

April 27, 2020

Dear GSAPP Family,

There is a word that has stuck to GSAPP for decades. That word is “experimental.” Like an old tattoo that refuses the passing of time, this word continues to stand-in for the school’s commitment to a form of education that is exploratory and open-ended, rather than singularly bound by professional and academic requirements.

And yet, to position the “experimental” and the “professional,” or even “research” and “practice,” against one another is precisely the type of reductive opposition that GSAPP has successfully resisted over the years. These terms, which appear to signal different approaches and positions, are entirely interdependent. GSAPP’s experimental capacity has always been fueled by the most remarkable talent that surrounds it professionally in New York City. These individuals—regardless of generation and regardless of whether they work in the city or commute through it—have always enlisted the school as a laboratory to explore their hypotheses about the field and its possible directions. They have rendered GSAPP a unique condenser of ideas, continuously reorienting architecture and the built environment.

This incredible, seemingly inexhaustible, and endlessly generous energy has revolved especially around pedagogy. The bedrocks of design, planning, and real estate education—the studio, the review, the case study—have been disassembled and reassembled in new ways over the years, each time with the intention of pushing the boundaries of both container (what constitutes the space of the school) and content (what and who we choose to teach). And each time, this encounter re-invents not only *what* we teach but *how*. It is perhaps because of their position, with one foot in the school and one foot in the field, that adjunct faculty at GSAPP have always kept us on our toes, reframing how we see the built environment and what tools and methods we can use to transform it.

This past week, as final reviews and other final classes took place, I was lifted again by the quality and inventiveness of student work—with resourceful models assembling everything from clay to cupcake molds, beautifully rough and textured renderings, carefully detailed drawings, sizzling critiques, and witty collages. But I was also heartened by the lively, committed gatherings and conversations around this insightful work: the faculty, critics, colleagues, and friends, who showed up and carved precious time out of their own practices and lives (practices and lives made more precarious in this moment) to share their thoughts with us.

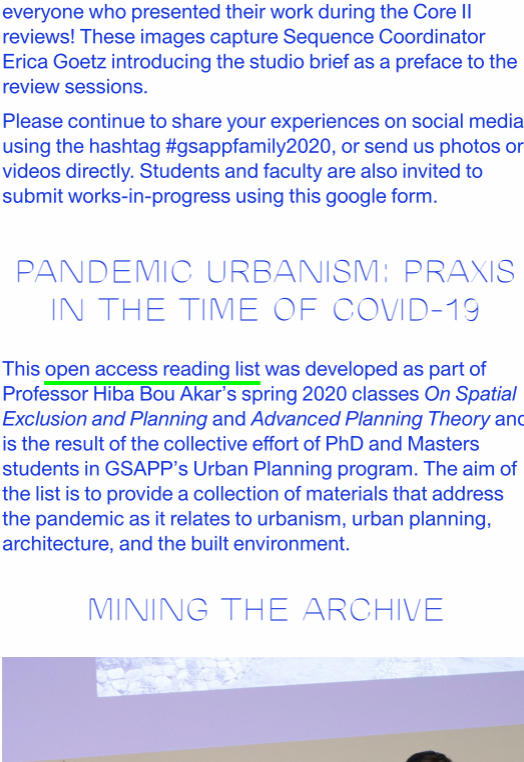
They brought a refreshing sense of ease and casualness to remote practice and discourse: carefully commenting, highlighting, and sketching on top the drawings on their screen, engaging in a discussion that gave faculty, critics, and students alike a seat at the table. In just a few days, it felt like all the built-in hierarchies that the form of “architectural critique” has worked hard to maintain over centuries had been undone—leaving some extra space, I hope, for the “experimental” and the “professional” to co-produce something different for our field.

So, as we embark on what will probably one of the most radical experiment in architectural and urban education for the future, I want to dedicate this week’s Mining the Archive to our adjunct faculty, our professional colleagues and friends in New York and around the world, who continue to make GSAPP the endlessly optimistic and experimental space of learning and exchange that it is and will continue to strive to be.

