SSA THE BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

FALL/WINTER 2013-14

History Ascendant

Professor June Williamson

The SSA welcomes two new full-time junior faculty members in architectural history this year, Prof. Cesare Birignani and Prof. Sean Weiss. Birignani is a historian of early modern European architecture and urban planning, with a PhD from Columbia University's GSAPP. Weiss has a PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center and his focus is on architecture and urbanism in the 19th century up to the present. I recently sat down to talk with them and Prof. Marta Gutman, who specializes in the intersections of late 19th and 20th century U.S. architectural and social history.

How do you see the role of architectural history in a professional school of architecture, with degree programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design and urban sustainability?

MG: In brief, our four-semester history sequence is needed to meet NAAB accreditation requirements for our two professional programs in architecture, and is supplemented with electives that move out to encompass the needs of the other programs.

CB: Architectural history serves many roles within a school of architecture. The most important, I believe, is to teach students how to think historically, which essentially means to think critically. In addition to offering students a global panorama of architectural history, the attempt is to help students look critically about architecture as a discipline and eventually to consider with critical eyes their own work.

What trends do you see in architectural historiography and its impact on the design of the built environment?

SW: In light of the vast overhaul that the architectural profession has witnessed over the past 20 years with the development of digital technologies, we are in a very technical moment in architecture. When we are in historical moments that emphasize technology there is a tendency to forget about history, as we saw in American architectural pedagogy in the 40s and 50s and that led to some pretty negative impacts. We now have to learn from that mistake from 60 years ago and assert that history plays an important role in light of these digital transformations. The Spitzer School of Architecture is well poised to answer those questions in an interesting way, with our emphasis on social justice, environmental justice and our incredibly diverse student body.

CB: I would add that especially here where we have all these programs, the city—and the dialectics between architecture and the city—becomes more and more an object of study. The city is the site in which most of our students will eventually operate.

What opportunities are offered by the tripling of the architectural history faculty?

MG: They are considerable, especially the opportunities to address new topics, for instance in the history of infrastructure and building technologies. The expansion of the faculty allows us to develop a curriculum that's logical and to continue to unify the four-semester survey course sequence. In particular, we seek to hone the writing component with colleagues in the School of Education. I'm really looking forward to it, especially as a model for collaboration across The City College.

CB: We will be able to strengthen the four-semester sequence that already exists. The other great advantage is that we will be able to develop a number of seminars to explore urban questions, to introduce the study of architectural theory, and to consider architecture as a form of cultural production.

SW: Having three full-time faculty here also means that we can all participate in reviews. History is going to permeate practice in unexpected ways, simply by having us around!

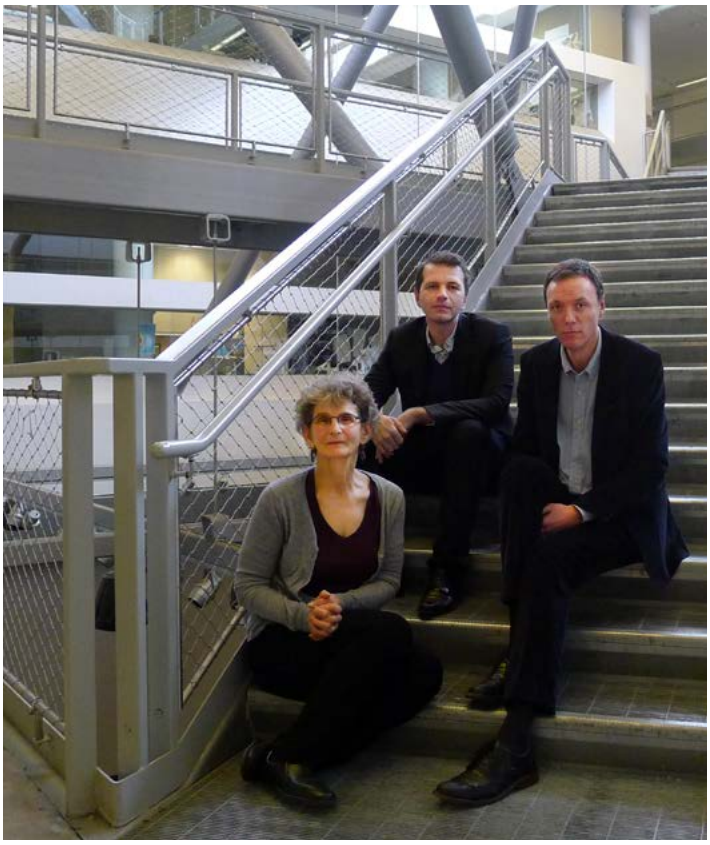
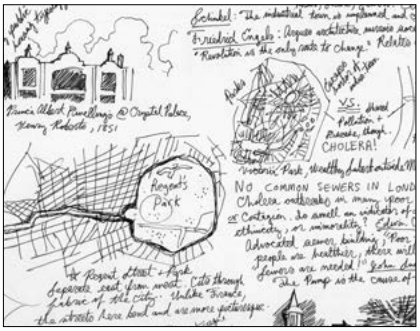


PHOTO: JUNE WILLIAMSON



ABOVE: From left, architectural historians Marta Gutman, Sean Weiss and Cesare Birignani. BELOW: A page from the architectural history sketchbook of MArch student Sal Cosenza.

