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All events take place at 6:30 pm in Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall.
Urban Planning
Winter 2013

Informality: Re-Defining Architecture and Urbanism in Latin America Conference

May Yu and Alejandro de Castro Mazarro were one of twenty-five scholars selected to present their paper on the implications of slum research bias on architecture and planning at the Informality: Re-Defining Architecture and Urbanism in Latin America conference in Morelia, Mexico on November 8-10, 2012. Additionally, their paper was included in a peer-reviewed publication following the event. May and Alejandro represented GSAPP and the Latin Lab, presenting to a group of over two-hundred students and researchers from various Latin American universities, as well as colleagues from the University of Cambridge, University of California, Harvard GSD. Their presentation was very well received, and they plan on expanding their research to incorporate new discussions from the conference. May is a second-year planning student and Alejandro is an Associate Adjunct Research Scholar and the Program Coordinator for the Latin American and Caribbean Laboratory.

Up Alumnus’ Organization Recognized

This fall, Urban Patch, a neighborhood development and urban design nonprofit, received Ioby’s Heroes In Our Backyard award. Ioby, whose name stems from the opposite of “dog,” is a platform for community- and city-based crowdfunding. The winners were selected from over 2,000 nominees in a contest that recognizes projects and individuals who are working on ideas to create positive change in their communities. Urban Patch is based in the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood in Indiana. UP Alumnus Justin Garrett Moore serves as the Co-Director and Urban Designer for Urban Patch. He is also a Senior Urban Designer and City Planner for the City of the New York Department of City Planning.

Symposium for Chinese Urbanization

A student-organized symposium on Chinese Urbanization will take place Friday February 22nd, from 9am - 1 pm in 200 Fayerweather South. The purpose of this symposium is, first, to begin a conversation on Chinese urbanization that reflects on past and current trends and lessons to be learned and, second, to use this occasion to bring together Chinese students from urban planning programs in the New York region to discuss U.S. planning education and its relevance for Chinese students. Guest speaker Professor Weiping Wu of Tsinghua University, will present “Urban China: Spatial and Regional Transformations,” followed by a student panel discussion, “Where Are We Heading? Chinese Planning Students after Graduation.”

Faculty News

Adjunct faculty member and UP Alumnus Georgia Bullen and UP Alumnus Greta Byrum will be lecturing for an upcoming Coursera class called TechniCity. The first Massive Open Online Course on planning technology will focus on how the increasing availability of networks, sensors and mobile technologies allows for new approaches to address the challenges that our cities face (https://www.coursera.org/course/technicity).

Visiting Professor Jeffrey Lowe has accepted a position as an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas South University. Lowe spent the past three years with us at GSAPP, teaching Introduction to Housing and Community Development. We wish him the best of luck in this new endeavor!

Latin Lab Director Clara Irazábal has been appointed as an international collaborator in three Chilean projects:

- The National Research Center for Integrated Natural Disasters Management
- “The City in the Global South and the Global North: A Comparative Analysis.” Catholic University of Maule’s research and event-series project
- “Urban Sustainability Analysis through Urbanization Patterns of two Chilean Cities: Santiago and Valparaiso.” Catholic University of Chile’s (PUC) IDR-sponsored project on “Sustainable Cities in Latin America”.

Irazábal also spoke at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and the Universidad Santiago de Chile on November 9th and 10th, respectively. She discussed megaevents and megaprojects in the context of Rio de Janeiro and their implications for inclusionary and affordable housing.

Symposium for Chinese Urbanization

This spring, scholars from Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile will join to assess recent urban projects, public space, and architecture in Chile. Particularly, these architects, planners, and other multidisciplinary researchers will look at the redevelopment projects after the 2010 earthquake that destroyed both urban and rural areas across the country. Assess: Chile at Columbia, will include an exhibit on the fourth floor of Avery Hall and an afternoon conference in Wood Auditorium. A reception to meet the visiting scholars and view the exhibit will also take place that Friday night. This will be the second conference in the series organized by the Latin Lab, after last year’s successful “Colombia at Columbia.” The set of events is co-sponsored by GSAPP, Chilean Council of Culture and Arts, Columbia Global Center in Chile, Embassy of Chile, and the Institute for Latin American Studies.

Save the Date

Assess: Chile at Columbia

Friday March 29th
Conference: 1 pm, Wood Auditorium; Reception and exhibit opening to follow.

Inaki Ábalos, Harvard Graduate School of Design;
Stan Allen, Princeton University SOA;
Luis Eduardo Bresciani, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile;
Romy Hecht, Harvard Graduate School of Design;
Clara Irazábal, Columbia University GSAPP;
Rodrigo Pérez de Arce, Harvard Graduate School of Design;
Saskia Sassen, Columbia University Sociology;
Galía Solomonoff, Columbia University GSAPP;
Enrique Walker, Columbia University GSAPP

Internships Wanted!

If your workplace could use some talented help this year, please contact us for planning student interns!

up@arch.columbia.edu

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What are some of the most unforgettable experiences you had while in Columbia’s Urban Planning program?
Visits from Jane Jacobs and Susan Sontag. Lectures by Bob Stern and seminars with Mary McLeod. The elevator turning red when Bernard Tschumi arrived as Dean.

What suggestions do you have for current GSAPP PhD and Master’s students that will help them get the most out of their education?
Remind yourselves what an amazing luxury you have! And approach your Columbia experience, as well as living in NYC, as an opportunity to build upon your own gifts in order to best leverage the capacities of places and communities.

