

SUMMER
2013

Spitzer School of Architecture
City College of New York
141 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
212.650.6751

TONI L. GRIFFIN

Director, J. Max Bond Center

ESTHER YANG

Associate Director, J. Max Bond Center

GEORGE RANALLI

Dean, Spitzer School of Architecture

JMBC SCHOLAR 2013-2014



Claire Ross received her B.A. in Fine Arts from Bard College and is currently entering her third year of the M.Arch program at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at CCNY. Although Claire is originally from Philadelphia, she lived in France for six years and has spent the majority of her life in New York City. Claire has worked for the NYC design blog Urban Omnibus as well as at a design and architecture studio in the East Village. She is interested in the intersection of thoughtful design and social equality and is excited to tackle the issues of Design for the Just City at the J. Max Bond Center in the coming year.

COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

GORDON DAVIS

Partner, Venable, LLP

STEVEN M. DAVIS

Partner, Davis Brody Bond

REESE FAYDE

Principal, Reese Fayde & Associates

GORDON KIPPING

Principal, Gtects

KAREN PHILLIPS

Regional Director, New York State Parks

JAMES POLSHEK

Design Counsel, Ennead Architects

LOLA C. WEST

Managing Director, West Fuller Advisors, LLC

THOMAS WRIGHT

Executive Director, Regional Plan Association

FACULTY AFFILIATES

DENISE HOFFMAN BRANDT

Director of Graduate Landscape Architecture Program, Associate Professor

HILLARY BROWN

Director of M.S. in Sustainability Program, Professor

BRADLEY HORN

Director of Graduate Architecture Program, Assistant Professor

MICHAEL SORKIN

Director of Graduate Urban Design Program, Distinguished Professor

ALBERT FOYO

Adjunct Professor

ADAM HAYES

Adjunct Lecturer

FABIAN LLONCH

Associate Professor

IVAN ROSA

Adjunct Associate Professor

ELISABETTA TERRAGNI

Associate Professor

CATHERINE SEAVITT-NORDENSON

Associate Professor

STAY CURRENT AT:

www.ssa1.cuny.cuny.edu/programs/jmaxbond.html

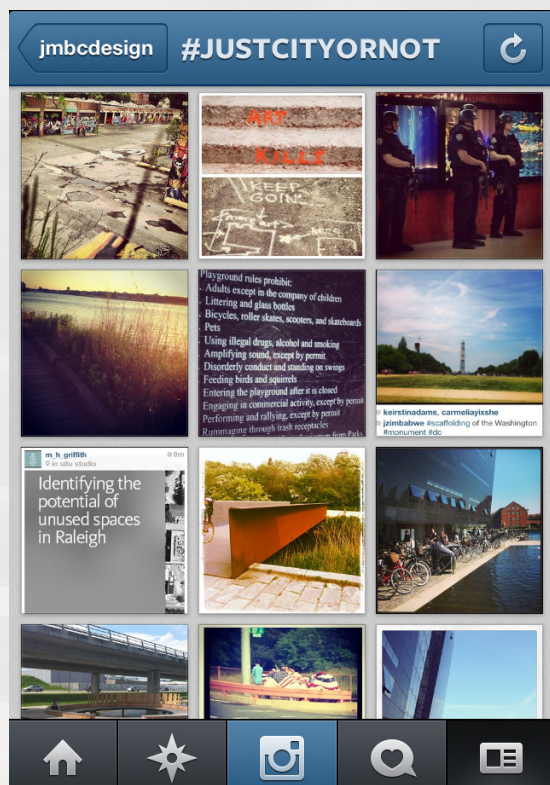
www.facebook.com/JMaxBondCtr.DesignForTheJustCity

Instagram @JMBCDesign

MISSION

The J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City, at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, is dedicated to the advancement of design practice, education, research and advocacy in ways that build and sustain resilient and just communities, cities, and regions.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE J. MAX BOND CENTER



JMBC wants you to share what you think a Just or an Un-just City looks like! Join us on **INSTAGRAM @jmbcdesign** and post pictures to **#justcityornot** that best illustrate what you think are the best, worst, and/or thought-provoking aspects of the Just or Un-just City.

