Spitzer The Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

2024–2025

ssa.ccny.cuny.edu

Study Architecture in New York City

at The City College of New York

The City College of New York

CUNY

Bachelor Programs

Annemarie (Amy) Daniel
Director of Undergraduate Affairs
212.650.8748
adaniel@ccny.cuny.edu

Master's Programs

Hannah Borgeson
Director of Graduate Affairs
212.650.5663
hborgeson@ccny.cuny.edu

Application Deadline

Undergraduate Deadline
February 1, 2025

Graduate Priority Deadline
January 15, 2025

About The Spitzer School

Dean's Welcome

As you explore architecture, landscape architecture, urban design or a related field as a career, consider the Spitzer School of Architecture as a place to study. Spitzer is the flagship public school of architecture in New York City and at the City University of New York. We are one of the most diverse schools of design in the United States, and we offer students not only a rigorous education, but an affordable one too. I can say with confidence that the state of the school is strong. Spitzer is confident. We're creating, drawing, building, imagining, studying, working, and learning together—in situ, in the studios, classrooms, labs, shops, offices, and library that make up the architecture school.

We are at a crossroads in the United States—with the movement for racial justice, #MeToo, the climate emergency, and the global crisis in affordable housing showing us, each day, that it is time for transformational, generational change. The structural dimensions of poverty, the health disparities that are so intertwined with constructed environments, and the searing imprints of racism and sexism have been exposed in the past few years. It is an excellent time to study architecture and the built environment and explore how you might change them for the better.

A few years ago, the architect Teddy Cruz asked, "What is the public world that we will make, when we venture outside again?" "Can we project something different?" "Can we learn to live with closeness, proximity, and nearness?" Design matters, and we at Spitzer are facing the harm, damage, violence, and inequalities as they manifest in design culture. Change is in the air, and I invite you to further explore what the Spitzer School has to offer as you look at different programs. What better place to study architecture than in New York City? It is the center of innovation in architecture, urbanism, sustainability, and design.

I close with this reminder: We take pride in offering an affordable education in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, urban sustainability, and urban studies to diverse, talented, and ambitious (in the best sense of the word) students. We live up to the City College motto "access to excellence" each and every day. Please come visit! Please join an information session! Please come to an open house! We invite you to connect and ask questions.

Regards,

Marta Gutman

Dean and Professor of Architecture
Spitzer School of Architecture @ CCNY | CUNY

Spitzer The Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

Degree Programs

Welcome to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at the City College of New York!

True to the unique spirit of New York City, our studio network offers dynamic core training in specific programs with many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership.

Undergraduate Degrees *p.4*

- Bachelor of Architecture*
- B.A in Urban Studies and the Built Environment

Graduate Degrees *p.7*

- Master of Architecture*
- Master of Landscape Architecture*
- M.S. in Architecture
- Master of Urban Planning (Urban Design)

Joint Degree *p.10*

- B. Arch* + Master of Urban Planning (5+1 accelerated program)

*Accredited professional degree

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

Much as our disciplines have been designed to increasingly interconnect, enriching natural synergies between focus of study, our community celebrates the unique experience and identity of each student.

Our faculty and staff are committed to continually evolve our teaching practice to include more of the cultures and histories of our student body; this diversity shapes, refocuses, and tests tradition, emboldening new direction and purpose in our field.

We favor dialogue, discussion, and conversation over top-down teaching where you're told what to learn and do; communication is the foundation of effective and responsible creation. We emphasize the skills required to collaborate under fluid and challenging conditions to underline their absolute value in today's job market.

The Spitzer School cultivates thought-leaders as well as practitioners, practical and empathetic professionals for whom the common, public good lies at the heart of their profession.

We shape the students of the future. In turn, they shape the future.

Program Info

Bachelor of Architecture

"Educating young minds became such a fun, special, and fullfilling mission. Slowly, with the great help of the Zahn Center, we identified the problems of the underserved and underfunded communities, and after some pivots, we arrived at our current platform and business model."

Wei Ying Zhang, B.Arch '18
Winner, Zahn Entrepreneur Competition

The architecture program is dedicated to the understanding of the complex systems of the city's urban fabric and a desire to make the city work well for the people who live and work there. The location of the school in Manhattan allows for direct access to a vibrant and exciting urban resource, which the program uses to the fullest extent.

Typical Courses in the Major

Fall Term 1
Core Studio 1
Visual Studies 1
Pre-calculus

Spring Term 2
Core Studio 2
Visual Studies 2
The Built Environment of NYC

Fall Term 3
Core Studio 3
Survey of World Architecture 1
Physics for Architects
Site Technology

Spring Term 4
Core Studio 4
Survey of World Architecture 2
Structures 1
Construction Technology 1

Fall Term 5
Core Studio 5
Survey of World Architecture 3
Construction Technology 2
Structures 2

Spring Term 5
Core Studio 5
Portfolio Review
Survey of World Architecture 4
Construction Technology 3
Structures 3

Fall Term 7
Advanced Studio (1 of 4)
Advanced Computing

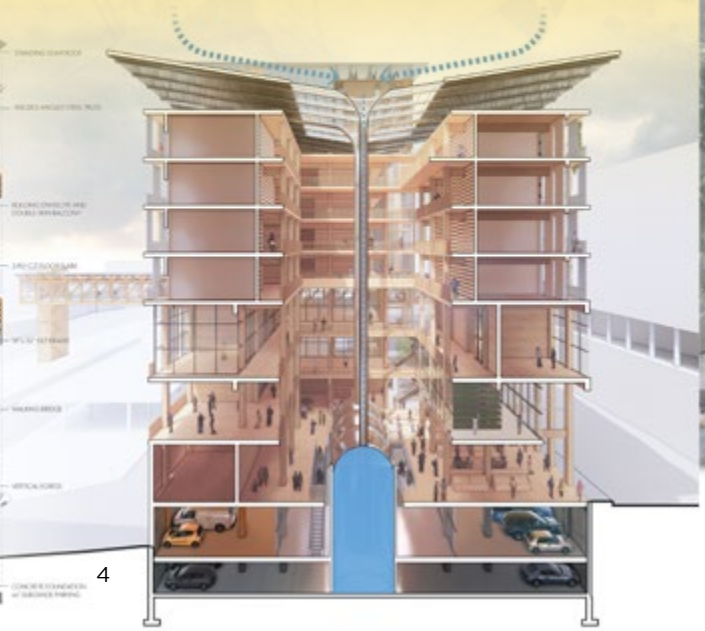
Spring Term 8
Advanced Studio (2 of 4)

