



# WELCOME

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture





SPITZER IS OPEN! SPITZER IS SAFE!



Graduate Student Orientation, Spitzer School of Architecture, August 24, 2021

## ***The plan for this evening***

1. A few words from yours truly, your interim dean
2. A few words from Michael Miller, your director of undergraduate advising
3. A few words from Prof. June Williamson, your chair
4. A few words from Nicole Bass, regarding the Student Advisory Board.
5. A few words from Kedishia Joseph and Krystal Hernandez, regarding Spitzer Commons.
6. Save the Date!
7. Follow Spitzer!

*Reminder: Graduate students in studio units—interviews start at 7:00 pm!*

# ***What is this thing that has happened to us?***

What is this thing that has happened to us? It's a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus ... it ... has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to “normality”, trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality.

Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next.

We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.

Arundhati Roy, “The Pandemic is a Portal,” <https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca>



The Spitzer School of Architecture sits on unceded territory of the Lenni Lenape and Delaware People.

# PATIENCE



Yes, the global pandemic continues, along with other (horrific) crises in our world.

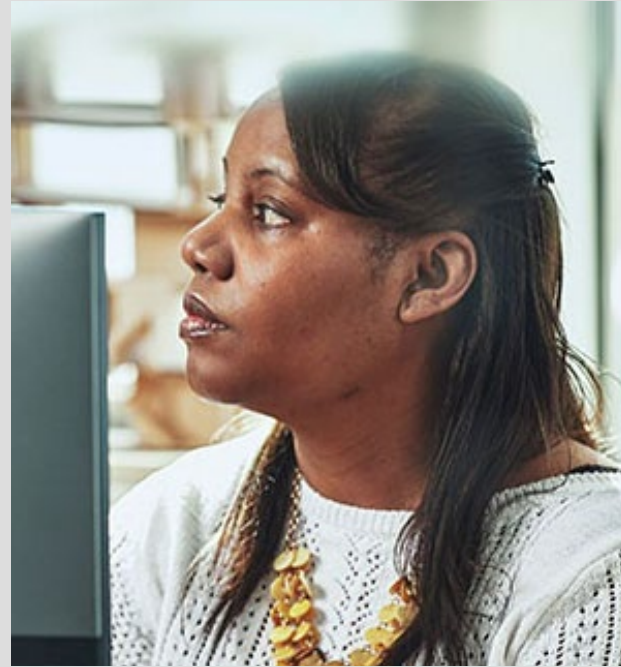
Yes, we're here, *in person and online*, to make architecture school work for you.

Yes, you've been patient, helpful, supportive, tolerant -- Thank you!!

We're asking for more patience, more forbearance during our soft reopening

Together, we will keep Spitzer safe; together we will keep Spitzer open!

## *Introductions in a zoom room*



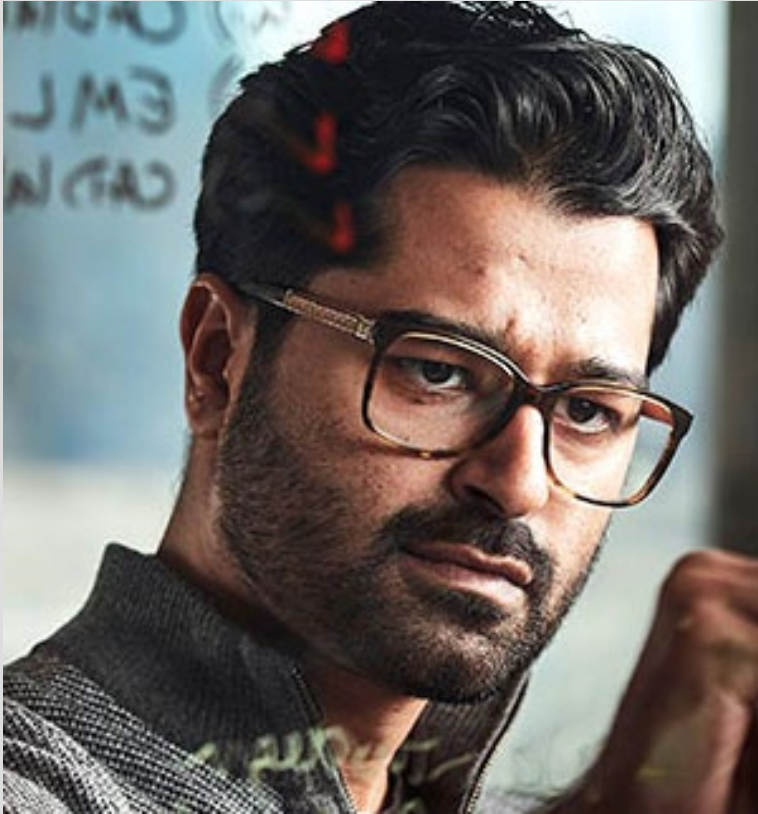
Chair: Prof. June Williamson works with Nicole Smith and Carolina Colon  
Director of Finance and Administration: Camille Hall





