

July 20, 2020

Dear Students,

We were glad that so many of you were able to join the recent Town Hall outlining GSAPP's plans for the upcoming academic year. While challenging, this unprecedented time is also an opportunity for us to connect even more meaningfully while radically redefining our methods of working together in ways that will inform the culture of the School – as well as the University and our disciplines at large – for many years to come. We are regularly updating the new online [FAQ page](#) to provide as much detail as possible and invite you to continue to stay in touch as we prepare for the Fall.

This summer, GSAPP's faculty are participating in special workshops and developing new tools for the hybrid model of instruction. To further prepare students for this learning experience, Visual Studies Faculty Violet Whitney is hosting a special workshop on August 13 designed to empower you to think about and experiment with the techniques in communication and telepresence. Our fully-online Intro to Architecture summer program has been a very successful prototype for providing remote access to studio computers, using platforms for sharing work, and building connections among student teams. The program's skill-building lecture workshops continue to be open for all, and we hope you are able to participate in these and the other remaining summer events outlined in this newsletter.

Many of you were also able to participate in the July 10 Town Hall and shared valuable concerns and feedback at that time, which alongside your meaningful letters play an important role in GSAPP's Commitment to Addressing Anti-Blackness and Racial Injustice outlined in Dean Andraos' letter. At the Housing Lab's recent Action Hour, the lab team described projects initiated in the Spring 2020 semester and discussed plans with alumni to more explicitly integrate an anti-racist agenda into its current engagements and methods of working. Early next month, Dr. Kuheli Dutt will lead Racial Sensitivity workshops for students (August 3) and faculty (August 6), and GSAPP will host similar orientation sessions for our entire community in the Fall. The long-term commitment to racial justice runs across GSAPP's programs, and other initiatives in teaching, programming, and work within the School will be reflected through the website and newsletters over the coming months.

We look forward to welcoming all of you in September to begin an exceptional academic year that 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.

RACIAL SENSITIVITY STUDENT WORKSHOP

Monday, August 3
2:00pm EDT

Kuheli Dutt, who is Assistant Director for Academic Affairs and Diversity at Columbia's Lamont Doherty Earth Institute, leads a student workshop on racial sensitivity. Dr. Dutt has extensive experience developing diversity and inclusion initiatives and programs, and her research spans public policy, gender issues, and implicit bias.

An invitation with reservation details will follow.

HOUSING LAB UPDATE

The conversation during the recent Action Hour hosted by the GSAPP Housing Lab was enriched by alumni involvement including Mark Barksdale '76 MS Health Services & Design '84 MSUP, Victor Body-Lawson '84 MARCH, Cecily King '15 MSRED, and Sharon Sutton '73 MARCH, who joined to provide valuable feedback and will continue to participate in the lab during the Fall semester. Updates on the lab's projects will be posted on its [webpage](#).

CONNECT WITH FACULTY

Please join GSAPP's faculty as they share work and research, present their vision for the fall, and offer resources to help you prepare for the next semester. See the [Event Calendar](#) for complete listings and recordings of prior events.

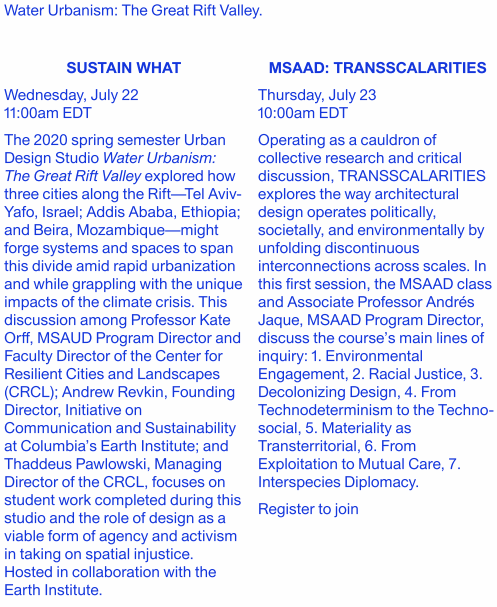


Image: Student group projects from the Spring 2020 MSAUD studio Water Urbanism: The Great Rift Valley.