Fall Term 9
Advanced Studio (3 of 4)
Professional Management

Spring Term 10
Advanced Studio (4 of 4)

Duration
5 years (10 semesters), full time, 150 credits

Hydro-Habitat. Tiffany Velin and Evan Craig with Professor Suzan Wines



Program Info

Bachelor of Architecture

"The experience I had at City College helped me set the strongest foundation for my future, and allowed me to really flourish in a way that would have never happened elsewhere. And it was because of this strength that I felt enough courage to apply to Harvard and eventually MIT for graduate school."

Chrisoula Kapelonis, B.Arch '16

"Spitzer truly serves as a one of a kind place in New York City. It's a center for students from so many different circumstances and spaces to discover architecture but also the different origins their colleagues come from."

Mohammed Gueye, B.Arch '21

The architecture program leads students through the artistic, technical, intellectual, and social process of designing buildings, communities, and open spaces. Students may enroll in this course of study, which leads to the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture (NAAB-accredited professional degree), or complete the first 4 years of study to receive a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

Gravitational Tectonic. Amy Ho, Aakanksha Maharjan, and Florim Zharku with Professor Frank Melendez

Country X. Leslie Epps, Taylor Mastrota, Jasmine Perez, Evana Said, and Mehrose Naeem with Professor Martin Stigsgaard

Program Info

B.A. in Urban Studies & the Built Environment

The undergraduate Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and the Built Environment program is a four-year liberal arts degree at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. The Urban Studies and the Built Environment major is open to undergraduate students from across the City College of New York interested in studying cities and urban life without majoring in architectural design.

Studying in New York City, the most populated city in the United States, majors in Urban Studies and the Built Environment will wrestle with the ethics of citymaking to be prepared to serve as stewards of our cities and to draw upon their multidisciplinary education to assess and respond to changes in the urban condition.

The curriculum consists of five required courses introducing students to the general themes of the city through the lens of the built environment and exposing them to various methods of research, analysis, and communication. Each core course addresses questions of environmental impact, social justice, and the role of the built environment professions (including design and planning alongside real estate development, transportation administration, and municipal governance) in managing urban growth and neighborhood change. To complete the program, students are also required to undertake a two-semester capstone project.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to enter non-design careers in the built environment professions, including urban planning consultancies, city agencies, real estate development firms or brokerages, social service and community-based non-profits, transportation logistics companies, and business development and marketing positions within the AEC (architecture, engineering, and construction) sector. This program will also prepare students for graduate study at the master's or doctoral level.

Typical Courses in the Major

The first two years follows typical liberal arts course requirements with three major courses as well: Intro to Urban Studies, Intro to Sociology, and The City in History

Fall Term 5
Techniques of Urban Communication
Major Elective
General Electives (3)

Spring Term 6
Social Justice & the Built Environment
General Electives (4)

Fall Term 7
Capstone Project I
General Electives (4)

Spring Term 8
Capstone Project II
General Electives (4)

Duration
4 years (8 semesters), full time, 120 credits

Program Info

Master of Architecture

True to the unique spirit of New York City, our studio network offers dynamic core training with many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and partnership with our graduate landscape architecture and urban design students. Our Master of Science in Urban Sustainability and J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures affiliated programs lend expertise and focus across the curriculum.

The Master of Architecture program is a NAAB-accredited professional degree that is open to students from all undergraduate backgrounds

"My experience with the professors here has been great; they've instilled in me the social responsibility aspect of architecture. There's a very social conscious awareness here, and it's great because part of the danger of being an architect is that you can go without having that understanding and can ruin a neighborhood or the city."

Glenn Bell, M Arch I

Exposing the Foundations of the White House. Dave Hardy with Professor Jeffery Roberson