Advisors:  
Hannah Borgeson, Michael Miller, Amy Daniel

Library: Taida Sainvil



Muhammad Ahmad, Director of  
Information Technology



Prof. Ali Askarinejad, Director  
of Fabrication Labs



Prof. Nilda Sanchez-Rodriguez, Division  
Chief, Architecture Library

## POLICIES

All students attending a class on campus are required to be vaccinated unless they have a medical or religious exemption.

The [CUNY vaccination policy for students](#) gives students until September 27 to upload proof of vaccination into CUNYfirst.

Once uploaded, the documentation must be approved. Until your vaccination status is verified, students must show proof of a negative COVID test within the past 7 days.

**Check the CUNY website for updates: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>**



## CUNY policy: VAX & MASK



An inoculation site in the Bronx offering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine last week. James Estrin/*The New York Times*  
A vial of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine. Saul Martinez for The New York Times

## *Spitzer policies this fall—Safe & Open/Open & Safe*

- This semester, all students, staff, and faculty, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to **wear a mask at all times**, and in all spaces throughout the Spitzer building, and on campus.
- This semester, we will be practicing **social distancing in all studios and classrooms, and in all public spaces throughout the building**, where possible. Studio desks must be arranged to ensure that each student is spaced at a minimum of 6 ft apart from all other students. We are asking students and faculty to cooperate to ensure compliance.
- This semester, while we orient ourselves to hybrid instruction, we will **not be permitting guests** into the building.
- This semester the Spitzer building will be **open on weekdays 8:00 am to 9:00 pm**. The building will not be open on weekends. No refrigerators, no microwaves in studios—to keep the building vermin-free; no cots, to keep you healthy!
- Vaccinated students can **enter by displaying CCNY ID and proof of vaccination** (currently accepting; CDC Card, CCNY gold V sticker, Excelsior Pass, or Everbridge's CUNY Vax Pass). Those who are unvaccinated must provide **negative testing results from a CUNY testing site** only.
- **COVID-19 Reporting:** If a student feels unwell with possible COVID symptoms, it should be reported promptly to Romy Fabal ([rfabal@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:rfabal@ccny.cuny.edu)), George Rhinehart ([grhinehart@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:grhinehart@ccny.cuny.edu)), and Ana King-Garcia ([akinggarcia@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:akinggarcia@ccny.cuny.edu)) from Student Health Services and Student Life. Ken Ihrer ([kihrer@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:kihrer@ccny.cuny.edu)) and Richard Belgrave ([rbelgrave@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:rbelgrave@ccny.cuny.edu)) from Operations should be cc'd, along with your academic advisor.

# INITIATIVES



Advocating for students and faculty from each and every program;

Helping to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the Spitzer community;

Making the academic environment even more inclusive and equitable;

Encouraging new initiatives that push the boundaries of design thinking and research.







# HOUR SSA

Details in regards to time and location will be provided by your professor.

