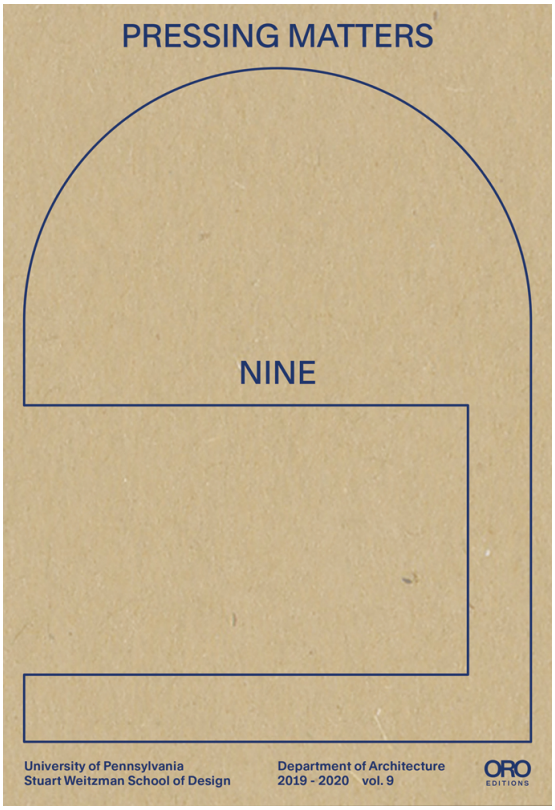
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Pressing Matters 9

The Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design

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- Redesigned concept with an emphasis on Open Source sharing and integral teaching methods to better prepare students for the challenges ahead

This year *Pressing Matters 9* was completely rethought; the aim was to present an Open Source publication that shares the Department of Architecture's concept of design research, an integral approach of critical thinking, rigorous research, and a deep understanding of the complex layers of architecture. Together with Jonathan Jackson of the renowned design Studio WSDIA in NYC, a more integral design was developed, allowing input from research [ARI labs], students, faculty and Penn's special events. The content and layout focus on an indepth representation on how in recent years we have integrated expertise and content from our courses into our Design Studio's. *Pressing Matters* is an annual design and research compilation from the Department of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design, showcasing student work, faculty research, and innovations in pedagogy.
The Department launched the one year MSDRAS program this year, directed by Assistant Professor Robert Stuart Smith. The Master of Science in Design: Robotics and Autonomous Systems aims to critically develop novel approaches to the design, manufacturing, construction, use, and lifecycle of architecture through creative engagement with robotics, material systems, and design computation. Students will develop skills in advanced forms of robotic fabrication, simulation, and artificial intelligence, in order to develop methods for design that harness production or live adaptation as a creative opportunity. This is an excellent addition to the existing MSD programs: the MSDEBD directed by Professor Bill Braham and the MSDAAD directed by Professor Ali Rahim, all presented in *Pressing Matters 9*.

Part of an important research university, the **Stuart Weitzman School of Design**, as one of the top ten Graduate Architecture Departments in the USA, prepares students to address complex sociocultural and environmental issues through thoughtful inquiry, creative expression, and innovation. The Department of Architecture operates at the forefront of research and design by focusing on new design methodologies and future manufacturing through the interlinked intelligence of digital design, computational analyses, and robotics.







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