

**The Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer at the
Spitzer School of Architecture**



Photo credit: Hui Liang UD '19

The City College
of New York



The Bernard and Anne Spitzer
School of Architecture



Dear Friends of Michael,

I'd like to share some news about The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School with you. In December, we celebrated the opening of the Sorkin Reading Room, dedicated to its namesake, Michael Sorkin, the late Distinguished Professor of Architecture.

An author, activist, architecture critic, urbanist, and the head of Michael Sorkin Studios, Sorkin joined the Spitzer School of Architecture as a Professor of Architecture and Director of the Graduate Program in Urban Design in 2000 and built a competitive program with top academics specializing in urban issues. He founded the annual Mumford Lectures, which boasted stellar speakers, and, in 2008, Sorkin was made a Distinguished Professor. His sudden death in March 2020 was a tragic loss for our community and many others.

At the opening of the Sorkin Reading Room, I launched a fundraising campaign to endow the Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer at the Spitzer School. The lectureship is in keeping with Sorkin's vision of CCNY and cities and will allow a distinguished senior designer or scholar with expertise in urbanism to teach a seminar or studio. The intent is to encourage conversations about the history of urbanism and the current problems and potentials of urban environments and architecture. We want to bring a new colleague to the Spitzer School, introducing people with new perspectives and diverse talents in keeping with the times and the changing demographic and demands of our field. The visiting lecturer will also deliver the annual Mumford Lecture, continuing the series — initiated by Michael — of distinguished urbanists invited to speak freely and publicly about the future of cities and the social purposes of architecture.

Michael defended equity and justice. He asked designers to imagine new ways of configuring urban space, making cities more equitable and conducive to fruitful exchange. This fund ensures that Michael's dedication to equity and excellence thrives at Spitzer. **We cannot make this professorship a reality without your support.** I ask you, humbly, to think big! Think about your love for Michael and what this position will mean to his memory here at Spitzer.

I hope you will join us in supporting the Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lectureship. We have been inspired by Michael's passionate defense of cities, his adventurous pedagogy, and the boldness of his polemics. Although he taught at architecture schools throughout the world, where he often held distinguished chairs, he felt most at home at Spitzer, the premier public school of architecture in the heart of New York City. This lectureship is a reminder of Michael that will allow his memory to thrive at the Spitzer School. To honor someone who died too soon, let's remember Michael for his belief in public education, his belief in the Spitzer School, and his belief in us.

Looking forward to continuing this important conversation.

Sincerely,

Marta Gutman
Dean and Professor of Architecture
Spitzer School of Architecture
The City College of New York



THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

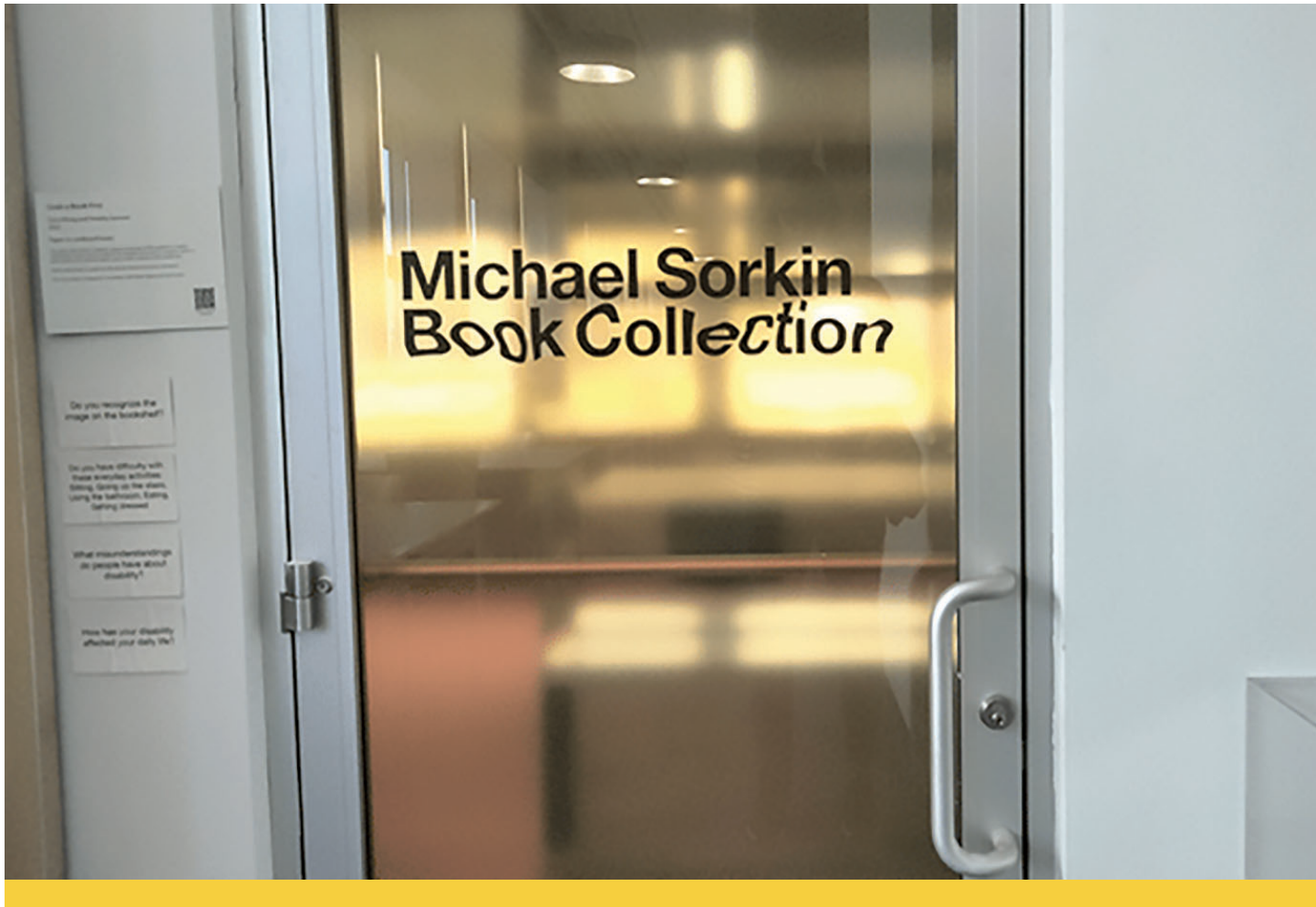
Since its founding in 1847, The City College of New York (CCNY) has been true to its legacy of access, opportunity, and transformation. CCNY is as diverse, dynamic, and boldly visionary as the city itself. CCNY advances knowledge and critical thinking, and fosters research, creativity, and innovation across academic, artistic, and professional disciplines. As a public institution with a public purpose and a 175-year history, CCNY produces citizens who make an impact on the cultural, social, and economic vitality of New York, the nation, and the world.

