

Robert Kirkbride, Ph.D.
Long Bio

[Robert Kirkbride](#)'s practice centers on memory, identity and the constructed environment. Since 1991, Dr. Kirkbride has directed *studio 'patafisico*, an architectural design and research studio, and he is Professor of Architecture and Product Design at Parsons School of Design/The New School, where he received the University Distinguished Teaching Award and served as Dean of the School of Constructed Environments from 2016-21. Robert is also spokesperson and a founding trustee for *PreservationWorks*, a non-profit organization advocating the preservation and adaptive reuse of Linear "Kirkbride" Plan psychiatric hospitals devised in the nineteenth century by Dr. Thomas Story Kirkbride, a distant relative. Robert has been a visiting scholar at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and architect-in-residence at the Bogliasco Foundation in Genoa, Italy. He received his Ph.D. in the History and Theory of Architecture from McGill University, and a Master of Architecture and Bachelor of Arts in Design of the Environment from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kirkbride's projects explore the interdependence of physical, mental and social infrastructures, retracing forms of knowledge and know-how that are often lost or overlooked, including the impressions of memory and everyday habits on habitations. In addition to [residential projects](#), exhibitions, [furniture](#) and a growing [family of speculative objects](#), Robert designed the *Morbid Anatomy Museum*, in Brooklyn, NY, with collaborator Anthony Cohn, AIA, and he authored and designed the multimedia online book, *Architecture and Memory*, which reconstructs the poetic and political uses of two exquisitely crafted memory chambers from the Italian Renaissance. *Architecture and Memory* received the Gutenberg-e Prize from the American Historical Association, and a second version was launched online by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) as part of its Humanities E-Book series. Robert has continued to explore the interplay of architecture, memory and rhetoric through a chapter for *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies* and the volume, *Geometries of Rhetoric*, which he guest-edited for the *Nexus Network Journal*, and he contributed an award-winning introduction for *Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital*.

Methods of [upstreaming](#) and [close readings](#) of artifacts, buildings, texts and contexts drive Robert's design practice, teaching and research, which has been recognized for its innovative use of digital media. His study of ornament has underscored the physicality of thought and the roles of multisensorial perception in shaping our experiences of the world, by what he has called [the period body](#). Robert's early training as a vocalist and performer informed several previous collaborations and is currently resurfacing through a series of new compositions. Kirkbride's research and designs have been exhibited and published widely, appearing in the PBS documentary, *Mysteries of Mental Illness*, the film *XX/XY*, The National Academy of Science's *ISSUES* magazine, *Asymptote Journal*, *Vogue*, *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Montreal Architectural Review*, *Chora 4*, *Mark Magazine*, *C3*, Alphet City's *FUEL*, *WATER*, and *AIR*, among others.

At Parsons/The New School, Dr. Kirkbride is an ongoing contributor to the Memory Studies Group and leads studio and seminar courses on the poetics of design, histories and theories of architecture, adaptive reuse, and disaster preparedness. Robert also established The [Giuseppe Zambonini Archive](#) at the university's Kellen Design Archives, a collection that represents a unique convergence of architectural education and design build practice in New York City in the 1970's and 80's, and includes a remarkable asset of online digitized lectures, multimedia research materials, and one of the earliest NYC exhibits of work by Zambonini's Thesis Advisor, the Venetian architect, Carlo Scarpa. Prior to joining Parsons/The New School faculty in 2005, Robert was a founding partner of the furniture design company, *Studiolo*, and the low-impact landplanning company, *Hawk Circle*, and he has also worked with Dr. Anne G. Tyng, Antonio Citterio and Terry Dwan, Riccardo Torrini, POLO/Ralph Lauren, DK Architects/Planners, and the U.S. National Park Service. Robert has been an editorial board member of the *Nexus Network Journal* and *Alphabet City*; he has also been a visiting critic at the University of Edinburgh, guest professor at the University of Montreal, and has conducted design charrettes at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Robert's website can be visited at <http://robertkirkbride.com>