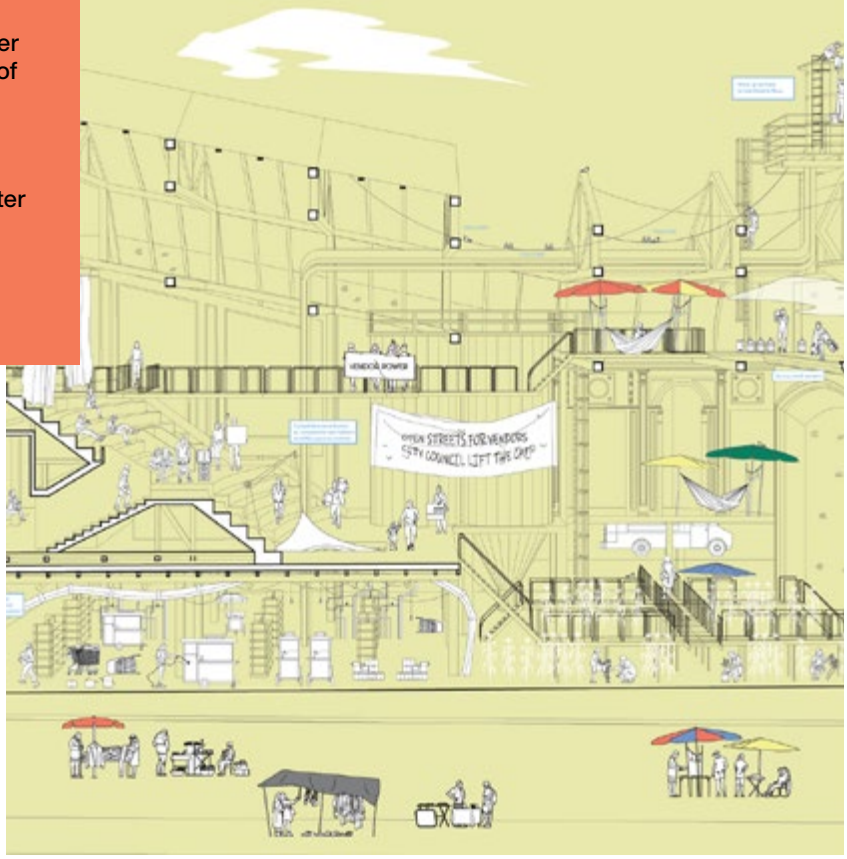
Duration
3 years, full time, 90 credits

Curriculum
Students take a research seminar + studio each semester and round out their studies by choosing from a number of elective courses.

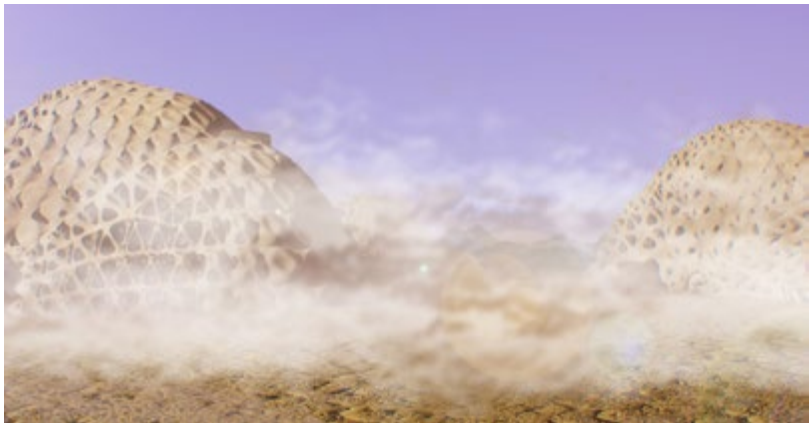
Eligibility
This program is open to students who hold any type of undergraduate degree. Its prerequisites are one semester of both college-level precalculus and physics.

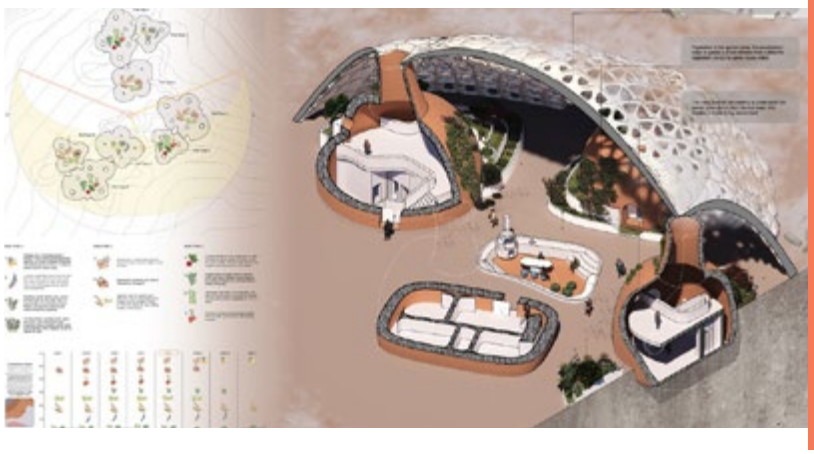
Program Director
June Williamson (see p. 13)

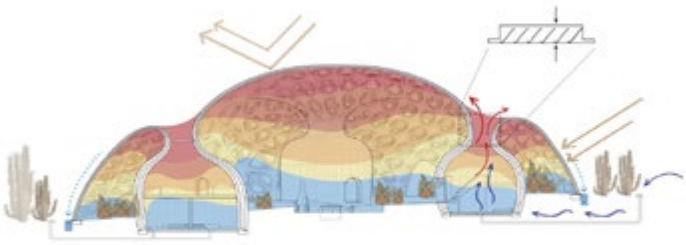
The Theater of the People. Pedro Cruz with Professors Nandini Bagchee, Vyjayanthi Rao, and Nicolas Losi



Pleated Printing. Catherine Brizo, Joel Cardenas, and Shyanne Sonnenberg with Professor Frank Melendez







Desert Microhabitats. Carl Badenhausen, Catherine Brizo, Helly Kamdar, Dalia Bekritsky with Professor Frank Melendez

Program Info

Master of Science in Architecture

Our Master of Science in Architecture program is directed at students who already hold a five-year, accredited Bachelor of Architecture degree and who wish to deepen their design abilities and expand their knowledge of contemporary theory, social practice, technology, and environmental systems.

Duration
1–1/2 years (3 semesters), full time, 48 credits

Curriculum
Students take a research seminar + studio each semester and round out their studies by choosing from a number of elective courses. Open-ended and flexible in many respects, the program does have certain priorities: interdisciplinarity, the city as a learning lab, experimental learning, and social engagement. This program is STEM.

NOTE: This program is not NAAB-accredited and may not be accepted as meeting licensure requirements in many U.S. states.

Eligibility
Applicants should hold a five-year, NAAB-accredited Bachelor of Architecture degree or the international equivalent.

Program Director
June Williamson (see p. 13)

Program Info

Master of Landscape Architecture

The Master of Landscape Architecture program prepares students to be leaders in the field through innovative research and practice in urban ecological design, planning, and policymaking. The program aims to reimagine and rethink the profession's current and future challenges through the lenses of social, environmental, and multi-species justice, including rapid urbanization, resource extraction and management, the interface of nature and technology, ongoing species extinctions, and the climate emergency.

