COLUMBIA
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PLANNING

URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER
APRIL 6, 2018

Contributions or ideas for this newsletter can be submitted to Nicholas Johannes. Newsletters will be sent on a bi-weekly basis. For jobs, internships, and fellowships, please see the new career portal.

UP PROGRAM COUNCIL'S SOCIAL EVENTS

The UP Program Council invites all students to participate in a number of FREE social events listed below.

For some of the events, there will be a lottery since there is a cap on the number of students who can participate. No preference will be given based on seniority.

- New York City Transit Museum, Saturday, April 7th at 1 pm
- Central Park Bike Tour, Saturday, April 14th at 2 pm

Please refer to the email from Rebecca Noble for more information.

CLASS OF 2020 OPEN HOUSE

Last Monday, April 2nd, we held our admitted students open house. At the open house, admitted students listened to the first-year students present their studio projects and second-year students present their theses. Admitted students also received a campus tour and were invited to a mixer at Brownies.

We received about 30% more applications than last year and we are excited to welcome the Class of 2020!

APRIL 3RD LIPS RECAP

University of Oxford Professor David Kirk on April 3rd presented his talk titled, “The Impact of Residential Change and the Housing Stability of Criminal Recidivism: A Randomized Controlled Trial.” Kirk begins his presentation with a jarring statistic that 50 percent of former prisoners were re-incarcerated within three years of release. His research demonstrates how prisoners who return to their old neighborhood are more likely to be re-incarcerated.

In his attempt to untangle this behavioral pattern, Kirk asks, “Does residential change among former prisoners serve as a catalyst for desistance and long-term behavioral change?” He hypothesizes that the likelihood of recidivism is lower if former prisoners move to a new neighborhood. Based on his extensive research, the preliminary results suggest that there is some benefit to moving and housing assistance more generally. Furthermore, interview data suggests that those desisting from crime had more of a separation from their criminal past and peers. However, high barriers to housing are intensifying the rate of recidivism.

Kirk ended his presentation on the significance of his research to the field of urban planning. Two planning solutions were proposed. First, establishing a subsidized housing program for the formerly incarcerated is vital. Second, investing more in affordable housing development more generally will lead to more housing options for the formerly incarcerated.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Shiqi Ouyang

Where are you from?
Beijing, China

Where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Tsinghua University, Beijing

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
The location is superb — New York City has all kinds of people. NYC has its own culture. It offers an educational experience that embraces a true metropolis. For a student who studies architecture or urban studies, the benefits are obvious. The academic environment and faculty are prestigious — the incredible resources and opportunities enable students to explore their own expertise.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
Built environment

What is your dream career?
Designer - create a livable environment, which meets aesthetic and functional needs.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
Tennis, photography, dance, and making food!

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Shruti Shubham

Where are you from?
Noida, India

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied Architecture at the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I really wanted to study in a university that has a global standing. And the prospect of being in New York while studying was extremely desirable for me. I lived in a very caring and close-knit joint family in India and I wanted to experience the exact opposite of that.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
There are a couple actually, Moshe's Economics for Planners, Leah's Digital Restructuring of Urban Space, and Jonathan Martin's Sustainable Zoning + Land Use Regulations.

What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I am pursuing a dual concentration in Community and Economic Development and Urban Analytics. Urban planners, we are required to design policies and the built environment at an urban scale. To do so, we need to not only build an understanding of a large number of people and a large site but also validate our recommendations, as it will implicate a huge population. Therefore, I pursued two concentrations which complement each other. I also took Built Environment classes as well to strengthen my understanding of the urban fabric.

What is your dream career?
I would like to be in a position where I can exercise the knowledge I've gained. I would like to impact as many individuals as possible and create a cohesive society with strong socioeconomic ties.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Build more hard-skills. The least it does is to provide you a skill, but the best thing it does is they provide an alternate lens to view a problem at hand.

Laura Semeraro

Where are you from?
Wayne, New Jersey

Where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
The University of Notre Dame

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia because of the opportunity to learn at an institution located within the city of New York. As I was working prior to graduate school, I felt like I wanted to understand the city from all perspectives and be able to take advantage of the networking and lecture opportunities in New York while in school.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
My favorite course was Land Use Planning. I enjoyed participating in the collaborative process involved in putting together a master plan and learning the different aspects that are required to make an effective one.

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
My concentration is the Built Environment and I'm most interested in urban design and land use planning.

