

## ***“Cellness”***

December 5, 2008  
12:30 - 2:00pm  
Room 3-133

### **Jenny E. Sabin**

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#### *Abstract*

How do we intuit, see and inhabit complex wholes that are indiscernible from their parts? Collaborations between architects and scientists offer up venues for productive exchange in design while revealing powerful models for visualizing the intangible. Information gains meaning through multiple modes of expression. This talk will look at intersections between architecture, computational models, textile structures and biology through multiple modes of working and collaborating. Through the hybridization of algorithmic design techniques generated through the analysis of biological design problems, it is possible to gain a rigorous understanding of how context or environment specifies form, function and structure. The fabric world that this type of research interrogates works to unfold examples of nonlinear fabrication and self-assembly at the surface, and at a deeper structural level. In parallel, this work offers up novel possibilities that question and redefine architecture within the greater scope of generative design and fabrication.

#### *Bio:*

Jenny E. Sabin currently teaches design studios and elective seminars within the graduate Department of Architecture at PennDesign. She is Director of CabinStudio+, a research and design studio based in Philadelphia.

She is this year's co-recipient of the prestigious Upjohn research grant administered by the American Institute of Architects and has exhibited at numerous galleries in Seattle, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Sydney.

Sabin is a Senior Researcher within the Non-Linear Systems Organization (NSO), a research group at PennDesign started by Cecil Balmond. She is also a member of the Institute for Medicine and Engineering (IME), University of Pennsylvania, where she is collaborating with the Jones Lab, most recently initiating a research LabStudio together with Peter Lloyd Jones. Sabin's research and design practice focuses on investigating the intersections between architecture, textile structures, computation and biology. Sabin's work has been published in A+U, 306090, 10+1 and various exhibition catalogues and reviews.