A Piece in the Harlem Daisy Chain. George McCracken and Nada Gatalo with Professor Frank Melendez

Duration
3 years, full time, 90 credits

Curriculum
First is a foundation year of skill-building, followed by two vertically integrated, comprehensive studies, each working closely with two or three faculty members. This program is STEM designated and LAAB accredited.

Eligibility
This program is open to students who hold any type of undergraduate degree.

Program Director
Zihao Zhang (see page 15)

Fallowing the Fabulation. Samuel Syrop and David Smucker with Professor Zihao Zhang

Master of Urban Planning in Urban Design

The Master of Urban Planning in Urban Design aka MUPUD program centers on participatory urbanism: the premise that the right combination of leadership, technical, and design skills will lead to meaningful change in the way we think, plan, and construct our built environments.

It is specifically 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.

Duration
1–1/2 years (3 semesters), full time, 45 credits

Curriculum
The program is designed to be completed in three full-time, sequential semesters (fall, spring, fall). This program is STEM designated.

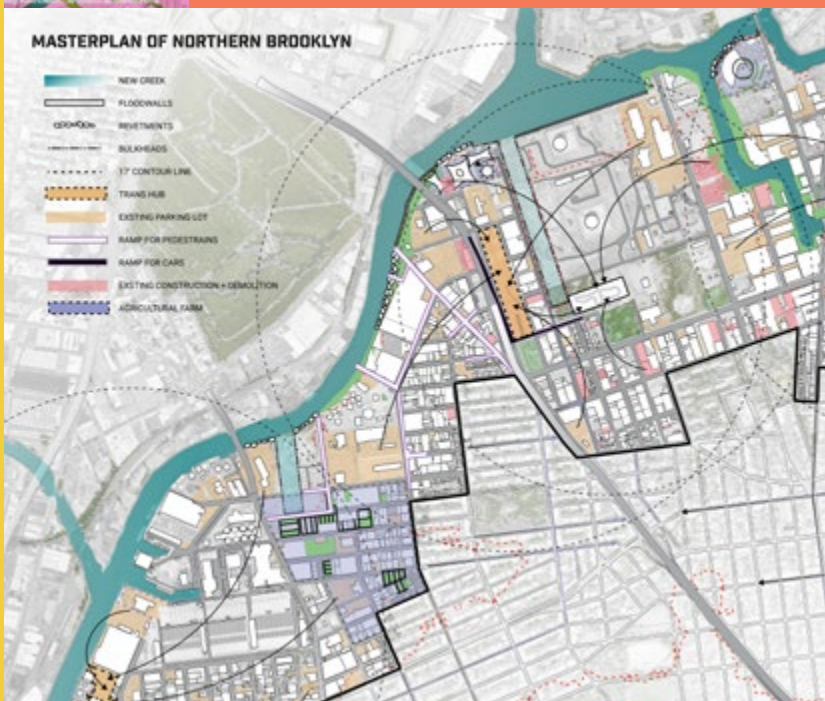
Eligibility
Open to applicants holding a professional degree in either architecture or landscape architecture; exceptions possible on demonstration of a high level of design ability.

Program Director
Julio Salcedo Fernandez

Joint Program:

"5+1" B.Arch–MUPUD Accelerated Master's

The focus on urban design in the B. Arch program makes these undergraduate students a natural fit for our new, accelerated program. Undergraduate Spitzer School students accepted to the B. Arch – MUPUD Accelerated Degree Program enroll in 18 credits of MUPUD graduate courses in their final year of the B. Arch program and are then able to complete the master's in two additional semesters rather than three.

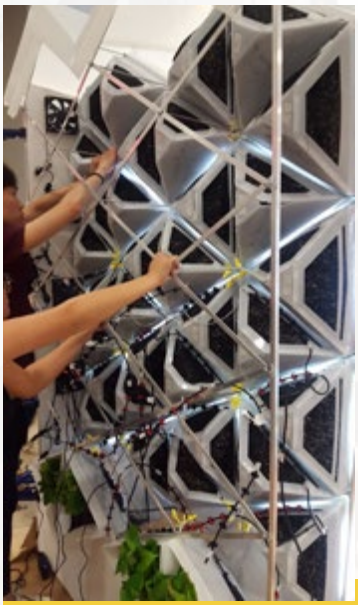


Faculty Spotlight

Ahu Aydogan

Ahu Aydogan is an Associate Professor teaching construction technology, design, and research at the City College since 2014. She conducted interdisciplinary design research as a HASS fellow at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Center for Architecture Science and Ecology (CASE), where she received her Ph.D. in Architectural Sciences in 2012. Her current research facilitates the interdisciplinary design of sustainable systems and technologies for integration within the built environment. She addresses the complexity involved in the management of architectural design problems, which provides her an intimate understanding of the architectural design process, from the viewpoint of the architect and client, as well as the environment. In collaboration with Elizabeth Biddinger (Professor at CCNY Grove School of Engineering), Professor Aydogan received a $40,000 endowed CUNY interdisciplinary research grant. "Plant-Based Air Filtration Using Engineered Growth Media: Formaldehyde Adsorption Dynamics."

"I am very proud to witness students develop from the time they are freshmen to their very own graduation day. Their knowledge and confidence grows day by day and it is amazing to see them graduating with all of that experience. They have lots of different stories of their own journeys and they have an ambition to be better in their own profession."



The project Breathe is a botanically-based air purifying system that constitutes plant-based air remediation strategies. It is a hydroponic system (plants growing without soil) that is composed of adsorbents and porous glass stones that capture and filter toxins in the air. This system can be used as a model for a self-regenerating system that would be integrated into the HVAC systems of buildings to improve indoor air quality and reduce their energy consumption profile.

