

# Spitzer

The Bernard & Anne Spitzer  
School of Architecture

The City College  
of New York



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December 2022

Dear Friends,

I'm writing with greetings from the Spitzer School, as the year draws to a close. I'd like to thank you for being part of our rich community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, colleagues, and partners. Together, you constitute the fabric that makes up our school, that supports it, and that extends its influence throughout our city, our country, and our world.

Please be sure to check out the [Spitzer School Annual Report 2019-2022](#) for an exciting snapshot of what we've been up. It's been a remarkable season. We've welcomed new faculty and new staff; we've hosted a [national conference](#), launched new initiatives, and acquired new collections; and we've celebrated distinguished faculty and colleagues and their rich accomplishments and achievements. I am so pleased to announce that on December 1, 2022, I launched a fundraising campaign to endow the [Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer](#).

I am impressed each day by our students and the work that is ongoing in our studios, classes, and labs (and yes, we're fully in-person, thriving as such). Please come by to see! There is always room for more: After a fruitful recruitment season of in-person and virtual events this fall, we are looking forward to reviewing the incoming student applications. Our [graduate](#) application priority deadline is January 17, and our [undergraduate](#) application

deadline is February 1.

Wishing you and yours a warm holiday season and a happy new year, and thanking you for being part of the Spitzer School,

[Marta Gutman](#)

*Dean and Professor of Architecture*

PS - Please continue to send us your stories, news, and achievements, and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#).

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## Events

### **“Michael + Marshall” Event Celebrates Love of Architecture, Libraries, and Urbanism**

We hosted “Michael & Marshall: Celebrating Friendship, Life & Scholarship” on Dec. 1 to celebrate the lives of CCNY Distinguished Professor of Architecture Michael Sorkin and CCNY Distinguished Professor of Political Science Marshall Berman. [The evening](#) was a reason to rejoice and reflect on the two larger-than-life personalities as writers, scholars, and men dedicated to the cause of public education. The event showcased the opening of the [Sorkin Reading Room](#) and the generous donation of Berman’s archives (more on this below). Both men passed away unexpectedly, Berman in 2013 of a heart attack and Sorkin in 2020. We also took the opportunity to mark the 51st anniversaries of the landscape architecture and urban design programs and launch a campaign to fund a [Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer](#).

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### Career Fair 2/23/23

The school's annual Career Fair is taking place ***in person*** on Thurs., Feb. 23, from 11:30 to 2:00.

Employers are invited to meet and recruit our talented and eager students and alumni. Space is limited; [reserve now](#).

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### Speakers Explore Migration

Our Fall Sciame Lecture Series, "Border Crossings: Architecture and Migration in the Americas," brought together architects, preservationists, planners, artists, and historians of color for varied perspectives and questioning of conventions, especially the conceptualization of migration as linear. Missed a lecture? Check out the [video archive](#).



## Giving and Growth

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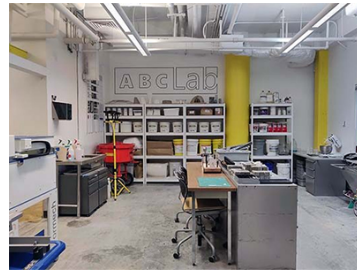
### Marshall Berman's Family Gifts Collection

The Spitzer School has been given an [extraordinary gift](#): the collection of books and archives belonging to Distinguished Professor Marshall Berman (1940-2013) that he used to teach at City College, to be housed in the CCNY Architecture Library. A distinguished professor, Marxist humanist philosopher, and writer, Berman wrote *All That's Solid Melts into Air: The Experience of Modernity*, a bible to many academics, especially in architecture. His wife, Shellie Sclan-Berman (pictured at left with [President Vince Boudreau](#)), facilitated the donation.

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## Construction Lab Open

Prof. [Mohammad Bolhassani](#) spearheaded a new maker space that opened this fall on the school's ground floor: an [Advanced Building Construction \(ABC\) Lab](#). The ABC Lab anticipates the future of construction in New York City by investing in two main ideas of robotic fabrication and carbon-negative building materials.



## Urban Design Program Extends Curriculum

An exciting change is afoot for the [Urban Design graduate program](#): Starting in Fall 2023, it is expanding from two to three semesters (from 32 to 45 credits). These changes will infuse the program with current technology and tools and offer students more design and clinical experience before graduation. [\[Application info\]](#)

## Student Highlights

### Competition Honors Accrue

Spitzer students shone as part of three winning teams in the [ACSA 2022 Timber in the City 4: Urban Habitats Competition](#)! Also this fall, Professor [Mohammad Bolhassani and Ahmed Helal B Arch '22 won](#) the highly competitive International Masonry Institute's Joan B. Calambokidis Masonry Innovation Award for their project Perforated Masonry (at right).





## Scholarship Winners

Thanks to generous donors who see the boundless potential in our students, we proudly awarded numerous scholarships this fall. These include the first [Beyer Blinder Belle Foundation Scholarship](#), which went to Mosammet Chowdhury B Arch '23; the three-year Hollander Design Fellowship for Cassandra Castano MLA '25, along with classmates Ximena Diaz Velasco and Sonia Uthuph each winning one-time awards from [Hollander Design Landscape Architects](#); and Husan Ahmed B Arch '23 receiving the Center for Architecture's [2022 Common Bond Scholarship](#) (pictured at left speaking at the Center for Architecture Gala). Congratulations and appreciation all around!

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## Faculty and Staff Highlights

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### CCNY at Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2022

The 2022 Lisbon Architecture Triennale, which closed on Dec. 5, featured [work by a number of CCNY faculty and alumni](#). A project by Professor Pedro Cruz Cruz M Arch '22 from his time as a student won of the Millennium bcp Universities Competition Award! The main exhibit section Multiplicity in the Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea de Lisboa was co-curated by Professor [Vyjayanthi Rao](#) with curatorial assistance by Alden Copley UD '21. It included the Dark Matter University team's exhibition (pictured at right), co-led by Professor [Jerome Haferd](#).

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## Team Climate Solidarity CCNY Research Vision Project

Professors [Shawn Rickenbacker](#), [Catherine Seavitt Nordenson](#), and [Zihao Zhang](#) are coleading Team Climate Solidarity and the project titled “Energizing Equity: Co-creating Scalable Urban Resilience via Climate Solidarity,” which received the [2022 College-wide Research Vision \(CRV\) Initiative](#). This comes with funding of up to \$600,000 over the next three years.

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## A Deeper Bench

We are thrilled to introduce [Jason Garcia](#) and [Nicholas Smith](#)! They joined the administration in September, bringing tremendous expertise into roles that had been open for too long. Jason (pictured at left) is our new director of operations, and Nick is the executive assistant to the dean. They were worth the wait -- we're so glad they are here!



## Where Are They Now?

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## Tackling Waste Output

Yoo Jin Lee B Arch '12 and Veronica Rivas Plaza B Arch '15 are among the talented young urbanists selected for the [Urban Design Forum's 2022 Class of Forefront Fellows](#). They will be exploring how NYC can develop a more sustainable relationship with its waste output.

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## Planning for Renewable Rikers

[A Plan for Renewable Rikers](#) by Andrea Johnson

MLA '15 in collaboration with the Renewable Rikers Coalition, an outgrowth of her Kaplan Fellowship project, has been published by the Regional Plan Association. Design support was provided by another alum, Crystal Yifan Xing MLA '17.



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For more news please visit our [website](#) and tune in to our social media channels linked below.

*If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact us via our Instagram or LinkedIn PMs.*

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