Why are you pursuing a dual degree program?
I am also pursuing a Masters in Real Estate Development. I wanted to learn more about the development process and how projects were executed, including how they were supported financially and what players were involved. Developers can benefit a lot from planners and planners can benefit a lot from developers, learning both skill sets made sense for what I wanted to get out of graduate school.

What is your dream career?
My dream career will be a career in which I can constantly be learning and balances well my engineering, real estate, and planning educations.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
There are valuable people visiting campus all the time, whether it's at the engineering school, the construction management program, SIPA or the business school; definitely take advantage of going to lectures that you find interesting and meet as many people as you can in other programs.

FELLOWSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

The Brown Institute at Columbia's Magic Grant, Application Deadline: April 9th

The Brown Institute for Media Innovation announces its "Magic Grant" funding opportunity to faculty, researchers and students across Columbia University. Do you have a story that can only be told using technology outside the scope of traditional media? Are you passionate about the role that emerging technologies can play in the future of journalism or storytelling more broadly? A Brown Institute Magic Grant might be for you! More info

Ford College Community Challenge, Application Deadline: April 11th

Have an idea to improve the community around you in a creative and tangible way? The Ford College Community Challenge (Ford C3) wants to hear it (and fund it!). In its 11th year, the Ford C3 grant program requests proposals for community-based projects that address an unmet need among the following topics surrounding the theme of Making Lives Better:

- Changing the way people move through smart mobility
- Driving social mobility
- Building sustainable communities

Up to 10 winning proposals will be selected to receive $25,000 each from the Ford Motor Company Fund to support implementation of the proposed projects. More info

William Kinne Fellows Traveling Prize, Application Deadline: April 13th

The William Kinne Fellows Traveling Prize is granted on the merit of proposals submitted for travel abroad incorporating the study of architecture, including planning and other specialized aspects of architecture.

All graduating students are encouraged to submit a study proposal for a postgraduate William Kinne Fellows Traveling Prize. Any student graduating in May 2018, October 2018, or February 2019 may apply. Winning proposals are announced at commencement. More info

Stein Institute's $20,000 Grant, Application Deadline: April 15th
The Clarence S. Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies supports the research, teaching, and community service of students and faculty who have demonstrated an interest in the ideas of Clarence Stein as expressed in his book, Toward New Towns for America (Reinhold, 1957). Based in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, the Stein Institute welcomes interest from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, urban history, historic preservation, and city and regional planning, and the research supported by the institute encompasses both urban and suburban development. More info

Buell Center Fellowships, Application Deadline: April 22nd
The Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture is pleased to announce its annual awards for historical research on the built environment within or between the fields of architecture, urban history, and landscape. Interdisciplinary or comparative work on the Americas is especially encouraged. Up to four awards, each with a maximum of $5,000, will be given for the purposes of carrying out primary research in conjunction with a masters thesis or PhD dissertation project. Applicants must be full-time GSAPP students in the summer and fall of 2018. More info

Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals, Application Deadline: May 1st
Founded to encourage student journalism on architecture, planning, and related subjects, and to foster regard for intelligent criticism among future professionals. The award is not intended as a prize for individuals, but to support the ongoing publication of student-edited journals whose subject matter could include architectural design, history, and theory. Single or multiple awards up to $2,000. More info

OTHER NEWS

Volunteer Opportunity for the RPA Assembly on April 27th, Deadline: Until filled
On Friday, April 27th, RPA will host its annual Assembly and we have a number of volunteer opportunities that may be of interest to your students! If you're able to forward this along to them we'd very much appreciate it. This year's Assembly will feature high-profile speakers, including former NY Senator and Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Governor of NJ, Phil Murphy, as well as panel discussions on how the tri-state area can fulfill the promise of economic opportunity, meet the challenge of climate change and stay competitive with metropolitan areas around the world. More information about the program and speakers is available on our website. Assembly volunteers are asked to be available on April 27 from 7am to 5pm to assist with a number of shifts throughout the day. Volunteer tasks may include assisting with registration and attendee check-in, being a runner for panels and discussions, helping with audio-visual set ups and runs, and generally directing guests to the appropriate rooms for breakouts/etc. Volunteers are able to attend any and all event sessions when not scheduled for a particular task (we will ask for your preference, and do our best to schedule you accordingly). Breakfast, lunch and reception entrance provided. For more information, please contact Tess Andrew at tess@rpa.org More info

Abstract Launch Party, April 6th at 6 pm at Brownies
Abstract 2017 has arrived! Join us for the book launch and

pick up your copy. This event will coincide with 6 on 6. Abstract is the yearly printed publication of student work from Columbia University GSAPP. The catalog is produced through the Office of the Dean, Amale Andraos. The archive of student work, containing documentation of projects selected by faculty at the conclusion of each semester, is utilized in the making of Abstract. More info