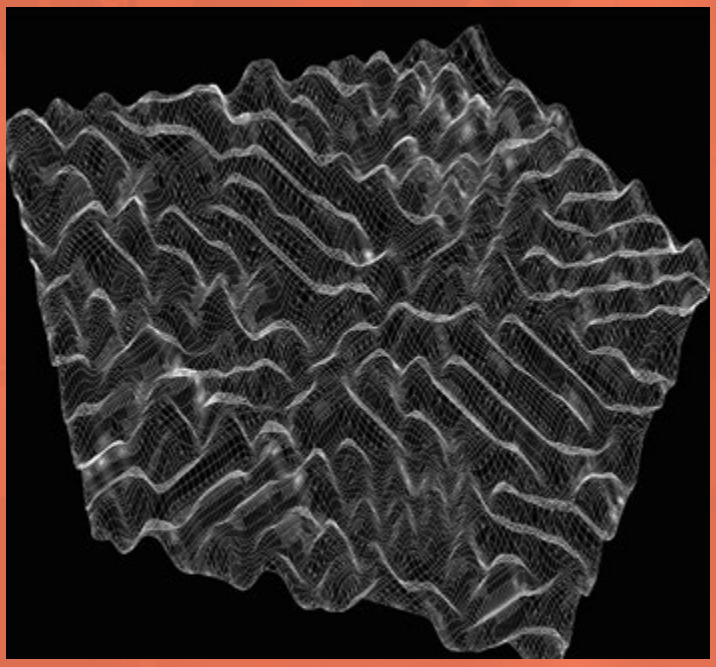
Breathe brings together an interdisciplinary field of expertise including scientists, engineers, and architects. Currently, the project is in collaboration with the Grove School of Engineering/CCNY and the Advanced Science Research Center/ CUNY. With a PSC-CUNY Award, the first prototype of Breathe was fabricated and demonstrated as a standalone exhibit at the SSA graduation in May 2018. In April 2019, the project was re-assembled by Professor Aydogan's research group and is still on display for demonstration on the 5th floor of the ASRC. This collaboration between SSA and the ASRC aims to merge researchers across disciplines including architects, engineers, botanists, and scientists.

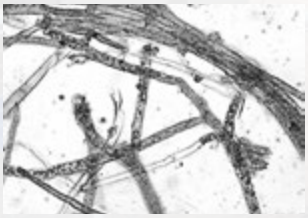
Faculty Spotlight

Frank Melendez

Frank Melendez is an architectural designer, educator, and researcher. He is an Associate Professor at the Spitzer and partner at Augmented Architectures and bioMATTERS, LLC, based in New York City and London. His teaching, research, and practice focus on the advancement of architectural design through the integration of emerging digital technologies within the built environment. This work engages topics pertaining to architectural drawing, computation, ecology, digital fabrication, bio and synthetic materials, physical computing, and robotics. Frank is the author of *Drawing from the Model* (Wiley, 2019) and coeditor of *Data, Matter, Design* (Routledge, 2020). He has held academic appointments at Carnegie Mellon University and Louisiana State University, and his work has been supported through grants, fellowships, and memberships including, the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) / Van Alen Institute, the MacDowell Colony, and NEW INC.

"The Spitzer School of Architecture is a unique and special place to teach, study, and have meaningful discussions about architecture and design. The diversity, energy, and strength of New York City is reflected in the students, staff, and faculty at the SSA and CCNY. I'm happy to be a part of the SSA community and the education of the students, whose work and visions continue to inspire and shape the way that I think about architecture, design, and pedagogy."



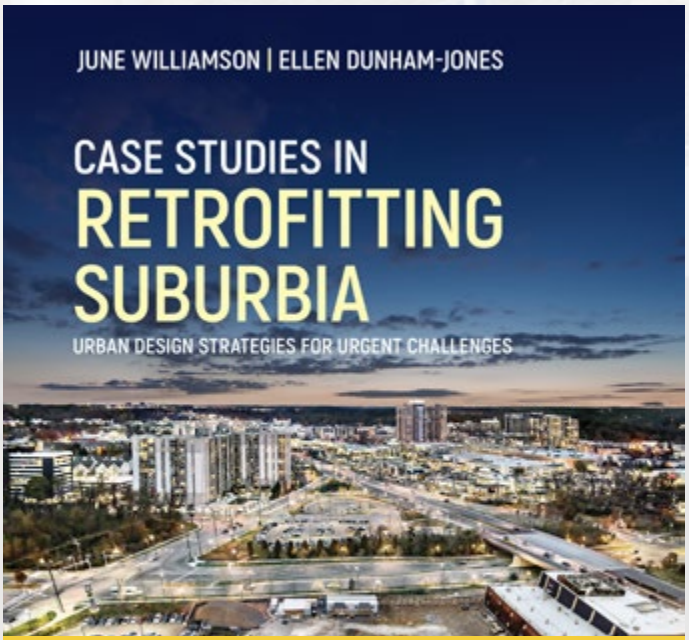


Frank Melendez's research in biodesign explores analog and digital workflows for making and creating new materials in architecture that are based on biological systems. This research involves using living systems, computational processes, and digital fabrication methods, to "grow" architectural materials, systems, and products. This transdisciplinary research requires collaboration with scientists and experts in other disciplines, working together, in an effort to develop design and manufacturing methods that promote upcycling and sustainable design solutions in order to reduce the negative effects of climate change. Computational simulations are used to study complex geometric relationships, growth patterns, and "emergent" rule-based design solutions. Digital and robotic fabrication processes are used to shape and craft complex artifacts and assemblies that are difficult, if not impossible, to make using traditional analog methods of construction. This research has led to projects such as Meander Series by bioMATTERS, a paneling system comprised of mycelium and upcycled waste materials. The Meander Series project was exhibited at the Open Cell "Biodesign Here Now" exhibition, London, UK, 2019, and included in a recent article about biomaterials in *Blueprint Magazine*: Issue 369, "The Materials Issue," April 2020.

