

August 10, 2020

Dear Students,

In this late summer newsletter, I am happy to share some updates on the School and am so looking forward to welcoming all of you in September to begin an exceptional academic year. The year ahead presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to work together in new ways as we critically engage and shape the pressing issues facing architecture and the built environment today and in the future, from the intersections of racial equity, social justice, and climate change to the devastating impact of the current global COVID-19 pandemic especially on the most vulnerable people around the world.

I am deeply grateful for your continued engagement with the School throughout the summer and want to thank again all those whose care for GSAPP manifests itself in tremendously important feedback, ideas, and urgent expectations from the School to commit with unwavering resolve and action to addressing the ways in which systemic racism and anti-Blackness are constructed and upheld by our institution, our disciplines, and our practices. GSAPP has held numerous meetings, town halls, a first series of anti-racism workshops, and a faculty reading group led by Professors Lucia Allais and Reinhold Martin. As a result, the School has formed a two-part strategy to develop an anti-racist action plan that will bring about not only tangible outcomes for the next academic year but also sustainable transformative change for the future.

To address the School's intellectual life, I am pleased to announce the formation of GSAPP's Anti-Racism Task Force. This task force will attempt to answer the question "What does an anti-racist GSAPP look like?" beginning with the explicit repudiation of anti-Black racism, and of racism in all its forms, and offer suggestions for constructive reform. The Task Force will lead in articulating ideas as well as gather recommendations in an inclusive process intent on mobilizing the School across its programs and research initiatives. I particularly want to thank the Task Force members Professors Lucia Allais, Kate Ascher, Lance Freeman, Malo Hutson, Andrés Jaque, Reinhold Martin, and Weiping Wu, who will be working throughout the Fall towards a shared final report.

To support and complement the GSAPP Anti-Racism Task Force, I am equally pleased to share that as of this month, Kim C. D'Abreu and Eugene L. Anderson of Diversity Dimensions Consulting are working with GSAPP to engage in transformational change in the diversity, inclusion, and racial equity spaces across the School. Through examination of the School's practices, such as recruitment and admissions processes, Diversity Dimensions Consulting will guide GSAPP towards culture change that disrupts embedded white cultural norms and promotes restoration and repair for Black faculty and students with an action plan and resource guide, including the articulation of a vision for GSAPP leadership in social justice. This work will take place throughout the Fall 2020 Semester, with long-term goals shared at the start of the Spring 2021 semester.

Rendering this work visible throughout its deployment, the [GSAPP Anti-Racism Action Plan](#) is now live on the GSAPP website. This page will be updated regularly to describe ongoing efforts and progress in more detail and to report on further initiatives addressing anti-Black racism and racial injustice across our disciplines, and I continue to welcome your thoughts and ongoing feedback as we strive to transform through our daily practices. The GSAPP homepage has also been updated to better reflect our efforts in addressing Climate, Equity, and the impact of Data and Design on Architecture and the built environment across programs, research, and programming, with dedicated pages that will continually evolve to reflect our focus in these areas.

Throughout the past weeks, we have hosted events and workshops in preparation of the School's re-opening and the Fall semester. Among the upcoming events outlined below, I want to highlight in particular Violet Whitney's workshop on Spatial User Experience and Telepresence, offering ideas and strategies for the multi-modal learning this fall as well as the Orientation dates for September. You will continue to receive more details as we get closer to the start of semester from your specific programs, but I want to continue to encourage you to regularly check our [COVID-19 website](#) for updates as well as the [University's main page](#) addressing all you need to know and prepare for a safe return to campus.

I want to take a moment to recognize again how much all of you have been affected in so many ways by the terrible difficulties experienced throughout the world since the onset of the pandemic. I want in particular to recognize those whose lives have been affected and deeply hurt by racial injustice in the United States as well as around the world, to recognize our international students for whom the uncertainties over changing travel and visa requirements have rendered your dream of joining GSAPP and experiencing New York so intolerably challenging, and to recognize those of you affected by the terrible tragedy of the explosion that devastated Beirut on August 4. My heart goes out to all of you and your families.

These challenges have only intensified our efforts and resolve to offer you not only the highest academic excellence but also the warmth, collegiality, and irreverent optimism in the face of adversity that is so characteristic of the GSAPP family. I cannot wait to welcome you all, in Avery or virtually, so that we can come together to share in imagining how to build a more creative, sustainable, and equitable world for the future.

Sincerely,

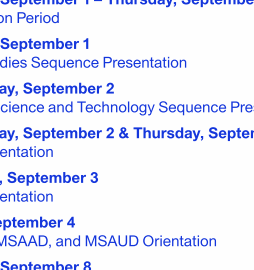
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CONNECT WITH FACULTY

Please join GSAPP's faculty as they share research and offer resources to help you prepare for the next semester. See the [Event Calendar](#) to watch prior events.



