

## ***"Automation Takes Command: The Prehistory of Digital Fabrication"***

Friday, November 7  
12:30 - 2:00pm  
Room 3-133

### **Kiel Moe**

Assistant Professor  
School of Architecture  
Northeastern University

#### *Abstract*

The case of digital fabrication techniques involving Numerical Control (NC) illustrates the confluence of the social and the technical. Rather than 'new,' this technology is the result of choices made in a multitude of adjacent and interdependent technical practices over time. Technologies such as NC unfold in long phases of social preparation, mental habits, and technical development. It is crucial to articulate, for instance, the habits of mind of a particular historical period that swerve the course of technical development of a technology. This talk will present the multifaceted assemblies that presuppose and engender NC technologies. A couple of contemporary projects illustrate divergent applications of NC technology and its potential effects.

#### *Bio*

Kiel Moe received his B.Arch from the University of Cincinnati, his M.Arch from University of Virginia, and a M.DesS from Harvard University Graduate School of Design Advanced Studies Program. He taught previously at Syracuse University and the University of Illinois, Chicago. At Northeastern, Moe teaches design studios and lectures on the topic of Integrated Design. Moe has worked for WW, Doug Garofalo, Hargreaves Associates, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and many other offices. He has a design/build practice for small, research-driven projects and contracts for other architects on the design of integrated material and energy systems for larger projects. Moe writes on problems of knowledge related to our techniques: material, energy and construction. His current work focuses on the architecture of Thermally Active Surfaces: monolithic, single layer constructions that make architecture more architectural, aim to forge new thermodynamic figures in architecture, and heat/cool themselves as the means to amend both construction and energy practices in the United States. He is completing work on a book about this topic now. His first book, *Integrated Design in Contemporary Architecture*, was published by Princeton Architectural Press in August 2008.