SUSTAIN WHAT

Wednesday, July 22
11:00am EDT

The 2020 spring semester Urban Design Studio *Water Urbanism: The Great Rift Valley* explored how three cities along the Rift—Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Beira, Mozambique—might forge systems and spaces to span this divide amid rapid urbanization and while grappling with the unique impacts of the climate crisis. This discussion among Professor Kate Orff, MSAUD Program Director and Faculty Director of the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes (CRCL); Andrew Revkin, Founding Director, Initiative on Communication and Sustainability at Columbia's Earth Institute; and Thaddeus Pawlowski, Managing Director of the CRCL, focuses on student work completed during this studio and the role of design as a viable form of agency and activism in taking on spatial injustice. Hosted in collaboration with the Earth Institute.

Register to join

MSAAD: TRANSSCALARITIES

Thursday, July 23
10:00am EDT

Operating as a cauldron of collective research and critical discussion, TRANSSCALARITIES explores the way architectural design operates politically, societally, and environmentally by unfolding discontinuous interconnections across scales. In this first session, the MSAAD class and Associate Professor Andrés Jaque, MSAAD Program Director, discuss the course's main lines of inquiry: 1. Environmental Engagement, 2. Racial Justice, 3. Decolonizing Design, 4. From Technodeterminism to the Techno-social, 5. Materiality as Transterritorial, 6. From Exploitation to Mutual Care, 7. Interspecies Diplomacy.

Register to join

CORE III HOUSING SEQUENCE

Tuesday, August 4
10:00am EDT

In preparation for the Fall Housing Studio, Professor Hilary Sample and the Core III faculty lead an informal discussion with students around practice, design, and housing. The meeting is an extension of subjects and themes discussed in the prior meeting as they relate to housing: How does climate, race, health, and social and environmental justice intersect with urban collective housing? The Fall term will build upon these concerns, and Reading List No. 2 will follow the meeting.

Join on Zoom

PUBLIC EMERGENCY: DIVERSITY, DESIGN, AND PEDAGOGY

Wednesday, August 5
11:00am EDT

The disciplines of Urban Design and Architecture are steeped in representations of neutrality, objectivity, and professionalism, all concepts which are themselves rooted in the history of exclusion and whiteness. This affects both the academy and practice in different ways. How do design and public space, land use regulation, social and physical infrastructure, and financial structures create conditions of inequality? How does systemic racism in education impact how and where we work? When we see design as a separate realm of professional knowledge, what and who are we excluding? This conversation focuses on the role schools take in shifting their pedagogies and how architecture and urban design schools can advance justice in the built environment.

With Adriana Chavez, Justin Garrett Moore, David Smiley, and other MSAUD faculty.

Join on Zoom

DESIGN YOUR THESIS/CAPSTONE RESEARCH

Tuesday, August 11
11:00 AM 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 thesis or professional capstone requirement in the second year.

Join on Zoom

SPATIAL USER EXPERIENCE

Thursday, August 13
4:00pm EDT

Violet Whitney presents a student workshop on Spatial User Experience and Telepresence in preparation for the multi-modal teaching and learning in Fall 2020. This crash course will empower 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

BUILD YOUR SKILLS



Work by Luiza Furia '20 MARCH completed during the Fall 2019 Transitional Geometries course led by Faculty Joshua Jordan.

The following faculty workshops and lectures are open to all GSAPP students.

GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS: A SHARED HISTORY OF COLLABORATION

Monday, July 27
11:00am EDT
Thomas De Monchaux

This presentation offers critical readings of shared design: on the one hand, of self-described collectives like The Architects Collaborative and Archigram; and on the other, of intensely collective projects like World Expositions and Architectural Biennials, or the highly-coded landscapes of Megastructure and New Urbanism. We consider architecture as micro-urbanism; big buildings as little cities; the mathematics and ethics of part-to-whole relationships; and the cooperation and complication that may be created between municipal and computational codes.

[Read more and join on Zoom](#)

3D SCANNING IN ARCHITECTURE

Tuesday, July 28
11:00am EDT
Bika Rebek

This lecture and workshop explores 3D scanning as a process and its potential to drive and change design methods. With an emphasis on photogrammetry, it gives an introduction to practical scanning methods that can be applied in everyday practice, while speculating on the possibilities of 3D scanning for the discipline at large.

