

Shaping the Next Generation of Design Leaders: Vision, Relevance, and Humanity.





Harvard University Graduate School of Design

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) builds upon a prestigious 80-year legacy of educating students in design leadership and innovation, pushing the frontiers of knowledge and research across design disciplines. As a leading global design school, 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 redefines design as a critical response to increasingly complex issues faced by people, cities, and ecologies across the United States and throughout the world.

Transdisciplinary collaboration is the hallmark of a GSD education. Students in masters and PhD programs engage across departments and disciplines, and in partnership with programs, faculty, and students across Harvard University. The GSD's unique brand of cross-practice fosters a deep and real-world connection between design and other academic fields, reflected in joint degree and research programs with the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard Law School. GSD graduates enrich the world with a new perspective and a collaborative approach to design thinking.

An education at the GSD is the foundation for a lifetime of impact; a catalyst for the next generation of design leaders who will work passionately to create a resilient, just, and more beautiful world.

The Vision: Leadership in Design Practice Today

"We are not economists; we are not politicians. But we are designer-economists; we are designer-politicians. And that's extremely exciting in terms of seeing the possibilities for having an impact on a world that is in dire need of our design thinking."

– Sarah M. Whiting, Dean and Josep Lluís Sert Professor of Architecture

Both virtually and inside the walls of Gund Hall, across courses and curriculum, a GSD education drives creativity, solutions, and innovations across organizations and institutions. Combining studios, seminars, lectures, research, fabrication, technology, and other academic investigations, the GSD operates at a global scale, investing and collaborating with communities all over the world.

We excel at attracting promising, diverse, and driven emerging designers who push boundaries in search of resilient, just, and beautiful design solutions. And we work to provide these talented students with exceptional training in a supportive environment to develop their skills and passions.

Upon graduation, over 350 students per year move into visionary roles within their chosen design fields, propelled by their long-term vision and aiming to transform the world.

Here are some of their stories.

Alberto de Salvatierra MLA '17, MDes ULE '17 had a clear vision for his career path before arriving at the GSD. He always knew he wanted to be an educator and believed he had a firm understanding of his craft. Alberto's GSD experience accelerated his thinking:

"The GSD presented such a rich laboratory of innovation and experimentation for its students that, by the end, I believed more confidently in radical possibilities and moved up my timelines for an academic position. Upon graduation, I spent the summer teaching Design Discovery [at the GSD]. At its conclusion, I accepted a full-time position as a Visiting Professor in a medium-sized school of architecture. One year later, I accepted a tenure-track position. Currently, only four years after having graduated from the GSD, I am running my own design research lab at a top research university in Canada."

"The GSD deserves a significant amount of credit for the success I have found in my career: their generous financial aid package before I became a student; their support through fellowships, scholarships, and grants while I was a student; and their resources, mentorship, and insights after I was no longer a student provided me with incredible opportunities. The GSD singularly provided an invaluable foundation without which I would not be where I am today."

Today, Alberto serves as Founder and Director of the Center for Civilization at the University of Calgary School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape, where he is also Assistant Professor of Urbanism and Data in Architecture.

Andy Lantz MArch '10, Creative Director at RIOS design firm, largely credits his ability to work across an array of expectations, deadlines, and types of projects to his interdisciplinary and collaborative experience at the GSD:

"My current success in my professional life is due in large part to my experiences at the GSD. As a partner and owner of a multidisciplinary firm here in Los Angeles, I am tasked daily to lead creative direction across a multitude of project typologies while also juggling daily business management and operation with my five other partners."

"I owe so much of my capacity to navigate the unknown in my career from the diverse education I received while at the GSD. More importantly, my experience while at the GSD was granted in large part by my award of the Starr Scholarship, along with various opportunities to work alongside faculty in semester-based teaching assistant positions. Without those, I would have never had the experience I did while at the GSD."

My Tam Nguyen MUP '15 is committed to work addressing issues of inequality across the United States. Thanks to her Harvard GSD experience, My Tam now empowers people and communities through her work in public service:

"The financial support from the GSD means the world to me, my experience as a student, and the projection of my career. Since the GSD, I have run a congressional race, co-founded and launched a modular housing company in three states, served as chief-of-staff working on addressing systemic inequality across the country with philanthropies and cities, and now I manage the campaign for the first Native American mayor in a major metropolitan city."

"The GSD is a catalytic place for the careers of people who are shaping our cities and world – the financial investment we all contribute, especially through this pandemic, is crucial to not only the survival of students but is instrumental to their ability to thrive intellectually and professionally."

