Born out of a love for “making” things, my research for the past ten years has focused on architectural representation— with an emphasis on drawing and building, where I investigate materials and construction assemblies in unique ways. These pursuits stem from my personal experiences as well as my own formal education and the period in contemporary history in which I studied architecture.

Jacob Brillhart
Assistant Professor
Founder, Brillhart Architecture

Brillhart’s firm, Brillhart Architecture, was selected as one of five firms to compete in the prestigious MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program (YAP) in 2015.

Malaga Residence. Winner - 2016 AIA Florida Honor Award for (Renovation/Addition category)

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The Brillhart House, which Brillhart designed and personally built alongside his wife, has won international acclaim. The residence has been published worldwide and honored with a “House of the Year” (The Architects’ Newspaper) in 2015, named one of Archdaily’s Top 100 Projects in the US, named AIA Florida and AIA Miami Honor Awards for Design Excellence, and won among 24 projects to win a North Americans Wood Design Award in 2015.

Brillhart designed and is currently building this 600 sf cabin in the Bahamas. The design relies on the logic of the primitive hut; references historic Bahamas cottage; and abstracts and reduces the Creole Cabinet-Loggia typology.

This 3,800 sf house draws upon the principles of Florida Modernism. Construction materials and methods were of primary focus— with the goal of designing an all-steel residential structure that could be erected in limited time, with a limited budget. Incorporating passive design strategies as well, we were able to create a sustainable and flexible design that will earn LEED Silver certification.

My research seeks to analyze the meanings and methods of representation and explores how different forms of visualization inform design. Particular emphasis is placed on travel drawing as a fundamental and critical force of research and development. I have made over 600 paintings, sketches, and notes of architectural details, objects, people, buildings, objects, and urban spaces in cities around the world.

This book (in progress) explores the material selection and the systematic assembly of residential architecture designed between the late 1920s through the 1960s.