Your new book Good Urbanism: Six Steps to Creating Prosperous Places, provides a six-step process for achieving good urbanism. Can you provide a brief introduction to these steps?
Good Urbanism describes a paradigm shift currently underway from focusing on deficits and objects to focusing on assets and potential, and that requires a systematic approach. This path consists of 6 steps: Prospect, Polish, Propose, Prototype, Promote, and Present.

The first step – Prospect - is the most important and most often bypassed. This step reveals the gems of places and communities, as well as our own initial intuitions about what should happen. It is essential because we have to listen to ourselves before we can really listen to others. Otherwise, that voice inside may scream so loud, we can’t hear anything or anyone else and will have a tendency to control the process. When this occurs, creativity is stifled and outcomes are compromised. This step is also essential because authentic transformation occurs through building upon existing capacity, not dragging and dropping ideas from elsewhere. Having identified our own ideas (MeSearch), those of stakeholders (WeSearch), and the major issues related to the project (ReSearch), the second step – Polish – refines those rough gems to Propose (step 3) a synthetic concept for moving forward. These proposals protect what is valued, enhance what may be underperforming, and then add new elements. Promote (step 4) communicates the proposal with others in a variety of ways, gathering additional feedback to adjust it accordingly, while also building support. The next step, Prototype, tests the concept in order to refine it. Finally, we Present the project to partners entrusted with moving it forward and proceed to undertake new projects.

One case study in the book is the High Line in New York City. After working in urban planning across the country, what distinct challenges remain for New York City planning projects?
NYC carries the burden of maintaining its role as a thought and creative leader, so is less free to fail, which means it is less free to experiment and ultimately, to be innovative. While NYC continues to lead in many ways, much of the most interesting work, as well as opportunities for young designers, is occurring elsewhere, in places that are more willing and able to take risks and approach projects with fresh perspectives.

How do you envision your book will help current GSAPP Planning students in their studies?
I hope Good Urbanism will help students of GSAPP and elsewhere reveal, value, and express their own sparks of creativity - born of intuition, education, and experience - while also listening to others with an attitude of respect and appreciation. I hope it will help them practice the “tao of urbanism,” recognizing the good that already exists, so that the greatest problems can become the greatest opportunities. In this way, they will be able to envision and realize better futures in a world that needs them now more than ever.

LIPS LECTURES IN PLANNING SERIES

2/12 Jay Arena
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, CLUN
Planning, Privatization, and Public Works: Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, and the People’s “Silver Lining”
2/26 Toni Griffin
Detroit Works Project, Founder of Urban Planning and Design for the American City

Making Sense of Place: Portland or Phoenix

3/12 Estor Fuchs
Director, Urban and Social Policy Program, SIPA

3/26 Film Screening
Making Sense of Place: Portland or Phoenix

All lectures occur at 1pm in Avery 114

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

First year Urban Planning students, Jet Richardson and Amy Yang have been chosen to represent Columbia as the new APA New York Metro Chapter Student Representatives. Amy and Jet will attend chapter meetings, plan networking events, and attend the annual APA Conference in Chicago later this spring. Both students are pursuing dual degrees; Jet with International Affairs in SIPA and Amy with Public Health in the Mailman School.
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URBAN PLANNING

NARRATE.
Market Menagerie: Health and Development in Late Industrial States
How are stories of health care and delivery within the developing world told? Launch for Smita Srinivas’s recent book on the political economy of care in the developing world. Jason Cone, Médecins Sans Frontières
Stephen Mayes, VII Photo Agency
Brian McGrath, Parsons The New School for Design
Patricia Thomas, University of Georgia
Smita Srinivas, GSAPP
Organized by the Technological Change Lab

POWER.
On the Future of Energy
Sponsored by Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope* Emerging thinkers discuss new trends in energy for the 21st Century.

DISPOSSESS.
Judith Butler
Noted philosopher Judith Butler uses the photographs of photographer Kent Klich to discuss dispossession in contemporary Gaza.

BOOM.
The Future of the Museum in China
Melissa Chiu, Asia Society
Jeffrey Johnson, GSAPP
Steven Hall, GSAPP
John Rajchman, Columbia University Art History and Archaeology
Mark Wiggley, GSAPP
Pei Zhu, Studio Pei-Zhu
How does the trend to include museums within large-scale developments in China today result in a glut of exhibition spaces, and what should be done with the excess?

All events take place at 6:30 pm in Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall

UPCOMING GSAPP EVENTS

Reinvent Payphones

REINVENT PAYPHONES DESIGN CHALLENGE

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URBAN PLANNING

ADVANCED JOINT STUDIO: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION IN TALCA, CHILE: LAND USE STRATEGIES

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Pictured: Students of the Chilean reconstruction studio visit Talca and present the project to the client, Servicio de Vivienda y Urbanización, Serviu.

The studio’s findings constitute a comprehensive set of scaled visions paired with policy and implementation recommendations for earthquake-damaged central cities. Historic preservation guidelines propose to keep development compatible with the existing historic typological fabric. Community hub buildings and economic development guidelines seek to increase employment and innovation opportunities within the neighborhood. An innovative system of inner-block ‘laneways’ developments and accessory dwelling units presents a strategy to increase density at a scale that is sensitive to existing historic buildings. To see the full report, visit the Urban Planning website. Lucy Robson, MSUP 2013

WINTER 2013