



1945 - 2020

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**  
GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE of ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN



UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

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GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE of ARCHITECTURE and DESIGN

*“We teach with the idea that **Houston** is our laboratory, challenging students to push the boundaries of architecture and design in this complex and diverse metropolis, and therefore, make a difference in the world.”*

Dean Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA, DPACSA







## **DEFINING A NEW ERA OF DESIGN**

*Celebrating 75 Years*

*1945 – 2020*

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2021

# The *Leadership Council*

The Leadership Council is an integral part of the College's industry connections and external reach. Its membership comprises professionals in architecture, interior architecture, industrial design, construction, real estate, and other industries essential to Houston's design community. As advocates of the Hines College, Council members help bridge the gap between industry and academia, helping move the College forward and prepare students for successful careers.

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Future Women in Architecture  
Interior Architecture Student Organization  
LGBTQ+  
National Organization of Minority Architecture Students  
Student Industrial Designers Society of America  
Student Council  
The Architecture Lobby  
The Makers and Doers Club



# Forward

When I returned to the Hines College in April 2019, I knew my team and I had quite a journey ahead of us as we approached the College's 75th anniversary in 2020. Never would I have imagined the hype we had already begun to build toward our 75th anniversary in January last year would quickly take a drastic turn in March with the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

From the start, our intention had always been to develop a publication to be released in conjunction with the College's 75th anniversary gala, similar to the book set developed for the 50th anniversary in 1995. Due to the pandemic, the College rescheduled the gala event from October 2020 to October 2021. To be completely honest, rescheduling the gala was a relief and allowed us more time to prepare the publication amidst the new demands of a pandemic impacted world. What we did not anticipate was the new world we were living in was here to stay. Yet, our small marketing and communications staff still strived to achieve the same goals with growing and ever-changing responsibilities.

Because the College had such a meaningful celebration for its 50th anniversary in 1995, our goal for this book was to highlight the growth in programming since the last milestone. We sought to focus on the last 25 years, a period significantly impacted by three iconic deans and the generosity of the College's namesake, Gerald D. Hines, who made his game-changing \$7 million gift to the College in 1997, shortly after the College's 50th anniversary.

The last 25 years have seen the establishment of the Burdette Keeland, Jr. Exploration Laboratory, Interior Architecture program, Community Design Resource Center, Materials Research Collaborative, the Center for Sustainability and Resilience, award-winning international engagement opportunities, expansion of study abroad programs, diversification of undergraduate and graduate programs, and the Advanced Media Technology Lab, among many others. The professional

careers of a new generation of Hines College alumni have also made their mark on the architecture and design world.

The growth of the Hines College in the last 25 years is truly something to celebrate and take pride in. I can only hope the next 25 years will prove to be as exciting and fruitful.

I want to thank my team, LA Maxwell (Web Developer and Graphic Designer) and Destiny Vaquera (Graduate Assistant), for their hard work and dedication to this book. LA single-handedly designed the entire publication in one week, among other daily priorities. Destiny collected and edited numerous alumni highlights and authored stories for the book. I truly could not have done this without them, and I am forever grateful.

Thank you to Dean Patricia Belton Oliver, Assistant Dean Trang Phan, and Eric Dowding at UH Printing for their support throughout this process.

I also want to thank Gail Peter Borden, Rafael Beneytez-Durán, Patrick Peters, Bruce Race, Susan Rogers, and Sara Tubbs for contributing pieces, as well as former dean Bruce Webb for coming to the College for an interview.

Here's to the next 25 years!

With gratitude,

**Stephen Schad**

Executive Director of Communications

Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design



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# THE LASTING LEGACY OF **GERALD D. HINES**

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In August 2020, the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design lost its legendary namesake. Gerald D. Hines, founder and chairman of the international real estate firm Hines, passed away at home on Sunday, August 23, 2020, surrounded by loved ones. His decades long relationship with the University left a lasting impact on the Hines College, its students and alumni.

# Iconic *Visionary*

Gerald D. Hines was a visionary in the commercial real estate world. Coming from small beginnings, he started his namesake firm in 1957. Hines was set apart by his belief in the power of exceptional architecture and the ability to develop iconic projects that remained viable investments. While not originally from Houston, Hines made his mark in the country's fourth largest city with well-known downtown Houston skyscrapers, including Pennzoil Place and One Shell Plaza, as well as the development of the landmark Galleria Houston.

"I was truly saddened by the passing of Mr. Hines," said Patricia Belton Oliver, dean of the Hines College. "His commitment and generosity have been transformative for the College and our students. He demonstrated throughout his amazing career that architecture has the power to change cities. He has cast a very long shadow and will not soon be forgotten."

Hines was a fervent supporter of the University of Houston. In 1997, he made a \$7 million gift establishing a permanently endowed fund at the College of Architecture. The gift connected his world-renown name to the College and quickly elevated the institution's stature in the architecture community.

It was important for Hines and his wife, Barbara, to advance with the College and engage with its students. Over the last decade, they continued to support the College with additional gifts funding international programming, student scholarships, internships abroad, and most recently, the new Advanced Media Technology Lab.





## Going from **Good to Great**

In 2014, Hines traveled to the Venice Biennale with students and faculty where the College won the Global Arts Foundation Prize for its exhibition. Three years later, Hines and his wife, traveled to Berlin, Germany, to participate in the College's *Houston: Genetic City* exhibition opening and symposium.

"The University of Houston has lost a true friend, a generous benefactor and an enlightened supporter," said UH President Renu Khator. "We were privileged to have him take such a dedicated interest in our students and our campus. He leaves behind an indelible legacy of altruism, a keen appreciation of higher education, and an unflagging commitment to cultural and community improvement at the highest level."

Hines was dedicated to giving the College's students opportunities that would form their future careers and establish an industry of innovative and critical thinkers. He adopted James Collins' concept of going from *Good to Great*. It resonated with him. He impressed upon students the value of striving for quality in architecture and design. He demonstrated throughout his impressive career the power of architecture to improve the quality of life.

"He was a visionary who saw the immense potential of the College of Architecture and invested in that promise," said Eloise Dunn Brice, UH vice president for advancement. His generous gifts to the University have created a legacy of excellence through the Hines College and the graduates whose degrees bear his name."



Today the College offers degrees in Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Industrial Design, as well as a variety of concentrations in media design technology and fabrication, 20th century historic preservation, and sustainable urban systems. The College ranks No. 31 of the “Most Admired Undergraduate Architecture Schools” (*DesignIntelligence*) and in the top 7% of architecture schools (*Architecture Colleges Rankings*) in the United States. The industrial design program ranks No. 6 in the country and No.14 in the world (*Red Dot*).

Hines was as committed to his career as he was dedicated to his family. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, four children, 15 grandchildren and one great-grandson. His lasting legacy will always be with the Hines College. – *Stephen Schad*





# THREE DEANS

## Bruce Webb

1996 – 1998

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Professor Bruce Webb took the helm as dean of the University of Houston College of Architecture in 1996 following the departure of Robert Timme, who was appointed dean at the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

Webb, originally a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, came to the University of Houston in 1972 as an assistant professor. He joined the architecture program simultaneously as other younger, gifted design teachers, including Robert Griffin, John Perry, Robert Samuelson, and Bob Timme. They were all hired as studio professors, but then dean William Jenkins would give them positions to develop programs within the College.

In Webb's sixth year, Dean Jenkins sought to begin a graduate program at the College. The problem was the College had little to no money to create a new program. Jenkins appointed Webb as the director of graduate studies, and he began the process of putting together a graduate program, exploring the curriculum, and recruiting students. Shafik Rifaat arrived around this time and was part of getting the program going as it began to grow.

The graduate program initially focused on urban design. Eventually, it opened up to different tracks so prospective students with degrees in disciplines other than architecture could come and study for three years to obtain a graduate and professional degree in architecture. At that time, many students wanted to attend to the University of Houston because it had a reputation as an excellent design school. These students were looking for a place that could offer them something different. As the College developed its graduate program, it tried different variations, exploring urban design, regional architecture, community development, space architecture, and healthcare design.

"Bill Jenkins has this belief that you could get people in, give them an opportunity, and if they were the right person, they would be the person to go out and find ways to fulfill the opportunity he was giving them. For some, this was a difficult concept, but that was Bill's way of building a school," said Webb.





FAIA

# Joe Mashburn '78

1998 – 2009

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On July 11, 2021, the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design lost an alumnus, former dean, and friend. Joseph Laing Mashburn, FAIA '78 – known as “Joe” to his students and colleagues – passed away from pancreatic cancer at the age of 80. Joe served as dean of the Hines College from August 1998 to December 2009.

Joe came to the University of Houston as an engineering student but quickly discovered his love for architecture. He graduated from the UH architecture program in 1978 with a Bachelor of Architecture and earned his Master of Architecture at Texas A&M University in 1982. Joe went on to work as an assistant professor and the graduate design coordinator at Texas A&M from 1982-88 until accepting a position at Virginia Tech as a full professor in 1989. From 1993-94, he served as the architecture department head at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia.

While teaching at Virginia Tech, Joe received an unexpected call asking him to consider applying for the open Hines College dean position. At first, Joe and his wife, Julia, laughed because a deanship was nothing Joe had ever even considered.

When Joe arrived at the Hines College in 1998, he found a College very different from the institution he had graduated from twenty years before. Student enrollment had drastically increased to around 500 students, and the College had moved to the current Philip Johnson building dedicated in 1986. The College was also grappling with accreditation problems and a comprehensive design program that did not exist. Joe was determined to transform these challenges into strengths and ultimately established the College as a leader in Texas within these areas.

“Joe Mashburn was passionate about design: from architecture to objects, the simpler, the better,” said Lannis Kirkland, former associate dean at the Hines College. “I was fortunate to know Joe for about 50 years, serve as associate dean while he was dean, and travel with him and students in Italy. Joe rarely had a negative thing to say about anyone.”

While at Virginia Tech, the architecture school started an industrial design program, and it opened Joe’s eyes to the value the discipline contributed to the school. The program brought a hands-on approach challenging the architecture program to think differently about materials and fabrication.

“When planning for the College’s industrial design program, Joe toured Texas and engaged with design professionals, both in corporate offices and design consulting firms,” shared industrial design professor Mark Kimbrough. “I met Joe in Austin, where I had my product development firm at that time. It became clear Joe had a vision – one that included bringing industrial design education to a part of the country with a burgeoning technology and manufacturing industry.”

In 2003, five years into his deanship at the College, Joe established the new industrial design program, the only one of its kind in a four-state region at the time. He hired EunSook Kwon as the program’s founding director, and 18 years later, the program is an award-winning leader in the United States and the global community.

“Joe hired me for a special mission – to establish the first industrial design degree program in the state of Texas,” shared Kwon. “Without his always positive, encouraging comments and big smiles, the program would not be what it is today. His philosophy of design education can be highlighted in his words, ‘I will support whatever you do for the program, but the final outcome should be undeniably beautiful.’”

One of Joe’s most significant accomplishments was creating the Burdette Keeland, Jr. Design Exploration Lab, dedicated in 2004. The Keeland Lab still operates as one of the largest higher education fabrication facilities in the country. It was developed as a place where students could see their ideas come to fruition.

“Once ensconced in his role as dean, Joe proffered an unlikely vision,” said Patrick Peters, architecture professor and coordinator of the graduate design/build studio. “Where most saw a disheveled and underutilized ex-military shed deserving of an imminent demolition, Joe saw the promise of a new and uncommon resource – a much-desired expansive shop equipping architecture and industrial design students to meet the challenges of 1:1 fabrication.”

Joe’s experience as an architecture student at the University of Houston in the 1960s and 70s, when physical making was a call to action and physical actions of all sorts were a means of advancing architecture and sociological ideas, inspired his audacious vision for the Keeland Lab.

“Upon the completion of the Keeland Lab, the former utilitarian structure was awarded a Texas Society of Architects design award, a first for a UH campus building,” shared Peters. “Since its opening, students have benefited from its impact, but perhaps none more than those of the Graduate Design/Build Studio. For more than 30 years, the program has allowed students to measure the quality of their ideas against the rigorous standard imposed by full-scale reality.”

In addition to his role as dean, Joe also taught an introductory course for architecture and industrial design first-year students and prospective students considering changing their major. Through this, he shared the world of architecture with young minds and influenced future generations of architects and designers.

“One of my earliest and most enduring memories of Joe was his genuine commitment to supporting students. Soon after he became dean, he met with me to ask about them, which signaled to me then, as it does now, how much students meant to Joe,” said assistant dean Trang Phan. “For many thousands of students whose lives Joe touched as their dean and later as their instructor as well, his sense of humanity and insistence on the human touch made all the difference in their personal and professional lives.”

After learning of his passing, many alumni and friends took to social media, sharing their sympathies and acknowledging Joe’s impact on their academic and professional careers.

“Joe came to our College with the vision and the drive to strategically move it forward to the next level,” shared current Hines College dean Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA. “His influence is still visible and will not be forgotten by our alumni, faculty, and staff. The Hines College today would look very different had it not been for Joe’s passion and leadership.”

“Joe was particularly proud and grateful for his undergraduate education at UH,” shared Kirkland. “One of the last conversations I had with him, he expressed that he would not have traded his UH architecture experience for ‘any school on the planet.’” – *Stephen Schad*



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**“Design is making  
ideas matter.”**

Joe Mashburn '78  
*Blueprint Ball 1999*



FAIA, ACSA Distinguished Professor

# Patricia Belton *Oliver*

*2010 – Present*

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Patricia Belton Oliver arrived at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design in January 2010 and continues to serve as its current dean. Since her arrival, the Hines College has flourished. Oliver has significantly expanded international programs, established new areas for research, and expanded the College's breadth of academic offerings.

Prior to the University of Houston, Oliver served as the Senior Vice President of Educational Planning and Architecture at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California. Before that, she was the Associate Dean at the College of Environmental Design at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In her professional career, she has worked for such notable architects, including Frank O. Gehry, Craig Hodgetts, and Charles Moore, and also managed her own firm, OKG (Oliver, Kurze, Georges) Architects, in Los Angeles, California.

"I think of education as a combination of discipline and lateral thinking, intertwined in a fluid, iterative process," said Oliver. "You want the rigor of looking at the world as it is, through research, and then you want the critical, intuitive ability to create alternatives with a somewhat solid rationale for how to get to the final result. Interdisciplinary collaboration brings richness to the approach to design. I think I have always been attracted to design because it doesn't have a right answer. Perfection is unattainable. As educators, we never stop asking the questions, even as the 'answers' are ever elusive."

When Oliver came to the University of Houston, she found a college celebrating its 65th year. For 60 of those 65 years, the College offered degrees in architecture only and had just recently established the industrial design program under former dean Joe Mashburn. There was very little diversification of disciplines within the College.

