

ERIC PETERSON, Ph.D.
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BIOGRAPHY

Eric Peterson is an Assistant 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. As a director of robotics and fabrication labs at Florida International University he designed and taught courses and workshops on prototyping, modeling, CNC programming, industrial robotics, furniture design, and fabrication. At UHM, he is developing learning opportunities to provide students with real-world building experience.

Peterson has contributed to 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.