Sincerely,

Amale

#GSAPPFAMILY2020



Final reviews kicked off last week—congratulations to everyone who presented their work during the Core II reviews! These images capture Sequence Coordinator Erica Goetz introducing the studio brief as a preface to the review sessions.

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.

PANDEMIC URBANISM: PRAXIS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

This [open access reading list](#) was developed as part of Professor Hiba Bou Akar’s spring 2020 classes *On Spatial Exclusion and Planning* and *Advanced Planning Theory* and is the result of the collective effort of PhD and Masters students in GSAPP’s Urban Planning program. The aim of the list is to provide a collection of materials that address the pandemic as it relates to urbanism, urban planning, architecture, and the built environment.

MINING THE ARCHIVE



A selection dedicated to our adjunct faculty, our professional colleagues and friends in New York and around the world.

15 Feb 2016
[Mimi Hoang responds to Pezo von Ellrichshausen](#)
Hoang identifies the careful siting and representation of Sophia von Ellrichshausen and Mauricio Pezo’s work, and asks them to expand on their design process in creating buildings as objects with a distinct internal and external hierarchy.

2 June 2017
[Bryony Roberts in conversation with Andrés Jaque](#)
Roberts speaks with Jaque about using performance as a medium to critically engage cultural history and the relationship between performance and architectural space in this GSAPP Conversations podcast.

18 Sept 2017
[Adam Frampton responds to Urbanus](#)
Frampton considers how Meng Yan’s engagement the urban might be understood as an agenda of moving away from Western models, and pushes the architect to reflect on his role as an urban mediator negotiating the supposed split between city planning and building design.

March 2018
[Justin Garrett Moore moderates “Health Equity: Shaping Just Societies”](#)
Moore (’04 MSAUD) leads an interdisciplinary discussion on global and local efforts focused on addressing health inequities through urban planning and public health practices at multiple scales.

24 Sept 2018
[Emmett Zeifman responds to de Vylder Vinck Tailleur](#)
Zeifman prompts Jan de Vylder to expand on the role of references in their work and the tension between the “rules” of material and the unexpected, playful potentials of color and form.

1 Oct 2018
[Christoph Kumpusch responds to Kennedy+Violich](#)
Kumpusch leads a conversation with Sheila Kennedy and J. Frano Violich on building a practice embedded in academia and research, and their approach to “material thinking” as a means to negotiate scale and rethink sustainability in the building realm.

Please feel free to send us your own favorites.

AVERY SELECTS

This week, we’d like to focus the attention on the April issue of the *Avery Review*, which celebrates the students who submitted winning entries to the third annual Essay Prize. The essays are evidence of a commitment to deepening our collective understanding of the objects of architectural thought, and to testing the limits of the essay as a form. We are proud to re-present them here.

In issue 46, first prize winner [Athena Do](#) (University of California at Berkeley) parses the design guidelines of the Development Handbook for the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center; second prize winner [Sameeh Ahmed-Arai](#) (University of Cape Town) refracts the Sipopo Congress Center in New Guinea, and the development discourse structures it, through an anti-“anti-politics” lens; second prize winner [James Andrew Billingsley](#) (University of Pennsylvania) composes an alternative portrait of Greenland that is layered, complex, diverse, and rogue; and [Romy Kießling](#) (Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths) considers whether private property rights might be a way of addressing climate change accountability.