The Hines College quickly began growing under Oliver's leadership. She launched the interior architecture program in 2011, and during its short tenure, the program won an ACSA Diversity Achievement Award in 2016.

The industrial design program ranks No. 6 in the United States and No. 14 internationally. Two ID faculty, former founding director EunSook Kwon and Adam Wells, have been recognized by *DesignIntelligence*, an organization comprised of architects and educators, as the country's top 25 industrial design educators. Kwon has been recognized twice.

The College launched a graduate program in industrial design in 2013. That same year, one of the graduate students won two Core 77 Design Awards. Industrial design students have won the James Dyson Design Award, the Red Dot Design Concept Awards, and the IDSA IDEAS Award, and been invited to present at Dubai Design Week: Global Grad Show. They consistently win national and international design awards.

In 2015, the College launched CeSAR: the Center for Sustainability and Resilience. This center resulted from the work undertaken by the *Three Continents Studio* exhibited at the Venice Biennale. At the University of Houston, the Center for Sustainability and Resilience (CeSAR) seeks to understand the critical relationships between society, its technological advances, and the corresponding impact on the environment, both locally and globally.

One of the hallmarks of Oliver's deanship is the international programming she has promoted at the College. When she arrived at the University of Houston, there was only one international program operating in Castiglion Fiorentino, in the Tuscany region of Italy. Now the College has numerous programs that continue to grow. In 2019, students visited 13 countries. The College also has memoranda of understanding with the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Beijing Institute of Technology, TU Graz, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris-Malaquais, and Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile, for exchange of students and faculty.

The Hines College has also had the opportunity to present student work at prestigious venues across the globe. In 2014, students and faculty opened their exhibition *Risky Habit[at]: Dynamic Living on a Delta* at the Venice Biennale, Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura de Buenos Aires, and International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam. In 2017, the exhibition *Houston: Genetic City* opened at prestigious Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin, Germany, and the College hosted a standing-room-only symposium with Thom Mayne, Aaron Betsky, and Lukas Feireiss as part of the opening day. Most recently, in 2020, the College opened its exhibition *City of Refugees* alongside international artist Ai Weiwei at the same Aedes Architecture Forum.

Oliver established **designLAB** in 2011. As the professional research arm of the Hines College, **designLAB** generates preliminary design studies, research, and master planning across the disciplines of architecture, planning, and environmental graphics. Faculty, students, alumni, and partners work in teams to solve problems in a range of scales and for a range of clients. **designLAB** has been responsible for the Master Planning of all of the University of Houston campuses: University of Houston Main Campus, University of Houston Downtown, University of Houston Clear Lake, University of Houston at Sugar Land, and University of Houston at Katy.

In 2019, Oliver was inducted into the ACSA College of Distinguished Professors honoring architectural educators who have inspired a generation of students who themselves have contributed to the advancement of architecture. Membership in the College is one of the highest honors an educator can receive from the ACSA.

Oliver was elected to the ACSA College of Professors Executive Committee in 2020 and is currently serving as Vice-Chancellor. Next year, she will serve as Chancellor, and then as Past Chancellor.

Since her arrival, Dean Oliver has propelled the Hines College forward as a national leader in architecture and design education. Until recent years, the College had never achieved ranking status by *DesignIntelligence*, an organization comprised of architects and educators. In 2018 and 2019, the College ranked in the top 35 *Most Admired Undergraduate Architecture Schools* in the United States. 2019 marked another first with the Hines College ranking at No. 14 of *Most Hired From Architecture Schools* in the United States.

Architecture firms and companies throughout the world have long sought out Hines College students. These recent rankings confirm the College's employment placement position among other institutions and exemplify the caliber of students graduating from its programs. Oliver's leadership has truly changed the face of the Hines College and the educational prospects it provides students as they prepare to begin their professional careers and impact a world driven by design. – *Stephen Schad*

A large, bright workshop with windows and machinery. The scene is filled with industrial equipment, including a large metal lathe in the foreground and various workbenches and tools in the background. The lighting is bright, coming from large windows on the left side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is one of a modern, well-equipped manufacturing or fabrication facility.

# GROWING SPACES

Many Hines College alumni and faculty look fondly on their memories of the original XYZ buildings, the first buildings on the University of Houston campus dedicated to the architecture program in 1953. Decades later, the College dedicated its current building designed by Philip Johnson and John Burgee in 1986. Since then, the Hines College has grown its facilities with a focus on promoting fabrication.

## THE BURDETTE KEELAND, JR. DESIGN EXPLORATION LABORATORY

Under the deanship of Joe Mashburn '78, the Hines College constructed its first significant dedicated space for fabrication. Mashburn's experience as an architecture student at the University of Houston in the 1960s and 70s, when physical making was a call to action and physical actions of all sorts were a means of advancing architecture and sociological ideas, inspired his audacious vision for the Keeland Lab.

The lab received a \$200,000 gift from Harvey Houck, a close friend of the facility's namesake, Burdette Keeland, Jr. '50, to make the project a reality. In addition to the generous gift, the reconstruction project relied on donated labor and materials from individuals and companies in Houston's design and construction community.

"This building will forever recognize the contributions of one of our alumni, a gifted designer and beloved professor at UH for more than 40 years," said former dean Mashburn. "The center will play an important role in fulfilling our vision for the College as a design center for Houston and beyond."

The Keeland Lab once served as the University's band annex and as a vocational training facility following World War II. Prior to the building's opening, a roof raising ceremony was held on September 9, 2004. The plan was to house the College's design/build studio, the Environmental Simulation and Modeling Lab, and the Architectural and Industrial Prototyping Center.

The lab's designer, Geoffrey Brune '72, an alumnus and professor at the College, felt the project was not only about preserving the environment, but also history.

"Recycling structures like this is very important for the University and City," said Brune. "A large part of my architecture practice has been the rehabilitation of older structures. When one can give renewed life to an existing building, it maintains its legacy to the community."

Upon the completion of the Keeland Lab, the former utilitarian structure was awarded a Texas Society of Architects design award, a first for a UH campus building.

"Since its opening, students have benefited from its impact, but perhaps none more than those of the graduate design/build studio," shared professor Patrick Peters, coordinator design/build. "For more than 30 years, the program has allowed students to measure the quality of their ideas against the rigorous standard imposed by full-scale reality."

Today, with over 50 machines, the lab's spaces are well equipped with the latest in woodworking, metalworking, and digital fabrication tools. Students who have attended safety orientations and instructional demonstrations have convenient access to important tools of their professions, providing them valuable experience in prototyping, fabrication, and model building as they compete in their discipline.



# THE ADVANCED MEDIA TECHNOLOGY LAB

The Hines College continues to be a haven for knowledge, innovation, and discovery. The construction of the College's new Advanced Media Technology Lab (AMTL) is currently underway thanks to the generosity of Gerald D. and Barbara Hines. The lab will serve as a world-class research facility, drawing talented students and faculty to the University of Houston in pursuit of more sustainable and innovative architecture and design. As a home for cutting-edge advanced digital technologies, including construction robotics, full-scale 3D printing, and augmented/virtual realities, among many others, the lab will be a leading center for emerging technologies in Texas, and one of the top facilities in the world.

Experience and engagement in the lab will prepare students from across all the College's disciplines – architecture, interior architecture, and industrial design – to be leaders in trending technologies, increase industry partnerships advancing the Hines College, and enable faculty to pursue influential ground-breaking research.

The mission of the AMTL supports the Hines College as it pursues innovative research in design and fabrication technologies. The College values the critical engagement of technology in contemporary design and architecture, and looks for ways new technologies can augment how we design, build, and live.

The way objects, spaces, and buildings are designed and made is undergoing a rapid transformation. We must find ways to make the built environment more sustainable while simultaneously making it more resilient to change. Also, new technologies such as artificial intelligence and automation create both new opportunities and challenges to the way we currently operate. Like the wave of innovation during the mid-20th century, we are presently experiencing the beginning of the next industrial revolution. Architects and designers' roles and the related industries of manufacturing and construction are rapidly changing and challenged to be more sustainable and productive.

## DEFINING OUR GOALS

### ***World-Class Research Facility***

To create the most advanced center for emerging technologies used within design, architecture, and construction in Texas and one of the world's top facilities. The equipment, processes, and knowledge available at the lab will be a beacon of innovation for the University, the city of Houston, and the state of Texas.



### **Unleash Creativity of the Hines College**

To develop robust connections with faculty throughout the industrial design, interior architecture, and architecture programs at the Hines College that will unleash the creative potential of faculty and students producing world-class research.

### **Sustainability and Equity**

To make the world a better place through an intense focus on the sustainability and equity embodied in the materials, technologies, and processes used in literally making the world. We strive to create a more equitable environment supporting equal access to advanced technologies, regardless of background. As part of a public institution, the AMTL pursues research benefiting the public good through making high-quality architecture and design more accessible, safer, and in solidarity with the natural world.

### **Industry Partnerships**

To partner with regional, national, and international industry, academic, and public partners in collaborative research projects expanding the capacity and network of the Hines College. The AMTL acts as a research hub bringing together multiple disciplines within the University of Houston to explore innovative technologies and processes helping our community.

### **Post-Professional Graduate Research Programs**

To establish a well-funded and active post-professional program for students pursuing world-class research and making the Hines College a recruitment hub for the future professional and academic leaders.

### **Innovative Faculty Recruitment**

To attract, retain, and assist the most innovative faculty, students, and researchers, and collectively produce research projects at the forefront of design technologies.

## **OUR AMBITIONS**

### **Construction-Scale Additive Manufacturing**

- 3D Printing with clay, adobe, biomaterials, and “green” concrete
- Investigating Circular Lifecycle of Plastics to be able to recycle plastics into new parts.

### **From Model to Working Prototypes**

- 3D Printing in final materials that mechanically perform rather than creating only visual representations

### **Advanced Documentation, Analysis, and Visualization**

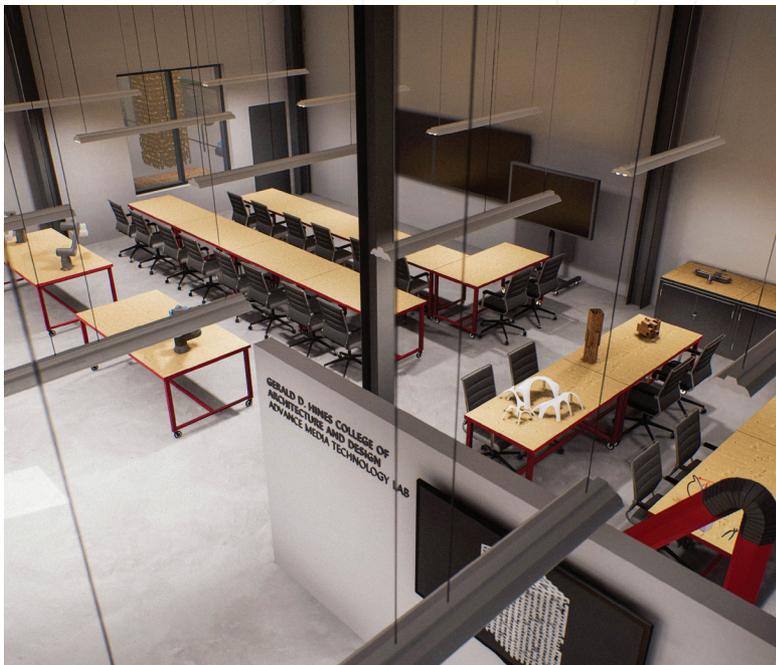
- Use LIDAR and Photogrammetry with drones and mobile robotics to better capture real-world site conditions
- Use Real-time Visualization tools to design, visualize, and interact with complex projects using augmented reality and virtual reality environments

### **Research Area 4: Robotic Off-Site Construction**

- Onsite construction is dirty, dangerous, and difficult. How can more buildings be autonomously built in more controlled and safer conditions?

### **Rapid Design and Fabrication Team for Emergency Response**

- The AMTL would be equipped with everything needed to help local and regional communities respond to natural or human-made disasters. With one of the largest populations of designers in the United States, our students and faculty are motivated to use their skills to help our communities







# OUR PROGRAMS

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Since 1945, design has remained the foundation of our studies at the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. Located in the fourth largest city of the United States and one of the most diverse design communities in the country, our College offers students a platform of integrated disciplines through top-ranked programs in architecture, interior architecture, and industrial design. We strive to produce designers who are skilled in their craft, capable of using advanced technology and methods of industrialized production, and understand the power of design to shape communities throughout the world.



# GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ARCHITECTURE

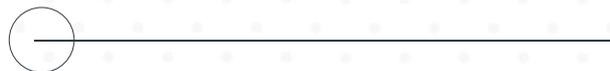
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The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design graduate programs in architecture are based in the transformative power of critical practice. They promote creative critical inquiry into the material, political, and cultural contexts within which architecture exists today and provide a comprehensive foundation for all scales of practice and for a future of life-long learning. They are focused to prepare students for leadership roles in the professions shaping the built environment.

Our faculty and students work together in a collaborative environment centered around design studios and supported by superb facilities, including one of the country's largest university-based fabrication shops. Distinguished faculty are recognized internationally for their research, scholarship, and professional practice.

Building on the College's long legacy and commitment to "thinking through making," the curriculum integrates design with advanced tools—computation and fabrication technologies, performative systems, history and critical theory, and urban agendas. It comprehensively weaves the conceptual with the pragmatic. It foregrounds design and critical thinking while including: material and technical sophistication; sustainability; social and community engagement; design build as an integrative pedagogy; and global studies programs in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Graduate study concentrations include: *digital media + fabrication*; *sustainable design*; *urbanism*; *history, theory, + criticism*; and *sustainable urban systems*.

The graduate programs in architecture offer the following degrees: *Master of Architecture +3* (a NAAB-accredited three-year professional degree for students with an undergraduate degree in another field wishing to pursue a career in architecture); *Master of Architecture +2* (a NAAB-accredited two-year professional degree for those holding a qualified four-year pre-professional architecture degree); *Master of Science in Architecture +1* (a one-year post-professional degree for those who already have completed a professional degree in architecture, and wish to continue to develop their critical thinking and design skills while acquiring expertise in one of the concentration areas offered); and *Master of Arts in Architectural Studies +1* (a one-year research-intensive degree for those with a previous university degree in any field who are interested in pursuing focused advanced studies in architecture at the graduate level, but are not seeking a professional degree).



As a premier institution for architectural education, nestled in one of the top global universities located in the vibrant city of Houston, the Hines College offers everything a student could imagine. The integrated design curriculum synthesizes professional content with critical inquiry. Students have the opportunity to participate in an established, award-winning integrated design/build studio program, as well as numerous chances to study abroad through University-sponsored programs in Asia, Europe, and Latin America.



