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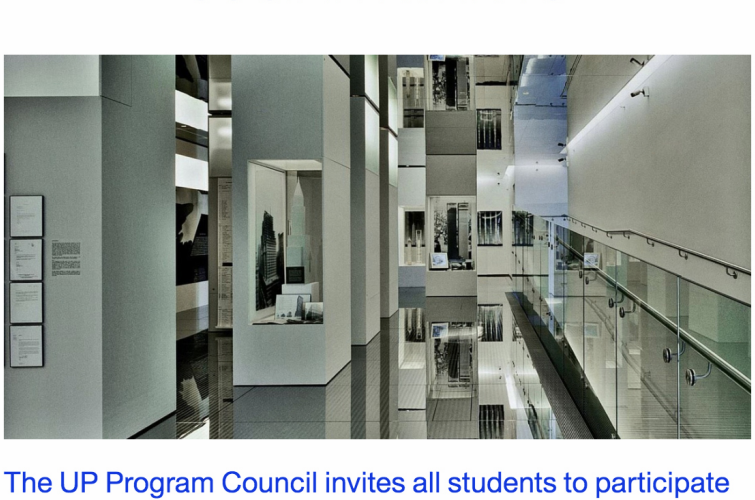
URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER MARCH 23, 2018

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 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.

- Tenement Museum, Building on the Lower East Side Walking Tour, Saturday, March 24th at 11 am
- New York City Fire Museum, Saturday, March 25th at 12 pm
- New-York Historical Society, Saturday, March 31st at 2 pm
- 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.

STUDIO TRAVELS

Hong Kong as a Palimpsest: Transit-Induced Redevelopment in To Kwa Wan

Our studio visited Hong Kong between March 5th to 9th to meet with stakeholders in the redevelopment and planning of To Kwa Wan and to do on the ground research.

At the Chinese University of Hong Kong, we joined professor Francisco Rossini and Hendrik Tieben whose research—on public space in Hong Kong and onsite work in To Kwa Wan through their architecture studios and Magic Carpet initiative—kicked off our site visit.

Our meetings with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA), the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and the City Planning Department informed us about the plans for the redevelopment of parts of the neighborhood, the introduction of the subway link, and the overall zoning and land use of the area. These meetings also gave us a greater understanding of how quasi-government, private corporations and the government interact and finance urban development projects in Hong Kong.

We met with several community organizations that worked directly and indirectly with To Kwa Wan including MAD (Make a Difference) Good Labs, To Ga (Tokwawan House of Stories), Community Cultural Concern (CCC), Wheel Things Makers, and Blue House. These organizations gave us greater insight into how community organization works in Hong Kong, and how creativity and the arts can act as agents in engagement and the innovation of ground up ideas.

Our field work in To Kwa Wan included site observation, documentation, traffic counting, and interviews with residents and small business owners. Additionally, we visited other URA and MTR redevelopment sites in the city to have a greater understanding of their impact on urban life in Hong Kong.

One of the greatest takeaways from our research was our observation of the lack of communication between government, subsidiary, private corporations, and the community about urban redevelopment issues in Hong Kong. We have identified several areas where we think that these interactions could be improved. We hope to make practical recommendations to our client, the URA, as well as policy recommendations to the city, in addition to proposed interventions in underutilized public space.

Emily Junker (M.S. UP/HP '20)

Genoa, Italy: Negotiating Fragments

On the week of March 5th, M.Arch and UP students from the joint studio, Genoa, Italy: Negotiating Fragments, went to Genoa to meet with their peers from the Urban Environment Design Studio at the University of Genova- UNIGE.

Students worked together discussing ideas, studying the site, and organizing a joint proposal that was presented to the municipality assessors. Other events included listening to the academic and municipality´s presentations of ongoing projects the city is involved in. This meant learning about the architecture, transportation, and economic development, which included how programs were funded and what were future developments planned for Quarto, the studio´s area of interest. Students also visited Digital Tree, which is a local entrepreneurial initiative, one of the many that are part of a new wave of high tech initiatives going on in the city. The great opportunity of meeting with students from Genoa, of understanding the administration's interests and initiatives, visiting the area and seeing the ongoing projects was a fascinating experience that enriched students' proposals and imageries of their work. Genoa is a city, very different from any other Italian city, with a high commercial and industrial activity, a strategic location, a diverse population and a unique medieval city center. Its loss of population in the last decades and outdated infrastructure have triggered the need for the new administration and its citizens to move forward and renovate their city.