City College stands at the intersection of its historical past and promise for a vibrant future. Building on its strong foundation of unleashing potential, a City College education integrates knowledge with experience to nurture scholars, professionals, and leaders who are ready to meet the challenges of our contemporary society. CCNY attracts students who have a tenacious desire to learn, lead, and contribute to the greater good of society on their path to a successful future. CCNY graduates are committed to supporting access to opportunity and mentorship for future generations of learners.

THE BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture is deeply committed to creating a just, sustainable, and imaginative future for a rapidly urbanizing planet. Through innovative research and interdisciplinary collaboration, the degree programs in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Sustainability in the Urban Environment seek to educate a diverse student body to become engaged professionals, both reflecting and enriching the complex communities of local and global environments. The School acts in the spirit of the City College of New York's historic Ephebic Oath:

*"To transmit the city, not only not less, but greater, better,
and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."*



THE MICHAEL SORKIN VISITING DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture is thrilled to announce the launch of the fundraising campaign to endow The Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer. The lectureship is in keeping with Michael Sorkin’s vision of CCNY and cities and will allow a distinguished senior designer or scholar with expertise in urbanism to teach a seminar or studio. The creation of this endowment is inspired by those whose ambition is to preserve Michael’s passions and continue to educate City College students in his memory.

The intent is to encourage conversations about the history of urbanism, the current problems and potentials of urban environments, and the social purposes of architecture. We want to bring a new colleague to the Spitzer School, introducing people with new perspectives and diverse talents in keeping with the times and the changing demographic and demands of our field. The visiting distinguished lecturer will also deliver the annual Mumford Lecture, continuing the series — initiated by Michael — of distinguished urbanists invited to speak freely and publicly about the future of cities and the social purposes of architecture.

About the Mumford Lecture

Each spring, the Spitzer School of Architecture and its Urban Design Program present the Lewis Mumford Lecture and Seminar. Named for writer, architecture critic, and urbanist Lewis Mumford, who attended City College, the series invites the world’s most distinguished urbanists to speak freely and publicly about the future of cities and the social purposes of architecture.



THE SPITZER SCHOOL

At the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, the flagship public school of architecture in New York City, our programs are shaped by the diversity of our students, the inventive research of our faculty, and multidisciplinary collaborations.

We prepare students to become engaged designers and to apply an expansive set of skills to address pressing social, cultural, environmental, and professional challenges. We offer:

Professional Degrees

Bachelor of Architecture
Master of Architecture
Master of Landscape Architecture

Post-Professional Degrees

Master of Urban Planning (Urban Design)
Master of Science in Architecture

Our Master of Science in Urban Sustainability and J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures are affiliated programs that lend expertise and focus across the curriculum.

IN DEPTH: MASTER OF URBAN PLANNING IN URBAN DESIGN

The Graduate Program in Urban Design is dedicated to the creation of sustainable, equitable, and beautiful cities. Knowing that no single discourse can account for the urban, we seek to work at the convergence of many. Our goal is to give our students – all citizens of this exponentially urbanizing planet – tools that will enable them to expand the forms, means, and understandings vital to the design and flourishing of cities new and old.

The Urban Design program is centered on the premise that leadership combined with technical and design skills will lead to meaningful change in the way we think, plan, and construct our built environments. Building on the directorship of the late Michael Sorkin, the program is designed to foster new conversations in response to our urbanized planetary crises and provide transformative alternatives that radically reimagine our cities as equitable, diverse, resourceful, and ecologically nimble.



A tribute to the Sorkin Reading Room, “Unpacking His Library,” was recently published in Urban Omnibus yesterday. Please see link for the article, <https://urbanomnibus.net/2023/03/unpacking-his-library/>

THE FOUNDATION FOR CITY COLLEGE

The mission of The Foundation for City College, Inc. (a registered 501(c)3, EIN 84-3867573) is to provide access to educational and research excellence, particularly to students who might not otherwise attend a senior college.

Private gifts have the power to advance higher education, which transforms lives and communities. The Foundation strives to enrich the City College experience for students, faculty, and staff; to work in collaboration with the President of The City College of New York to raise significant financial support from private sources; and to steward the Foundation’s assets while advocating for the College. The Foundation supports a variety of programs at City College, including named professorships, advanced research operations, innovative programs leading to increased student success and campus-wide wellness opportunities, and workforce development initiatives, as well as special programs and lectures that bring some of the nation’s top intellectuals to our campus.

We appreciate your interest in supporting educational excellence at The City College of New York.

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