## REAL TIME

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Real time design is an enigmatic term. It evokes the imagery of technology, requiring an emphasis on the speed of operation, and innately engaging a feedback loop for iteration and adjustment. It is about maneuvers and responses – actions made while underway.

As ever-expanding global issues confront humanity, architecture must respond with dexterity. We must perpetually challenge architecture to do more with less and function with diminishing operational timelines from the moment of the event to the system response. It is time for critical specificity not vagueness.

Nothing can be static. Nothing can be done in isolation. Everything must be inclusive. New technologies and expanding tools allow us to confront these issues with ever increasing sophistication and synthesis. The tools of design in all their diverse forms establish new processes and new opportunities. The results no longer resolve merely in form, but in tactics and methods.



Method must continue architecture's fundamental dialectic to bridge technology and art. Method must now be inclusive to equally engage the fundamental issues of light, space, and form, while rising to respond to the new essentialisms of performance, sustainability, and social conscious. It is in this “process” that the designer can assert oneself. It is in the “process” where architecture is perpetually reborn. It is in the “process” where one's voice can be found as a thinker, and more importantly as an active maker.

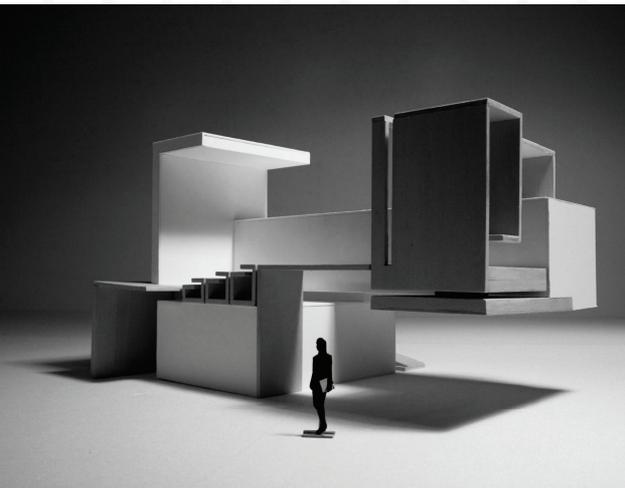
The graduate programs in architecture at the University of Houston are uniquely invested in these processes of architecture. Understanding the methods of operation, streams of information and inquiry, and perhaps most importantly the control points and variables within the systems allowing for an insertion and a redirection. It is only from within, that an operative can divert or direct the flow. Operating simultaneously at the scale of the city, at the scale of the building, and the scale of the tool, our programs – professional and advanced research alike – engage current global challenges at every scale.

This is an exciting time. In our elite program we have distinguished visiting studios taught by MAIO and Daniel Jacobs, an urban systems studio led by Bruce Race, and an international research studio under the direction of Sofia Krimizi and Kyriakos Kyriakou. Our master projects are led by Gail Peter Borden, Rafael Longoria, and Dietmar Froehlich. All of these build on our robust core faculty and studios led by some of the finest educators and practitioners in the world led by coordinators: Jason Logan, Patrick Peters and Matt Johnson, with an amazing group of faculty including Dijana Handonovic, Roya Plauche, Marcus Martinez, Ophélie Mantz, and Jesse Hager

Most exciting of all, we have our most talented, robust and elite group of students we have ever welcomed to the program. The challenges that face us all are large. The expectations are even larger. Architecture should not be about wholesale change but iteration through process. Let the process begin. – *Gail Peter Borden, FAIA*

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN ARCHITECTURE

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As the definition and momentum of the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design continue to evolve and grow, the undergraduate architecture program promotes exciting new views educating students in the discipline and profession of architecture with awareness of global dynamics, international engagement, and local care. The undergraduate architecture program is driven by a faculty body working on framing, cultivating, and propelling our curriculum and integrated design culture. Dedicated faculty with solid experience in critical practice, professional inquiry, and international backgrounds seek to foster a culture invested in diverse and equitable communities of designers and design investigators working toward the primacy of integration in the future of architecture by drawing identity from energy landscapes, material environments, and theoretical exploration. The Hines College is building an undergraduate architecture program marked by the opportunities brought on by the intense environmental conflicts in our region, allowing us to examine the embedded technical, cultural, social, and physical infrastructures binding us together and advancing modes of understanding recognizing architecture as an agent of global representations, as well as addressing new challenges involving ecological awareness.

The world is facing a dramatic rise of global warming, logarithmic growth of population, social inequality, wealth disparity, health risks, and millions of refugees, to mention some of the elements belonging to contemporary entanglements in which the world is taking shape. At the core of these changes, Houston is a lab feeding the undergraduate architecture program with accurate questions and realities expressing a world in the process of reinvention. Academics and professionals are challenged by how rapidly new

coordinates of their fields emerge, enlightening new ways of thinking and doing. On the path of their degree, students will experience changes inevitably impacting the historical coordinates of architecture as an expression and form of human culture and new technologies. We acknowledge education is all about trust. Our primary goal is to trust and support our students in their ways of experimenting and learning. The undergraduate architecture program educates architects to empower the place from where they speak by giving consistency to the world they design.

Architecture has a privileged voice in this moment of reinvention. Architectural work assembles the many layers of ecological, political, social, formal, material, technological, and environmental thoughts manifesting in ethical and aesthetical forms. When many of these layers come together in exemplary architectural works, they disseminate knowledge as becoming paradigms. In this new era of ecological consciousness, architectural work becomes an embassy (a cross-section) of all these assembled layers. We educate our students in understanding the responsibilities and powers of architecture as a powerful tool for reconfiguring and mobilizing the earth's crust. The undergraduate architecture program at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design embraces these powers and responsibilities. It prepares students to design architectural works that will be paradigmatic assemblages of all the layers the world is discussing today.

Today's architects are forced to look closely at the proximate and the remote. Architecture is not anymore, only just about the building scale. Just imagine the quarriers from where all the stones are coming from, then Rome becomes a pile and a hole for the contemporary architect. Red, black and white stripes, squares and circles, from its rocks and sands, the monumental Hines architecture building atrium's floors explain the landscapes of the foreign territory. Design is all about assemblies of ideas and materials of the past, present, and future cultures and technologies. The undergraduate architecture program encourages its students to learn at a global scale what is now architecture in a world transformed by globalization. We educate our students to understand the gravitas of their international futures. They know their design decisions will impact local scales and global scales wherever they will be.

# UG

Design studios are at the heart of the undergraduate architecture programs, acting as a hub and laboratory of experimentation. All academic areas of design media, history, theory and criticism, and technology interact and overlap in their commitment to global evolution. Each semester the undergraduate architecture program launches more than 30 studio problems evolving in multiple directions before reporting back their results in juries, discussions, and exhibitions covering the building walls or populating our digital archive with thousands of remarkable drawings, plans, sections, axonometric, emblematic images, and models.

The biodiversity of students and faculty forms this body of work, this collective intelligence, represents a myriad of fields of sensibility going from the most pragmatic professional to the most experimental soul; from the logics of the technique to the speculations of history, theory, and criticism; from the tactile craftsmen to the new design media robotics. The work produced in both the Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental Design is not just an archive of new assemblages; it lays forth a hint of what is discussed to prepare students in upcoming fields of architecture. The undergraduate architecture program evolves in a context of ecological consciousness and celebrates the diversity of design ecologies dwelling in The House of Education.

As our long-time faculty member Drexel Turner reflected in his book *The Open Plan*, many relevant architects, including Raimund Abraham, Emilio Ambasz, Frank Gehry, Michael Graves, Charles Gwathmey, John Hejduk, Craig Hodgetts, Richard Meier, Charles Moore, Norman Pfeiffer, Werner Seligmann, Stanley Tigerman, Susanna Torre, William Turnbull, Peter Cook, Kenneth Frampton, Alberto Kalach, Markku Komonen, Daniel Libeskin, Rodolfo Machado, Enrique Norten, Robert Slutzky, Michael Webb, Michael Wilford, and Lebbeus Woods, Wendell Brunette, Brian McKay-Lyons, and many others have crossed through the undergraduate architecture program imprinting a memory invigorating and shaping us in a very productive way of being. Our efforts have been aided significantly by the international expansion of all programs promoted by the Hines College's current dean Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA. Our international programs, generously supported by Barbara and Gerald D. Hines, have taken our students to every continent.

At the base of this education, led by Andrew Kudless, the Bill Kendall Memorial Professor of Design Technologies and coordinator of design media, in dialogue with professor Jason Logan, an incredibly talented architect, all first-year students are empowered with extremely well-calibrated tools to operate design in the digitalization of our era.

In the second year, the visionary capacity of Michael Kubo, leading the academic area of history, theory, and criticism (HTC), has reformulated a curriculum emphasizing the critical capacity of the discipline. In dialogue with Rafael Beneytez-Durán leading the coordinator of the intermediate level studios, both have created a new studio curriculum reinforcing the values of the discipline to see the world through the eyes of architecture. In third-year programs, students educated in the knowledge of representation and theory acquire the capacity of translating abstract ideas into material realities with the support of experienced design and technology faculty.

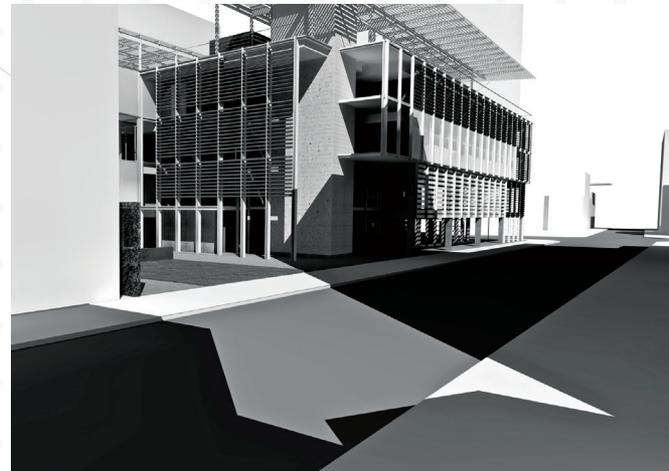
The technology curriculum, led by Rives Taylor and Tom Diehl, is evolving towards technology studios, reinforcing the creative powers of technological knowledge in coordination with the intermediate-level studios.

The success of these three years of combined knowledge of design media, HTC, and technology, culminates at the first term of the fourth-year comprehensive studio, where professor Patrick Peters' mastery in design/build and practice coordinates a semester with a myriad of actors resolving the holistic understanding of architecture. This semester culminates with a project representing a cross-section of the accumulated knowledge students have gained throughout their education thus far.



Students are already autonomous, emancipated critical thinkers, and prepared to design their interests and career paths in the second term of the fourth and evolving over the fifth year. The last level, coordinated by Gail Peter Borden, an experienced faculty and director of the College's graduate studies, curates a series of topics offered vertically for both graduate and undergraduate students. Elaborated options are curated term by term, under continuous discussion between faculty's evolving research agendas and external opportunities, bringing internal and external expertise to the forefront through topical studio courses invigorating curricular contents and upgrading the curriculum state of knowledge.

Distinguished visiting faculty lead discovery in many of the areas of our undergraduate program. MAIO, Daniel Jacobs, Sofia Krimizi, Kyriakos Kyriakou, Jeff Halstead, and Alfonso Garduño lead research studios with international imprints. Bruce Race and Shafik Rifaat teach urban system research studios. Peter Zweig focuses on international exhibitions studios, and Geoffrey Brune concentrates on historic preservation studios. All these combined with exciting new proposals offered by internal adjunct faculty, including Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez, Dijana Handanovic, Jesse Hager, Roya Plauché, and Kevin Story, and faculty research topics, including Andrew Kudless on digital media, Susan Rogers on Houston's community design, William Truitt on colonialism and modernism, Donna Kacmar on vernacular dwelling, Ronnie Self on museums, and Marta Rodriguez exploring collective housing in series of studios combined with elective courses. In addition, other lines of international collaboration between the Hines College and international institutions developed in 2021, including a partnership with Escuela Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid bringing a predoctoral visiting scholar to lead a topic studio in 2022. This is just the beginning. – *Rafael Beneytez-Durán*



# INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

The Hines College's interior architecture program was established in 2011. The Bachelor of Science in Interior Architecture prepares students to become design leaders and innovators across a range of interior practices, from small-scale installations and design-build projects to large-scale adaptations of existing spaces. Students engage with local communities to determine and propose new design visions for underutilized spaces. With a focus on research, design, and material investigation, the program teaches students how to leverage the potential of existing spaces as material and cultural resources.

The program has garnered local, regional, and national recognition for its work from industry and academic organizations, including the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), American Institute of Architecture (AIA) Houston Chapter, the Texas Society of Architects, and the Interior Design Educators Council.

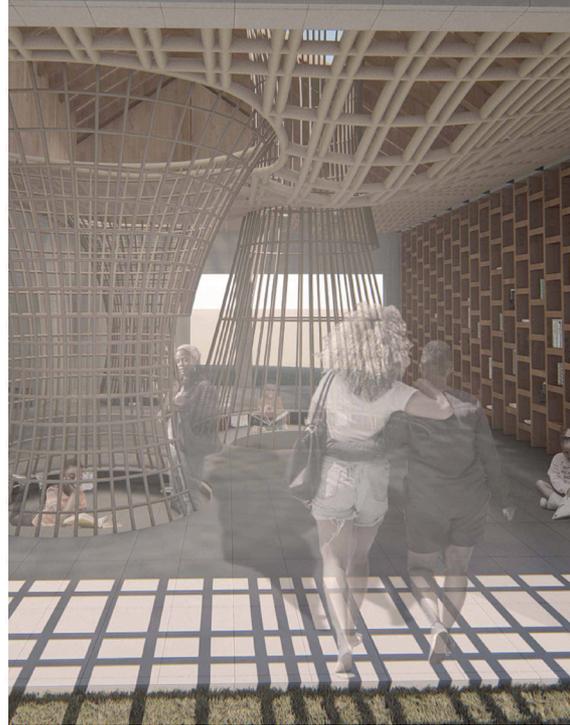
In 2015, the program worked with residents of Houston's Fifth Ward to address the aging storage building sitting near Olivet Missionary Baptist Church (3115 Lyons Avenue). The vacant edifice had seen better days, but thanks to University of Houston architecture students, a new purpose was on the horizon.

Students in a design/build studio led by professors Jason Logan and Josh Robbins developed designs for a truss supporting the existing building and serving as a foundation for a new community center. The resulting project, *Inside-Out: Fifth Ward Renaissance*, received the ACSA Diversity Achievement Award in 2016 for mobilizing grant funding, social advocacy design research, archival documentation, digital fabrication, and building to rethink the obsolete and abandoned structure.

