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49th Parallel is published annually by the 49th Parallel Schools of Architecture Consortium, on the subjects of architectural education, design, theory, and practice.

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The *49th Parallel* ejournal will be published annually according to a topical theme that is of common interest to the member schools, this theme may guide design studios in the various schools and allow for various scholarly and project-based submissions. *49th Parallel* will publish blind peer-reviewed articles, student work, invited contributions (including articles, interviews, profiles, and reviews), and reprinted material -- these will be clearly distinguished in the structure of the journal. It is intended that each issue will provide an informed and provocative interpretation of the theme. *49th Parallel* will be "open source," freely available to anyone who wishes to view it; it will have a regional focus, but international reach.

The 49th Parallel Schools of Architecture Consortium members are:

Architecture Program, Washington State University

Architecture Program, University of Idaho

Architecture Program, University of Calgary

School of Architecture, Montana State University

Architecture Program, North Dakota State University

Department of Architecture, South Dakota State University

Department of Architecture, University of Manitoba

School of Architecture, University of Minnesota

EDITORIAL

Randall Teal

Associate Professor, University of Idaho

Graham Livesey

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I recently spent a year teaching and researching in Finland. Over the course of the year I was impressed with the large number and variety of foreign students that came to study in the program; in our studio we had students from Finland, the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, Japan, China, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and France—the European Erasmus program that made this movement possible. When I returned to the US I wondered if it would be possible to create an Erasmus-like program here. I spoke to a number of colleagues at different institutions about this idea, and although there was interest so far nothing that could be seen as analogous has materialized. However, other interesting opportunities and ideas did crop up, the 49th Parallel Schools of Architecture Consortium being one.

Specifically, the *49th Parallel* ejournal arose out of discussions around the ErasmusUSA concept with Graham Livesey. I recall talking to Graham about opportunities for exchange of students and programs, he said something to the effect of I've always thought there should be consortium of architecture schools around the 49th parallel that establishes the border between the US and Canada. Boom. Done. We then moved to mobilize others from the schools of the region, which led to a small conference at the University of Idaho in the Fall 2015, and several online meetings to identify commonalities, meaningful differences, ideas and opportunities.

From these discussions a more informed notion of the consortium arose, that imagined it to be a vehicle for student and faculty interaction, the sharing of knowledge, and a way to bring attention to the region as a place that holds unique and interesting challenges for architecture and design. Particular topics that we thought would be interesting to explore include: vast distances, winter cities, oil boom impacts, unfathomable landscapes, tribal lands, medium-sized urbanism, rural poverty and rangelands in the context of architecture. The first major unified effort of this group is this journal that will

highlight topics listed above, work being done in the region by students and faculty, and will ultimately solicit national and international submissions for peer-reviewed content on related issues and ideas. Through the journal we hope to create a dialogue between issues characteristic of this region and parallel issues which manifest in other areas of the world.

In this first edition of the journal we provide a broad overview of some of the topics and schools that are associated with the 49th parallel. We hope that this inaugural offering will serve as a formal introduction of the schools of the 49th parallel to the greater architectural community and initiate speculation about other ways for the schools to collaborate and lead on issues that are unique to the region.

In this first installment we feature three different regional perspectives on architecture: University of Calgary Professor George Melnyk provides a brief history of the architecture of Western Canada and offers some thoughts on how it can be considered unique; University of Idaho Professor Emeritus Wendy McClure brings attention to the questions of changing definitions of prosperity over time as seen in Northwest mining towns; and Montana State Associate Professor Maire O'Neill Conrad examines the Gabriel log barn as an evolutionary study of permanence in the northern Rockies through a combination of drawings and text. Washington State University Associate Professor Ayad Rahmani fictionalizes a brief time during the life of an architecture student. An interview with the former dean at the University of Minnesota Tom Fisher looks into some pressing issues for architectural education. We follow that up with our first in a series of school profiles, this one featuring University of Minnesota. And then the final section highlights the recent student work from Washington State University, the University of Manitoba, Montana State University and the University of Calgary.

On behalf of the 49th Parallel Consortium of Architecture Schools—thanks for joining us!

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