Genoa is famous for being the land of pesto and having the best focaccia in Italy, something GSAPP students enjoyed many times during their visit. Our visit ended with a tour of the city and a visit to Renzo Piano´s office, which is 20 minutes away from Genoa. Now, having a better understanding of Genoa and of our site specifically, we are ready to continue working on our proposals that aim to enhance the urban infrastructure of the area and the Old Psychiatric hospital of Quarto. The work with UNIGE students continues, as one of the final products will be a joint publication showing their proposals and will be presented to the Commune of Genova – Genoa´s Municipality.

Laura Postarini (M.S. UP '19)

The Global Campus - Building University Spirit at Wenzhou-Kean University

Part of our trip included eating seafood, horse riding, and watching a 5D movie. With more than 50 interviews conducted over five days among the 12 participants that attended the trip, our goal was to build an attractive campus that could better serve and cultivate the community.

After investigating Wenzhou's social and cultural context, we found opportunities to enhance the social connections between the diverse group of people through practical improvements made to the physical environment. This was carried out through the mixing of facilities' functions, improving transportation accessibility, and create public space that is engaging. Our recommendations will cultivate innovation and entrepreneurship among students and enhance the out-of-classroom learning experience.

April Qiu (M.S. UP '19)

STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

Tara Heidger (M.S. UP/MIA '19) was selected for a Graduate Research Fellowship with the Earth Institute Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity AC4 to further her thesis research this summer in Rwanda. Her research will examine the many progressive policies put in place after the Rwanda Genocide, which aimed to resettle its rural farming population into grouped settlements as a way to provide basic infrastructure and social services. In June, with funding from AC4, Tara will conduct formal and informal interviews to collect qualitative data to determine the level of ownership and participation resettled persons feel as they move(d) into new communities with the goal of understanding effective resettlement policies which are important in both reconciliation and long-term peace.

UP Professor **Malo Hutson** discusses the range of factors that prevent black male children from growing up to be as financially successful as white males on radio news program *The Takeaway*. Listen here

UP Professor **Kian Tajbakhsh** authored an academic article titled, "Hind Swaraj: Reading Gandhi's Critique of Modernity in Tehran." Read more

MARCH 21ST LIPS RECAP

On March 21st, Carolina Reid, Assistant Professor, University of Californa, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, gave a lecture titled, "Redlining 2.0: Mortgage Lending in African American Neighborhoods after the Financial Crisis."

Reid began her lecture by identifying how foreclosures were previously limited to communities such as Rust Belt communities, which were severely impacted by economic decline. In 2007, however, foreclosures were not driven by weakened labor market or overall urban decline. Foreclosures were happening in areas that were not facing economic decline because of mortgage lending products. In her research, Reid analyzed foreclosure patterns through a racial lens. Institutional lending decisions led to higher foreclosure rates among Hispanic and African American households. For example, in California, Hispanic families whose primary language was Spanish were not consistently provided documents in Spanish by lenders. In terms of government response, the timing of assistance was critical. Loan modification programs to help families facing eviction from their homes came too late for Hispanic and African American households. The question of her research came down to answering, "Who is the house price recovery benefiting?"

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gloria Serra Coch

Where are you from?
Barcelona.

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Architecture. I have a bachelor's and master's degree from the Architecture School of Barcelona ETSAB-UPC. I also did a one-year exchange program in the Netherlands at TU Delft.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I wanted to expand my knowledge in the urbanism field and the US offered me a social approach to urban planning degrees that I could not find as easily in Spain. Columbia University attracted me for its global and diverse perspective and the GSAPP critical way to data management and visualization was key for my decision. And, of course, New York. I am in love with cities and I felt I could learn as much from the opportunity of living somewhere like New York as from any master's degree.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
My concentration in planning is urban analytics and I am interested in how can we critically address the use of data in the planning field. However, in general, I am stimulated by the rationale and methodologies we deploy to attempt answering questions about the city and understanding our environment. I am also deeply interested in the multiple perspectives of the human experience of the city and strangers' interactions in the public realm.

What is your dream career?
My dream career would be the one allowing me to combine teaching, research and professional practice in the architecture and urbanism field. My previous experiences have allowed me to see the advantages of integrating these worldviews and I would like to continue being able to do this in the future. Ideally, I would like to be part of a university while also having a studio that combines different types of professionals involved in thinking about how we live in cities.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I used to play the cello until I was 18 years old, when I dropped it. I would like to pick it up again, although, honestly, I was never very good at it.