Interior architecture students took the spotlight again in 2020 when a third-year studio led by professor Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez received an AIA Houston Design Award for their Third Ward *Libromat* design. The *Libromat*, a combination of a laundromat and library in Houston's Third Ward, sought to help parents bridge the early-learning literacy gap between African-American pre-school children and their white counterparts.



IA



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The interior architecture program has also successfully launched their own journal, the *International Journal of Interior Architecture + Spatial Design*, in 2012. The Advanced Spatial Design research group (ASD) is a scholarly community based the program at the College. The ASD participates in design research and teaching activities bridging the disciplines of interior architecture, furniture design, light-mobile-architectures, digital fabrication, and emerging technologies. Houston, the fourth largest city in the United States and an emerging global center of research, cross cultural interchange, and innovation, offers a dynamic base for its diverse programs. Sharing a common focus, the ASD endeavors to engage and improve the cognitive and performative capacities of spatial design and designed objects. Environmentally and culturally informed principles guide the development of adaptive and alternative strategies for various applications. Resident faculty, visiting fellowships, and students support research investigations of emerging technological, material, and social opportunities for interior architecture, and spatial design. The ASD works to activate its research through speculation, construction, advocacy, and scholarship. Its activities support an open access database, as well as publications and traveling exhibitions worldwide.

While still a young program, graduates of the Interior Architecture program have earned internships and positions at leading international firms such as Rottet, SBWV, and PDR, as well as at distinguished small ateliers. They have also been accepted for graduate studies at the University of Houston and other highly competitive schools nationally and internationally.



# INDUSTRIAL DESIGN + Its Founding Director

On June 24, 2021, Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered together for a virtual event honoring EunSook Kwon, founding

director and professor of the College's industrial design program. She was about to begin a new chapter as chair of the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Industrial Design. The evening was bittersweet as the College community celebrated the award-winning industrial design program, shared stories, and wished its beloved founding director farewell.

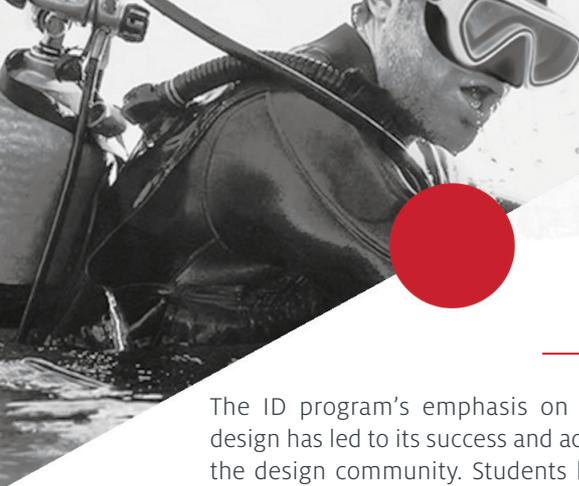
Kwon began her tenure at the Hines College in 2003, tasked with building an industrial design program initiated under former dean Joe Mashburn '78. The Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design program was established in 2003, making it the first program of its kind in a four-state region. A decade later, in 2013, the Master of Science program launched under Kwon's leadership.

"The ID program was established to realize a student-centered education based on constructivism. This was my education philosophy in creating the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design curriculum and pedagogy, which was later also applied to the personalized curriculum for the Master of Science in Industrial Design program," said Kwon. "I have shared my personal philosophy of living with students: 'keep pushing' (ideas, opportunities, boundaries, and limits). As a woman, I have kept pushing my limits and opportunities, which has helped grow the ID program for the last 18 years. What an amazing journey this was."

Kwon's leadership eventually propelled the Hines College to become a top ID program in the United States and worldwide. Red Dot ranks the program No. 6 nationally and No. 14 globally.

"I first met EunSook over 24 years ago while serving on the jury for the International Design Excellence Awards," shared ID professor Mark Kimbrough. "I remained continually and deeply impressed, but never surprised, at her remarkable record of achievement and leadership within our ID program."

ID



The ID program's emphasis on human-centered design has led to its success and acclaim throughout the design community. Students have consistently received top awards from the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), Bienenstock Furniture Competition, International Housewares Association Student Design Awards Competition, Dubai Global Grad Show, Makeup NYC, and more. Through the ID+ program, students also had the opportunity to share their designs at the Dallas Market and SXSW conference in 2019.

"EunSook brought perfection and inspiration to the ID program at UH," shared Antoinette Luow '20. "She taught us that design should be a passion coming from the heart and a way to better the world around us."

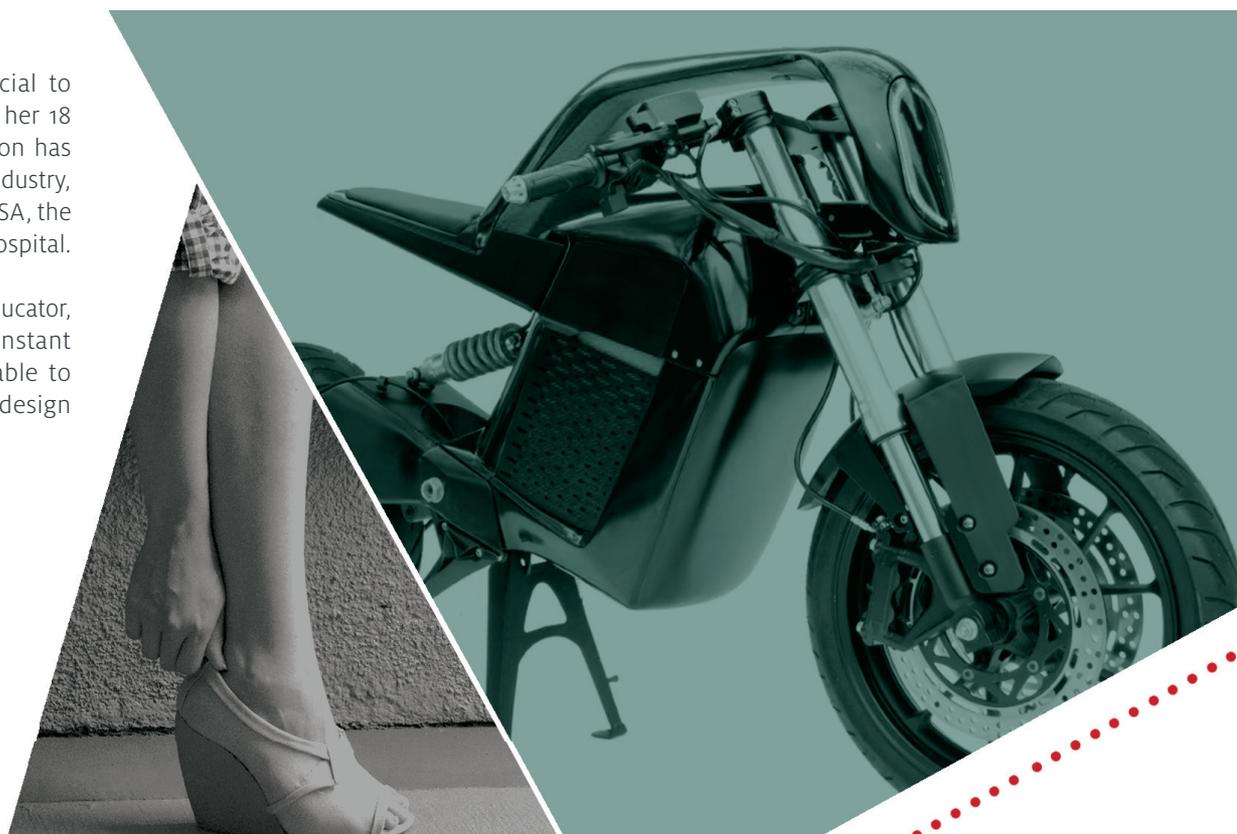
Hands-on experience with industry is crucial to student's development as designers. During her 18 years as the director of the ID program, Kwon has bridged the gap and connected students with industry, including partnerships in recent years with NASA, the Texas Medical Center, and Texas Children's Hospital.

"Beyond her obvious skills as a designer and educator, her credentials reinforce her drive for constant innovation in creating a curriculum adaptable to the transformative nature of the industrial design profession," said Kimbrough.

It was evident that Kwon poured her heart and soul into the ID program. In 2018, Kwon and her husband established the *EunSook Kwon and Sunjin Kim Scholarship*, the College's first scholarship supporting ID students. Kwon's legacy will live on through the program she established, as well as the support she has given students and alumni.

"Whenever I hear from students and alumni about their passion and confidence as designers, and their appreciation of their ID education at UH, I am very proud of my time at the University," shared Kwon. "Their words have reinforced the value of the ID education and my hard work at the Hines College. The collective words from students and alumni have connected us as a family and built the legacy of the ID program."

"A designer can play critically important roles as a creative thinker, problem solver, interpreter, and dreamer for the world we are facing," said Kwon. "Asking questions about our roles and responsibilities will be the grounds for being good students and designers. Ask critical questions and think on behalf of others." – *Stephen Schad*



# GRADUATE DESIGN/BUILD

The University of Houston graduate design/build studio (GD/BS), founded in 1990, is one of the longest running university-based design/construction initiatives in the United States. Over that time, it has garnered local and national awards and introduced generations of graduate students to the rigorous demands of learning by doing, all while serving as a silent witness to dramatic evolution within architectural practice and the demands placed upon architectural education. In the face of seismic shifts, a key to the longevity of the studio has been its goal to empower graduates to embrace change in the profession through confidence and knowledge gained while students of the entire building process from ideation to full-scale realization.

Design/build research and design collaboration at UH are interests that are not limited to the GD/BS itself but rather permeate the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. The history of incidental hands-on learning activities in the college include those by John Zemanek, Myron Anderson, Nia Bechnel, Peter Zweig, Larry Bell, Paul Lodholz, David Thaddeus, Drexel Turner, Susan Rogers, Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez, Jason Logan, Rafael Longoria, and many others have enriched the discussion and demonstrated the viability of community engagement within the academy. Having emerged out of this ethos at the college, the graduate design/build studio over its 32-year history has been a formal community engagement vehicle to create sustainable public improvements within Houston's diverse neighborhoods, while serving its pedagogical mission, and also embodying goals essential to the College and University strategic planning.

First operating out of the modest architectural model shop (now the advising suite and presentation room 143) in the architecture building and despite significant limitations of space and equipment, the studio demonstrated from inception its sustainable goals full-scale, challenging apriori reliance on air conditioning by creating permanent climate-influenced places for area non-profit organizations. When GD/BS moved operations into the Burdette Keeland, Jr. Design Exploration Laboratory, new possibilities for more intentional prefabrication and pre-erection processes further advanced its mission and design explorations. Now, as advancing technologies have thrust students into ever-disembodied modes of electronic practice, the work embraces the opportunities digital exploration and fabrication provide while guarding the benefit to students of moving their ideas from initial concept to full-scale construction. Looking forward, the resources of the Advanced Media Technology Lab will extend this exploration even further.

Four priorities of university strategic thinking are recurring in the work of the GD/BS: community resiliency, energy innovation, community health, and student success. While this design/build initiative has been dedicated to green building from its outset, the work of the GD/BS has responded as Houston has changed also, acknowledging ever more urgent environmental constraints imposed by flooding, climate change, and the impacts that these factors have exerted on building efforts locally. What started as a demonstration of the viability of outdoor living in a fully air-conditioned city, has now become an exploration of how each project, regardless of its scale, can serve a flood-mitigation role in addressing Houston's increasingly urgent storm water management challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further influenced not only how the design/build experience is structured in order to maintain student safety, but also and more profoundly, the pandemic has raised new questions about how the original mission of creating outdoor places for learning, performing, and gathering has become even more urgent to reduce potential virus exposure and spread.

Since 2009, the College of Architecture and Design, through its design/build initiatives, has involved students in creating renewable energy systems as public demonstration platforms for Houston communities in need. Meeting the complementary goals of exposing students to renewable energy systems and providing useful energy assets to those at risk has been a goal for each project, but these two desires were especially well-linked in the *Reframe x Frame* Centennial Art Pavilion at Hermann Park, created collaboratively with UH graphic design students led by Cheryl Beckett. During its two-year display within Hermann Park, it was available to be viewed by the park's many, many visitors each year, and made a brief appearance on national Super Bowl coverage.

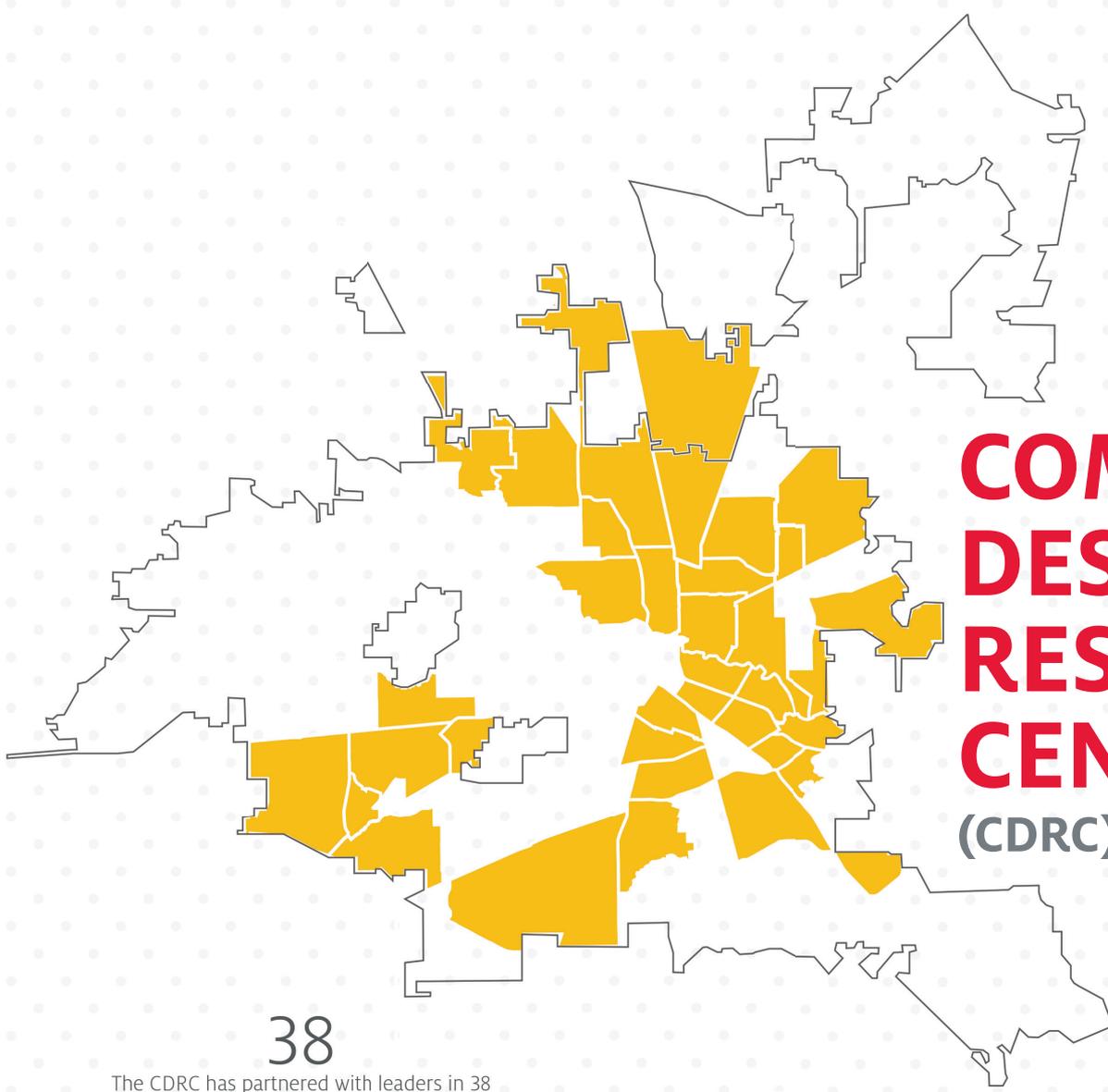
Works from the studio often promote personal health and wellness through innovative design concepts and building strategies. As a response to widespread food insecurity, in 2012 for the vastly different communities of Alief and South Union/Greater Third Ward, the studio designed two pavilions to promote healthy food habits and provide gardening skills development for residents in need of fresh produce.