Not on Instagram? No worries! Email your images to bondcenter@ccny.cuny.edu and we'll post it for you. Be sure to include your name in the email, and type in "Instagram" as your email subject.

2013 has already been a busy year for the Bond Center! With the start of the spring academic semester, we launched four new design initiatives that involve community participatory research, design innovation in contested cities, and educational awareness in architecture among youth of color. In short, here's what we've been up to ...

New York is projected to attract 600,000 new residents by 2030; yet today we know there is a 125,000-unit shortfall in affordable housing supply. In the article, "**Housing NYC**", JMBC Associate Director Esther Yang and SSA adjunct professor Julio Salcedo-Fernandez uncover ways to reduce the cost of affordable housing through alternative design and design code transformations as a means to increase production. With research conducted by SSA architecture students, the preliminary findings begin to suggest that certain building codes and design standards prescribed by housing agencies can lead to increased costs and constraints on design innovation.

In contrast, many American cities continue to lose significant population on an annual basis. Coined "Legacy Cities" by The American Assembly (TAA) at Columbia University, these cities that have lost 20% of their population since their peak, are managing a surplus of vacant homes and land for which there is no demand. The JMBC is partnering with TAA to launch the Legacy City Design Initiative, an effort to research and catalogue the best practices of design innovation happening in American rustbelt and post industrial cities. In the article, "**The Future for Legacy City Design**," we highlight through infographic mapping the 48 legacy cities and their common attributes of housing density, population density, unemployment and race.

Supplementing this work, we are excited to announce that the Bond Center was the recipient of the 2013 Bruner Loeb Forum grant and will host the **Bruner Loeb Forum on Legacy City Design in Detroit, MI, November 7-9, 2013**. The Bruner Loeb Forum represents a new partnership between the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence (RBA) and the Loeb Fellowship Program, two of the preeminent national programs dedicated to the urban built environment. The JMBC will partner with The American Assembly and four other design centers, representing legacy cities, to share and develop effective design strategies for vacant land, infrastructure and urban densification. Read more about the Forum below.

Legacy cities highlight many of the longstanding issues American cities continue to struggle with, including economic and social inclusion, access and diversity. As a part of our ongoing research on the Just City, JMBC launched its first graduate seminar, Design for the Just City, and asked students to develop a manifesto video defining the Just City along with metrics for how we might evaluate design's contribution to more just environments. Find out in the essay "**Can We Design for the Just City?**" written by graduate student Grace Ng, about what the work of the seminar revealed.

In addition to evaluating what and how we design for the Just City, the JMBC has also been looking at *who* is designing our cities. Recent statistics reveal that of the over 150,000 licensed architects in the US, only 1.8% are African American and 3% are Hispanic. Of the 27,000 students enrolled in the 151 architecture programs in US universities, only 1,300 students are Black and 3,900 are Hispanic. In the article, "**Inclusion in Architecture**", see how the JMBC is developing original research to reveal why young people of color are not choosing architecture as a profession and our pilot program with the Harlem School of the Arts that attempts to remedy this gap.

We thank all of our friends, partners and interns for helping us get the Bond Center up and running. Please continue to follow and provide input on our work on Facebook!

INCLUSION IN ARCHITECTURE

2012 105,596 REGISTERED ARCHITECTS
2013 1,872 AFRICAN AMERICAN

1.8%



This year, we've been exposed to a lot of public conversation about the lack of recognition of women in architecture. **But did you know that out of approximately 27,000 total students enrolled in 120 architecture schools across the United States, only a little more than 1300 students are African American? Of that 1300, 37% attend the 8 historically black colleges that offer accredited architecture programs. This means, on average, in the remaining 112 architecture schools, there are about 8 black students per school.** In contrast to participation in practice, the US is becoming increasingly diverse, with historically minority populations approaching close to 50% of the total population. So how is it that as our cities are becoming more diverse, the actors participating in the design and production of the spaces we inhabit do not reflect a similar composition? Why aren't more people of color not entering the design professions?