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Shaochun "Matt" Zhou

Where are you from?
Shanghai, China.

Where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Tongji University, Shanghai, China.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
Columbia has a prestigious academic reputation and its location is also perfect. I enjoy living in big cities.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
Fundamentals of Urban Digital Design. Without any related background, I was excited to learn basic knowledge of graphic design and have my own publication.

What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
My concentration is community and economic development. I'm working on issues related to the history and current status of public housing regarding social problems.

What is your dream career?
Real estate development in the short-term, and transfer to real estate finance in the long-term.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Always squeeze in time for extracurricular activities and get well prepared for your life goals.

Rebecca Noble

Where are you from?
Sioux City, Iowa.

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied philosophy at Shimer College in Chicago, IL.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia because it offered more flexibility and greater opportunities than some of the other programs I was considering. The school's broad selection of electives, the quality of travel and internship opportunities, the frequency of guest lectures, and the thesis requirement made me think that it would be a pretty rigorous program, which is what I really wanted at the time.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
My favorite course was Introduction to GIS because we had a small class (six students) and we all became GIS badasses.

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I'm interested in most transit issues, especially ADA-accessibility, but part of why I became an urban planner is because I don't just have one interest in the field. I think planners are important because of the big-picture perspective we can bring to issues, so I try to keep that in the forefront of my studies and work. In keeping with that, I chose the most generic major: Built Environment.

What is your dream career?
Undecided. I think I'd prefer to hop around a bit in different planning roles.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Do Studio-X (photo above is of me in Paris on a Studio-X trip last year).

FELLOWSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

Morgan Stanley Graduate Community Development Fellowship, Application Deadline: March 30th
The Morgan Stanley Graduate Fellowship for Community Development Program provides an opportunity for nine Master's Degree students to take a significant role in a high-impact, community-based project targeting a low- and moderate-income neighborhood. Fellows will receive a $20,000 stipend to serve in a part-time (20 hours a week), ten month (September 1st – June 30th) internship in a neighborhood-based community development corporation (the host organization). Projects may be in the fields of affordable housing, economic development, or community planning. If you have any questions about it, feel free to contact Stephanie Sosa at Stephanie.S@anhd.org or former fellow Melanie Breault at Melanie.B@anhd.org. More info

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

OTHER NEWS

Paid Research Study on Wheelchair Access in Public Spaces and Transit
Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Ross Koppel is conducting a study of public transit accessibility for people with wheelchairs and walkers. He is seeking a few graduate students who can help with this research. The study focuses on people using wheeled mobility devices and other mobility aids (e.g., wheelchairs and walkers). The work will require participants to travel on public transportation to various sites around the city at different times of day and to observe and evaluate targeted sites with elevators. More info

STREETFIGHT, An Urban Revolution For New York And Beyond: Janette Sadik-Khan, March 26th at 11 am at Wood Auditorium
Janette Sadik-Khan is one of the world's foremost authorities on transportation and urban transformation. In this lecture, Sadik-Khan will elaborate on STREETFIGHT, pulling back the curtain on the battles fought and won, and how the city has greatly benefited from the changes. She will discuss how she achieved the radical overhaul of our streets, offering an empowering road map for rethinking, reinvigorating, and redesigning streets across the country to function better for the people and communities that use them. More info

Mobile Mapping Systems and Tools for Cultural Heritage Documentation, March 26th at 12 pm at Ware Lounge, Avery Hall
Cultural heritage is our deep soul. It is our unique legacy for all societies worldwide, but at the same time our common responsibility. It is the value that rewards humanity by providing the classical and universal principles, and provides the pan-human context of mutual understanding, respect, liberty and expression. The protection of cultural heritage is a matter for all and its recording and documentation a vital step towards preservation. The first part of this talk addresses the cultural heritage documentation context, the international framework on documentation by international charters and conventions, and the real needs that push organizations and people to operate in this process. The presentation of innovative mobile mapping systems enabling data capture and management for cultural heritage information of various scales, is closing this talk. More info

Book Launch | The Help-Yourself City, March 26th at 6 pm at 20 Cooper Square, 5th Floor, New York City
NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge invites you to join for the launch of Gordon Douglas's The Help-Yourself City: Legitimacy and Inequality in DIY Urbanism. The author will be present in conversation with Caroline Lee and Harvey Molotch. When local governments neglect public services or community priorities, how do concerned citizens respond? In The Help-Yourself City, Gordon Douglas looks closely at people who take urban planning into their own hands with homemade signs and benches, guerrilla bike lanes and more. Douglas explores the frustration, creativity, and technical expertise behind these interventions, but also the position of privilege from which they often come. Presenting a needed analysis of this growing trend from vacant lots to city planning offices, The Help-Yourself City tells a street-level story of people's relationships to their urban surroundings and the individualization of democratic responsibility. More info

