

ERIC PETERSON, Ph.D.
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BIOGRAPHY

Eric Peterson is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) where he coordinates the second-year design studio sequence and teaches courses in construction materials and methods. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Middlebury College, a Master of Architecture from the University of Florida, and a PhD in Architecture and Design from the University of Genoa. Prior to his academic career he worked as a builder and construction supervisor for over ten years. This broad range of academic and professional experiences has shaped his interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research. He is particularly interested in experiential learning for alternative educational spaces including immersive learning environments, fabrication labs, and construction sites.

With a lifetime of experience as a builder, carpenter, welder, and mechanic, Peterson is an expert fabricator. He apprenticed as a joiner for a timber framer, worked as a carpenter on residential and commercial projects, supervised multi-unit housing projects, and trained to be manager of a prefabricated housing plant. As a manager and director of robotics and fabrication labs at Florida International University he designed and taught courses and workshops on prototyping, modeling, CNC programming, industrial robotics, and furniture design. He participated in the Solar Decathlon and he has published and exhibited work produced by students in his full-scale fabrication-focused design courses. At UHM School of Architecture he has served as interim Fabrication Lab manager and he is working on developing innovative learning opportunities to provide students with real-world building experience in academic design / build projects.

Peterson has been involved in more than \$2.5 million in funded research supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Energy, and the National Housing Endowment (NHE). Recent Awards include \$800,000 in NSF grants to support research in improving undergraduate STEM Education and \$40,000 from the NHE to develop curriculum on residential construction and foster increased engagement between UHM and local building professionals. His research in robotic fabrication and immersive learning environments has been presented at academic conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals. Recent publications include papers on teaching innovations for robotics using XR learning environments, and novel applications for additive manufacturing.