FINAL REVIEWS

<p>Monday, April 27 Advanced IV Architecture Studio 9:00 AM <i>Caribbean Reconnections: A Sustainable Future for Puerto Rican Island</i> Richard Plunz</p> <p>10 AM–1 PM & 2–5 PM <i>The Shells of Newburgh</i> Bob Marino</p> <p>2:00 PM <i>Design for Obsolescence: Dual Futures of Parking Decks, Prisons, Zoos</i> Phu Hoang</p> <p><i>Tomkins Cove Quarry: Extraction, Succession, Retreat</i> Lindy Roy</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 28 Advanced IV Architecture Studio 9:00 AM <i>Scales of Environment</i> Lindsey Wikstrom</p> <p>2:00 PM <i>From Landscape to Architecture and Architecture to Landscape</i> Adam Frampton</p> <p><i>Knowledge Territories, R/Urban Ecologies</i> Nahyun Hwang</p> <p><i>In the Name of GOD: An Investigation into a Rural Religious Settlement, NY</i> Ziad Jamaledine</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 29 Advanced VI Architecture Studio 9:00 AM <i>Infrastructural Geography: Water, Leisure and Energy Policies</i> Juan Herreros</p> <p><i>Kitchenless Stories</i> Anna Puigjaner</p> <p>2:00 PM <i>Havana Micro X: Modernist City Planning Model in a Post- Modern World</i> Olga Aleksakova and Julia Burdova</p> <p><i>Architecture must scale 3: Architecture and the Teacherless School</i> Michael Bell</p> <p><i>Something of Value</i> Galina Solomonoff</p>	<p>Thursday, April 30 Advanced VI Architecture Studio 9:00 AM <i>Space of Water</i> Mario Gooden</p> <p><i>Mixed Use, Staircases, Social...</i> Hilary Sample</p> <p>2:00 PM <i>What if...? Then... Urban-scaled Architectural Speculation in Tokyo</i> Sarah Dunn</p> <p><i>Factory</i> Mimi Hoang</p> <p><i>Architectonics of Music</i> Steven Holl and Dimitra Tsachrelia</p>
<p>Friday, May 1 Advanced VI Architecture Studio 9:00 AM <i>Copula Hall</i> Stephen Cassell and Annie Barrett</p> <p><i>The Street Studio</i> Jing Liu</p> <p>2:00 PM <i>Forest-To-City: Architecture as Open System</i> David Benjamin</p> <p><i>Amazonia after Fitzcarraldo</i> Pedro Rivera</p> <p><i>Open Work</i> Enrique Walker</p>	<p>Monday, May 4 Advanced VI Architecture Studio 2:00 PM <i>Makergraph Studio</i> Ada Tolla and Giuseppe Lignano</p> <p><i>Agent Orange</i> Mark Wasitua</p>

URBAN DESIGN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Water Urbanism Studio
Great Rift Valley: Urban Transformation Along a Global Transect
Faculty: Kate Orff, Coordinator; Lee Altman; Adriana Chavez; Dilip da Cunha; Fitsum Gelaye; Johanna Lovecchio; Geeta Mehta; Thad Pawlowski; and Julia Watson
Tel Aviv
Monday, April 27
9:00 AM–12:00 PM
Addis Ababa
Tuesday, April 28
9:00 AM–12:30 PM
Beira
Wednesday, April 29
9:00 AM–12:00 PM

Thursday, April 30
11:00AM–1:00PM
Baltimore Capstone Presentations
Columbia students and the Collaborative Community Development Lab have focused on development without displacement as a way of delivering community wealth building strategies in East Baltimore. Led by faculty Brian Loughlin and MSRED alumni Ernst Valery, the team has collaborated with developers, elected officials, city agencies, and members of the community to develop a preliminary Master Plan for city-owned sites in the Baltimore neighborhood of Oliver. Ranging from new models for affordable home ownership to innovative strategies designed to spur economic development in a post-COVID landscape, each team of students will be presenting their proposals for equitable development.

SUPER CRIT

CORE II STUDIOS
Monday, May 4
2:00 PM
Erica Goetz, 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 28. Registration will open Monday, April 27 at 12pm EST. Preview the alumni participating this week before requesting your appointment! Please contact gsappalumni@columbia.edu with any questions.

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

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