Toward Resilient Cities and Landscapes, March 27th at 6pm at the Faculty House, 2nd Floor, 64 Morningside Drive, New York City
The event will combine an introduction and statement of purpose for the newly established Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes with a panel discussion. Attendees will learn about the center's inaugural project, the creation of a groundbreaking Resilience Accelerator in partnership with 100 Resilient Cities (100RC). The Resilience Accelerator aims to leverage the research, planning and design expertise at Columbia with the local knowledge and relationships of the partner cities to advance high priority resilience projects that will help cities confront the impacts of climate change. A panel of affiliated faculty will discuss how Columbia can bridge research and policy and bring science and design expertise to real world challenges in cities around the world. Panelists include:

- Radley Horton, Lamont Associate Research Professor and Co-Chair, Climate Adaptation Initiative, The Earth Institute
- Upmanu Lall, Director, Columbia Water Center, The Earth Institute
- Kate Orff, Director, Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes and Principal, SCAPE
- Thaddeus Pawlowski, Managing Director, Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes (moderator)
  More info

Design Earth, March 28th at 4 pm at Wood Auditorium
Organized by Tei Carpenter and David Benjamin as a part of Advanced Studio IV in conjunction with the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture's "Power: Infrastructure in America" research initiative, with Kadambari Baxi and Karen Fairbanks for Barnard's "Environmental Visualizations of NYC" seminar and David Eugin Moon for GSAPP's "Speculative City" seminar. Design Earth is a collaborative practice led by El Hadi Jazairy and Rania Ghosn. More info

Data Science Day @ Columbia University, March 28th at 9 am at Columbia University Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall
The Data Science Institute is soliciting demos and posters from all CU faculty and their students to be shown at our upcoming Data Science Day @ Columbia University. The audience will be mainly people from industry and government interested in learning more about research going on at the Institute. We are excited to showcase our research through demos and posters to generate industry enthusiasm prompting further engagement with the Institute. Submissions selected for presentation will receive FREE admission to the event. More info

Climate Change and Urban Heat: Exploring Patterns and Factors of Future Global Vulnerability, March 29th at 12 pm at Fayerweather Hall, Room 411
Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning Peter Marcotullio will be giving a talk in a few weeks titled "Climate Change and Urban Heat: Exploring Patterns and Factors of Future Global Vulnerability." The talk will be held on Thursday, March 29th, from 12 to 1 pm in Fayerweather Hall, Room 411 on the Columbia Morningside campus. Professor of Earth and Environmental Science, Joel Cohen, will act as moderator. More info

Social Capital and Your City, March 30th at 1.30 pm at Ware Lounge, Avery Hall
Lecture by Geeta Mehta, founder and president of Asia Initiatives and Adjunct Professor at Columbia GSAPP. Architecture and urban design are social acts, so must have a social purpose that should be central to any design. Geeta challenges the current practice where developers accept or reject proposals based upon financial bottom lines alone. Along with an "environment impact statement", she proposes that a "social impact statement" also be required of projects in order to preserve and nurture the most precious asset of cities- their Social Capital. The requirement to report the financial, social and environmental bottom line of all projects will help make our cities more equitable. Geeta will present examples of this concept from her field projects in India, Ghana and Kenya. More info

Columbia University's Sustainable Development Doctoral Program's Seventh Annual Summer School in Paris, Application Deadline: April 1st
Columbia University's Sustainable Development Doctoral Program is pleased to announce its Seventh Annual Summer School in Paris, from 28 May to 1 June 2018, in cooperation with the Alliance institutions of École Polytechnique, Sciences Po, and Université Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne. This year's topic is Research Methods in Sustainable Development, with applications to urban planning, social and economic network analysis, machine learning and big data for international development and climate policy. Each day, the summer school will open with presentations by world-class researchers and policy-makers; the afternoon will be dedicated to practical workshops focused on building skills in cutting-edge quantitative research tools. More info

Building the Arab City, April 6th at 1.30 pm at Ware Lounge, Avery Hall
Lecture by Ziad Jamaleddine, founder of L.E.FT Architects and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia GSAPP. The lecture will look at the urban and architectural evolution of the 'Arab City' through the formation and the making of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional political map. 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

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

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

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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