The Politics of Transmaterial Design, Andrés Jaque, April 9th at 6.30 pm at Wood Auditorium
Andrés Jaque, Phd Architect (ETSAM) and Alfred Toepfer Stiftung's Tessenow Stipendiat, is the founder of the Office for Political Innovation and an Associate Adjunct Professor at Columbia GSAPP. Rather than focusing on isolated objects, their work explores daily life as the result of the interaction between multiple entities, operating at different scales and temporalities. Bodies, buildings, social media, vegetal species, and natural resources are ensembled in shared projects to which architecture, as a political practice, contributes through intervention, empowerment, rearticulation, disobedience, and confrontation. More info

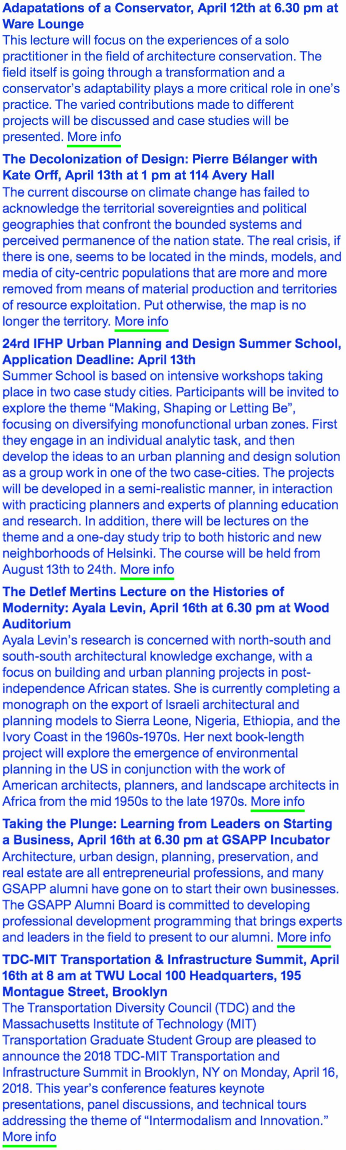
The Ideal City - Master Plans and Dystopian Realities, April 9th at 5 pm at NYU Brooklyn Tech Hub, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn
With the ideal plans and dystopian realities of today's metropolis, looking through the lens of justice and ethics, identity and culture, space and boundaries, technology and data, governance and politics, health and education, economic influences and individual agency, we will converge our thinking on the following: In our plans for an Ideal City, how is justice, human virtue and enlightened governance manifested? How do we integrate and plan for social and environmental resilience in cities? One of the panelists is UP Professor Kian Tajbakhsh, who has authored the book, *The Promise of the City*. More info

Two Sides of the Border: Reimagining the Region, April 11th at 6.30 pm at Wood Auditorium
A conversation between Valeria Luiselli, Sarah Lopez, and Tatiana Bilbao. The immense intellectual, cultural, economic and political exchange between the Mexico and the US is the central focus of Tatiana Bilbao's academic initiative, Two Sides of the Border: Reimagining the Region. In this discussion, Author Valeria Luiselli, Historian Sarah Lopez, and Architect Tatiana Bilbao will discuss their distinct works on the subject as politics are reshaped, rhetoric ascends, and new cultural issues arise in both Mexico and the US. More info

Contemporary Cities: Urban and Architecture Practices About Latin America, April 11th at 7 pm at Americas Society, 680 Park Avenue
The panel discussion Contemporary Cities: Urban and Architecture Practices About Latin America will feature contemporary readings and examples of current cities of Latin America. Speakers include:

- Marina Correia Principal, Marina Correia Architecture Studio
- Alejandro De Castro Mazarro ('09 MSAAD GSAPP), Columbia GSAPP Adjunct Assistant Professor
- Ana Paula Ruiz Galindo, Principal, Pedro & Juana

Academics, researches, and practitioners will join in a conversation on public space, informality, planning, and spatial practices around design, and policy in Latin American cities. This event is co-organized by Columbia GSAPP Incubator and Americas Society in connexion with the exhibition The Metropolis in Latin America, 1830–1930. More info



Adapatations of a Conservator, April 12th at 6.30 pm at Ware Lounge

This lecture will focus on the experiences of a solo practitioner in the field of architecture conservation. The field itself is going through a transformation and a conservator's adaptability plays a more critical role in one's practice. The varied contributions made to different projects will be discussed and case studies will be presented. More info