DESIGN YOUR THESIS/STUDENT RESEARCH	SPATIAL USER EXPERIENCE
Tuesday, August 11 11:00am EDT	Thursday, August 13 10:00pm EDT
Professor Weiping Wu, MS Urban Planning Program Director, leads a workshop and discussion for Urban Planning students on how to design the independent research process for the thesis or professional capstone requirement. Students also will work in small groups to explore about their interested topics of research and begin developing research questions.	Faculty Violet Whitney presents a student workshop in preparation for the multi-modal teaching and learning in Fall 2020. This crash course empowers students to think about and experiment with physical and digital techniques in communication, from using telepresence with sound and light to interactive projection in our homes.
Join on Zoom	Join on Zoom
	Image Above: Keiichi Matsuda, Hyper-Reality (2016)



WHY CITIES AREN'T GOOD FOR EVERYONE	MSAAD TRANSSCALARITIES SESSION
Wednesday, August 19 11:00am EDT	Thursday, August 20 10:00 AM EDT
Urban Design Faculty Noah Chasin delivers a lecture for incoming MSAUD students that asks: How does a focus on human rights provide tools to reconcile the divisiveness that marks the world's cities?	Associate Professor Andrés Jaque, MS Advanced Architectural Design Program Director, hosts a working session for incoming students in the Advanced Architectural Design program's methodology.
Join on Zoom	Join on zoom
Image Above: Fifth Face no. 1, Hubert Blanz (2010)	

CONNECT WITH STUDENTS

GSAPP's [student organizations](#) have been hosting virtual "6-on-6" meet-ups throughout the summer; don't miss this upcoming event hosted by QSAPP.

QSAPP 6-on-6

Friday, August 21
6:00pm EDT

QSAPP (Queer Students of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation) is a student organization that seeks to foster both conversation and community among LGBTQ students, their allies, faculty, and alumni of GSAPP. The group explores contemporary queer topics and their relationships to the built environment through an engagement with theory and practice.

Join 6-on-6 Zoom lounge

FALL SEMESTER DATES

Below are key dates to remember at the start of the upcoming semester. You can also view the full [Academic Calendar](#).

Tuesday, September 1 – Thursday, September 3 Registration Period	Tuesday, September 1 Visual Studies Sequence Presentation
Wednesday, September 2 Building Science and Technology Sequence Presentation	Wednesday, September 2 & Thursday, September 3 MSUP Orientation
Thursday, September 3 MSHP Orientation	Friday, September 4 MARCH, MSAAD, and MSAUD Orientation
Tuesday, September 8 First Day of Classes	Tuesday, September 8 MSRED Orientation
Wednesday, September 9 All-School Orientation	Architecture Studio Presentations and Lottery

UNIVERSITY LIFE FORUM FOR STUDENTS ON RETURNING TO CAMPUS

Join us for updates and a Q&A on COVID-19 transmission, campus facilities health enhancements, gateway testing, the Columbia Community Health Context, and strategies for managing stress.

Wednesday, July 22, 2020
11 AM-12:30 PM EST | Zoom Webinar

Prof. Suzanne B. Goldberg
Executive Vice President
University of Columbia

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA
Professor, Epidemiology and Medicine and Director, Center for Global Health

Melanie S. Bernitz, MD, MPH
Associate Vice President and Medical Director, Columbia Health

David Greenberg, MPA
Executive Vice President
University of Columbia

Aisha Holder, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President
University and Psychological Services

Forum on Returning to Campus

If you weren't able to join live, you can watch the University Life Forum for Students on Returning to Campus held on July 22, 2020. Moderated by Suzanne Goldberg, Executive Vice President of University Life, featured panels were Melanie Bernitz, Associate Vice President and Medical Director for Columbia Health and Associate Professor of Medicine in the Center for Family and Community Medicine; Wafaa El-Sadr, University Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Director, ICAP at Columbia University; David Greenberg, Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations; Aisha Holder, Clinical Psychologist, Counseling and Psychological Services, Columbia Health.

Please also review the University's [Public Health Protocols](#) and guidance on returning to campus responsibly.

CAREER SERVICES

Segregation is Killing Us

No "Great Equalizer" - Why? Pre-Existing Conditions - Epidemic Admissions - Call to Action

Play to see the journey of COVID-19 through NYC. Animation depicts confirmed Percent Positive rates. Data from NYC Department of Health and Maternal Services.

Tuesday Talks

Tuesday, August 11
9:00am EDT

The ongoing Tuesday Talks series welcomes Ankita Chachra '13 MSAUD; Alexandra Gonzalez '11 MSAUD; Douglas Hamilton '85 MSAUD; Jimmy Lu '13 MSUP; Nicolas Medrano '07 M.Arch; Joel Patterson '15 MSRED; Grace Pelletier '14 MSAUD; Tomás Quijada '99 MSAAD; Jenin Shah '07 MSAUD; and Daniel Windsor '05 MSAUD.

[Learn more](#)

Alumni Conversations

Register for an Alumni Conversation through Engage to gain exposure to a variety of careers. Please note registration closes two hours prior to each event.

Thursday, August 13
12:30 pm EDT

Zartha Pineda '18 MSAUD introduces her research laboratory [Territorial Empathy](#) that specializes in mitigating urban conflict through architectural interventions in a discussion facilitated by Thiago Sang Hyun Lee '20 MSUP, '23 MArch.