Faculty Spotlight

June Williamson

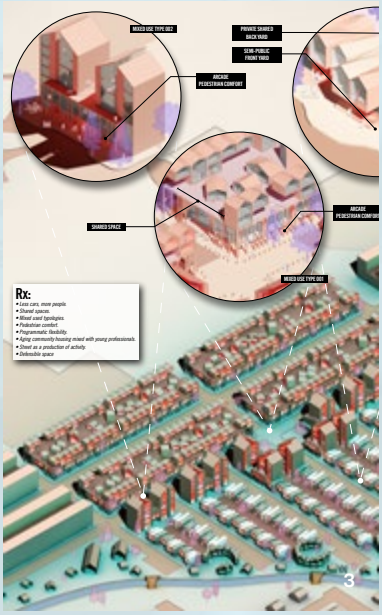
June Williamson, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism at The City College of New York since 2008, currently serves as Director of Graduate Architecture. The author or co-author of three acclaimed, award-winning books on the architecture and urban design of North American suburbs—*Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia (2021), Designing Suburban Futures (2013)*, and *Retrofitting Suburbia (2009)*—Williamson is a foremost international expert on retrofitting suburban form, regularly asked to contribute or comment on many prominent forums (NYT, WaPo, CNBC, CityLab, Curbed, Governing, Next City, Politico, VICE, WNYC, to name a few). She's delivered over 200 professional and academic papers, talks, podcasts, webinars, and workshops, across the United States and internationally, most recently in Austin, Brisbane, Calgary, and Rome. A former Department Chair, she's served on the Board of Directors of both AIA New York and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Williamson received a B.A. with Distinction in Architecture from Yale College, an M.Arch. from MIT, and an M.U.P. in Urban Design from CCNY.



Cover of *Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia* (Wiley, 2021)

My research into suburban retrofitting is constantly reminding me how important proximity and physical connection are to creativity and productivity. The Spitzer building functions as a hub, a live demonstration of how the physical built environment can foster fresh connections.

When I teach, whether it's a studio or seminar, I try to be well prepared and organized, so as to open space for students to have free conversation. A real skill in teaching is to know when to pause and stop talking to allow the student who is formulating her idea to find the space to express and share it.



1. Participants in a day-long professional retrofitting suburbia workshop sketch out a scheme for retrofitting a typical suburban strip mall site

2. Model of a vaulted adobe dormitory with a sun-tracking shade structure, designed for the arid mountain Arizona desert, by Samantha Fox, M.Arch I '25.

3. "Rx: A Prescription for Suburbs" by Gabriel Morales, M.Arch II '18, a scheme for redeveloping and infilling a vacant Sears store site.

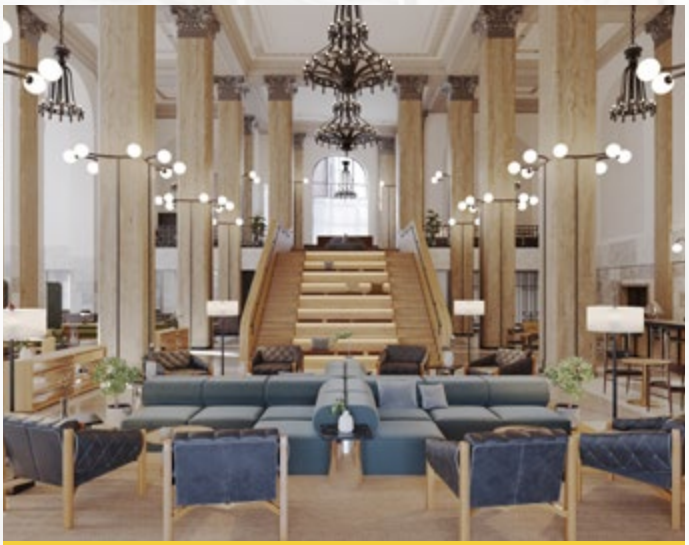
At the Spitzer School, Professor Williamson enjoys drawing on her research in studios that explore innovative housing types and mixed-use neighborhood design. Last semester, her first year M.Arch students designed a small dormitory with rammed earth or adobe for visiting astronomy researchers at the National Observatory in southern Arizona. In a previous advanced studio, students retrofitted surplussed Sears store sites into healthy, walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods. She's regularly offered a retrofitting suburbia elective seminar, attracting students from all our degree programs and also teaches a foundational course on urban and site analysis and design.

Faculty Spotlight

Joshua Jow

Joshua Jow is an architect, educator, and researcher. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Spitzer School and the founder of JOW Office for Architecture based in Brooklyn, NY. His teaching and practice focuses on the intersection between design, local communities, and sustainable material systems. His work is deeply engaged in refined formal exploration and in the expression of space as an opportunity to bring joy to the experience of daily life. This working methodology insists on an architecture that is in critical dialogue with history, culture, and the institutions around us. Joshua's recent work includes the adaptive reuse into residential space of a landmarked bank building in downtown Albany, NY and a public art installation in Newburgh, NY which aims to bring collective action towards revitalizing empty buildings within the city.

"It has been a pleasure and an honor to teach at the Spitzer School of Architecture. The diversity of both the faculty and student body create a fantastic environment that fosters innovation, creativity, and discourse. Each student's unique perspective and background are an invaluable part of what we are able to discover both in and out of the classroom."



