

Harvard University
Graduate School of Design

Regional Studio Fund

Employ Design, Gain Experience, and Challenge Global Issues



Students in the Trans-Siberian Railway Option Studio in Siberia, Spring 2019

Harvard University's Graduate School of Design

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) has a rich legacy of design leadership and innovation, pushing the frontiers of knowledge and research across all design disciplines for more than 80 years. As the largest and most comprehensive design school worldwide, the GSD offers programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and design, design studies, and design engineering. And as a global leader in each of these fields, the GSD is redefining design as a critical response to increasingly complex issues faced by people and cities and ecologies, across the United States and around the world.

The GSD's method of design education involves transdisciplinary collaboration across departments, masters and PhD degree programs and the universities' schools. It is through this cross-practice that the GSD fosters a deep connection between design and other academic fields which are reflected in the joint degree programs with the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Harvard Law School.

The GSD is educating leaders in design, research, and scholarship, who will directly impact and improve the built environment to create a resilient, just, and beautiful world, now and in the future.

Regional Studio Fund

Studio is not a space but a collaborative and iterative process to address a challenge through design.

Many of the major global concerns we face today—social justice, climate change, urbanism, mobility, and the impact of technology—demand increasingly thoughtful engagement from designers. The GSD's highly unique Option Studio program provides students with the opportunity to expand their problem-solving skills, increase their collaboration, and provide new perspectives.

In their advanced years, students in studio-based disciplines select one Option Studio per semester and spend the majority of their semester focused on the course and the challenges it presents. The immersive experience requires faculty and students to meet on-site with local partners, such as planners, government officials, community members, education leaders, corporate sponsors, and families to inform their design decisions. It is essential for students to apply listening, research, and understanding for specific local circumstances such as topography, climate, politics, and modes of construction to formulate, create, and/or build an indispensable design solution for the region.

The Option Studio is the most crucial and esteemed course students will undergo while attending the GSD. And the array of Option Studios for design solutions in 2021 looks to be both unexpected and inspiring.

Though we reach more and more regions of the world, currently these opportunities are funded on an ad hoc basis. With the founding of the Regional Studio Fund, the GSD has committed to securing sustained support for this important, internationally based pedagogy.

Your support will ensure the future of our transformative instruction for students and help the GSD address the most pressing challenges of our era around the world, while also supporting a design solution for a community.

WHERE WE'VE STUDIED



FREQUENT LOCATIONS

Chicago
Durban
Johannesburg
London
Los Angeles
Mexico City
Mumbai
New York
Paris
Rotterdam
San Francisco
Seoul
Shanghai
Tokyo

TOPICS ACROSS THE GSD

Transforming Omishima
The House: The Waken Desire
Retooling Metropolis: Working Landscapes, Emergent Urbanism
Paths, Sounds, Ruins: Imagining Architecture in Candelaria
Brick: Thick/Thin
Kuala Lumpur: Designing the Public Realm
Jakarta: Models of Collective Space for the Extended Metropolis
Frontier City: Strategies for Boston Harbor
Work Environments: Space Work
The Storm, The Strife, and Everyday Life: Sea Changes in the Suburbs
Habitation in Extreme Environments
High-Rise, High-Density
Another Nature
Design and Politics: Managing Risks and Vulnerabilities
Networked Urbanism

This was unlike any studio I've done in my 30 years of teaching at Harvard. It was much more expansive and experimental—the students chose the sites and topics for their research, which resulted in a wide-ranging atlas of ideas. I try to root my teaching in real problems, direct evidence, and real places, with real experts helping us frame the work and measurable data backing up our suppositions. But it must be speculative, too. We have to imagine a future that we cannot quite predict.

Gary Hilderbrand, ASLA FAAR
Peter Louis Hornbeck Professor in
Practice of Landscape Architecture

Our trip to New York City, with Gary Hilderbrand's studio "Now Arriving: A Transit Landscape for Manhattan", enabled me to stop, observe, and reflect on my spatial experience of Penn Station, a site I so often rush through. It also gave me the opportunity to reflect on the city as a whole and what it means to design an urban transit landscape where movement is the foundational experience. That same semester I had the opportunity to travel to Arles, France, with Anita Berritzbeitia's seminar "Thing Power". Standing in what was once the water-soaked alluvial plains of the now dry, cracked flats of the Camargue, I was finally able to understand a geological time scale far greater than any plant, human or animal. Physically standing in the open flats, imagining rushing water all around us, I understood the incredible changes our planet is capable of. This experience brought to life what reading and discussions had not quite enabled me to imagine before. When I returned to the GSD from that trip, I was inspired by the idea of how we could design spaces for the urban realm that would, through the medium of landscape, provide us with a marker of time and remind us of how design shapes the choreography, movement and flow of both human and non-human actors.

Isabella Frontado

Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Irving Innovation Fellow 2020-2021
Master in Landscape Architecture & Master in Design Studies, 2020

Regional Studio Funding Options

The GSD is seeking visionary partners to help build and enrich our studio opportunities. As the scope of global issues become wider, the costs to students rises.

Your gift builds:

- Sustained support for the Option Studio program, allowing faculty and students the freedom to explore the most pressing challenges of our era.
- A once in a lifetime experience for students that can forever change their world vision.
- Ideas, energy, and deliverables that will inform design solutions for complex problems and impact society and broad global issues in years to come.
- Opportunities to create synergies between GSD students and local stakeholders of the many communities around the world where Option Studios travel.

The studio experience is vital for our shared future and allows practitioners, scholars, and students the opportunity to converge and create solutions that link science and the humanities, landscape and ecology, planning and policy, and art and architecture.

Named Endowed Regional Option Studio

\$1.5M Endowed

This studio can be designed for a regional preference. At maturity, the fund would support research and travel for faculty and students who participate. This studio would exist in perpetuity and explore a wide range of topics in a specific global region. These regional Option Studios will call upon the expertise of the entire GSD and offer students wide exploration through many lenses. The studio process, like no other, offers real-world experience and often tackles areas with major societal implications. On the average, this studio would be held every other year. As the endowment grows, the studio could become annual.

Trio of Studios

\$1M Current Use Funding

A trio of studios can focus on one specific region, one specific topic like global warming, or can include a mix of regions and topics agreed upon by the GSD and the donor. Typically, the Studio Trio takes place over three consecutive years and engages a broad range of GSD faculty. The gift supports research and travel for faculty and students who participate in the studio.

Studio Fund

\$200K+ Current Use Fund

A gift to the Studio Fund is pooled for use across the school for a variety of studio possibilities. This is a critical fund as faculty are consistently seeking funding to support the research and travel required for this exceptional learning experience.

Local Studio Fund

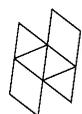
\$50K+ Current Use Fund

A gift to the Local Studio Fund supports a wide range of solutions for examination and assessment in Cambridge and the Greater Boston area.

Thank you

The project-based and solution-oriented programs of the Option Studio have become a primary vehicle for teaching advanced design since the School was founded, offering students the opportunity to explore a wide range of design topics under the supervision of prominent practitioners, both outside the United States and many regions within it. **We hope that you will join us in making this transformative instruction more accessible to all GSD students, faculty, and the communities that they will serve.**

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research, and scholarship
to make a resilient, just,
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