# Pressing Matters 7
## UPENN Design

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- Pressing Matters VII captures the next-generation design and research facilitated by the Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania
- The graduate program in the Department of Architecture is currently ranked seventh in nationwide ratings by DesignIntelligence

*Pressing Matters VII* is an exciting compilation of design and research performed at PennDesign's Department of Architecture, it features recent student work, news, important symposia and lectures, and is printed on recycled paper with non-toxic inks. The *Pressing Matters* series has been published annually since 2013. As society faces many challenges, including global warming and environmental change, pollution and waste, transition to new energy and resource economies, the redistribution and reorganisation of political and economic power worldwide; globalisation of the construction and development industries; population growth, shrinkage and migration; urban intensification and attrition; privatisation of public sector activities; and the transformation of cultural identities and social institutions, we seek to bring the expansion of expertise and creativity in architecture to bear on these challenges. To summarise, our goal is to be at the forefront of advanced research & design by creating an advanced research institute that focuses on new design methodologies and future manufacturing through the interlinked intelligence of digital design, scripting, and robotics. We also focus on social awareness and responsibility, and are a think tank for critical exchanges and advanced debates within and across disciplinary boundaries. We are a connective device through inviting experts for ongoing lectures and publications in order to engage a growing international audience and an increasing network of experts.

**PENNDESIGN**: With approximately 310 graduate students, the Graduate Architecture Department is comprised of design studios, exhibition spaces, classrooms, and offices, a facility that includes state-of-the-art laboratories for computing and fabrication and two advanced research labs: the Digital Design Research Lab and the Building Simulation Group. PennDesign has also introduced 3-D printers in the newly renovated studio spaces and a brand new Robotic lab.