By offering architecture students the opportunity to see their ideas evolve from initial conception to completed construction, the graduate design/build studio demonstrates full-scale the implications of the students' aspirations and measures the quality of their design thinking against the rigorous standard of built reality. Three decades of design/build initiatives have demonstrated that the positive impact on student success leads to more than marketable job skills. After completing an ambitious journey through experiential learning, not only are GD/BS students equipped to work well within their professional settings, but they are also equipped to lead top organizations. Among the more than 300 alumni exposed to design/build collaboration at the Hines College, many now serve as firm principals, have achieved national recognition, and have become sustainable design leaders within their professions.

– Patrick Peters





# COMMUNITY DESIGN RESOURCE CENTER (CDRC)

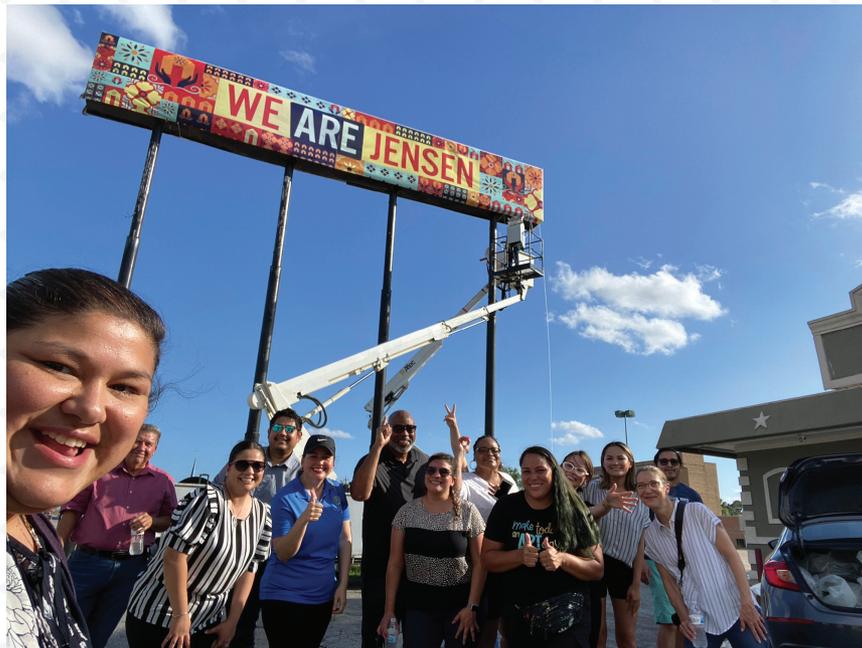
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The CDRC has partnered with leaders in 38  
of Houston's 88 Super Neighborhoods

The Hines College's Community Design Resource Center (CDRC) works collaboratively with community partners to define, develop, and apply design strategies bringing us closer to a more just and equitable city, at every scale. Founded in 2005 and directed by professor Susan Rogers, the work of the CDRC cuts across the disciplines of architecture, design, planning, community development, art, social practice, and activism.

The CDRC's partnerships with local leaders in communities across Houston have led to an expansive and diverse body of work reflecting the extraordinarily rich landscape of our city. Over the past 16 years, the CDRC has partnered with nearly four dozen community-based and non-profit organizations to complete over 50 projects in 38 Houston area neighborhoods. The work is not limited by scale, ranging from public art to architectural concepts and urban design to community visioning.

At the visioning end of the spectrum, the Collaborative Community Design Initiative (CCDI) has been the most impactful and longest running program. The initiative began in 2008 and culminated in 2020 with the fifth biennial publication. Twenty Houston Super Neighborhoods have been part of the initiative and hundreds of community members, students and faculty, and professional experts from across disciplines have participated. CCDI is founded on the principles of interdisciplinary problem-solving, integration of academic and professional voices, community partnerships, and broad-based participation. Community partners take away from the project: (1) a Briefing Book that describes their community, including assets and opportunities; (2) multiple opportunities to present findings to their elected officials and potential partners and funders; (3) access to professionals across disciplines that can assist them in moving the identified projects forward; and (4) a final book publication for each neighborhood.



**design is a  
strategy for  
change**

Although conceptual, strategies from CCDI have catalyzed millions of dollars in public investment and informed a wide range of completed public, private, and community-driven projects throughout the city. The initiative represents many partner neighborhoods' first engagement with design and planning professions, making the body of research itself a valuable tool in advocating for new parks, infrastructure improvements, equitable public investment, and other resources. Funded by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and many other foundations and organizations, the Collaborative Community Design Initiative has provided a new model for acting in and thinking about our communities.

At a smaller scale, the CDRC has implemented projects such as the "Zona de Juego" in Magnolia Park, a 600-foot long public art project celebrating the history of the neighborhood and providing active play for children. More recently, five public art interventions have been installed along Jensen Drive, cumulatively titled "Driving Jensen." The interventions were designed by students in a joint architecture and graphic design studio taught by Professors Susan Rogers and Fiona McGettigan, and were informed by numerous meetings with Eastex Jensen community members and partners. The CDRC's work has created dozens of opportunities to integrate community-identified projects into studio and seminar courses at the University of Houston. Most importantly, this integration has provided students with opportunities to engage in participatory design work and apply their skills to real world challenges.

The work of the CDRC is speculative, pragmatic, and strategic. The most enduring quality of the work is the relationships and trust formed with community leaders and organizations across our city. As we move forward, we are designing new ways to deepen collaborations with our community partners, expand our social justice and equity lens, and explore new ways to enhance the mutuality, reciprocity, and impact of our work. The built and human-impacted environment is a group project, not a recital. Our work would not be possible without the vision, talent, skills, and commitment of more than 60 University of Houston design students that have been part of the CDRC team over the last 16 years.

We believe design is a strategy for change. Justice and equity are at the core of all that we do and we believe that place-based design and research should amplify the voices of community members, engage students, and transform possibilities. Our work is focused on our communities because place and design matter. – Susan Rogers



# MATERIALS RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

The Materials Research Collaborative (MRC) at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design serves as a materials resource for material discovery, innovation, instruction, and research across the College's disciplines and for local industry professionals. The MRC developed a web-based database cataloging the physical materials in its collection. On-going work of the MRC includes uncovering new and innovative materials, cataloging the physical samples, and researching and inputting data regarding the specific extrinsic and intrinsic properties of these materials. The MRC is also engaged in specific material research projects funded by grants, gifts, or other sources.

The MRC took off during the 2011/2012 academic year under its former director Donna Kacmar when the program received four \$5,000 gifts made from *Founding Partner* firms Gensler, Kendall Heaton, Page Southerland Page, and Ziegler Cooper. The funding allowed the MRC to contract with Materials ConneXion, an international material consultancy based in New York City, to provide materials consultations, access to their database, as well as 100 physical samples for the MRC, the College's students, and the MRC's *Founding Partner* firms.

The MRC completed the *Made in Texas* project during the 2016/2017 academic year. A website, [madeintexas.uhmrc.com](http://madeintexas.uhmrc.com), and the accompanying catalog and database, was developed to be a useful resource for all architecture in Texas in order to help them find local manufacturers and makers. The work to compile this resource was funded by the Architecture Center Houston Foundation, AIA Austin, AIA Dallas, AIA Fort Worth, AIA San Antonio, and the Texas Society of Architects. An exhibit and opening reception, sponsored by Atec, Inc., was hosted in the MRC to celebrate the project's launch. Under Kacmar's direction, the catalog and resource were completed by John Gibson, Angelica Lastra, Travis Mohle, and Jainish Radadia. The website was designed and created by Jessica Bradham.

The MRC is supported by its *Firm Partner Page*; its *Founding Partners* Gensler, Kendall Heaton, Page Southerland Page, and Ziegler Cooper; and *Supporters* Architecture Center Houston Foundation, the University of Houston Green Building Components program, Skanska USA, and the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.

Ophélie Mantz currently serves as the director of the MRC.

# CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE (CeSAR)



CeSAR was the invention of Professor Thomas Mathew Colbert, AIA (1954-2015). Tom was committed to protecting the Gulf Coast's natural beauty and resilience. He championed collaborative efforts to demonstrate how architects could imagine solutions balancing a thriving Gulf economy and ecology. In 2015, Dr. Bruce Race, FAIA, FAICP, joined the Hines College faculty to work with University of Houston researchers and community partners, providing the foundation for an interdisciplinary research center with a focus on sustainability and resilience. Working with an interdisciplinary UH faculty advisory committee, Dr. Race mapped out an overall pathway for developing a research track record attracting federal agency grants and local partners.

## **Mission**

CeSAR exemplifies University of Houston's mission as a Texas Tier One research university. The Center advances goals for institutional excellence through collaborative research, engaging external partners, and providing students access to interdisciplinary and inter-campus educational opportunities that serve society. CeSAR seeks to understand the critical relationships between society, its technological advances, and the corresponding impact on the environment, both locally and globally. CeSAR aims to leverage University of Houston's unique array of research capabilities by providing guidance, creating assessment tools, and finding solutions.



# research with policy impact

## Areas of Research Focus

CeSAR's sponsored research reflects the sustainability and social justice issues facing Houston's communities. The research agenda has been significantly influenced by consecutive years of tropical storms, industrial disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Forged by these realities, CeSAR's research agenda has four thrusts. These include smart and connected communities, resilience hubs, flood resilient communities, and air quality and climate.

### Smart and Connected Communities

Society is at the threshold of a transformational economy where people and their environments are connected by intelligent technologies. CeSAR has joined other UH researchers and community partners to integrate smart technologies to improve environmental and economic performance. Dr. Race has been working on interdisciplinary teams funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve partners' resilience and performance serving Houston's communities. The research supports the Houston Food Bank's mission to provide nutritious food during the COVID-19 pandemic and weather events, and METRO's goal to provide equitable access to electric mobility.

### Resilience Hubs

CeSAR has been funded by Houston Habitat for Humanity and TIRZ20 to master plan flood resilient, energy- and detention-positive town centers. These efforts demonstrate how new projects can meet net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets in the City's Climate Action Plan and strategic goals in Houston's resilience plan. The master planned developments provide commercial, institutional, and eco-services supporting communities during disasters. Robins Landing in East Houston is the first mixed-use town center developed by Habitat for Humanity in the United States and has received \$5M in infrastructure funding from the City of Houston. The West Bellfort Town Center is a master plan for a 143-acre former landfill located in southwest Houston. The plan balances regional detention, natural parks space, and economic development. The Ruffino Hills is modeled as an energy-positive project that will mitigate urban heat islands providing 20 additional days of outdoor comfort a year while reducing building cooling loads.

### Flood Resilient Communities

Hurricane Harvey presented Hines College students and faculty with a teachable moment. CeSAR was funded by local community nonprofits to assist them in planning for recovery and resilience. The Jewish Federation funded resilience planning for five super neighborhoods along Brays Bayou. *Housing the Next 60,000* provided an inventory of housing and land assets, economic and housing recovery strategies, and public investments in detention. The strategies for Mid Brays reduce flood risk and encourage private investment resulting in more livable neighborhoods. The Lake Houston Area Chamber of Commerce funded a resilience assessment of members' communities. Research included using LANDSAT data to measure land coverage trends and compare that to

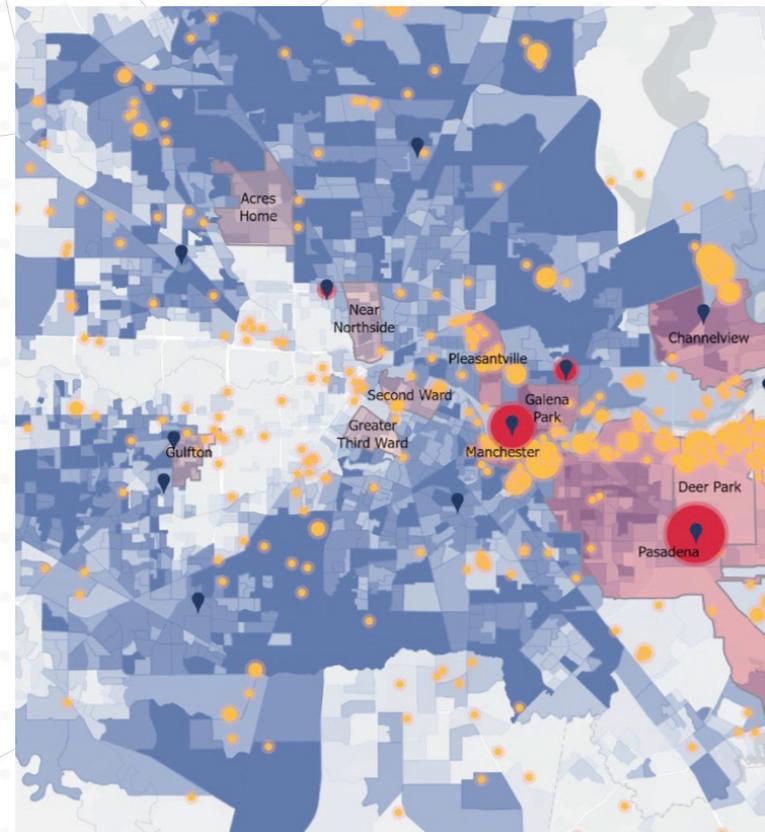
weather events, siltation, and wildland fire hazards to inform their policy advocacy agenda.