The City College of New York

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STUDENT NEWS

Awards

Congratulations to the following SSA graduates who received top awards at the graduation ceremony last spring:

- MArch I Outstanding Design Project: **Michael Luft-Weissberg**
- Dean's Design Scholarship sponsored by Frank J. Sciame, Jr.: **Tate Sumner**
- ASLA Awards: **B. Tyler Silvestro** (Honor) and **Danae Alessi** (Merit)
- Rachel Carson Award (achievement in MLA and MUD): **Ofer Bilik**
- Matthew W. Del Guadio Award (BArch Best Thesis): **Artur Dabrowski**
- AIA Henry Adams Medal (BArch): **Anthony Carrion**
- AIA Certificate of Merit (BArch): **Sarah Saada**
- Alpha Rho Chi Medal (BArch): **Cheng-Jui (Rei) Chiang**
- Faculty History and Theory Award: **Laura Sanburn** (grad), **Veronica Velasquez** (undergrad)
- Olmsted Scholar (MLA): **Danae Alessi**

In addition, top scholarship awards to continuing students include:

- Frederick Bainnson Memorial Scholarship (MLA): **Ryan Morrison**
- NYC ASLA Scholarship (MLA): **Sara Malmqvist**
- Ennead Architects Scholarship (BArch): **Chrisoula Kapelonis**
- Gerner, Kronick & Valcarcel Art of Architecture Scholarship (BArch): **Filipp Blyakher**
- Carol J. Weissman Kurth Scholarship (BArch): **Susan Wu** (BArch)
- CCNY Architecture Alumni Association Scholarship (BArch): **Idan Saragosti** and **Christopher Innelli**
- Extech Award for Technology (BArch): **Jennifer Cona**
- Brooklyn Architectural Foundation Scholarship (BArch): **Chrisoula Kapelonis**
- J. Max Bond Center Scholarship: **Claire Ross**
- Bernard L. Spanier Memorial Scholarship (BArch): **Jacline Vargas** and **Ryan Hung**
- Fred L. Leibmann Book Award: **Christin L. Hu**
- VAI Megan Lawrence Memorial Award: **Shereese Trumpet** and **Wei Ying Zhang**
- WX Women in Real Estate Scholarships: **Sheila Moss** and **Danae Alessi**
- AIA NYC Eleanor Allwork Scholarship (BArch): **Anthony Giron**

The Spitzer Travel Fellows this year are **Diana Chang** and **Vladimir Shumovych** (BArch) for the proposal "Standing at the Four Corners: Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah," **Michael Luft-Weissberg** (MArch) for "Living With Water: Cambodia," and **Steve Ramirez** (BArch) for "Medellin, Columbia: Architectural Renaissance."

The collective work of the 3rd year BArch studio of Prof. **Alberto Foyo** received a national award from the Society of American Registered Architects (SARA). The project, entitled "Community Living in Bushwick" was designed by **Christian Camacho**, **Magdalena Checo**, **Nooreen Kagzi**, **Evan Kalogiannis**, **William McMillen**, **Deswacy Powel**, **Veronica Rivas**, **Melissa Santana**, **Moe Myat Thu**, **Man Tung**, **Tiffany Urosa**, and **Diana Zwetzich**.

Prof. **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson** received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for a year long study entitled *New Directions in Coastal Resilient Design Strategies*. Seavitt is leading a research team for Jamaica Bay, examining multiple layers of infrastructure to re-envision the Bay as an ecological and community asset. Research Associates include **Kjirsten Alexander** (MLA 2012), **Danae Alessi** (MLA 2013) and second-year MLA student **Eli Sands**.

PHOTO: JUNE WILLIAMSON

ABOVE: Atlantic Avenue Studio exhibition opening at Grumpy Bert, in Brooklyn, May 2013.

