

GSD Studio Fund

Employ Design, Gain Experience, and Challenge Global Issues



“Extreme Urbanism 6: Designing Sanitation Infrastructure” examined the issue of sanitation infrastructure in Mumbai, with a special focus on community toilets in the city’s informal settlements.

Harvard University 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 a leading global design school, the GSD offers programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning and design, design studies, and design engineering. 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 Harvard schools. It is through this cross-practice that the GSD fosters a deep connection between design and other academic fields which is 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.

Impact Pedagogy and the Pursuit of Design Solutions

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 unique 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 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 studio is the most crucial and esteemed course students will undergo while attending the GSD. Each semester, the array of studios is consistently inspiring, relevant, and engaging.

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 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
Bangkok
Boston
Johannesburg
London
Los Angeles
Mexico City
Mumbai
New York
Paris
Rotterdam
Seoul
Shanghai
Tokyo
And many more

TOPICS ACROSS THE GSD

- Biodiversity infrastructure
- Habitation in extreme environments
- Impermanence of buildings
- Metropolitan ecology
- Networked urbanism
- New models of affordable housing
- Open-ended buildings
- Playgrounds and public space
- Public and private space
- Refugee resettlement
- Reusing and adapting existing structures
- The future of housing
- Water scarcity
- Work environments



“Highways Revisited” invited students from all departments to work alongside community leaders in a number of cities across the U.S. to reimagine Interstate rights-of-way.

“When I returned to the GSD from my trip to Arles, France, 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 MLA '20, MDes '20
Irving Innovation Fellow 2020-2021



Sean Chiao MAUD '88 met with students during the studio trip for "Manila: Future Habitations," which focused on the design of human settlements, new types of dwellings, the connective tissue and common ground of cities, and the challenge of designing for the human condition against future tensions in three strategic areas within or adjacent to Manila's historic core.

"Our collaboration during the China and Jakarta studios has allowed students and faculty the opportunity to build stronger knowledge about global trends, especially the growth of urbanization in the developing world, and forge community partnerships while working in concert with the local community. Throughout the process, AECOM has been inspired by the GSD students resulting in a rise in innovation during our day-to day-practice."

Sean Chiao MAUD '88
Fellow, AECOM

Endowing the Studio Program

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

The GSD seeks a visionary partner for an unprecedented opportunity to support the studio program in perpetuity. This unique gift will endow the studio program to expand and enrich our academic offerings.

Your transformational gift enables:

- Sustained support for studios, allowing faculty and students the freedom to explore the most pressing challenges of our era without the burden and concern of limited funding.
- 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 studios travel.

Endow the GSD Studio Experience.....\$25M

Regional or Thematic Studios

The studio process, like no other, offers real-world experience and often tackles areas with major societal implications. We are seeking partners who are similarly committed to these societal challenges and are passionate about driving solutions through design. Studios can be funded with an emphasis on a specific theme (i.e.: climate change, housing, social inequality, biodiversity, transportation, etc.) or by the region in which a studio is investigating, which historically has included cities and sites around the world. Funded studios call upon the expertise of GSD faculty and offer students wide exploration through many lenses. The fund would support research, travel, and other associated costs for faculty and students who participate

A single, current use domestic studio.....\$100,000

A single, current use international studio.....\$250,000

Funding a trio of studios can focus on one specific region, one specific theme, 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.

Trio of current use domestic studios.....\$300,000

Trio of current use international studios.....\$750,000

An endowed studio can be designed for a regional or thematic preference and would exist in perpetuity. At maturity, the fund enables research and travel for participating faculty and students.

Named endowed regional or thematic studio..... \$1.25M

The Studio 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.

Studio Fund.....\$25K+ Current Use Fund

Thank you

The project-based and solution-oriented programs of the studios 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 they will serve.



Students working with communities and visiting sites during studios.

“This studio [Land-Use Strategies for a Purple State] 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 R. Hilderbrand MLA '85

Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Peter Louis Hornbeck Professor in Practice of Landscape Architecture



“Making Next to Forest” examined the balanced ecology and economy of living and making next to a vast natural resource in Hokkaido, Japan.



Harvard University
Graduate School of Design

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educates leaders in design,
research, and scholarship
to make a resilient, just,
and beautiful world.**

For more information, please contact:

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Title

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