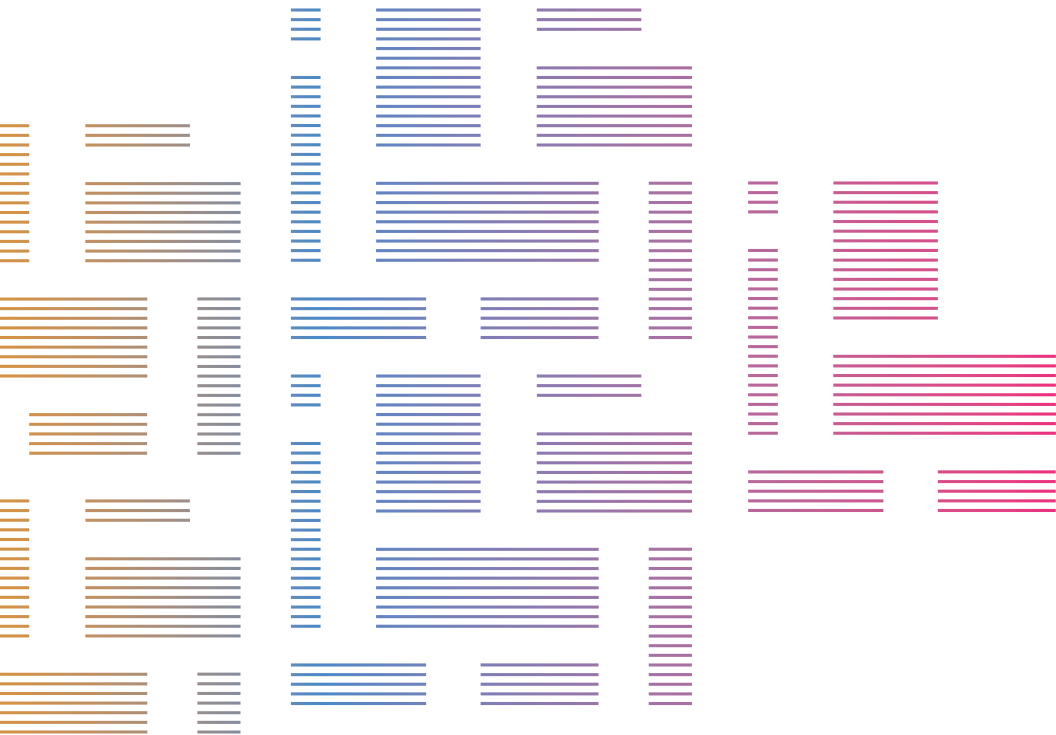


Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative  
Public Programs 2016–2017



The Harvard–Mellon Urban Initiative is an interdisciplinary, inter-school research initiative supported by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It brings together scholars and resources from across Harvard University and is directed toward establishing a vigorous, interdisciplinary, and coordinated study of urban environments in the humanities.

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For the last three years, The Harvard–Mellon Urban Initiative has carried out research and site travel and supported associated curriculum and events for four interschool and multidisciplinary groups of faculty and students, each focusing on a separate city as a portal for its activities: Mumbai, Istanbul, Boston, and Berlin. In the final year of its four-year grant, the Initiative has turned from intensive research travel and seminars to dramatically expand its public outreach and participation in the larger discourse on urbanism today.

We have pursued this expansion of our public agenda in two waves: first, an extensive program of conferences, symposia, colloquia, panel discussions, and workshops with associated screenings, readings, informal discussions, tours, and ultimately a street festival. The second wave of our activity, in production for eighteen months and appearing in the wake of the final events in our series, in Fall 2017, is an exhibition of work on our portal cities.

Our events series is conceived to address major themes that have emerged in our work on the portal cities, but to extend discussions and case studies beyond these cities to include examples and debates from around the world. The primary themes we will address in specific events range from questions of housing and gentrification to new cuisine, from the geography of street hawkers to speculative science fiction, from new theories of nature and technology to questions of public art and interventionary urban design. In all cases, we are working to develop a treatment of compelling contemporary urban situations from historical, cultural, and theoretical perspectives, and through the range of these themes bring at least twenty scholarly and professional fields into discussion with one another.

The work on our exhibition regrounds these thematic questions back into the concrete experience of our portal cities, not only as an exploration of these specific sites, but also to understand these larger themes as they become evident in real places. The negotiation between urban questions arising from many disciplines and our study sites is the intellectual foundation of our work on the exhibition, the process of which will be chronicled on our new website, which went live in November 2016. The site will carry forward the discussions that begin at our events and share some of the thinking going into our exhibition strategy. The exhibition will open at Harvard in Fall 2017, and we are now working to find venues in each of our portal cities for the exhibition to meet a wider audience in all of the geographies it examines.

