inspiration of ten Southern California artists and designers, all lifelong watermen, both in studio and on a group trip to one of the roots of surfing on the Big Island of Hawai'i. The film premiered at the 2014 Kona Surf Film Festival and has been the subject of gallery shows and exhibitions globally. Since appearing in *MANA*, Steve has co-produced a video series with the same director titled *Stoked!*, a collection of 30-minute short stories and interviews that capture the essence of Southern California and global beach culture, as seen through the eyes of participants, artists, and designers.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science & Technology from Thomas Edison State College, a Master of Architecture from The Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), and is ever-engaged in research that will culminate in a Doctor of Computer Science with a concentration in Emerging Media. Steve's design thesis, *Coverision: Interactive Community Solution Networks*, seeks to enable massively participatory network platforms to radically challenge design expertise and educational methodologies given cultural and technological evolution by restructuring curriculum using spatial design and fabrication as facilitators of project-based learning. Steve formerly co-led a graduate program of interior design and architecture at Harrington College of Design in Chicago, IL, and currently, he's a faculty member at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM) and a full-time, tenured professor at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA, specializing in studio-based design, digital fabrication, and further developing the research lab & campus-wide makerspace he co-founded.



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