Beyond the statistics about participation by the numbers, little research exists to help us understand what makes architecture and its sister practices unattractive or unattainable for young people of color. Last year, the JMBC, together with the Harlem School of the Arts (HSA) received a community-based participatory research grant from the CCNY Colin L. Powell Center to answer this question, with the hopes of ultimately designing a program that would raise awareness and engage young people of color in changing the conditions in their communities and cities. This past spring we launched two efforts to begin to uncover some answers.

The first effort involved research conducted JMBC staff, architecture students and a PhD candidate from the Graduate Center. The team collected data on the trends in participation both in the academy and practice since 1991, the year the first comprehensive database was developed about African American architects by the University of Cincinnati. Additionally, the team created survey tools to be administered to middle, high school and undergraduate students as well as parents, teachers and counselors to understand why young people of color do or do not consider the profession and what are the particular influences that encourage and/or discourage them from entering / staying in the profession.

Our second effort was a pilot architecture program that integrated five visual arts students from the HSA into the 3rd year design architecture studios at the Spitzer School of Architecture. Using the redesign of the Harlem School of the Arts facility, the objective of the pilot was to actively engage youth within the design process to help them better understand how they can play a role in shaping the world around them - specifically the design of the Harlem School of the Arts and its surrounding neighborhood. Under the mentorship of SSA faculty and students, the HSA students walked away from the semester with the ability to articulate spatial design ideas through the visual art mediums they have been developing at HSA; the confidence to present their ideas to architecture faculty and their peers; and the power to critique design proposals as the project's client and user.

In the upcoming year, JMBC and HSA will expand on both of these efforts and proceed to conduct the survey phase of our research, using both HSA and SSA students to further develop and implement the survey tools, assess the findings and report the conclusions. Initiatives such as these, that involve both research and hands-on interactions, is what will begin to change the dynamics of race in architecture. As in other professions, such as medicine or law, architecture is a profession that can be introduced to students in general - and students of color specifically - when they begin thinking about what they want to be when they grow up. Through a thorough examination of the state of race in architecture today, and a more in-depth introduction of architecture to today's youth of color, the JMBC's efforts will begin to change the face of architecture and the faces in architecture of the future.



BRUNER LOEB FORUM ON LEGACY CITY DESIGN CONFERENCE

J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City & The American Assembly Detroit, MI
November 7-8, 2013

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION

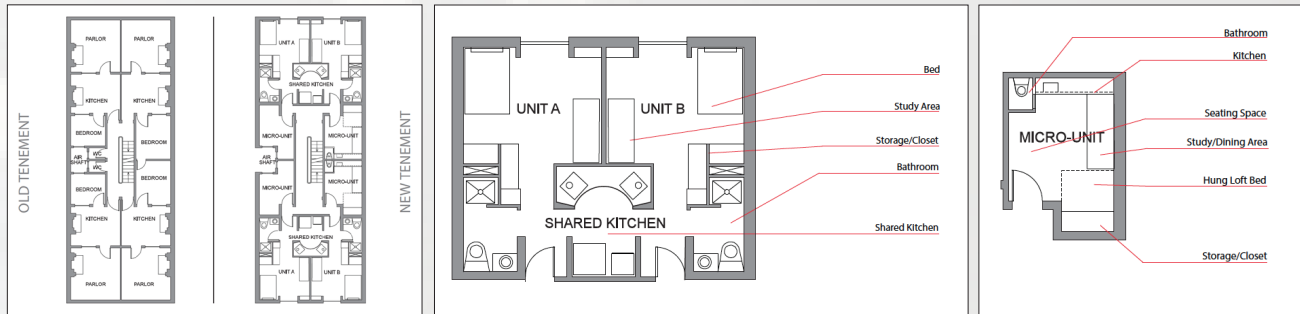


This past March, the JMBC was awarded the Bruner Loeb Forum grant and will host the Bruner Loeb Forum on Legacy City Design Conference, November 7-9, 2013 in Detroit, Michigan. JMBC will work with The American Assembly at Columbia University (TAA) and four design centers including the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, UPSTATE Syracuse, the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative and the University of Buffalo. The conference will feature the current design innovations from Southeast Michigan, Upstate New York and Northeast Ohio and invites designers and change agents from these regions and other legacy cities to explore the most effective design strategies for dealing with excessive vacancy, population disbursement and aging infrastructure.