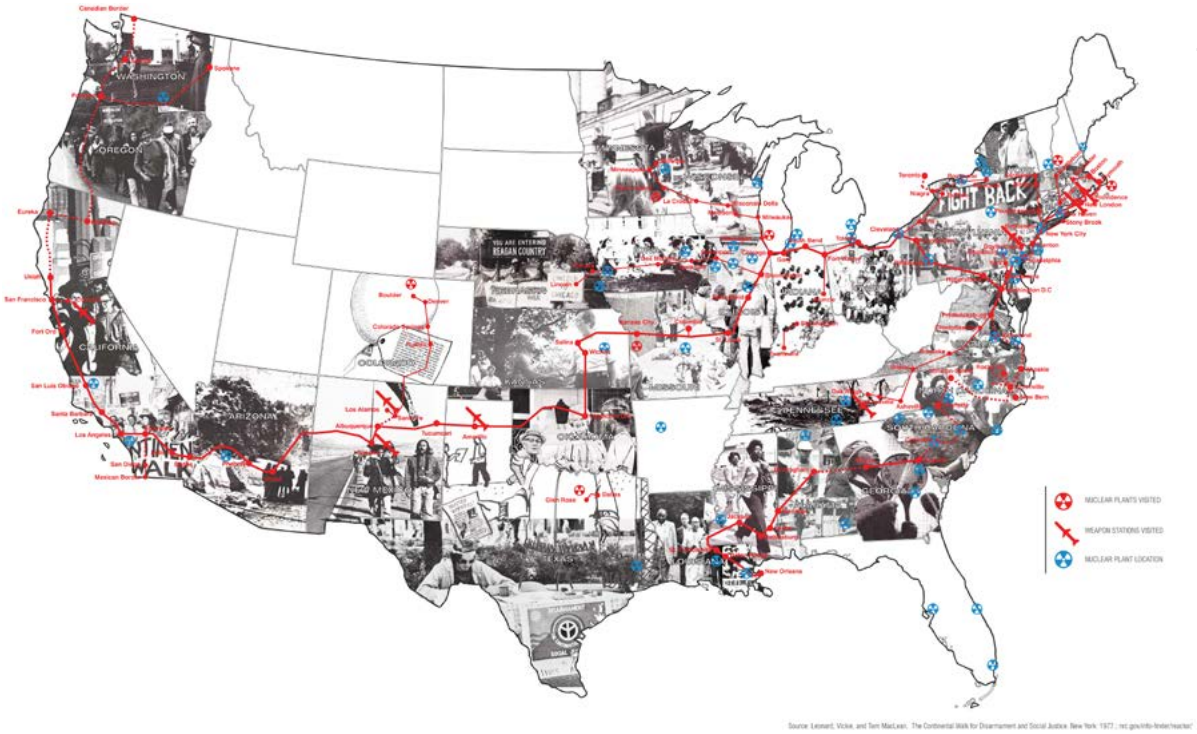
Milestones

The New Museum and First Street Green invited the Spring 2013 MArch students of Profs. **Brad Horn** and **Elisabetta Terragni** to exhibit their studio work "Dream City Map."

The Spring 2013 4th year BArch studio students of Profs. **Timothy Collins**, **Joan Krevlin**, **Martin Stigsgaard** and **June Williamson** exhibited their building designs at Grumpy Bert in Brooklyn. The projects were designed with the support of the Atlantic Avenue BID.

The J. Max Bond Center, in partnership with the Graduate Architecture Club (GAC) and SSA faculty, launched **JMBC**

BELOW: Section through "Community Living in Bushwick," the award-winning group project of 3rd year BArch students.



LEFT: Continental Walk Map, from "Talks not Troops" by Nandini Bagchee, 2013.

SOURCE: LEFT, NANDINI BAGCHEE; BELOW, ANTONIO FURGIUELE

Talks, a collaborative discussion series designed to foster greater conversation and exchange of ideas between the SSA community of students, faculty and the initiatives of the J. Max Bond Center, SSA's design research and service lab.

Travel & Trips

Dean **George Ranalli** hosted a fall day trip for two bus loads of students to metro Philadelphia to visit Beth Shalom Congregation in Elkins Park, the only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as Richards Medical Labs by Louis Kahn, Fisher Fine Arts Library and the Hill College House at the University of Philadelphia. A special thank you to Jill Rosen at Beth Shalom for helping to organize the site visit and catered lunch. ▦

FACULTY NEWS

Joe Tanney of RES4 Architecture and **John Hong** of SsD return this fall as Distinguished Visiting Professors. Welcome back!.

Associate Professor **Jacob Alspector**'s new high school for Grace Church School was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* in "Schoolhouse Architecture Gets Hip."

The house in Amagansett, New York, designed by Assistant Professor **Nandini Bagchee** and Tim Furzer was published in the book *Interiors Now 3* (Taschen). Her proposal "Sock Farm," for an energy harvesting structure, was published in the book, *Regenerative Infrastructures: Freshkills Park NYC* (Prestel). She presented the paper "Talks not Troops: Mobilizing for Peace in New York" at the 15th Conference of the Society for American City & Regional Planning History; Associate Professor **June Williamson** presented "Americans Abroad: Aramco's Ras Tanura Compound circa 1970" in the same session.