Thursday, August 13
5:00 pm EDT

Rachel Barnard '11 MARCH speaks about her work as the Executive Director and Founder of Young New Yorkers, an arts diversion program for teens being prosecuted as adult in criminal courts, in a conversation facilitated by Victoria Vuono '20 MSAUD.

Image Above: [Segregation is Killing Us](#) by Territorial Empathy (2020)

READINGS

Professor Kate Orff, Director of the MS Architecture and Urban Design program, and Adjunct Associate Professor David Smiley share the following texts and a podcast that raise important urban issues, including:

- [The Invention of Rivers: Alexander's Eye and Ganga's Descent](#) by Dilip da Cunha
- [Toward an Urban Ecology](#) by Kate Orff
- ["The Impact of COVID-19 on Public Space: A Review of the Emerging Questions,"](#) in [Cities & Health](#) by Jordi Honey-Rosés, et. al.
- ["Hijinks in Harlem: The Whiteness of 'Place'"](#) in [Avery Review](#) 24 by Karen Abrams
- ["America's Cities Were Designed to Oppress"](#) in [CityLab](#) by Bryan Lee Jr.
- [Kofi Boone on BLM's Challenge to Landscape Architecture](#), [Landscape Architecture Podcast](#)

Reading recommendations by Holliday Associate Professor Patrice Derrington, Director of the MS Real Estate Development program, recently shared with MSRED students include among others:

- [The Real Estate Game](#) by William Poorvu
- [Other People's Money](#) by Charles Bagli
- [Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States](#) by Kenneth Jackson
- [Green Metropolis](#) by David Owen
- [The Greatest Grid](#) by Hilary Ballon
- [A Country of Cities](#) by Vishan Chakrabarti
- [The Works: Anatomy of a City](#) by Kate Ascher

Members of the Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging at Columbia in partnership with Columbia Libraries, compiled the [Resources for Promoting Racial Justice and Eliminating Anti-Black Violence](#), a listing of books, films, and podcasts, along with a list of organizations advocating for justice across the country and a Columbia conversation about race.

Forthcoming from Columbia Books on Architecture and the City and edited by Isabelle Kirkham-Lewitt, [Paths to Prison: On the Architectures of Carcerality](#) aims to expand the ways the built environment's relationship to and participation in the carceral state is understood in architecture. The collected essays implicate architecture in the more longstanding and pervasive legacies of racialized coercion in the United States—and follow the premise that to understand how the prison enacts its violence in the present one must shift the epistemological frame elsewhere: to places, discourses, and narratives assumed to be outside of the sphere of incarceration.

NEWS FROM THE GSAPP COMMUNITY

News: WATCH URBAN PLANNING PHD PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MALO HUTSON'S PRESENTATION IN THE "CITIES, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND PANDEMICS IN HISTORY" ROUNDTABLE ORGANIZED BY EPIDEMIC URBANISM INITIATIVE

News: FACULTY MABEL O. WILSON, MARIO GOODEN, AND JUSTIN GARRETT MOORE DISCUSS RACISM AND WHITENESS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN A DISCUSSION CONVENED BY ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

News: FACULTY BELMONT FREEMAN INTERVIEWED BY AL JAZEERA ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EUSEBIO LEAL, FOLLOWING THE RECENT DEATH OF THE HAVANA CITY HISTORIAN

News: JOHNNY DIN '14 MSRED, NOAM FRANKLIN 'MSRED 14, MATT HOPKINS '10 MSRED, AND OLIVIA MOSS '12 MSRED FEATURED AS "RISING STARS IN REAL ESTATE" IN CRAIN'S NEW YORK

News: WATCH MSUP PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR WEIPING WU PARTICIPATE IN ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INSTITUTE'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

News: "POST RETAIL APOCALYPSE" BY MSAUD CLASS OF 2020 STUDENTS EINAT LUBLINER, SUSHMITA SHEKAR, HATEM ALKHATHLAN, AND CHRIS ZHENG FEATURED IN ARCHINECT

News: WATCH PROFESSOR MABEL O. WILSON, MARTINO STIERLI, AND ELIZABETH DILLER PARTICIPATE IN A CONVERSATION HOSTED BY MOMA ON ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS THAT DEFINE NYC

News: URBAN DESIGN PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR KATE ORFF CONTRIBUTES ESSAY TO "ALL WE CAN SAVE," A BOOK FEATURING ESSAYS FROM WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

News: METROPOLIS MAGAZINE FEATURES ATELIER OFFICE, A NEW VENTURE BY FACULTY AMINA BLACKSHER AND V. MITCH MCEWEN '06 M.AARCH

News: DESIGNER STEPHEN BURKS INTERVIEWS DEAN AMALE ANDRAOS AS PART OF FRIEDMAN BENDA GALLERY'S "DESIGN IN DIALOGUE" SERIES

News: MSAAD PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANDRÉS JAQUE WINS GRAHAM FOUNDATION GRANT

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[COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)
[Student Health Services](#)

[COVID-19 FAQ](#)
[ISSO Resources](#)

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