

April 20, 2020

Dear GSAPP Family,

Five weeks in. Seems like an eternity. So much has changed in so little time. We are so swallowed up in riding this out, in structuring some semblance of normality, that I fear sometimes we forget to stop and register the true weight of what is happening and how much we have changed.

And yet, in the storm of daily worries, accompanied by the relentless and overbearing news of tragedies unfolding all around us, near and far, it is in the simplest acts of solidarity, recognition, and kindness—the 7 pm city-wide claps around the world, the neighborly check-ins, the collegial support, the unexpected email or call, the hand wave from across the street—that I find myself letting go and feeling, just for a moment, all that has been lost.

Those moments for me have crystalized in GSAPP's endlessly creative and dedicated faculty, in the school's ruthlessly loyal and protective administrators, in our students, whose resilience in the face of such upheaval has been nothing but awe-inspiring. I have also been particularly touched by the strength of the bonds that connect us to our alumni around the world. The outpouring of support, the Tuesday Talks, the global outreach, the random notes: Never in GSAPP's history has there been such a strong sense of meaningful community. These invaluable ties might have always been here but they are revealing themselves in unprecedented ways, as we also show up for each other in unprecedented ways.

Beyond our alumni, I have been moved by the notes and calls from colleagues around the world—deans and faculty, architects and planners, clients and collaborators—all concerned for New York. I have felt this compassion, in particular, from colleagues in China, some of whom I've only met once, at the various schools of architecture and planning—who immediately reached out, offering to FedEx face masks and to help any way they can. It touched me but also gave me pause: did I reach out enough when it was Beijing and Nanjing that were struggling and at risk? Am I holding our colleagues across Latin America, Africa, and elsewhere, in mind and in heart, with the same intensity that I am holding those around me? How do we resist the biases of proximity and extend the same care and attention to those who are farther away?

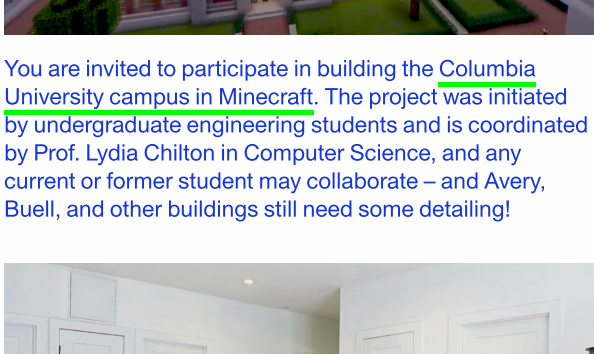
This double feeling is not unfamiliar. It is the one we must negotiate as architects: we are always inside and outside, zooming (and now Zooming) in and out, shifting from past to future, attempting (always imperfectly) to represent, design, and plan for a different perspective. Our field at its best thinks relationally across cultures and contexts, and moves from its own understandings and commitments to those of others. This commitment to decentering our disciplines and practices has been central to GSAPP's pedagogical engagements over the past years, across all of our programs. And today's shared predicaments and exchanges, as individuals, architects, planners, developers, alumni, colleagues, and friends around the world, have only reinforced the importance of holding together different ways of seeing, different ways of working, different ways of living.

This week, I want to dedicate Mining the Archive to our alumni, colleagues, and friends in Asia and elsewhere, whose support now is carrying us beyond what they imagine and whose work continues to do the same.

Sincerely,

Amale

#GSAPPFAMILY2020

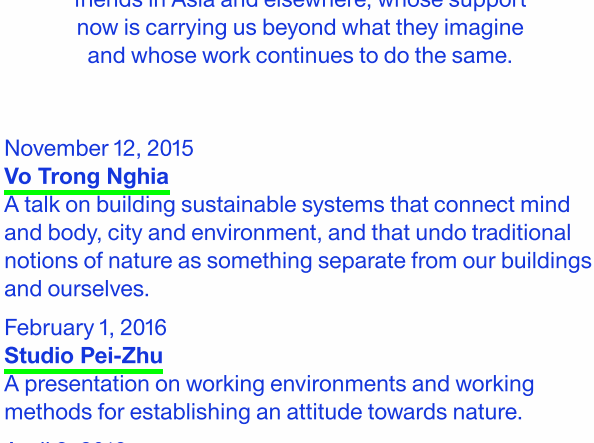


You are invited to participate in building the [Columbia University campus in Minecraft](#). The project was initiated by undergraduate engineering students and is coordinated by Prof. Lydia Chilton in Computer Science, and any current or former student may collaborate – and Avery, Buell, and other buildings still need some detailing!



Please continue to share your experiences on social media using the hashtag [#gsappfamily2020](#), or send us photos or videos directly. Students and faculty are also invited to submit works-in-progress using this [google form](#).

## MINING THE ARCHIVE



Thank you – to our alumni, colleagues, and friends in Asia and elsewhere, whose support now is carrying us beyond what they imagine and whose work continues to do the same.