14 October 2016

# Landscapes of Housing

Colloquium  
CGIS Knafel Building

What possibilities exist for scholars and practitioners to develop together new ways of thinking about the intersection of housing and landscape, and of implementing such ideas in practice? The aim of this colloquium, jointly organized with the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, is to explore how housing shapes landscape and is, in turn, shaped by it.

## Panel 1: Landscape and Dwelling

DAN BLUESTONE, Director of Preservation Studies and Professor of Art and Architecture, Boston University

SOPHIE HOCHHÄUSL, Assistant Professor of Modern Architecture, Boston University

THOMAS NYBO RASMUSSEN, Landscape Director, Vandkunsten, Copenhagen

Moderators: JOHN BEARDSLEY, Director of Garden & Landscape Studies, Dumbarton Oaks

JEANNE HAFFNER, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks

## Panel 2: Landscape, Housing, and the Post-Socialist City

CHRISTINA CRAWFORD, Assistant Professor of Art History, Emory University

CHRISTOPH BERNHARDT, Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Erkner

Moderators: EVE BLAU, Adjunct Professor of the History and Theory of Urban Form and Design, Harvard GSD

MÁRKUS KELLER, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest; Center for Metropolitan Studies, Berlin

## Panel 3: Housing and Landscape in Informal Settings

CHRISTIAN WERTHMANN, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Design, Leibniz University, Hannover

VYJAYANTHI RAO VENUTURUPALLI, Director, Terreform Center for Advanced Urban Research, New York

BRUNO CARVALHO, Princeton-Mellon Initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities

Final comments: ELLEN BRAAE, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, AND HENRIETTE STEINER, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen

15 + 22 October 2016

# Gentrification by Design

Workshop Series  
Harvard Graduate School of Design

If gentrification creates volatility for business-owners and residents in areas with increasing real estate values, what concrete tools are emerging in the design field to address displacement, shape the public realm, and re-direct investments in American neighborhoods? Following each of the three case studies that illustrate varying dynamics of gentrification in American cities today, students are invited to contribute to a workshop and respond to design challenges posed by participating guests.

## Opening lecture:

OSCAR PERRY ABELLO, Journalist and Equitable Cities Fellow, *NEXT CITY*

## Case Study 1: Los Angeles

YUVAL BAR-ZEMER, Partner, Linear City Development

HELEN LEUNG (MPP '11), Co-executive Director, LA-Más

ELIZABETH TIMME (M. ARCH II '10), Co-executive Director, LA-Más

## Case Study 2: Chicago

EMMANUEL PRATT (LOEB FELLOW '17), Executive Director, Sweet Water Foundation

ERIC WILLIAMS, Founder, Silver Room Sound System Block Party

## Case Study 3: Pittsburgh

COUNCILMAN DANIEL LAVELLE, City of Pittsburgh Council District 6

KAREN ABRAMS (LOEB FELLOW '17), Diversity and Community Affairs Manager, Pittsburgh Redevelopment Authority

15–16 November 2016

## Design for Equity

Curriculum + Charrette  
ABX 2016 Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

What policies and planning strategies have produced displacement, segregation, and inequity? What are the existing and emergent tools for measuring justice, engaging with and empowering communities, and how are they applied collaboratively? Finally, how are the questions of race and equity tackled in design education today?

### Day 1: Curriculum

Speakers: ATYIA MARTIN, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Boston

HYEOK KIM, Deputy Mayor of the City of Seattle

ALEX VON HOFFMANN, Joint Center for Housing Studies

ALVARO LIMA, Director of Research, Boston Planning and Development Agency;  
and more.

### Day 2: Design Charrette

4 February 2017

## New Food as Urban Agent

Conference  
Harvard Art Museums

This event seeks to analyze how food movements are seizing agency within the social and cultural dynamics of the contemporary urban, using food to emplace a vision of what urban life could and should be. Speakers include chefs, farmers, entrepreneurs, activists, and scholars.

### Case 1: Lettuce or Rubble?: Yedikule Urban Gardens

DEFNE KÖRYÜREK, Founder, Slow Food Convivium Turkey

ALI TAPTIK, PhD candidate, Istanbul Technical University; Initiative for the Gardens of Yedikule

Moderator: ASLIHAN DEMIRTAS, Faculty, Kadir Has University, Department of Architecture; Principal, Aslihan Demirtas Architecture & Research Office and KHORA, Istanbul & New York

### Case 2: Cultural Memory, Fine Cuisine, and Agricultural Reform in Bogotá, Colombia

LEONOR ESPINOSA, Leo Cocina y Cava; Fundación FUNLEO, Bogotá

LAURA HERNÁNDEZ-ESPINOSA, Sommelier; General Manager, Leo Cocina y Cava; Director, Fundación FUNLEO, Bogotá