The Relevance of Design

Students, faculty, and researchers have been engaging with pressing social issues at increasing levels, covering topics such as race and racism, homelessness, the climate crisis, public health and how to create space in a world where place and coexistence can be viewed in conflict.

Design is now more relevant than ever.

It is up to our students to generate design changes that anticipate the future and allow the world to flourish. The ability to offer this experience to student leaders is only possible if we can generate the financial support that makes a GSD education accessible.

Your support will enable the next generation of design leaders and global citizens to gain the tools and platform to inspire positive change in the world.



An Education That Impacts Humanity

At the Harvard GSD, we are proud to support over 900 students with the best in teaching, research, scholarship, and practice spanning pressing issues around the globe. We are also proud to offer significant financial support. GSD students receive some financial aid support, but the demand for additional resources remains high and consistent.

Our work is far from done.

Together we can reduce barriers to a GSD education and welcome students of all backgrounds and experiences – increasing design education access to a diverse student body, attracting the best students, and in turn attracting the best faculty.

The impact of your investment will be far and expansive, not only influencing the academic growth of individual students, but the shaping of humanity.

Harvard GSD Dean Sarah M. Whiting has a strong commitment to attract and enroll the best and most talented architects, designers, and planners to the GSD. The GSD currently has over 65 endowed student support funds that provide financial awards to nearly 100 students.

Beyond our mission to make a Harvard GSD education accessible, it is critical to maintain an environment that promotes success regardless of personal financial circumstances. GSD fellowships support tuition in addition to subsidizing the cost of materials needed to thrive in design school. Expenses include model materials, technology and software, printing, and plotting, to name a few.

We ask you to join us in expanding the following opportunities:

- **Fellowships:** Fellowships could cover the cost of tuition, room and board, and other expenses for graduate students. Fellowships are one of the primary methods that allow our students to focus on studying, exploring, and making.
- **Scholars Program:** Establish a cohort of Fellowships within a department or across disciplines to attract the best students and cover expenses for masters and/or doctoral students.

Funding Opportunities

Make an impact by investing in a future design leader and leave a lasting legacy at the GSD.

\$100,000: Current Use Fellowship Fund

- Individual students may be awarded this funding for up to 4 years

\$250,000: Endowed Fellowship Fund

- Provides partial support for one student
- The awarded student will carry the name of the Fellowship during their GSD studies
- This Fund will live in perpetuity within the Harvard University Endowment, growing over time
- This is the minimum level at which an endowed fund can be established

\$500,000: Endowed Fellowship Fund

- Provides enhanced tuition support and opportunities to one student
- The awarded student will carry the name of the Fellowship during their GSD studies
- Donor has the ability to select the degree program and/or suggest student restrictions, with flexibility
- This Fund will live in perpetuity within the Harvard University Endowment, growing over time with the potential for expanded access and support

\$1,000,000: Endowed Full Fellowship Fund

- Provides full tuition support, increased access and opportunity, and eliminates debt for one student
- The awarded 'Scholar' or 'Dean's Fellow' will carry the name of this Fellowship during their GSD studies
- Donor has the ability to select the degree program and/or suggest student restrictions, with flexibility

\$5,000,000 Named Dean's Scholar Cohorts

- Support tuition and expanded opportunities for 5 students: \$5,000,000
- Support tuition and expanded opportunities for 10 students at full tuition: \$10,000,000
- Masters + Doctoral students (1+1)
- We hope to establish 10 of these cohorts

As we look toward our collective future, increasing financial aid support will allow emerging design leaders to spend their time focused on their course and studio work, not expenses. After graduation, alumni will be empowered to pursue a career in design free of financial pressures.

Together we can build the next generation of design leaders!

Thank You

Over 15,000 Harvard GSD Alumni are knit together by shared passion and a deeply special global community. Students arrive in Cambridge to look beyond the walls of Gund Hall and create meaningful impact around the globe. Thanks to our supportive alumni and friends network, the GSD will continue to innovate and create positive change in the world.

"It is altogether tantalizing to look across the school's three departments, with their individual and collective capacities to shape new horizons within Gund Hall. And it is even more enticing to envision working with the GSD's remarkable faculty, students, staff, and alumni to help imagine and create new futures for the world, not just at Harvard but beyond."

– Sarah M. Whiting, Dean and Josep Lluís Sert Professor of Architecture

**The Graduate School of Design
educates leaders in design,
research, and scholarship
to make a resilient, just,
and beautiful world.**