The conference builds on JMBC's Legacy City Design Initiative, a collaboration with The American Assembly, launched last September. With TAA, we convened a group of legacy city designers and urban planners at the J. Max Bond Center to develop a set of draft guiding principles for practice, process, policy and program reforms for legacy city revitalization, including new ideas for land use, systems and regulations. The group discussed new strategies that should include 1) rethinking systems at the regional, citywide and neighborhood scales for water, energy, waste, roads, transit; 2) reimagining the urban form of neighborhoods – new forms and new principles for place-making – recognizing and integrating alternative land uses and cultural land narratives; and 3) expanding the role of ecological and productive landscapes as alternative forms of "green" land use and infrastructure, in addition to urban agriculture.

The Bond Center has also worked to develop a set of maps to define and identify US legacy cities. Using the baseline indicator of population loss greater than 20% since peak population, 48 cities meet the definition of legacy city, with St. Louis, MO being the western-most city and New Orleans, the most southern. Our research then identified and mapped other attributes that might help to further define legacy city conditions including residential vacancy, unemployment, race, income & poverty, and population density. Each map captures the current state condition in absolute numbers, as well as the relative percent within the city, and the recent trend between 2000 and 2010 based on Census Reporting. Maps will be uploaded to our WEBSITE shortly. Stay Tuned!

HOUSING NYC



Working with the same footprint of an old New York City tenement, two students, Chad Richardson and Mary Rizalda, challenged existing design codes to explore tactics to double the supply of housing available for individuals and small households through versatile unit configurations, shared spaces between tenants, and compact furniture assemblies.

New York City is continuously pressed with enormous housing needs and affordability challenges. By 2030, the city expects 600,000 more residents, placing further urgency upon the housing sector to explore innovative ways to create units for its residents and meet its housing objectives more affordably. In response to these concerns, the J. Max Bond Center set up a housing research course, orchestrated by JMBC Associate Director Esther Yang and Architecture Professor Julio Salcedo-Fernandez. This course allowed 11 architecture students to examine the building and design code barriers and cost burdens associated with the development, construction, and operation of affordable housing, and introduce tactics that could assist New York City in overcoming its housing challenges.

Students were encouraged to assert critical design thinking to analyze current policies and practices and propose alternative design strategies that can reduce costs. The analysis is beginning to reveal three trends in the design and production process that might offer insights into future design innovations and ultimate cost savings. First, the research starts to reveal that affordable housing building codes are sometimes in excess of the city's more universally used International Building Code (IBC) Standards. For example, IBC requires a dining room to be at minimum 55 square feet, but NYC's Housing and Preservation Development (HPD) guidelines for affordable housing requires a dining room to be a minimum of 100 square feet for 1BR and 2BR units, 110 square feet for a 3BR unit, and 120 sq. ft for 4BR units. Second, when we examine the program requirements for unit layouts, certain requirements for room sizes, number of rooms and adjacencies may not be flexible enough to consider alternative household sizes and compositions. Affordable housing configurations for a diversity of household types needs to expand outside of our traditional definitions for family and senior housing.

Lastly, when we allow ourselves to reconsider the first two trends, we believe we will uncover cost savings and design innovations that will produce a greater variety of quality affordable housing options. The students explored large and small-scale design ideas including proposals for shared spaces between tenants; inclusion of adaptable furniture assemblies; cost-analysis for simpler design and construction techniques; and the introduction of bold new property management protocol and products.

JMBC will continue to expand this research and engage a diversity of housing design, production and management partners from the public, private and community sectors.

