The frontispiece of Douglas Darden’s 1993 publication Condemned Building sets out the theoretical framework for his work. Given in recto/verso, Darden references Marcel Duchamp (the Large Glass / Étant donnés), Jean-Jacques Lequeu (“he is free” / self-representation as a bare-breasted nun), Piranesi (Carceri etching, plate nine) Herman Melville (Moby Dick), and the film Bladerunner (1982). The reference to Bladerunner is essential in introducing Darden’s idea of the “underbelly of architecture.” This paper will unpack the references in the Frontispiece and introduce the concept of the underbelly. Essential to the idea of the underbelly is that the act of building, as practiced by Darden, may offer a mode of action that is critical of, but deeply engaged in, the practice and discourse of architecture.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Marc J Neveu, PhD, is the Associate Dean of the School of Architecture at Woodbury University. Prior to this appointment, Neveu was Chair of graduate and undergraduate architecture programs in the School of Architecture, Los Angeles. During his first year of service, both programs were awarded an eight-year re-accreditation from NAAB. Neveu also helped launch IPAL initiatives in both the graduate and undergraduate programs. He has worked with faculty to rethink and develop curricula intended to improve student learning and outcomes. Under his leadership, the undergraduate program was ranked nationally by Design Intelligence for the first time in the program’s history, and has moved up in the rankings in each of the previous three years. Currently Neveu is the Executive Editor of the biannual peer-reviewed Journal of Architectural Education.