



Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design

## 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.*

DONOR NAME

Date

# Harvard University Graduate School of Design

The Harvard University Graduate School of Design (GSD) builds upon a rich 80-year legacy of educating students in design leadership and innovation, pushing the frontiers of knowledge and research across design disciplines. After nearly a century of influential design education, the GSD is uniquely positioned to build on our creative history across disciplines, holding such roots sacred as we redefine design as a critical response to global challenges of the future.

Transdisciplinary collaboration is the hallmark of a GSD education. Students engage across programs and departments, master's and PhD programs, and in partnership with Harvard's graduate schools. 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 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.

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 studio program provides students with the opportunity to expand their problem-solving skills, increase their collaboration, and provide new perspectives.

After completing their core curriculum, which focuses on design fundamentals, students in studio-based disciplines select one advanced option studio per semester and spend the majority of their semester focused on that course and the challenges it presents. The immersive studio 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 field work for specific local circumstances such as topography, climate, politics, and modes of construction to formulate, create, and/or build an innovative design solution for the region.

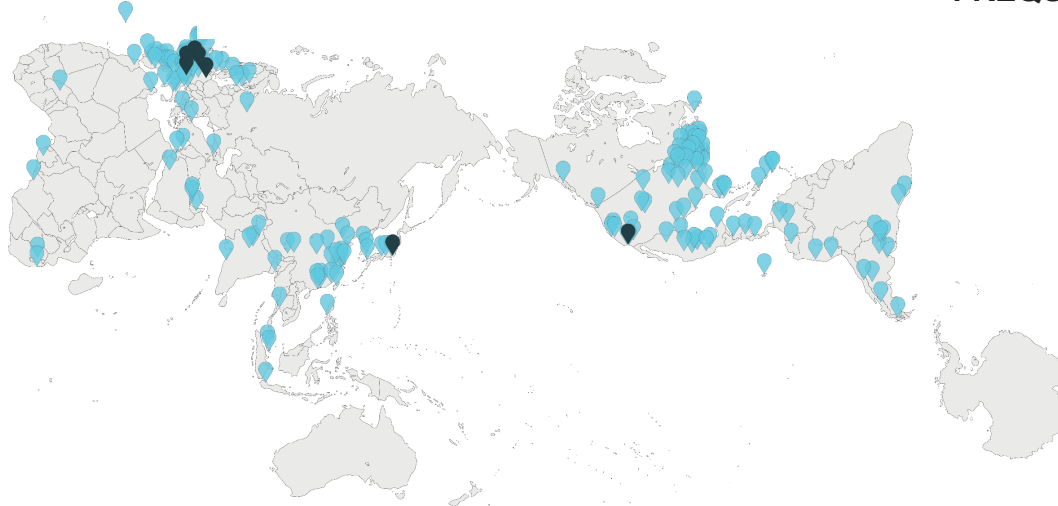
***The studio is the most crucial and esteemed course students will undergo while attending the GSD.*** Each semester, the array of studios is inspiring, relevant, and engaging.

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.**



## 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" taught by Dan D'Oca MUP '02, 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 in 2019, 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," taught by Rok Oman, David Rubin MLA '90, and Spela Videcnik, 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**

Former Fellow, AECOM

Chief Executive Officer, Surbana Jurong Group

Member of GSD's Dean's Leadership Council

## 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 for all students.....\$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 cross departments. 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 have 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.....\$2.5M**

## 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 collaborative, 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" taught by Toshiko Mori, examined the balanced ecology and economy of living and making next to a vast natural resource in Hokkaido, Japan.*



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For more information, please contact:

Name

Title

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