"A Haitian 'Ecodistrict': Conceptual Design for Integrated, Basic Infrastructure for the Commune of Léogâne" by Professor **Hillary Brown** appeared in the Springer journal *Earth Perspectives*.

Professor **Lance Jay Brown** moderated, and helped organize, a high-level panel on urban resiliency at the UN-Habitat World Habitat Day conference in New York in the recently restored and celebrated ECOSOC chamber at the United Nations. He continues active participation as co-chair of the AIA New York Chapter's Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee.

Adjunct Assistant Professor **Timothy Collins** exhibited artwork in the "All of the Above" group show, hosted by Openings at the historic Church of St John the Apostle in Manhattan.

Adjunct Professor **Alberto Foyo** gave a keynote address at the International Conference on the Future of the Russian City, in Yekaterinburg, Russia. His work in the Amazon basin was included in the Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura de Buenos Aires, in Argentina.

Adjunct Lecturer **Antonio Furgiuele** co-founded Sept/May, a collaborative for the advancement of experimentation between film, performance and architecture.

Professor **Toni Griffin** spoke on the future of Detroit at this year's TEDCity2.0 event in New York City.

"Art and About," the new BronxNet show hosted by Adjunct Lecturer **Daniel Hauben**, evoked comparisons from the *New York Daily News* to 1980s-era "Joy of Painting" with Bob Ross on PBS.

Adjunct Associate Professor **Ali Höcek** spoke at the

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ABOVE: Installation in Cambridge, Mass., by the Sept/May collaborative of Antonio Furgiuele, 2013.

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symposium "Contributions of Turkish-American Architects and Engineers to the American Skyline," held at Columbia University.

Associate Professor **Denise Hoffman Brandt** was named to Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People for 2013. She moderated the "Utilities" discussion at the Municipal Art Society's Road Forward symposium and was an invited delegate in the Remaking Cities Congress hosted by Carnegie Mellon University and the AIA.

Adjunct Professor **David Hotson** won an Architzer A+ Jury Award and a Best of Year Award from *Interior Design* Magazine for his Sky-House project, a four-story residential penthouse situated at the summit of one of the earliest surviving skyscrapers in New York.

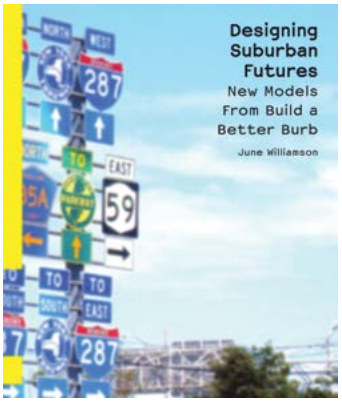
"Levitation Space" by Adjunct Assistant Professor **David Judelson**, a room-size installation described as "a blizzard of cascading bamboo rods," was featured at the Governors Island Art Fair 2013.

The architecture and detailing work of Associate Professor **Julio Salcedo-Fernandez** was featured in the books *Designers Abroad* (Monacelli) and *Detail in Contemporary Bar and Restaurant Design* (Laurence King Publishers).

Associate Professor **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson**'s essay "River's Edge: Climate Change and Risk Assessment" appeared in *ArtForum* (Sept 2013). The article "Yangtze River Delta Project" was published in "Rethinking Infrastructure," Volume 4 of the journal *Landscape Urbanism*.

Associate Professor **Elisabetta Terragni** contributed the chapter "Cold War Panor(a)ma: Porto Palermo Museum in Albania" to the book *Re-enacting the Past: Museography for Conflict Heritage* (Lettera Ventidue). Her museum projects were featured in *Infrastruttura e Paesaggio Urbano 2* and *European Museums in the 21st Century: Setting the Framework*.

Associate Professor **June Williamson** published the book *Designing Suburban Futures: New Models from Build a Better Burb* (Island Press), which features 21 design proposals for Long Island, including schemes by **Denise Hoffman Brandt** and **Julio Salcedo-Fernandez**. She contributed the chapter "Protest on the Astroturf at Downtown Silver Spring: July 4, 2007" to *Social Justice in Diverse Suburbs: History, Politics, and Prospects* (Temple University Press). Her first book, *Retrofitting Suburbia*, is now available in Mandarin.



***Designing Suburban Futures* by June Williamson.**

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The Architecture Alumni Group, working with the CCNY Development Office, spearheaded a crowd-funding campaign this fall on Indiegogo to return the Solar Roofpod back to our school and install it on the roof of the Spitzer Building. We are all looking forward to a successful effort.

On another front, Dean **George Ranalli** has established a $1000 prize to be awarded to the best notebook among students enrolled in the four-semester sequence of architectural history courses. The notebooks will be assessed on both the quality of the sketches and the effectiveness of the notes.

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SOURCE: ISLAND PRESS

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