**Spitzer** The Bernard & Anne Spitzer  
School of Architecture

The City College  
of New York **CUNY**

**NOMAS**  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF  
MINORITY ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

## **Student Town Halls**

Next one is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 12:30 pm

## **JEDI Committee**

Examines how we can create a more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive academic environment at Spitzer.

Committee chair: Michael Miller

## **Diversity Hour**

Independent lecture series created in dialogue with NOMAS leadership  
Team Leaders: B.Arch students Kedishia Joseph, Gabriela Gonjon, and Aprellia Stanley

## **Digital Student Handbook**

Team Leaders: Hamees Gabr and Nicole Bass working with Michael Miller and Hannah Borgeson.

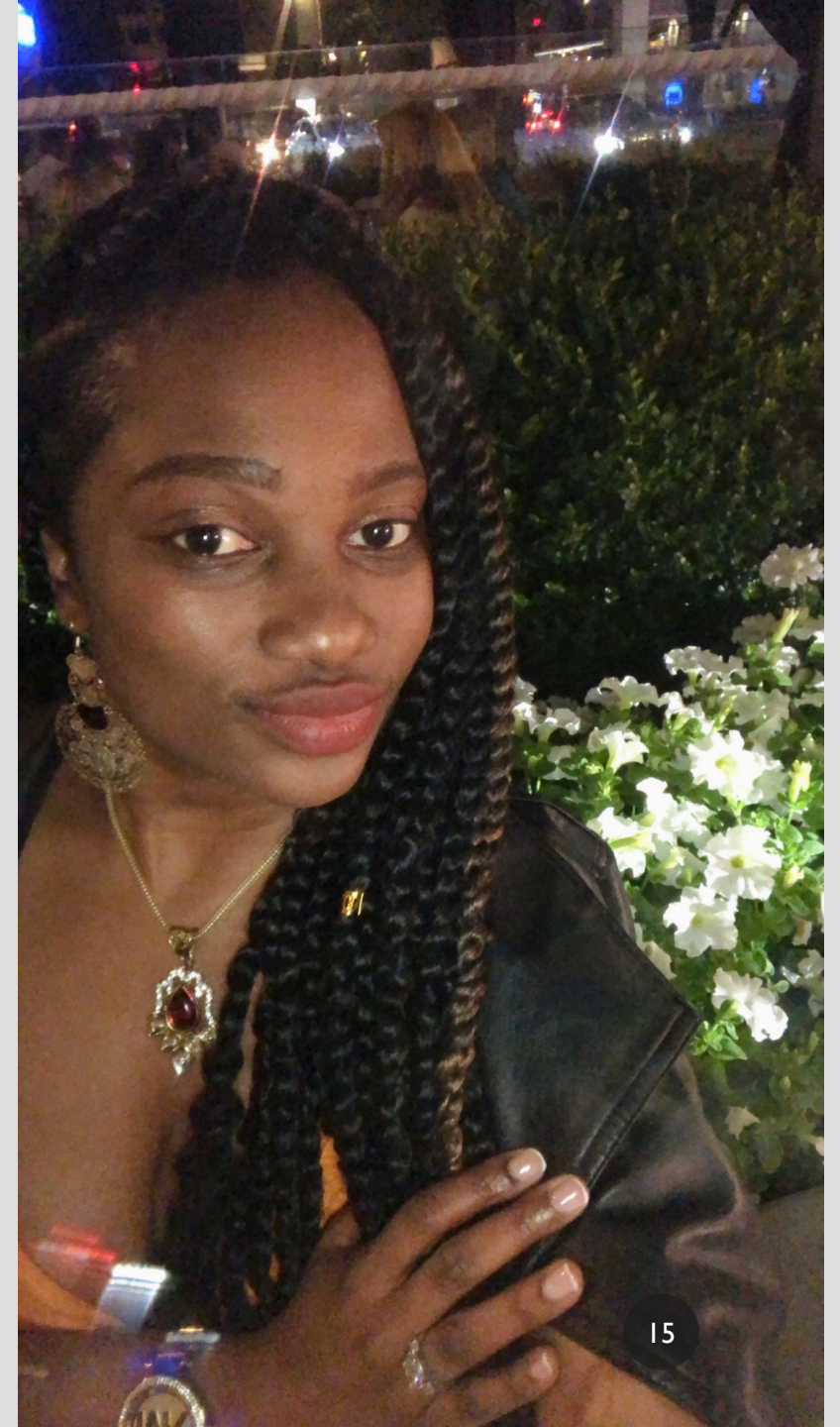
## **Spitzer Commons**

Update coming from Kedishia Joseph and Krystal Hernandez

**Change Maker  
Scholarship:**  
acknowledges  
students who  
proactively and  
consistently work on  
behalf of the school  
community to  
change it for the  
better.

For 2021-22,

Nicole Bass  
Kedishia Joseph





**Technology Fellows:** The program allows technology to emerge from the machinery, materials and procedures, allowing it to be examined and understood from a broad perspective to include the human and cultural implications and impacts.

**Spitzer Mentor Fellow:** The program allows a BIPOC CCNY alum to work with a mentor to develop anti-racist pedagogy at the architecture school.



Prof. Gordon Gebert