Moderator: VICTORIA SANFORD, Professor, Graduate Center, City University of New York

### Panel 1: Elaboration of Social Vision through Farming

KAMAL MOUZAWAK, Souk-el-Tayeb; Tawlet; Beit Loubnan, Beirut

KOLU ZIGBI, Program Director, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, New York

LINDSEY LUSHER SHUTE, Founder, National Young Farmers' Coalition

Moderator: HEATHER PAXSON, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Anthropology, MIT

### Panel 2: Eating as Critical Practice

ZACK DENFELD & CATHRINE KRAMER, The Center for Genomic Gastronomy, Dublin

ANGELA HIRST, Director, Wandering Cooks, Brisbane

CARLO MIRARCHI, Executive Chef and Co-Owner, Roberta's and Blanca, Brooklyn

Moderator: DAVID WONDRICH, Cocktail historian, Brooklyn

### Closing Roundtable: New Food as Urban Agent

ASLIHAN DEMIRTAS, VICTORIA SANFORD, HEATHER PAXSON, DAVID WONDRICH, and

EMMANUEL PRATT, Executive Director, Sweet Water Foundation, Chicago

Moderator: ERIK GHENOIU, Manager, The Harvard–Mellon Urban Initiative

25 February 2017

## Telling Traces

*Moving Through the City in Literature, Film and Art*

Panel Discussion

Harvard Art Museums

Telling Traces will bring together artists, writers, filmmakers, video game designers, and architects to explore how contemporary media comprehend and compose the city by creating narratives of the sensory or personal experience of moving through it.

### Panel 1: Fieldwork

SUKETU MEHTA, Writer, Associate Professor of Journalism, New York University, New York

SARAH OPPENHEIMER, Artist, based in New York

ANN HAMILTON, Artist, based in Columbus

Moderator: GIULIANA BRUNO, Emmet Blakeney Gleason Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University

### Panel 2: Speculation

GEOFF MANAUGH, Writer, Futurist, based in New York

STEVE GAYNOR, Video Game Designer; Co-founder, The Fullbright Company, Portland

LIAM YOUNG, Architect; Founder, Tomorrow's Thoughts Today; Faculty, SCI-Arc, Itinerant

Moderator: IAN BOGOST, Ivan Allen College Distinguished Chair in Media Studies and Professor of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology



4 March 2017

# Mumbai

*Social Research and Urban Projections*

Conference

South Asia Institute, Tsai Auditorium

The intention behind this conference is to set up a conversation between current scholars based in the U.S. who are working on new research on Mumbai. The conference and ensuing conversations will be structured as a dialogue between readings of Mumbai through the lens of the social sciences and from the perspective of design practitioners involved with spatial practices in the city and its larger metropolitan region.

## Morning Session: Urban Involution: Contemporary Critical Research on Mumbai

FRAMING: RAHUL MEHROTRA, Professor of Urban Design and Planning, Harvard GSD  
AND SAI BALAKRISHNAN, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard GSD

### PANEL 1: THE PRODUCTION OF INFORMALITY

SAPANA DOSHI, Assistant Professor, School of Geography and Development, Arizona State University

VINT MUKHIJA, Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Urban Planning, UCLA

JONATHAN SHAPIRO ANJARIA, Assist. Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University

### PANEL 2: FROM THE GRANULAR TO THE REGIONAL

NIKHIL ANAND, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania

NIKHIL RAO, Associate Professor of History, Wellesley College

RAMYA RAMANATH, Associate Professor and Chair of International Public Service, DePaul University

## Afternoon Session: Regional Imaginaries: Speculations for Mumbai

FRAMING: PETER G. ROWE, Raymond Garbe Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Harvard University Distinguished Service Professor, Harvard GSD

### PANEL 3: THE POLITICS OF LOCATION

LISA BJÖRKMAN, Assist. Professor of Urban and Public Affairs, University of Louisville

VINEET DIWADKAR, URBAN PLANNER, AECOM

### PANEL 4: MAPPING THE MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION

SAI BALAKRISHNAN, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, Harvard GSD

EMILIE EDELBLUTTE, Faculty Member, Department of Geography and Planning, Lumiere University of Lyon 2

CLOSING DISCUSSION moderated by RAHUL MEHROTRA and PETER G. ROWE

CO-SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE

1 April 2017

# Technology, Ecology, and Urban Nature

Symposium  
venue tba

This event investigates how changing theories of nature and the relationship of nature and technology can be conceived in parallel with new public green spaces built on the sites of old and often abandoned infrastructure. It will address ideas of the “natural,” wastelands, new varieties of park space, as well as public engagement.