[Read more and join on Zoom](#)

CONNECT WITH STUDENTS

GSAPP's student organizations will be hosting virtual meet-ups and student portfolio workshops throughout the summer.

GREENSAPP 6-ON-6

Friday, July 24
6:00pm EDT

GreensAPP was founded by a group of students to promote a greater engagement with the topic of climate change and student life at GSAPP.

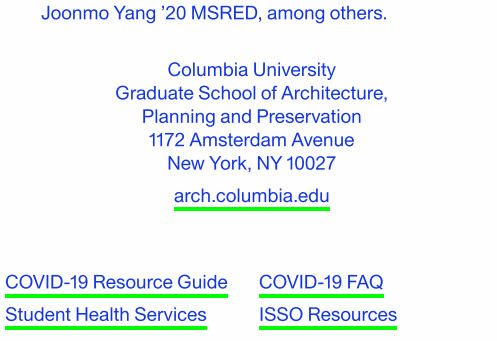
[Join 6-on-6 Zoom lounge](#)

HYPHEN MAGAZINE LAUNCH

A new student-run publication, HYPHEN Magazine, is launching its first call for submissions on the theme ISSUE 001: SPACE? You can read and download the call online. Submissions are due by August 21, 2020.

The Hyphen Magazine is also looking for GSAPP students interested in becoming involved in the student group.

READINGS



Recommended summer reading by GSAPP faculty in preparation for the Fall semester

Among Professor Andrés Jaque's recommended texts for AAD's Transscalarities – Arenas of Design course are:

- "Do Artifacts Have Politics?" by Langdon Winner
- ["Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics"](#) by Kimberle Crenshaw

Professor Weiping Wu recommends *The Color of Law* for Urban Planning students, which will be discussed during the semester:

- ["The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America"](#) by Richard Rothstein

Professor Hilary Sample and the Core III faculty recently shared a list of recommended books and articles, community plans, policy documents, and videos with students in preparation for the Fall Housing Studio. Included on the list are:

- ["Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination"](#) by Toni Morrison
- ["Dark Space: Architecture, Representation, Black Identity"](#) by Mario Gooden
- ["A History of Housing in New York City"](#) by Richard Plunz
- ["Harlem is Nowhere: A Journey to the Mecca of Black America"](#) by Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts
- ["When Ivory Towers Were Black: A Story about Race in America's Cities and Universities"](#) by Sharon Sutton
- ["White Walls, Designer Dresses"](#) by Mark Wigley

Professor Erica Avrami edited a timely volume of essays by a broad range of academics, historians, and practitioners who document historic preservation's progress toward inclusivity and explore further steps to be taken.

- ["Preservation and Social Inclusion"](#)

CAREER SERVICES

Alumni Conversations:

Nisha Baliga & Betsy Maclean, Hester Street

Tuesday, July 21
1:00 pm EDT

The ongoing Alumni Conversations series welcomes Nisha Baliga, AICP '05 MSUP and Betsy Maclean '05 MIA/'06 MSUP, Co-Executive Directors at [Hester Street](#)—an urban planning, design, and development nonprofit that works to ensure neighborhoods are shaped by the people who live in them. Over the past four months, Hester Street has drawn from their deep experience engaging with communities to develop tools and tactics that they hope will sharpen the focus on the means by which society can achieve more just ends.

Savannah Wu '20 MSUP will facilitate the conversation.

[Learn more and register through Engage](#)

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

- [Andrew Keung '20 MARCH wins the KPF Paul Katz Fellowship](#) to support his research proposal addressing issues of global urbanism.
- [MARCH student Charlotte Ziye Yu was interviewed by Madame Architect](#) on "Stories, Materials, and Interdisciplinarity"
- Thank you to the MSRED alumni and students who are serving as mentors for Project Destined teams this summer! The group includes Rasul Hafizov '19 MSRED, Michael Adelstein '21 MSRED, and Brian Joonmo Yang '20 MSRED, among others.

Columbia University

Graduate School of Architecture,

Planning and Preservation

1172 Amsterdam Avenue

New York, NY 10027

[arch.columbia.edu](#)

[COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[COVID-19 FAQ](#)

[ISSO Resources](#)