Grace Ng, Master of Landscape Architecture candidate, 2014

CAN WE DESIGN FOR THE JUST CITY? AN ESSAY

What is a 'Just City'? This was the question our graduate professor, Toni L. Griffin, director of the J. Max Bond Center posited on the first day of our urban design seminar, the Design for the Just City. Initial conversations were centered on ideas of equity, access, and the baseline needs that each person should have met (shelter, education, food, employment, safety), but then the counterargument brings up the issues of distribution and the related ideas of the 'undeserving poor' and 'NIMBY-ism'. At the root, it is a societal issue that can only be resolved at the scale of the people; change begins with education, both informal and formal that cultivates an empathetic and engaged citizen that is committed to the betterment of the larger community – to stop the generational poverty and cultural racism that creates the 'unjust city'. And so, how do we, as designers, create the spatial environment of that cultivates the Just Citizen and achieves the aspirations of the Just City?

The proposition of the course was to explore how designers can facilitate, through spatial and social design, a more just city. We researched the development trends of housing, retail, transportation, and industrial areas so as to understand the spatial development of New York. We also sought to understand the social and economic context of these topics to reveal the roots and consequences of the myriad of factors that contributed to the Just City. Most interesting was to see the flux in community development policy between people based and placed base policy. There is a need to balance both types interventions where people-based policies help to augment the skills of disadvantaged individuals (supporting the Just Citizen) while at the same time also providing place-based policies (jobs need to be created close enough to poor households so that residents can take advantage of those jobs, whether they have received training or not). Core to the Just City is access, proximity and mobility. We as designers have a direct impact on creating a more accessible environment through our use of urban planning and design choices. Transportation planning is central to the creation of physical mobility. Planners make critical design choices that impact physical proximity. On a larger scale, there is even more potential for designers to facilitate a more just city if we become a stronger voice in policy planning.



WHAT WE ARE READING...

FORMERLY URBAN: PROJECTING RUSTBELT FUTURES
BY JULIA CZERNIAK
Formerly Urban is a collection of essays grounded in the belief that design, in all its manifestations, must play a central role in the revitalization of shrinking cities in America. The essays-by notable architects, landscape architects, and urban planners-argue that designers need to seize the opportunity to be the link between universities, local government, and private foundations.

URBAN ALCHEMY: RESTORING JOY IN AMERICA'S SORTED-OUT CITIES
BY MINDY THOMPSON FULLILOVE
Using the work of French urbanist Michel Cantal-Dupart and the American urban design firm Rothschild Doyno Collaborative as guides, Fullilove takes readers on a tour of successful collaborative interventions that repair cities and reconnect communities to make them whole.

DRIVING DETROIT: THE QUEST FOR RESPECT IN THE MOTOR CITY
BY GEORGE GALSTER
Partly a self-portrait, in which Detroiters paint their own stories through songs, poems, and oral histories, Driving Detroit offers an intimate, insightful, and perhaps controversial explanation for the stunning contrasts—poverty and plenty, decay and splendor, despair and resilience—that characterize the once mighty city.

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS
BY MICHELLE ALEXANDER
With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

RECENT DIALOGUES

Columbia University Lecture in Planning Series (LIPS)
Detroit Future City
New York, NY
February 26, 2013

University of California, Berkeley
The College of Environmental Design
Spring Lecture Series
Berkeley, CA
April 1, 2013

40 Years of Women at Notre Dame
Architecture Symposium
University of Notre Dame School of Architecture
South Bend, IN
April 5-6, 2013

Design Criticism D-Crit Conference:
Design for the Just City
School of Visual Arts
New York, NY
May 11, 2013

Benefits Beyond the Site: A
Community Development and Design
Leaders Forum
UPSTATE; Syracuse University
June 13-14, 2013

Enterprise Community Partners
Housing NYC: Research at JMBC
July 17, 2013

STAY CURRENT AT:

www.ssa1.cny.cuny.edu/programs/jmaxbond.html

www.facebook.com/JMaxBondCtr
DesignForTheJustCity

Instagram @JMBCDesign