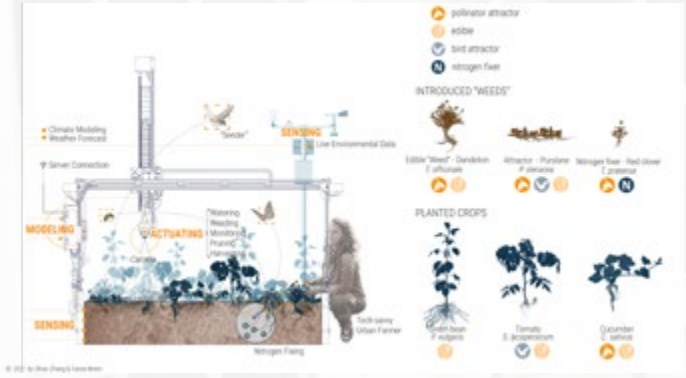
Joshua's current research at SSA focuses on the spatial, social, and environmental possibilities of adaptive reuse in architecture. Adaptive reuse—the repurposing of buildings for new uses—is multi-scalar and allows architects to affect issues ranging from the material to the territorial. The reuse of existing buildings is a critical tool in our efforts to reduce architecture's contribution to global carbon emissions. Reuse not only provides opportunities for the design of novel spatial solutions but also has the potential to reestablish social and economic connections to communities that older buildings once served. The first Advanced Studio in this series looked at a functioning architectural hardware factory and warehouse in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Students adapted the building into a housing/manufacturing complex which explored new ways of living and working while considering architectural responses to the threat of rising waters. His latest studio was focused on a re-interpretati on of the Manhattanville Factory District in Harlem which transformed a series of historic brewery buildings into commercial, community, and retail space. Students had the opportunity to work with the developer of the project in order to perform first-hand and on-the-ground research.

Faculty Spotlight

Zihao Zhang

Zihao Zhang, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of landscape architecture and Master of Landscape Architecture program director at the City College of New York. By building transdisciplinary, critical analyses at the intersections among design, engineering, and environmental humanities, his teaching and research interrogate conceptions of humans, nature, and technology in contemporary culture and investigate interspecies entanglements through landscape research. He studies emerging cybernetic technologies and intelligent machines, reflecting on their ramifications on the constructed environment. His work expands designers' understanding of the messy entanglement between machines and ecologies and inspires innovative landscape strategies.

Funded by a CUNY Interdisciplinary Research Grant, Zihao is currently leading a team of multidisciplinary scholars to develop the Urban Ecology and Agriculture Laboratory (UEAL). This research laboratory will design, test, and evaluate innovative models of robot-assisted urban agriculture for urban



biodiversity and climate-sensitive agriculture.

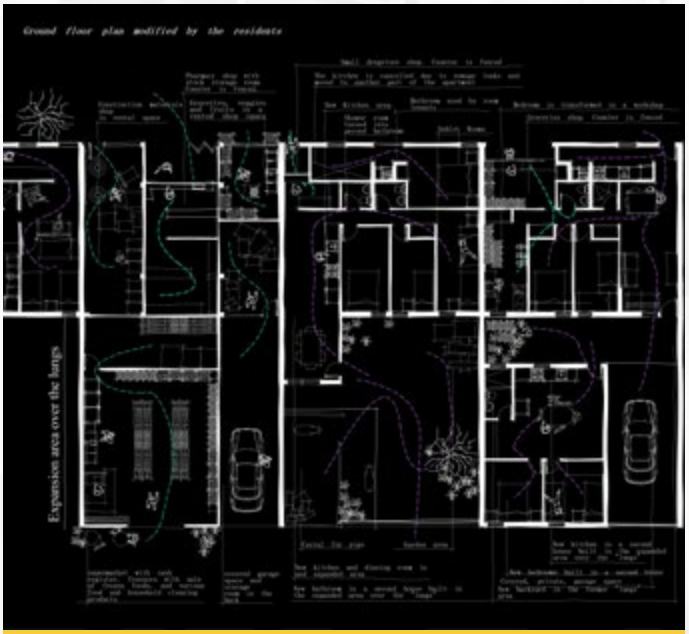
The team is establishing this laboratory to develop collaboration among scholars in environmental design, artificial intelligence, robotics, and urban ecology. To ameliorate dysfunction in the urban food system and food insecurity in American cities, UEAL seeks innovative solutions that integrate sensing networks, machine learning, and robot-assisted systems for a new type of urban agricultural practice. This research has substantial potential impacts on increasing urban food security, biodiversity, and the ability to adapt to climate change. The UEAL project will also build collaborations with community partners and high schools, motivating the next generation of scientists and urban farmers through STEM curriculum development and community outreach.

During the summer of 2022, the team set up an indoor FarmBot and conducted various experiments, developing AI-enabled plant maintenance regimes. Besides the goal to increase urban biodiversity through the experiments, Zihao is especially interested in theorizing the new kinds of relationships developed among humans, machines, and other nonhuman species in creating robot-assisted urban agriculture, formulating new concepts and ideas about interspecies entanglements mediated and enabled by intelligent machines and, thus, inspiring novel landscape design strategies.

Faculty Spotlight

Laura Wainer

Laura Wainer is an assistant professor of architecture and urbanism at Spitzer. Trained as a licensed architect in Argentina, her interest in housing for historically marginalized communities led her to pursue graduate studies in development economics and urban sociology. The research she initiated as a Ph.D. at MIT focuses on what transformations beneficiaries of housing policies make within modernist housing projects. Her aim is to both address the design agency of "common" people and to understand what values, practices, and needs shall be addressed when form and space making intersects the social agenda. In the search for how different disciplines can join efforts to build a more equitable built environment, Laura curated projects focused on creating bridges between academia, activism, and professional practice, such as the Housing+ Biennial hosted by the Center for Advanced Urbanism at MIT Media Lab, and the '60 Days - 11 Maps - 1 City' project hosted by The New School, the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town, and Slum Dwellers International.



"As the premier public architecture school in NYC, Spitzer is an invaluable gem for the city. Not only does it carry a deep history in the social agenda of design, but it has simultaneously promoted social mobility for many generations of professionals. Both promoting a more just urban environment and being a fundamental space for a more just society make Spitzer such a special school. I'm honored to be part of this community, serving its wonderful students and --together-- putting the university at the service of their own communities and neighborhoods."