## Case Study: Senftenberg/Lusatia

Presentation of the work of the Berlin Portal of The HARVARD–MELLON URBAN INITIATIVE, with IGOR EKŠTAJN and MICHAEL KELLER

## Panel 1: Environmental Politics after Industry

ERIK SWYNGEDOUW, Professor of Geography, Sch. of Environment, Education and Development, University of Manchester

HADAS STEINER, Associate Professor of Architecture, SUNY-BUFFALO

Moderator: SONJA DÜPELMANN, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Harvard GSD

## Panel 2: Renaturing Used Landscapes in Theory and Practice

GRAHAM HARMAN, Distinguished Professor, SCI-ARC

JASON W. MOORE, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Binghamton University

Moderator: ROBERT GERARD PIETRUSKO, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture & Urban Planning, Harvard GSD

8 April 2017

## Finding Refuge: Istanbul—Berlin

Colloquium  
Center for European Studies

This event will bring together scholars working on the historical and theoretical dimensions of the refugee phenomenon, particularly as it relates to the urban cultures of Istanbul and Berlin. It presents an opportunity to rethink the relation between statelessness and the city throughout the twentieth century.

### Panel 1: “Refugee” Architects

KADER KONUK, Professor, Department of Humanities, University of Duisburg–Essen

BERND NICOLAI, Professor of History of Architecture and Conservation, Institute of Art History, University of Bern

DENİZ GÖKTÜRK, Associate Professor, Department of German, University of Berkeley

Moderator: SIBEL BOZDOĞAN, Lecturer in Urban Planning and Design, Harvard GSD

### Panel 2: Architects for “Refugees”

ESRA AKCAN, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Cornell University

BILGIN AYATA, Assistant Professor in Political Sociology, Department of Social Sciences, University of Basel

PHILLIP MISSELWITZ, Chair of Habitat Unit, Institute for Architecture, Technical University Berlin

Moderator: BERNA TURAM, Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Northeastern University

19–20 April 2017

## Public Art Conversations

Talk + Workshops

*Laboratory for Intervening in the City*

19 April 2017

### WORK-SHOP: CRAFTING

This workshop will take up the connection between production of objects and making interventions in the public realm: making decision related to materials, costs, context, and organizing collective fabrication efforts.

20 April 2017

### TALK-SHOP: CONVERSION

The theme of this talk is conversion of underused or dis-invested spaces through visual arts and design. How is “intervention” understood and framed? Whose agenda does public art advance? What are the tensions between the artist’s and the designer’s agency, and what are the motives of the sponsoring institutions?

ANTHONY ENGI MEACOCK and PALOMA STRELITZ of Assemble Studio, London

STEPHEN ZACKS, Journalist and Founder of the Flint Public Art Project

### TALK

A conversation that will examine the relationship between the visual arts and interventions that prompt urban change.

NATO THOMPSON, Writer, Curator, Artistic Director of Creative Time, New York  
followed by a discussion with

ANTHONY ENGI MEACOCK and PALOMA STRELITZ of Assemble Studio, London

CO-SPONSORED BY HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

28 April 2017

## Intersections

*Understanding Urbanism in the Global Age*

Conference

Knafel Center, Radcliffe Institute

The conference is designed to stimulate a broad-based discussion about the complicated concept of “the urban” in the twenty-first century, a much broader construct and reality than that of nineteenth- and twentieth-century cities. This transition has been much studied by social scientists, but often overlooked is how these new urban centers are being experienced by their inhabitants. Our discussions will explore post-industrial and globalizing perspectives, as well as the challenges and tensions that the people in urban communities face today with changes in density, diversity, and demographics.

### Keynote

ANGELA FLOURNOY, AUTHOR OF *THE TURNER HOUSE*, A FINALIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

### Panel 1: Ways of Knowing the City

HEIDI EWING, Co-director, *Detropia* (2012)

MARK SHEPARD, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, University at Buffalo, SUNY

SOONI TARAPOREVALA, Screenwriter, *Salaam Bombay!* (1988); *The Namesake* (2006)

### Panel 2: Beyond the Nature/Technology Divide

DILIP DA CUNHA, Adjunct Professor of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania

HENK OVINK, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs at Kingdom of the Netherlands

ANNA SCHULEIT-HABER, Visual Artist, based in New Orleans

### Panel 3: Planned and Unplanned

RICKY BURDETT, Professor of Urban Studies, LSE; Director, LSE Cities & Urban Age Program, London

EDGAR PIETERSE, Planner and Economist, African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town

ANA ELVIRA VELEZ, Architect, Medellín



UPDATED INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FOR ALL EVENTS:

[mellonurbanism.harvard.edu](http://mellonurbanism.harvard.edu)



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