Prof. Frank Melendez



Prof. Marvin Cabrera





## Michael Sorkin Book Collection

In-progress project to honor Distinguished Professor Michael Sorkin's legacy and contribution to our school and to provide a hub for research on urbanism at Spitzer.  
Huge thanks to Joan Copjec! And to Prof. Elisabetta Terragni!!  
And to all of the students who are helping out.





Going forward: (continuing to) celebrate the achievements of Spitzer students and Spitzer alums; please stay tuned for more news about my plans to promote our school.

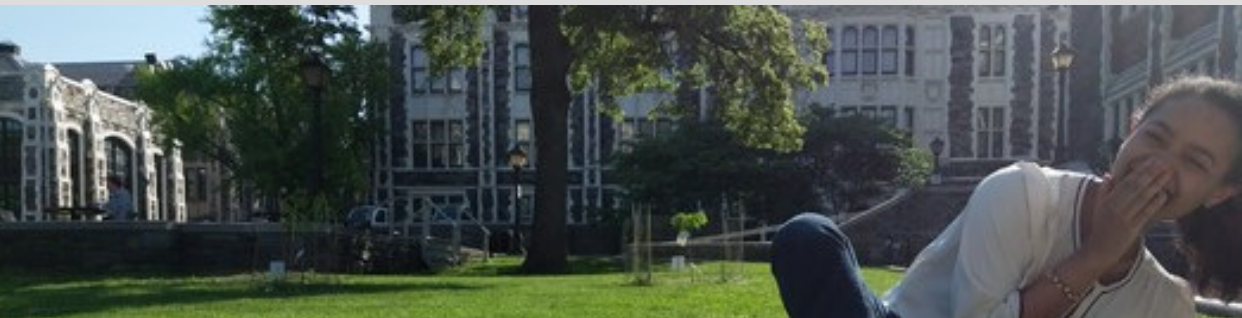


The inaugural recipients of the [FXCollaborative Foundation CCNY Diversity Scholarship](#) are Nada Elsayed, B.Arch 2022, and Sidney Mauricio, B.Arch 2025; they will complete internships at FXCollaborative.



*PLOT 9: Top Down Bottom Up* (Spring 2020) has received the Haskell Award honorable mention.

Student Editors: Kayla Conroy, Brandon Loo, Catherine Prioret, and Jeffrey Schneider, all MLA 2021  
Faculty Coordinator: Catherine Seavitt Nordenson



Gabriela Gonjon, B.Arch, has won one of HOK's Diversity x Design scholarships for BIPOC architecture students. The eight \$10,000 scholarships further HOK's efforts to diversify the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry.

*Going forward:* (continuing to) celebrate the achievements of Spitzer students and Spitzer alums.