November 12, 2015

**[Vo Trong Nghia](#)**

A talk on building sustainable systems that connect mind and body, city and environment, and that undo traditional notions of nature as something separate from our buildings and ourselves.

February 1, 2016

**[Studio Pei-Zhu](#)**

A presentation on working environments and working methods for establishing an attitude towards nature.

April 8, 2016

**[Other Desires: The African City](#)**

A day-long conference on the spatial practices, urban narratives, and manifold identities of African cities as models for thinking through liberation, beauty, memory, tradition, and belonging.

November 14, 2016

**[Fulong Wu](#)**

A lecture on the particular histories and evolutions and manifestations of planning in China.

March 23, 2018

**[Minsuk Cho '92 M.Arch](#)**

A conversation that retraces Cho's personal trajectory, from his time at GSAPP to the founding of Mass Studies, and takes stock of how contemporary Korean architecture differs from the American equivalent.

October 8, 2018

**[Neri & Hu](#)**

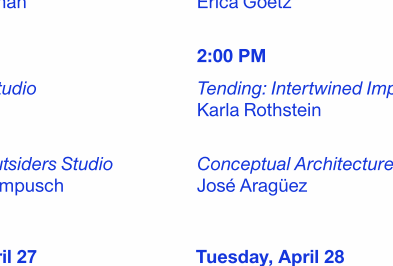
A presentation on the duo's approach to an extensive and expansive notion of "place."

October 14, 2019

**[Eleena Jamil](#)**

A lecture that emphasizes the climatic as the cultural and that reframes the vernacular as a radical practice of local materiality.

Please feel free to send us your own favorites.



This week, we'd like to focus the attention on Avery Shorts, which launched [Avery Shorts Live](#), a venue for off-season Shorts, to continue sharing timely, bite-sized reflections between our usual publication rhythms. Read more about the initiative [here](#).

We've rounded up several Avery Shorts that consider (albeit obliquely) what it means to "show up" as a spatial practice and that advocate for methods for global solidarity.

From Season 1, [After Belonging Agency](#) exposes the inadequacy of abstract symbols of national production, instead arguing for more material approaches to belonging.

From Season 2, [Laura Diamond](#) advocates for the imprisoned activist and artist Shahidul Alam whose work challenges the Western image of Bangladesh.

And from Season 3, [Elvia Wilk](#) writes from the protests in Hong Kong, abandoning touristic assumptions of how the city should accommodate visitors, and instead meets the city on its own terms.

## FINAL REVIEWS

Thursday, April 23

**CORE II:****9:00 AM**

*The XR School Studio*  
Gordon Kipping

*A Building Made of Buildings (and other Readymades) Studio*  
Emmett Zeifman

**2:00 PM**

*Adaptation Studio*  
Daisy Ames

*School for Outsiders Studio*  
Christoph Kumpusch

Friday, April 24

**CORE II:****9:00 AM**

*More School: Integrating School, Life, & City Studio*  
Benjamin Cadena

*Grounds for Play Studio*  
Erica Goetz

**2:00 PM**

*Tending: Intertwined Impact Studio*  
Karla Rothstein

*Conceptual Architecture Studio*  
José Aragüez

Monday, April 27

**ADV. IV:**

Richard Plunz

Bob Marino

Lindy Roy

Phu Hoang

Tuesday, April 28

**ADV. IV:**

Nahyun Hwang

Lindsey Wikstrom

Adam Frampton

Ziad Jamaledine

Wednesday, April 29

**ADV. VI:**

Anna Puigjaner

Juan Herreros

Olga Aleksakova and Julia Burdova

Michael Bell

Galia Solomonoff

Thursday, April 30

**ADV. VI:**

Hilary Sample

Mario Gooden

Steven Holl and Dimitra Tsachrelia

Mimi Hoang

Sarah Dunn

Friday, May 1

**ADV. VI:**

Stephen Cassell and Annie Barrett

Jing Liu

Pedro Rivera

David Benjamin

Mark Wasiuta

Enrique Walker

Monday, May 4

**ADV. VI:***Makergraph Studio*

Ada Tolla and Giuseppe Lignano

Wednesday, April 29

**CCCP Final Review**

Thursday, April 30

**RED Shark Tower**

## SUPER CRITS

**CORE II STUDIO SUPER CRIT****Monday, May 4****2:00 PM**

Erica Goetz, Coordinator

**ADV. IV STUDIO SUPER CRIT****Monday, May 4****3:00 PM**

Ziad Jamaledine, Coordinator

## TUESDAY TALKS WITH ALUMNI

Thank you to the GSAPP alumni who participated in last week's Tuesday Talks!

The next Tuesday Talk will be on April 21. Registration will open Monday, April 20 at 12pm EST. Preview the alumni participating this week before requesting your appointment! Please contact [gsappalumni@columbia.edu](mailto:gsappalumni@columbia.edu) with any questions.

A list of participating alumni can be found on [our website](#).

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