### Air Quality and Climate

CeSAR has supported the mission of Houston's environmental justice organizations and the City research air quality and climate impacts from transportation. Working with colleagues in the College of Technology, student and faculty researchers analyzed data from 50 air quality sensors and prepared a *pollution atlas* for Houston. Mapping included modeling the annual amount of PM<sub>2.5</sub> impacting communities from transportation on Houston's highways and thoroughfares. Dr. Race co-chaired the Houston Climate Action Plan Transportation Working Group. He modeled the greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, worked with the group to identify preferred policy targets, and coordinated with others groups to identify the renewable energy demands for a net zero 2050. Those lessons have influenced electric vehicle (EV) research by UH, the City, and commercial partners.

### Houston's Challenges and Global Influence

CeSAR continues to position the Hines College as an effective research partner addressing climate change regional environmental and economic resilience. As designers, our faculty are integrators and leaders of interdisciplinary teams. These skills are required more than ever to sustain Houston's prosperity and ecological health and export those lessons to the world. – Bruce Race





**RISKY HABIT[AT]:  
DYNAMIC LIVING ON  
THE BUFFALO BAYOU**

**THE BIENNALES | 2014**



In 2014, a collection of visionary architectural works were showcased during the 14th International Architecture Exhibition at the 2014 Venice Biennale. Only the best of the best are selected for the annual prestigious event, and among the year's highlights were works developed at the University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.

For two years, UH architecture students developed visions for an enhanced Houston infrastructure, one that better serves its community and can withstand environmental, urban, and industrial challenges. These projects were created as part of the groundbreaking *Three Continents Studio*, an initiative focusing on challenges faced by coastal cities such as Houston. These students received an international spotlight as part of *Time Space Existence*, a collateral event at the 2014 Venice Biennale's Architecture Exhibition. The exhibition premiered June 7, 2014, and ran through November 23, 2014, in Venice (at Palazzo Bembo and Palazzo Mora). UH's Hines College was among 100 architects and institutions participating in this exclusive event.

Students Wells Barber, David Regone, Sam Goulas, Jackson Fox, and Lacey Richter traveled to Venice to discuss their works with patrons. Patricia Oliver, dean of the Hines College, joined them, as well as UH architecture professors Peter Jay Zweig and Thomas Colbert (who co-led the *Three Continents Studio*). The school's namesake, Gerald D. Hines, and UH President Renu Khator also attended the opening.

Zweig was curator and designer of the exhibition of student projects titled *Risky Habit [at]: Dynamic Living on the Buffalo Bayou*. The exhibition spotlighted works from UH students, as well projects from three partnering institutions. The *Three Continents Studio* partnered UH with Tulane University, University of Buenos Aires, and Technical University, Delft. Students, faculty, and researchers from these respective institutions investigated architectural solutions for their respective coastal areas. Each of these regions faces threats from weather, urban and industrial growth, flooding, and environmental factors. Noted architects Michael Rotundi and Kulapat Yantrasast served as visiting critics for the project.

"This accomplishment was a two-year journey with the collaboration of four different international institutions across three different continents," Oliver said. "The College is a leader in tackling urban issues on a global scale."

UH students addressed issues relevant to the city of Houston. Projects addressed three scales within the city – 100 miles (along Buffalo Bayou), a two-mile stretch just east of downtown and a 20-foot scale (examining the facades of local buildings).

"Along Buffalo Bayou, there is the potential for natural and manmade events and problems," Zweig said. "The concept of the studio was for students to take these negatives and turn them into positives. It's about solving the urban industrialization problems faced by our city."

Examples of the works created during the *Three Continents Studio* and exhibited during Venice Biennale include:

- A redevelopment of the area surrounding Houston's Addicks and Barker Dams (at Interstate 10 and State Highway 6) in an effort to prevent the dams from collapsing.
- Concepts for a proposed multifunctional site (with hotels and retail outlets) adjacent to a cruise terminal near the Port of Houston.
- Rehabilitating abandoned offshore oil rigs for casinos, medical facilities, and other uses.
- New visions for Houston's East End including pedestrian-friendly bridges, new residential complexes, farmer's markets and entertainment facilities.
- An educational facility aimed at using the natural sounds of Buffalo Bayou to teach children with learning disabilities.

"There was innovation on all three scales," Zweig said. "What we've explored in the *Three Continents Studio* is how to design a sustainable city in the 21st century that is facing historically unprecedented urban problems. The student projects investigated how architecture can contribute to this changing environment and the ecosystem, rather than simply focusing on architecture as a beautiful object."

UH's Hines College is the only Texas-based institution to participate in *Time Space Existence* at the Venice Biennale. This international event documents developments and concepts in contemporary architecture. Works presented highlight fundamental questions related to the concepts time, space, and existence.

"Showing my work at the Venice Biennale was an amazing exclamation point for the end of my architecture education," said Barber, who graduated in May 2014. "The Venice Biennale is where you see top level professional design. For this to be the first thing I did after graduating was a dream come true."

Since 1895, the city of Venice has hosted the annual Biennale dedicated to contemporary art from around the globe. As one of the world's major art and architecture events, the Biennale attracts more than 200,000 patrons. The architectural component of the Biennale premiered in 1980. It is conducted during even years. The 2014 architecture event was curated by noted architect, architectural theorist, and urbanist Rem Koolhaas.

The Hines College's exhibition received the 2014 Global Affairs Foundations Prize at the Venice Biennale and went on to exhibit at the Bienal Internacional de Arquitectura de Buenos Aires and International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam that same year. A two-volume boxed set of books titled *+ and -: Risky Habit[at]: Dynamic Living on a Delta* was produced to chronicle the research and project proposals. – *Mike Emery*

ENERGY CITY



VACANCY  
*The Places Between*



# HOUSTON: GENETIC CITY

AEDES ARCHITECTURE FORUM | BERLIN, GERMANY | 2017

A virtual reality (VR) simulation of the future of downtown Houston and unique challenges the city faces in the near future, including reinvention of current energy infrastructure and changing real estate and density, debuted at the world-renowned Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin, Germany, on June 24, 2017.

Students from the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design traveled with their year and a half long project entitled *Houston: Genetic City*.

“Since we are Houston’s university, what could be a more fitting subject for these UH students than our city’s future? This project reflected the University’s commitment to identifying real-world problems and providing innovative solutions,” said UH President Renu Khator. “On a professional level, I’m proud of the international recognition this brought UH, and, on a personal level, I was delighted to observe this extraordinary exhibition first-hand.”

The exhibition was the result of a studio collaboration between Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne, whose firm, Morphosis, is based in Los Angeles, and the vertical studio of professors Matthew Johnson, Jason Logan, and Peter Zweig. Over three semesters and a summer project in Los Angeles, students had to the opportunity to work closely with Mayne.

“The studio was timely, given Houston’s current rapid growth,” said Johnson. “Houston will soon overtake Chicago as the third most populous city in the US. It was already largest in geographic area, and the most diverse. But where Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York have been extensively theorized, Houston remains an urban enigma.”

Logan said the work yielded a few surprises. “Houston is the only major city in the United States without zoning and form-based codes,” he said. “Surprisingly, we found a lack of zoning can generate exceptional forms of urbanism and architecture.”

Using new VR technology along with Oculus, participants of the 2017 exhibition in Berlin were able to immerse themselves in the innovative student designs. The exhibition also featured displays of computer-generated renderings, drawings, and 3-D printed models.

The college’s namesake Gerald D. Hines, his wife Barbara, and Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis also joined the University of Houston group in Berlin for the exhibition’s opening and symposium.

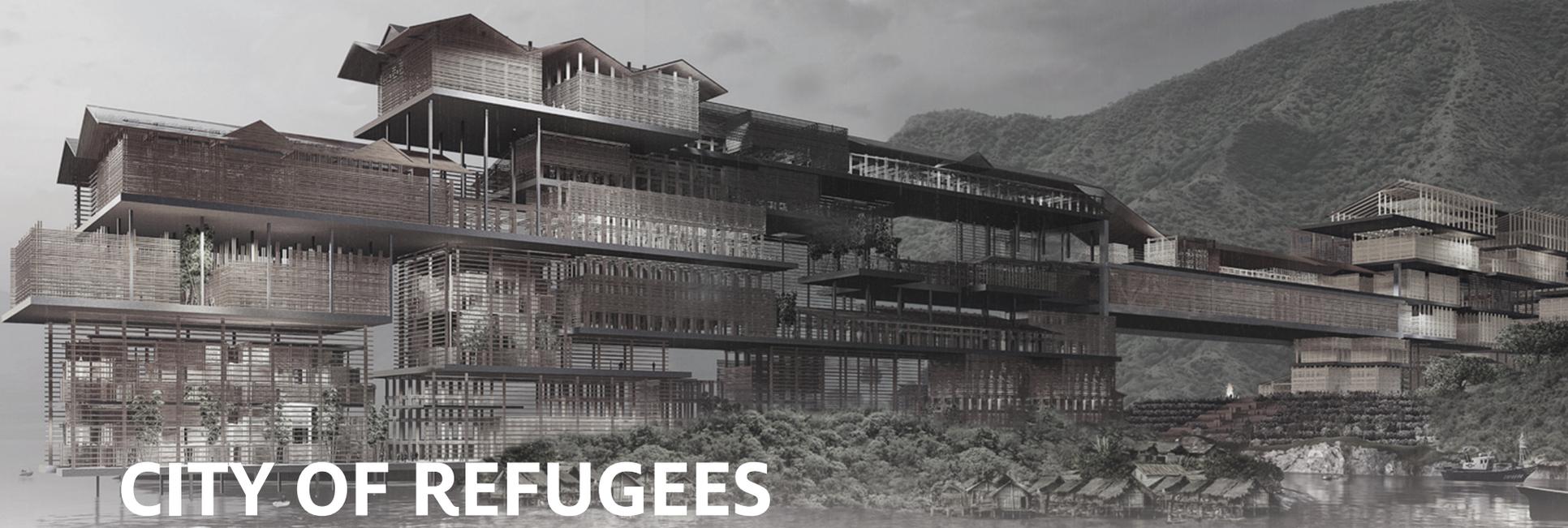
“It was fascinating to view this future scenario of Houston through the eyes of these talented, young architects, and on such an international stage,” Hines said. “In the nearly two decades my name has been on the College, University of Houston has delivered on the promise of creating a better built environment through the talents of future leaders in architecture and design.”

Thom Mayne also participated in a symposium with Aaron Betsky of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture at Taliesin. The symposium, *Future Urbanism: Genetic Cities*, discussed the student’s work and the uniquely evolving development of Houston. Students tackled issues including the reinvention of current energy infrastructure, changing real estate and density, and ways in which the city’s lack of zoning can generate new ideas.

“It was a tremendous honor for our students to be able to exhibit their work in an architecture gallery as renowned as the Aedes Architecture Forum, an international venue for the giants of the profession,” said Patricia Belton Oliver, dean of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.

Recent UH graduate Patricia Marcine also showcased her work at Aedes during the exhibition. For her project, she researched studies showing how climate change would lead to yearly flooding in Galveston by the year 2050. Marcine’s designs offered possible solutions.

“It was all about raising up living spaces and turning the flooded areas into recreational areas, lifting up our transportation system, moving away from gas powered vehicles and really just trying to tackle all the problems at the same time,” Marcine said. – *Jeannie Kever + Sara Tubbs*



# CITY OF REFUGEES

## AEDS ARCHITECTURE FORUM | BERLIN, GERMANY | 2020

Ai Weiwei's path from artist to one of the most influential social activists of our time has been paved in personal experience. From growing up in a Chinese labor camp to later being exiled with his family, Ai Weiwei lived in harsh conditions until a teenager. Living conditions of refugees around the globe and themes of human ingenuity and resilience despite the most extreme circumstances were at the center of a tandem interactive exhibit with Ai Weiwei and the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design at the prestigious Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin, Germany, in October 2020.

*City of Refugees*, an exhibition presented by UH architecture students, and *Purgatory*, the art installation by Ai Weiwei, together turned the spotlight to challenges faced by refugees and offered solutions to building self-sustaining and thriving refugee communities across the globe.

"In the camps at Bangladesh the houses are lightboxes, there is pouring rain, but inside it is not hot and it stays dry," said Ai Weiwei, about the living conditions refugees experience. "To think these odd buildings with no cost and made of bamboo, much of it built by non-architects, is created by people with waste materials and everything is so intelligent."

## BUILDING A CITY OF REFUGEES

The problems embodied by Ai Weiwei's *Purgatory* inspired *City of Refugees* and a three-year intensive sequence of design studios led by Hines College professors Peter Jay Zweig and Gail Peter Borden, both fellows of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA). The project centered on developing a provocative approach to proposing four prototypical refugee cities of varying sizes on four continents, ranging from 50,000 to 500,000 people.

"I fell in love with the idea of a city for people that have been impacted by problems in their own countries," said UH former architecture Carlos Soto '20, who had a personal connection to the project. "When this assignment began in 2017, people from my home country of Venezuela were leaving on foot to escape to Colombia. They were stuck in limbo between their drastically changing homeland and a place they were not used to."

*City of Refugees* reinterpreted Thomas More's 1516 book *Utopia*, in that it represented a place transcending the fate of those who have been displaced from their homeland. The concept of the refugee city developed by the UH team was built upon universal architectural principles and local traditions openly welcoming migrants looking for a place to be free and act independently.

"The blending of local and social customs with the imported influx of refugees creates an environment that is committed to the idea of a 'pledge' given upon arrival to the city, for social acceptance through community volunteer programs, self-empowerment, education, shared communal kitchens and work spaces," said Zweig.

## FOUR CITIES

As United Nations-sponsored free economic zones, the four proposed locations in *City of Refugees* created a platform for a new multi-ethnic society based upon justice, tolerance, and an economically viable net-zero environment. The cities were intended to embody world citizenship with an emphasis on education, health and responsibility – a place where people could come to create their own lives.