Award	Recipient(s)
AIA-NY Center for Architecture Design Award	Abigail Stein
Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Foundation	Ahmed Helal
Landscape Architecture Foundation, 2021 National Olmsted Scholar	Jessica Goldberg
Gerner, Kronick + Valcarcel Art of Architecture Award	Trisha Estuye
The Joseph L. Fleischer, FAIA, Scholarship for Design Excellence	Tatjana Voitovica
Carol J. Weissman Kurth Women in Architecture Scholarship	Caroline Ho
Arch Alumni Group Robert E. Markinson Memorial Award	Katherine Tenman
Bernard L. Spanier Memorial Scholarship	Kaitlin Labatt-Simon, Timothy Sommer
Professional Women in Construction	Catherine Brizo Saravia, Jordan Greenblatt
NYC Community Planning Fellowship 2021-22	Jeana Fletcher, Victor Gorlach, Pedro Cruz Cruz
Castagna Scholarship, 2021-22 recipients	Joel Cardenas, Pedro Cruz Cruz, Chantal Garrido, Jack Li, Deirdre Nolan, Melanie Nunez, Naryelik Perez Pichardo, Lourdes Rivera, Hito Rodriguez Penzloza, Annabelle Surya, Xiao Lin Wang



## Going forward: Restarting the Spitzer Travel Grant program

### SPITZER TRAVEL GRANT 2013

Thanks to the generosity of Bernard and Anne Spitzer, the architecture school offers three \$5,000 travel fellowships each year to graduating students in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design. The results have been no less than marvelous as recipients have followed through on their proposals and adjusted them as they encounter new places! Such is the nature of fieldwork, properly done.

Michael Ong and Jamie Silvestro wanted to study historic preservation in Mexico City; they ended up designing a structure for water collection in the central market. Michael Luft-Weissberg came to appreciate how Cambodians have learned to live with water, as he tracked beautiful, ingenious, vernacular solutions—sadly threatened with destruction, not from water but from rapacious developers. When Steve Ramirez visited Medellin, Colombia he learned that highly touted experiments in sustainable design are not all that they are cracked up to be. Diana Chang and Vladimir Schumovych recorded stunning Native American architecture at the Four Corners.

And perhaps the best news of all: Chiara DiPalma moved to Berlin to study informal use and development of public space along the former Berlin Wall. She intended to stay for a short while but changed her plans when she found a job.

Marta Gutman  
Spitzer Travel Fellowship Coordinator

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2014**  
**6:15PM**  
**SPITZER AUDITORIUM**

Q&A with the Spitzer Travel Grants Committee:  
Nandini Bagchee, Marta Gutman,  
Camille Hall, and Catherine Seavitt Nordenson

Diana Chang / Vladimir Schumovych  
MARTA GUTMAN, COORDINATOR

IMAGE COURTESY OF CITYWORKS 8

# TRAVEL GRANT 2015

Get an application.  
Share your ideas.  
Learn about other fellowships.

# INFO

*Going forward:* continued collaborations with faculty and staff in curating rich, provocative, and relevant lectures. "In a world riven by inequality and indifference, care-work has become essential and highly visible in its capacity to create more sustainable worlds. How can architecture support and nurture care work and the values of cooperation and commoning that go with the recognition of care as an essential form of labor? Convened by Cesare Birignani and Vyjayanthi Rao, "Architectures of Care" will explore the notion of care and the ways in which architecture might contribute to repairing built environments and social fabrics."



Thursday, September 2nd, 6:00 pm: **Raúl Cárdenas Osuna**, "Contra-Discipline and Civic Muscle."

Monday, October 18th, 12:30 pm, **Neera Adarkar**, "Pushing Boundaries: An Architect's Journey."

Thursday, October 21st, 6:00 pm, **Elke Krasny**, "Realities of Care: On Interdependence in Architecture."

Thursday, October 28th, 6:00 pm, **Mariana Mogilevich**, "The Invention of Public Space."

Thursday, November 4th, 6:00 pm, **Huda Tayub**, "Archives for Forgetfulness."

Thursday, November 18th, 6:00 pm, **Silvia Federici**, "The Politics of Care."

All lectures are free, open to the public, and offered on Zoom.