The Decolonization of Design: Pierre Bélanger with Kate Orff, April 13th at 1 pm at 114 Avery Hall

The current discourse on climate change has failed to acknowledge the territorial sovereignties and political geographies that confront the bounded systems and perceived permanence of the nation state. The real crisis, if there is one, seems to be located in the minds, models, and media of city-centric populations that are more and more removed from means of material production and territories of resource exploitation. Put otherwise, the map is no longer the territory. More info

24rd IFHP Urban Planning and Design Summer School, Application Deadline: April 13th

Summer School is based on intensive workshops taking place in two case study cities. Participants will be invited to explore the theme "Making, Shaping or Letting Be", focusing on diversifying monofunctional urban zones. First they engage in an individual analytic task, and then develop the ideas to an urban planning and design solution as a group work in one of the two case-cities. The projects will be developed in a semi-realistic manner, in interaction with practicing planners and experts of planning education and research. In addition, there will be lectures on the theme and a one-day study trip to both historic and new neighborhoods of Helsinki. The course will be held from August 13th to 24th. More info

The Detlef Mertins Lecture on the Histories of Modernity: Ayala Levin, April 16th at 6.30 pm at Wood Auditorium

Ayala Levin's research is concerned with north-south and south-south architectural knowledge exchange, with a focus on building and urban planning projects in post-independence African states. She is currently completing a monograph on the export of Israeli architectural and planning models to Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Ivory Coast in the 1960s-1970s. Her next book-length project will explore the emergence of environmental planning in the US in conjunction with the work of American architects, planners, and landscape architects in Africa from the mid 1950s to the late 1970s. More info

Taking the Plunge: Learning from Leaders on Starting a Business, April 16th at 6.30 pm at GSAPP Incubator

Architecture, urban design, planning, preservation, and real estate are all entrepreneurial professions, and many GSAPP alumni have gone on to start their own businesses. The GSAPP Alumni Board is committed to developing professional development programming that brings experts and leaders in the field to present to our alumni. More info

TDC-MIT Transportation & Infrastructure Summit, April 16th at 8 am at TWU Local 100 Headquarters, 195 Montague Street, Brooklyn

The Transportation Diversity Council (TDC) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Transportation Graduate Student Group are pleased to announce the 2018 TDC-MIT Transportation and Infrastructure Summit in Brooklyn, NY on Monday, April 16, 2018. This year's conference features keynote presentations, panel discussions, and technical tours addressing the theme of "Intermodalism and Innovation." More info

GSAPP Incubator Spring Presentations, April 17th at 12.30 pm at GSAPP Incubator

Join us as current members of the GSAPP Incubator will present and discuss the work that they have been undertaking during the third year of the school's new initiative to support recent alumni developing experimental new work. Functioning as a platform for entrepreneurship and expanded modes of practice, the GSAPP Incubator located in NEW INC is a launch pad for new ideas and projects about architecture, culture, and the city. More info

Habitat for Humanity Events, April 18th to 21st, Multiple Events

The Habitat for Humanities' Young Professionals group does a number of things from helping fundraise, holding events to promote awareness of the issue in affordable housing, and creating events where young professionals interested in affordable housing can meet and network. In the next few weeks, we have a few events.

- Habitat at the Hall - April 18th at 9am to 5.30pm @ City Hall
- Habitat at the Hall : Habi Hour April 18th at 5.30 pm to 9 pm @ Dark Horse Bar
- Habitat at the Hall - April 18th 9 am to 5.30 pm
- Habitat Young Leadership Summit - April 21st, 9 am to 4 pm

More info

American Spolia, April 19th at 6.30 pm at Ware Lounge

We tend to treat the past as a footnote to the present. Yet it is becoming clear that the past (both distant and recent) must be a resource for today – not only as a reference, but as a quarry of parts, materials, technologies, ideas and experiences, especially in the realm of constructed environment. As a consumer society, we pride ourselves in the recent "invention" of recycling, yet the ancients too had practiced reuse – spolia. It was a way, simultaneously destructive, protective and laterally productive, to regurgitate existing infrastructures, landscapes, buildings, and create new environments, programs, culture opportunistically sampled from various material and ephemeral parts of the past. More info

AICP Candidate Pilot Program

Students and recent graduates of PAB-accredited programs can now enroll in the Program any time during the year, register in December–March (for the May exam) or in June–September (for the November exam), use the payment program for exam fees, and take the exam prior to earning professional planning experience. More info

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