As a Global South scholar, Laura Wainer's research draws on theory and practice from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to explore an intellectual shift in the current geopolitical patterns of knowledge production in architecture and urbanism. Under the conviction that more just ideals must have a distinctive spatial and material expression, her architecture studios and courses focus on alternative models of social organization and their correlation with space and material form. Working with local and international grassroots organizations, students learn about how other forces shape the built environment (social norms, economic power, cultural values) as well as how design and architecture can be at the service of producing innovation and solutions that respond to financial, social, and redistribution problems. With a strong focus on housing as something other than built form, Laura's studios are primarily geared towards students who aim to develop skills and knowledge for professional practice with a solid commitment to the social agenda in design.

How To Apply

The Spitzer School of Architecture only accepts students for the fall semester. There is no spring class admission.

Visit our website for detailed instructions on how to apply to our programs.

ssa.ccny.cuny.edu

Application Deadline

Undergraduate Deadline
February 1, 2025

Graduate Priority Deadline
January 15, 2025

International Students

Evaluation of non-U.S. credentials by an authorized agency are often needed by students for their application. CUNY's preferred agencies for this purpose are Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE), Josef Silny & Associates, Transcript Research, Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc., Scholaro, World Education Services, Inc., SpanTran: The Evaluation Company, Foreign Credentials Service of America, Foreign Credential Evaluations, Inc.. Applicants with design backgrounds should request a course-by-course evaluation. Applicants without design backgrounds should request a general evaluation with GPA.

Please see the CCNY Admissions International Applicants page and CUNY International Students Financial Resources page for more details.

Important Undergraduate Transfer Information

If you are transferring from another NAAB-accredited architectural program, you will need to submit a portfolio with your Creative Challenge. The portfolio will allow our admissions team to place you in design studio. Transfer students' credits will be evaluated after they are accepted to the university. The department and university will not tell you which courses you will receive credit for before you apply or are accepted into the program. Prospective transfer students will not be advised on which courses to take at another institution while they await acceptance at the Spitzer School of Architecture. Curricula change frequently, each school is different, and course content varies widely. Therefore, advisement with a guarantee of transfer credit is impossible. In order to expedite the transfer evaluation process, transfer students who are accepted should be ready to provide copies of syllabi, course descriptions, and writing samples or coursework. The more information you can supply to our faculty/department coordinators, the better they will be able to evaluate the work you did at your previous institution(s) and determine if you will receive transfer credit.

"It is no accident that this institution has produced 10 Nobel Prize winners along with countless captains of industry, cultural icons, leaders at the highest levels of government. Because talent and effort combined with our various backgrounds and life experiences has always been the lifeblood of our singular American genius."

Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States
CCNY Commencement 2016

About SSA & CCNY

CCNY is one of the country's foremost "engines of mobility" and we here at Spitzer are doing our part in Architecture to educate students with truly diverse perspectives.

Architecture is a wonderful field of study. It is so much more than designing and constructing buildings, although it is that too. It is a way of asking and answering questions about the world, through studying the built environment, and designing the places that we humans have built for our own use, our habitats or settlements.

It's a bit of art.
It's pragmatic.
It's engineering.
It's computer programming.
It's economics.
It's sociology and geography.
It's making stuff.
It's analyzing the past.
It's imagining the future.
It's designing at all scales.

Career Development & Job Opportunities

With over 50 years of training students in New York City, the Spitzer School and its alumni network have vast and varied connections with city agencies, firms large and small, as well as construction companies and design firms. Each spring, there is a Career Fair that welcomes some of the city's top employers to look for interns as well as part-time and full-time employees. Almost all employers have an SSA alumni at the table – we are proud of our representation in the city and know our students have a reputation for being well trained, thoughtful, flexible, and creative.

Internships are always paid for our students; we partner with our Career Development office and extend all opportunities to students when they come to the department.

Summer Career Lab

Considering a career in architecture?

Interested in design and the built environment?

Learn to think like an architect at the Spitzer School of Architecture's Summer Career Lab!

Building upon the accredited curriculum of New York City's flagship public school of architecture, the Summer Career Lab introduces architectural practice, theory, making, and thinking to those considering a career in the design field.

Running for four weeks (early July through early August) within a state-of-the-art facility and taught by Spitzer School faculty, alumni, and graduate students, the Summer Career Lab will be organized around a diverse series of events and exercises.

- Lectures on architectural fundamentals
- Workshops on drawing and making
- One-on-one critiques and collective pin-up reviews
- Field trips and site work
- Presentations from architects, historians, and designers
- Office tours

With an emphasis on contemporary architectural thinking and practice, the Summer Career Lab curriculum incorporates mixed-fabrication, computer-aided design, interdisciplinary research, and sustainability as core tenets.

The SSA Summer Career Lab provides its participants—high school, collegiate, or professional—with the experience needed to make an informed career choice, competitive work for design portfolios, and skills immediately applicable to design endeavors.

Prior experience in architecture or design is not required. Admission is on a rolling basis. Students must be sixteen years of age by the Summer Career Lab's start date to enroll in pre-college courses. Students enrolling in college-level courses must be eighteen years or older by the Career Lab's start date or have completed one year of college study. The Summer Career Lab is not credit-bearing. There are a small number of tuition scholarships available; visit the Spitzer School website for more information. *(2024 Tuition - $2,525.00)*

The Premier Accredited Public School of Architecture in Manhattan

500+ Students

26 Full-Time Faculty

55 Adjunct Faculty

19 Staff Members

2 Farmbots and Research Sites

135,000ft² Building with Roof-top Amphitheater

3,000ft² Fabrication Lab & Model Shop With Wood-Working, Milling Machines, and 3D Printers

1 Solar Roofpod & Urban Farm

35,000 Volumes In Our Architectural Library

CUNY

1 Robotics and Research Lab

27 Average Age Of Incoming Graduate Student

$3,465 In-State Undergraduate Tuition Per Semester

$6,485 In-State Graduate Tuition Per Semester

31 Studios

8 Degree Programs

94 Degrees Granted In 2024