# Community Agreements

1. We will practice active listening
2. No one knows everything; together we know a lot
3. We will allow silence to have a place
4. Challenge the idea or the belief, not the person
5. Speak your truth and let others speak theirs
6. Confidential space (what is shared here - stays, what is learned - leaves)
7. Do not look to others to speak on behalf of their race, gender, ethnicity, or other groups with which they may identify
8. We will share “airtime” Practice WAIT (Why am I talking? Why aren’t I talking?)
9. Acknowledge the difference between intent and impact
10. We want everyone to feel comfortable participating, even if you don’t feel you have the perfect words to express your thoughts.
11. What else do you think should be included in these agreements?







CCNY Community Read 2021:  
*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone  
and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather  
McGhee.

Pick up your free copy—*print or digital*— from  
the Spitzer advisors. You can also request a  
free electronic copy here:

<https://forms.gle/3m4MB4gkHGCakFFh6>.

Heather McGhee will discuss this book at  
Freshman Convocation on September 9.

We're looking forward to reading and  
discussing as a community this important  
work.

There's a copy in the Dean's Office! Come have a look!





ARCH. DEPT. CHAIR'S WELCOME



# Arch Dept Faculty: FALL 21 LEADERSHIP



**MARTA GUTMAN**

Interim Dean,  
Professor

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**JUNE WILLIAMSON**

Chair, Professor

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**AHU AYDOGAN**

Coordinator,  
Building Technology;  
Associate Professor

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**NANDINI BAGCHEE**

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**CESARE BIRIGNANI**

Associate Professor

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**CHRISTIAN VOLKMANN**

Associate Professor

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**FRANK MELENDEZ**

Associate Professor;  
Acting Director,  
Master of  
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Program;  
Coordinator, Design

Contact:



**SHAWN RICKENBACKER**

Director, J. Max  
Bond Center;  
Associate Professor

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**JULIO SALCEDO-  
FERNANDEZ**

Director of Graduate  
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Program; Associate  
Professor

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**CATHERINE SEAVITT  
NORDENSON**

Professor; Director  
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Program

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**BEOM JUN KIM**

Adjunct Assistant  
Professor

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**ELIANA DOTAN**

Adjunct Lecturer

Contact:  
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Photos missing:  
Paul Ruppert  
Jerome Haferd



**Arch Dept Faculty:  
FULLTIME  
NEW AND  
RETURNING**

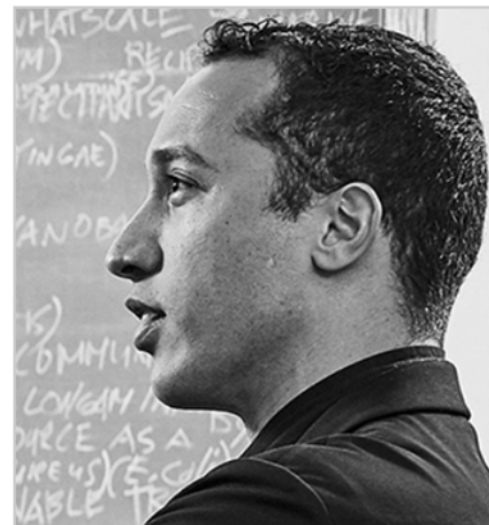


**ZIHAO ZHANG**

Assistant Professor

**Contact:**

zzhang@ccny.cuny.edu



**JEROME HAFERD**

Substitute Assistant  
Professor

**Contact:**

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**DOMINICK PILLA**

Associate Professor

## Arch Dept Faculty: ADJUNCTS NEW AND RETURNING

### Returning

Alan	Barlis
Alan	Cation
Marci	Clark
Davian	Ellis
Merica May	Jensen
Susan	Kaplan
Neil	Katz
Jeremy	Latriano
Jacqueline	Leboutillier
Julia	Nelson
Alfonso	Oliva
Andrea	Parker