- BRIDGE CITY (South America) – located on the Rio Santiago in Ecuador near the Peruvian border just south of the equator
- gRADIANT CITY (Africa) – located on the east side of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on the edge of Lake Edward and on the border between DRC and Uganda
- SWITCHBACK CITY (Southeast Europe) – located on the border between Serbia and Romania along the Danube River near the city of Tekija, Serbia
- UPCYCLE CITY (South Asia) – located on the Coast of Bengal in Bangladesh near the border to Myanmar

In funding the establishment of these cities, students researched and analyzed the annual United States military defense spending, amounting to \$700 billion. They found that one-quarter of one percent of the military budget could easily fund a city of refugees.

“A geometric infrastructure, partnered with indigenous material systems allowing for regional contextualism empowers residents to individually infill, develop, and complete the urban fabric,” said Borden, describing the impact of urban innovation on the project. “The result is an innovative, sustainable, evolutionary, and interconnected community-based city.”

While the exhibition featured a 20-foot three-dimensional model, it took on an immersive format extending beyond the physical models and drawings, welcoming participants to enter into an augmented reality that coexisted with the physical exhibition.

“We were excited to exhibit again at Aedes as part of Aedes’ 40th anniversary and with the highly respected and influential international artist Ai Weiwei,” said Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA, dean of the Hines College, “The work of our students and faculty on this exhibition was timely and the blending of traditional models and drawings with augmented reality offered an extraordinary experience. My hope is their investigation and proposals inspired change and served as a catalyst for action supporting refugees throughout the world.”

*City of Refugees* was the Hines College’s third international endeavor since 2014, supported by the generosity of the late Gerald D. Hines. The exhibition was on display at the Aedes Architecture Forum, alongside Ai Weiwei’s *Purgatory*, October 30, 2020 through January 7, 2021. – *Stephen Chad + Sara Tubbs*



# STUDY ABROAD

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The Hines College's faculty-led international summer and exchange programs have offered students the ability to study across the globe since 1997. Students have grown their design experience in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, France, India, Italy, Spain, Vietnam, and many other international destinations. One of the most popular programs over the years was the opportunity to study at the Centre d'urbanisme et d'architecture in Saintes, France.

For the past 20 years, with the exception of time during the COVID-19 pandemic, William Truitt has been one of the Hines College professors teaching students aboard each summer. He targets places seldom explored. His students have studied political instability and urban implications in various countries, including, Mexico City, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Morocco, Colombia, Cuba, and others.

"From my personal experience, the places rarely studied or visited are where most architects end up working," said Truitt. "Many of the students coming on these trips end up getting into great graduate programs."

The College's variety of international programs allows students opportunities to travel, immerse themselves in different cultures, and gain a better understanding about the architectural and design implications around the world.

"Every student participating in a study abroad program comes back with a different perspective – discovering their positioning and design positioning in the world," said assistant dean Trang Phan. "They participate in opportunities where they immerse themselves in cultures, look at designs through a different cultural lens, and accomplish personal successes."

When current dean Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA, arrived at the University of Houston, there was only one international program operating in Castiglion Fiorentino, in the Tuscany region of Italy. Now the College has numerous programs that continue to grow. In 2019, students visited 13 countries. The College also has memoranda of understanding with the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Beijing Institute of Technology, TU Graz, the École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Versailles, École nationale supérieure d'architecture Paris-Malaquais, and Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile, for exchange of students and faculty.

## PAN-ASIAN STUDIO

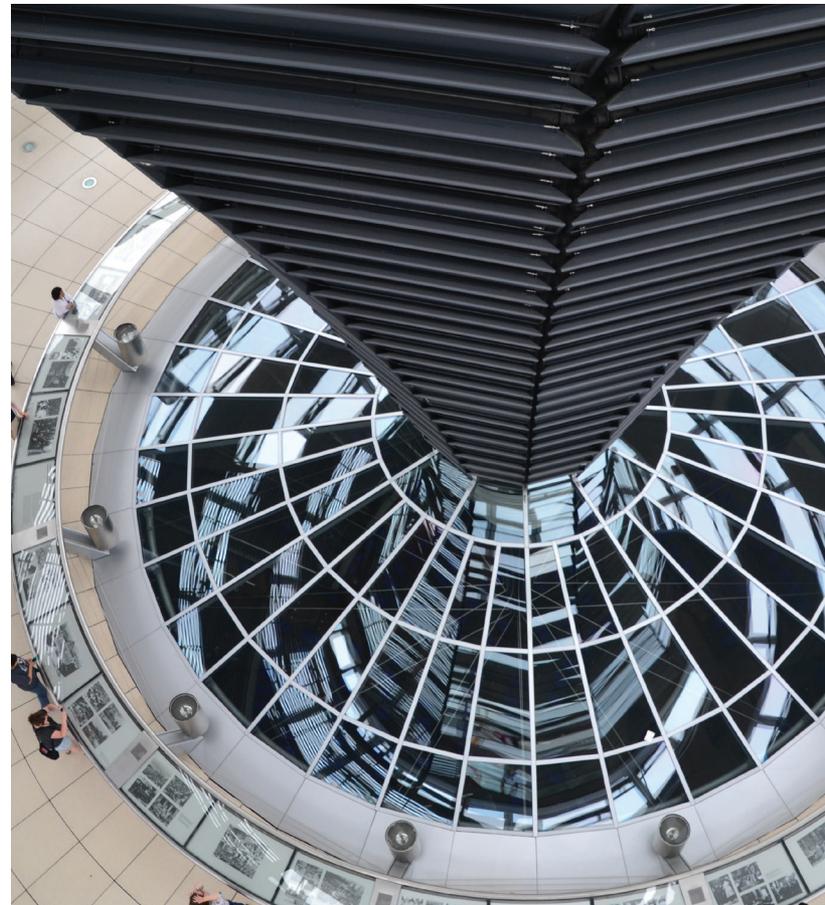
The Pan-Asian studio considers ways in which local and global cultures interact and affect each other. Sites in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Ho Chi Minh City, and Phnom Penh, as well as other destinations across Asia, offer an immersion into rapidly developing urban contexts and complex cultural histories for students to reflect upon known histories and culture in the United States. A dynamic and simultaneous analysis of architecture, urban development, landscape, and infrastructure is necessary for each city where the built environment is constantly changing. These studies provide a critical background for a future global practice necessary for architects today.

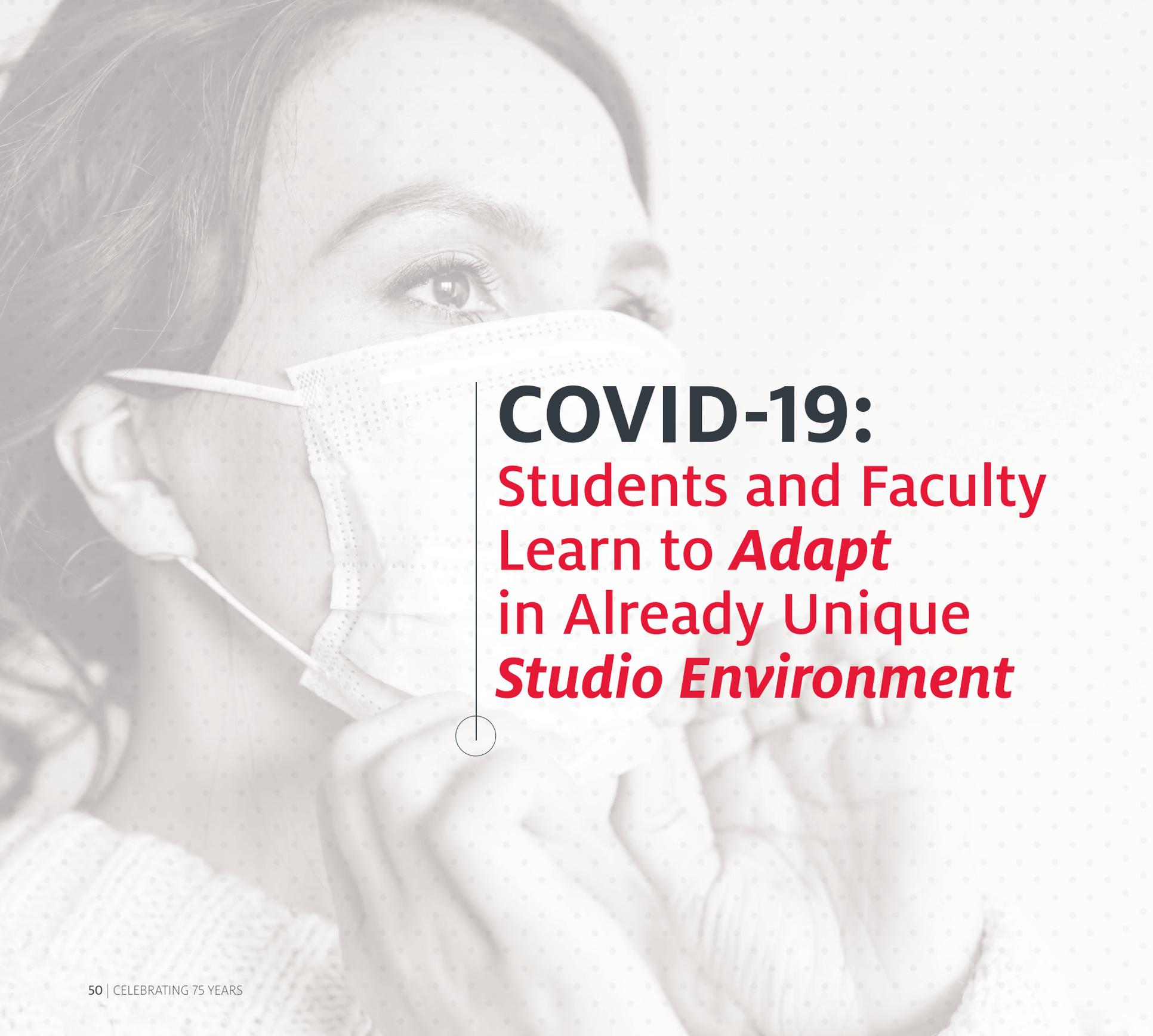
## PAN-AMERICAN STUDIO

This studio allows students to travel to a different city in the Americas every summer to complete part of their professional curriculum while learning from that built environment. The research agenda focuses on the documentation and analysis of urban form and housing typologies of selected cities, resulting in a series of publications on cities in the Americas. This design studio is supplemented by history/seminar courses supporting specific research agendas.

## ITALY

The Italy studio allows students to travel to Italy for two months during the summer where students are exposed to lectures ranging from history/seminar electives to classical and contemporary design. Studio project sites are selected in Italian cities and students are encouraged to think critically about pre-existing context as constraints on design. While in Italy, students spend half their time traveling to different cities, including Venice and Rome. The studio component of the program is based in the Santa Chiara Study Center, located in Castiglion Fiorentino. – *Destiny Vaquera*





**COVID-19:**  
**Students and Faculty**  
**Learn to *Adapt***  
**in Already Unique**  
***Studio Environment***

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly turned our world upside down. The impact of the outbreak forced learning institutions across the educational spectrum to quickly adapt to a new way of teaching. Still, for the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, the transition was more involved. The College's unique studio-centric curriculum was a challenge to replicate; however, faculty stepped up to give students the best education possible during unprecedented circumstances.

"I missed having the studio environment because it is unlike anything else," said senior industrial design student, Anne-Elizabeth Baker. "In studio, you can bounce ideas off of your classmates and get feedback more easily."

Baker and her brother, a technical theatre student during the onset of the pandemic, felt the struggle accompanying remote instruction for design-specific disciplines. For architecture student, Ariyan Fouladvand, apprehension was building as he thought about how COVID-19 would impact the future of his academic career.

"I was a little bit nervous because I felt like we are getting behind," shared Fouladvand. "It concerned me that we were not going through what other students before us experienced."

Lisa Evans, a fourth-year architecture student and the president of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) University of Houston Chapter at the start of the pandemic, had similar sentiments about the human-centered interactions usually thriving in the studio. Her working style and personality had to adapt to the new studio experience.

"It was difficult because I am the kind of person needing to be in studio to focus," said Evans. "I knew I did not work well from home, and I still did not work as well from my dorm room. I had to learn how to work more independently."

Amid student's anxiety, Hines College faculty and staff made significant strides to retain some semblance of the studio culture amidst distance learning.

Professor Nora Laos quickly adapted teaching styles for her two very different classes – one class with 155 students and another with 17 students. Throughout the process, she learned to prepare her course content in a way that best serves students remotely.

"When my students start to get worried, I tell them, 'I don't know how to do it either – don't panic!'" said Laos.

Professors, like Laos, worked tirelessly to recreate the studio environment for students despite their separation from each other. Many met regularly with their students through platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom to encourage collaboration and feedback. Faculty also discovered new ways to utilize these platforms where they actually gain access to student's computers and give them personal demonstrations. Other faculty made themselves available through regular virtual office hours. Overall, faculty strived to be more accessible for students during this time.

Industrial design professor Mark Kimbrough balanced his studio time with students by arranging weekly reviews for senior thesis students. Still, he also had the challenge of teaching two drawing classes – analog and digital, which required a more hands-on approach.

The impact of COVID-19 has also brought insight into new, innovative opportunities. Alan Bruton, professor and director of interior architecture, envisioned and implemented new practices for students better preparing them for their future careers.

"I switched the outcome of my studio to be individual websites of each student's designs, rather than a presentation of prints and physical models," said Bruton. "My students are usually graduating seniors who want to be able to show their work to the world immediately."

Along with class instruction, College events, lectures, meeting, and operations moved to virtual platforms. COVID-19 undoubtedly brought to the forefront the challenges of design education. At the same time, Hines College faculty and students rose to the occasion as they strived to form and become the next generation of exceptional designers. – *Stephen Schad*



# Facing a *Dire Need*

Early in the pandemic, inside the Burdette Keeland, Jr. Design Exploration Center at the University of Houston, Aaron McEuen was running the laser cutter at top speed – not to create the latest architectural model or prototype – but to save lives. The instructional lab manager at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design was leading an effort to manufacture at least 500 face shields for frontline health care workers at Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson hospitals, both part of Harris Health System.

The coronavirus pandemic created a global shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks and full-body coveralls, but hospital officials say face shields were among the most challenging pieces of equipment to get near the start of the pandemic.

“Face shields are one the most effective pieces of equipment protecting our frontline doctors and nurses who directly work with COVID-19 cases and suspected COVID-19 patients,” said Chris Okezie, vice president of system operations for Harris Health System.

McEuen used a thin, reusable plastic called polyethylene terephthalate glycol, or PETG, which is commonly used to make food containers and beverage bottles.

“We were trying to produce a face shield similar to what the hospitals use now but with modifications to make them more suitable for long-term use and to better match our manufacturing capabilities,” explained McEuen, who earned both his bachelor and master degrees in industrial design at UH.