### New

Jelisa	Blumberg
Michele	Busiri-Vici
Marvin	Cabrera
Caitlin	Charlet
Xiaoxi	Chen
Zach	Cohen
Diana	Cristobal
Jamie	Edindjiklian
Charles	Gosrisirikul
Jen	Grosso
Christin	Hu
Krystal	Kaler
Karen	Klockner
Yoo Jin	Lee
Kai	Liao
Gregory	Melitonov
Deirdre	Nolan
Suzanne	Strum
Tyler	Survant
John	Yurchyk
Frank	Zimmerman



Arch 35302 Site Tech section leader **Krystal Kaler** with B Arch students at Harlem Grown urban farm during tour of course "study area," 8/25/21



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## Fall 2021: B Arch Advanced Studios

**Spitzer** The Bernard & Anne Spitzer  
School of Architecture

### Weaving The Double Skin III

Ahu Aydogan

### Portal Cities, City of Portals

Jelisa Blumberg

### Robotics, Architecture & Practice

Gordon Gebert

### “Sprich Ach Du - Speak Up Too”

Elisabetta Terragni

## FA21

### Assessing Paradise

Julie Nelson

### After Individualism

Paul Ruppert

### Dark Form

Jerome Haferd

### Timber in the City

Suzan Wines

## GPS Studio Units

**Spitzer** The Bernard & Anne Spitzer  
School of Architecture

## Graduate Programs Spitzer Unit System 2021–2022

Welcome to the GPS, Graduate Programs Spitzer, which is proud to continue to offer the world-renowned Unit System introduced last year—a two semester-long teaching, research and design environment. Listen, watch, consider your options and choose the Unit that you feel is right for you.

### Unit System

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 20 | Street and Sanctuary   |
| 21 | Spaces of Exception  |
| 22 | Cultivated Wildness  |
| 23 | Robotic Ecologies  |
| 24 | ParallaX “state of siege”  |
| 25 | Building Culture: When Land<br>Becomes Water                         |
| 26 | Design Anarchy + Crafting New Public<br>Imaginations of Architecture |
| 27 | Toxicity   |
| 28 | Serious Fun 0/30/90  |

### Program Availability

- |  |
|--|
| M Arch I First Year Students   |
| M Arch I First Year Students   |
| MLA First Year Students  |
| M Arch I Second and Third Year Students, MS Arch                                   |
| M Arch I Second and Third Year Students, MS Arch                                   |
| M Arch I Second and Third Year Students, MS Arch                                   |
| Urban Design, M Arch I Second and Third Year Students, MS Arch                     |
| MLA Second and Third Year Students, M Arch I Third Year Students, MS Arch Students |
| MLA Second and Third Year Students, M Arch I Third Year Students, MS Arch Students |



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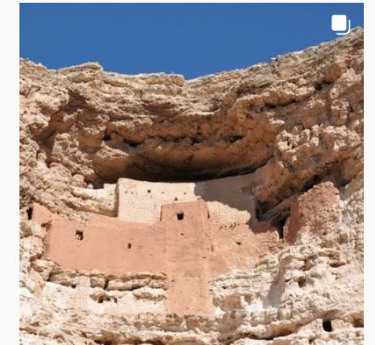
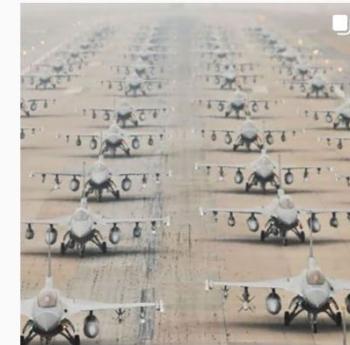
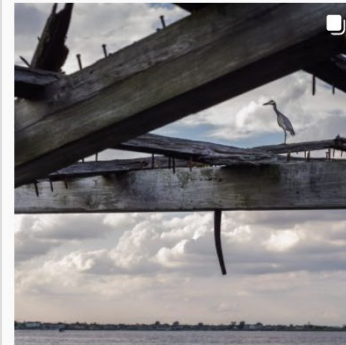
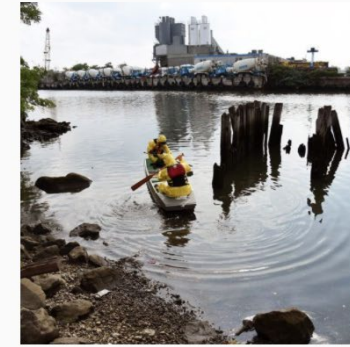
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## GPS Studio Units





# Spitzer Student Advisory Committee



**NICOLE BASS**

4th & 5th Year Rep.



**JACK LI**

4th & 5th Year Rep.

**LOOKING FOR 3 REPRESENTATIVES!**

**B.ARCH  
3RD YEAR  
REP.**

**M.ARCH  
2ND/3RD YEAR  
REP.**

**M.L.A  
2ND/3RD YEAR  
REP.**

## **GIVE STUDENT INPUT TO ADMIN & STAFF**

- Attend committee meetings and provide student perspectives
- Give updates and proposals for student concerns and interests
- Help increase transparency and better communication between students, administration, and staff

## **HOST STUDENT ADVISORY MEETING**

- Co-host monthly student advisory meetings with advisory for all students
- Conduct student surveys and create student requested proposals
- Offer space for students talk about any topic

## **HOW TO NOMINATE**

Check your Outlook emails for an email from the Chair's Department subjected "Student Advisory Committee Nominations".  
Fill out Microsoft Poll to nominate a classmate or yourself by Sept. 2nd 8pm.  
Students with most nominations will be contacted Sept. 3rd 5pm.

Arch Dept:  
**STUDENT  
ADVISORY  
BOARD**

# WELCOME BACK PICNIC

MONDAY AUG 30  
AFTER STUDIO 6:30 PM - 8 PM  
SOUTH LAWN OF SPITZER



Fall 2021

## SSA Student Advisory Meeting

Hosted by Student  
Advisory Committee  
and Spitzer Advisors

All students  
are invited to attend

DATES @ 12:30 PM :

SEPTEMBER 23RD

OCTOBER 28TH

NOVEMBER 18TH

SSA Student Advisory

Link will be shared  
when nearing meeting date



Spitzer Commons

Gallery

Data Analysis

Drafting and Modelling Software

Sketching

Freeform Designing

Renderings Tools

Adobe Creative Suite

Presentations

Structural Analysis

Physical Modelling Tips

Jed-I

Health and Wellness Resource

Citations

Organization/Archiving

Gallery

Data Analysis

Drafting and Modelling Software

Sketching

Freeform Designing

Renderings Tools

Adobe Creative Suite

Presentations

Physical Modelling Tips

Health and Wellness Resource

Citations

Organization/Archiving

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Physical Modelling Tips

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Sketching

Freeform Designing

Renderings Tools

Adobe Creative Suite

Presentations

Physical Modelling Tips

Health and Wellness Resource

Citations

Organization/Archiving

[spitzercommons@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:spitzercommons@ccny.cuny.edu)



*In closing ...*

The pandemic is a portal ... We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. ...

Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it.

## SAVE THE DATE

- September 2, 2021: Lecture, Raúl Cárdenas Osuna, “Contra-Discipline and Civic Muscle”
- September 9, 2021: Dark Matter University DMUxCCNY: Identity, Justice & Pedagogy Learn-In  
Freshman Convocation,  
Heather McGhee will discuss her book, *The Sum of Us*
- September 22, 2021: Student Town Hall, 12:30 pm  
Launch of Spitzer Commons
- September 23, 2021: Student Advisory Meeting, 1 pm

### *Coming soon!*

- Updates on the Spitzer Dean Search
- Celebrating the Solar Roof Pod x 10 [years!]
- Architectural League’s Mentorship program for mid-/upper-level architecture students, with Prof. Jake Alspector as liaison.
- Arch. Dept. Lunchtime Lectures, sponsored by the Chair’s office



## FOLLOW SPITZER

- Instagram:  
<https://www.instagram.com/whatsonatssa/>  
@whatsonatssa
- LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/school/spitzer-school-of-architecture-city-college-of-new-york-cuny/>
- SSA website:  
<https://ssa.ccny.cuny.edu/>

**Check the CUNY website for updates: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>**