The laser cutter operates quick enough to create 10 face shields in about three minutes. That means 30 face shields every half hour. Once the plastic was cut to the required dimensions provided by Harris Health, three student lab workers assembled the shields in their homes. They added one-inch thick neoprene cushions to the inside – where the shield meets the forehead – and threaded elastic straps through holes on each side of the shield to ensure a secure fit around the head.

Clint Wright, then a senior studying architecture assembled between 100-150 shields in less than eight hours.

“If these shields ended up saving lives, it was all worth it,” said Wright. “I feel like making these shields gave researchers more time to hopefully find a cure.”

Once the shields were assembled, the students put them in sealed plastic bags for McEuen to deliver to the hospitals.

“This is a great example of how people of this great city and county come together to address a common and dire need,” said Dr. Esmail Porsa, president and CEO of Harris Health System.

The Hines College has partnered with various health care institutions in the past to develop wearable technology for patients; however, this is the first time the College stepped up production to this scale in such a short period of time.



“We were committed to supporting Houston during this unprecedented pandemic,” said Patricia Belton Oliver, dean and Fellow of the American Institution of Architects. “Our collaboration with Harris Health System utilized, in a small way, our expertise in design and fabrication and its power to safeguard our community’s health care workers as they fight COVID-19.”

In a separate yet equally important initiative, architecture adjunct professor Roya Plauché and her husband, John Paul, both UH alumni and consultants for the College’s **designLAB**, turned their Houston-area home studio into a makerspace for printing critically needed face shield headbands. Owners of multidisciplinary design firm, plodes® studio, they worked in coordination with TX/RX Labs, an East End nonprofit assembling PPE for Memorial Hermann Health System.

“It was a humanitarian effort to protect our first responders,” said John Paul Plauché. Architects and designers are trained to respond quickly to rapidly changing environments. Their ability to adapt and develop innovative solutions means no problem is too big to overcome. “As designers, we are basically problem-solvers. This is a problem that had to be solved.”

The Plauchés, however, never dreamed they would be producing personal protective equipment in their home studio. Thanks to material donations from colleagues, they put their time and re:3D GIGABOT 3D printer to good use. Running the printer 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they produced over hundreds of headbands. Each unit took an hour to print and was made of Polylactic acid (PLA), a corn-derived biodegradable plastic alternative to traditional petroleum-based plastics.

“Once we plugged into a cell that needed production and wanted to ramp up, we had equipment to contribute,” explained John Paul Plauché. The headbands were transported to TX/RX Labs, where they were attached to a laser-cut face shield and elastic band.

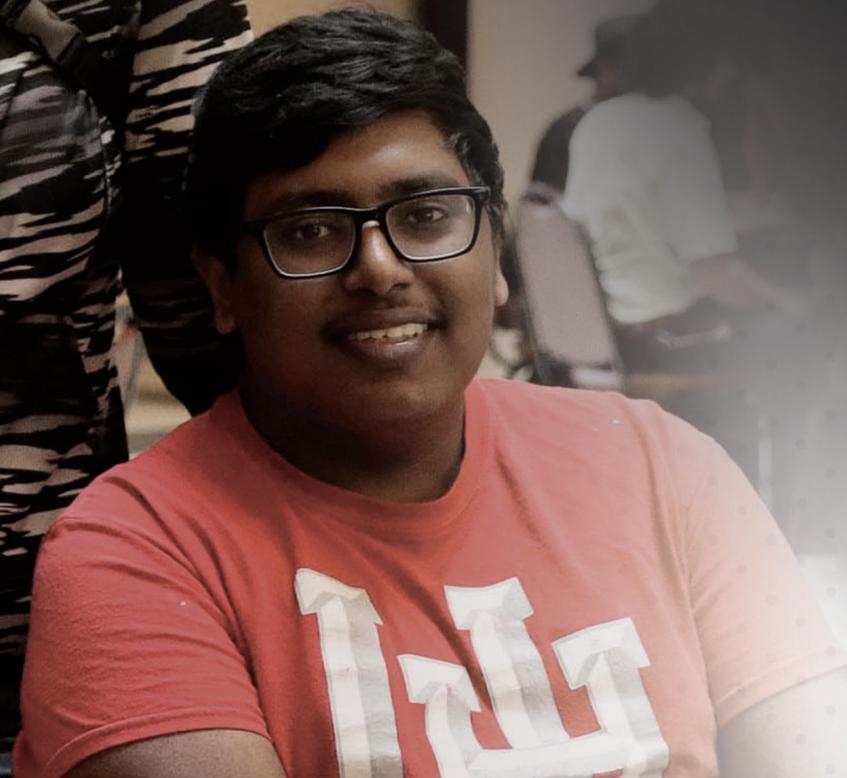
Whether it was a husband and wife with 3D printing equipment and skills or an architecture design lab becoming a center for PPE production, there was a growing network across the city of Houston supporting health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 fight.

They were BRAVE. COURAGEOUS. STRONG.

Or just as it states on the headbands created by Roya and John Paul Plauché, they were HOUSTON STRONG. – *Stephen Schad and Sara Tubbs*



# DIVERSITY EQUITY + INCLUSION



2020 was a transformative year, bringing to light new and existing challenges and opportunities for growth. Amidst a global pandemic, the senseless murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and many others brought to the surface the injustices experienced and suffered by people of color. The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement inspired a call for action to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, not only in our government but also within our local communities. The world could no longer pay silent tribute to the victims of these injustices but needed to stand up and actively address the reality of these issues.

In July 2020, the Hines College's student organizations prepared an open letter to Dean Oliver and the College community addressing systemic racism within the College. Students joined many other national and global voices in a call for change. Specific to the College, the letter raised awareness for re-evaluation and reform in the areas of employing a representative and accountable faculty, fostering a supportive and anti-racist culture, acknowledging the impact of structural inequity on student wealth, developing anti-racist programming, and extracting white supremacy from the curriculum.

"At every scale, communities have come together to question and reassess their investment in racism and white supremacy, and to stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement," the student organization letter stated. "We feel that as students of this institution, we are in a unique position to begin conversations that revalue and reinvest in Black lives in our CoAD community."

In immediate response to the student organization's letter, the College organized a virtual town hall event on July 14th to address the College community's initial questions and gather information for further discussion and research. The Architecture and Design Alumni Association also held a town hall with students on July 30th to determine how it could support the Hines College and its students in building a culture of inclusion.

Dean Oliver established the College Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force to determine how the College could address implicit bias among faculty, staff, and students; ensure coursework prepares students to understand and address systemic racism; cultivate and support a racially and ethnically diverse community of faculty, staff, and students; and recognize and reinforce the College's work as professionals in underserved and marginalized communities. Dean Oliver tasked the group with preparing a report of initial recommendations in fall 2020 to be shared with the College community.

The DEI Task Force membership was comprised of Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez (Chair), Tricia Asuncion, Michael Gonzales, Javier Guerrero, Estelle Lee, Melvalean McLemore, Trang Phan, Susan Rogers, Laura Vargas, Courtney Warren-Williams, Adam Wells, and Sarah White.

In December 2020, the College's DEI Task Force completed its task of preparing a report of actionable recommendations for the College community. The task force had worked tirelessly for several months to research and formulate the challenging path forward for the creation of a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive College and community. In her forward to the report, Dean Oliver stated:

"We recognize the need for a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment and do, heretofore, adopt the recommendations proffered in this document. Changes to

the College culture, our faculty and student policies, our curricular content, and our engagement with our community will strengthen us as individuals and as a college. Moreover, these changes will contribute to the strength of the University."

Because the Hines College's faculty had not yet approved and established a standing DEI committee as part of the College's faculty by-laws, Dean Oliver and DEI Task Force chair Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez worked to begin addressing the recommendations of the DEI report.

In the meantime, Dean Oliver appointed a separate task force to review and update the College's culture statement. The task force, comprised of Dietmar Froehlich (Chair), Rafael Beneytez-Duran, Gail Peter Borden, Alan Bruton, Ashlie Contos, Drake Flood, Mark Kimbrough, Mili Kyropoulou, Phillip Le, Jolene Limquico, Christopher Oliver, Patricia Oliver, Trang Phan, Kaede Polkinghorne, Stephen Schad, Marissa Tittle, William Truitt, and Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez, began its work in spring 2021.

The College Culture Task Force developed an inclusive updated College culture statement with foundational principles providing a framework for building a better College community. The task force presented the statement to the College community near the end of the spring 2021 semester. While the entire statement encourages a more inclusive culture, the first section of the statement directly addresses diversity, equity, and inclusion:

*"Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core to our College's mission. Each member shares responsibility in upholding these values. Students, faculty, and staff should demonstrate mutual respect, such as through compassion for others' lived experiences and professionalism in communication, even in matters of conflict. An equitable environment cultivates a productive educative process. As such, our College and University seek diversity across all differences and support collective conversations towards social justice around race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, religion, ethnicity, and age."*

As Dean Oliver and Tucker de Vazquez continued to work through a plan to implement the DEI report, it became evident that an additional action task force comprised of faculty, staff, and students was needed to enact the report's recommendations and advance the College's DEI work. Dean Oliver established the DEI Action Task Force and appointed Rafael Longoria (Chair), Rafael Beneytez-Duran, Gail Borden, George Chow, Drake Flood, Dietmar Froehlich, Javier Guerrero, Sarah Holloway, Michael Kubo, Andrew Kudless, Estelle Lee, Patricia Oliver, Trang Phan, Ziad Qureshi, Cynthia Sac, Stephen Schad, Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez, and Sarah White.

The DEI Action Task Force is currently working toward implementing the recommendations of the DEI report in the absence of an established DEI standing committee, pending a vote from the College's faculty for implementation. In July 2021, the DEI Action Task Force held its inaugural annual community roundtable event focusing on Houston's Third Ward, a direct recommendation from the DEI report.

Change does not happen overnight; it requires a focused and intentional approach. The Hines College community is working together with intentionality and purpose to ensure it takes the steps needed to create a more equitable and inclusive community for its present and future community members and stakeholders. – *Stephen Schad*



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# ALUMNI

The University of Houston Architecture and Design Alumni Association has a strong record of supporting the Hines College throughout its life. The Association's mission is to inspire, engage, and support alumni, students, faculty, and staff through an inclusive community promoting professional development and collaborative partnerships, heightening the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design profile. It seeks to create a life-long alumni network through connections and service enhancing pride and promoting the relevancy of design.



# HINES COLLEGE ALUMNI **COME TOGETHER FOR NEW SCHOLARSHIP**

The University of Houston Architecture and Design Alumni Association, representing a diverse group of alumni from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, launched an effort in March 2021 to endow a permanent scholarship for the College's students. The endowment fund will exist in perpetuity, supporting students for generations to come.

In the last two years, the Architecture and Design Alumni Association has repositioned itself as a thriving group of alumni committed to advancing the Hines College and its students. Alumni board treasurer Franco Albarran '99 made a leadership gift of \$5,000 to launch the scholarship initiative, and the alumni board responded with a commitment matching Albarran's donation. With the scholarship now at \$10,000, the Alumni Association is now seeking additional donations that will help the scholarship reach its minimum threshold of \$25,000 to begin regularly distributing scholarships to students.

Albarran's parents immigrated from Mexico to the United States in search of a better life for their family. As the youngest of ten siblings, he was the only child to attend university and graduate with a degree.

"My parents made many personal sacrifices to give me the opportunity to pursue my dream and attend UH to earn a degree in architecture," said Albarran. "I have always been mindful of where I have been, what I have accomplished, and where I plan to go. Now I want to shift my focus to what I leave behind. Kickstarting the scholarship is my way of beginning to leave something behind for the next generation of aspiring architects and designers who want to pursue their dreams. It is also a way of honoring my parents and their personal sacrifices."

The idea of an alumni scholarship hit home with the board's diversity, equity, and inclusion committee chair Laura Vargas '08, who personally received an alumni funded scholarship while she was a student at the Hines College. The scholarship helped alleviate a portion of the financial burden and showed Vargas there were industry professionals who wanted to see students succeed.

"My hope is that this initiative illustrates to our students how much we support their goals and truly want to see them succeed by helping to lighten their load just a bit," shared Vargas. "We want our students to know we are cheering them on because their success directly impacts the future success of our industry."

The College's Architecture and Design Alumni Association is self-sustaining. Their main fundraiser each year is the annual career fair hosted at the College. Funds raised from the career fair support the association's activities throughout the year, but are also used to annually contribute to the new endowed scholarship. The alumni association board hopes other alumni will contribute to this initiative, as well.

"Scholarships ensure the strength and future of the College of Architecture and Design by attracting the best and brightest regardless of socio-economic circumstance," said alumni president Matthew Mitchell.

To contribute to the Architecture and Design Alumni Association's endowed scholarship, contact the Hines College dean's office. – *Stephen Schad*



AIA, NCARB

# JOE DOUGLAS WEBB '71

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1971  
Webb Architects, Principal*

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*"As a student, what I remember most is the desire of our professors to make each of us to think, to understand the challenge at hand, to realize there may be more than one answer, and to be persistent in pursuing our solution. I think we learned passion and persistence pays off – at least I know I did. Those qualities continue to bear fruit for me and my practice of architecture."*

Webb is an architect, urban planner, and principal of Webb Architects. He currently chairs the Montrose Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and Redevelopment Authority and is the immediate past chair of Blueprint Houston. He has served the community in matters regarding planning and urban design for over forty years. Joe is a graduate of the University of Houston College of Architecture, serves on the College's Leadership Council, is a past President of AIA Houston and the Houston Architecture Foundation, plus a licensed architect in several states. He has shared his research and design on green roofs in local, regional, national, and international venues. Through advocacy, lobbying, speaking, writing, volunteering, and practice, Webb embraces urban planning as a central idea of his architectural career.



FAIA

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# LESLIE ELKINS '87

*Master of Architecture, 1987*

*leslie elkins architecture, Owner*

Being admitted to the College of Architecture, the University of Houston fanned Leslie Elkins' interest and study of the interconnectivity of architecture and its environments. Although Houston may seem to some lacking in a variety of environmental conditions, it is actually rich with the bayous running through it and moderate winter conditions resulting in a lush, almost tropical setting for the fourth largest city in the United States. leslie elkins architecture depends on each project's site acting as an important programmatic factor informing the design direction from the beginning. The work reflects the philosophy that defining space does not require "a building" but demands a connection between the interior and exterior. Using the site and natural light, the work is enriched, and though it may seem simple, it is not minimal.



*"The University of Houston Master of Architecture program presented an opportunity to focus time and energy on learning to look, understand, and think about design – the solutions to a challenge, and then how to communicate. I remember our first year when we were told '...the harder you work, the more we will ask'....and I feel that thought resonates today."*



# THE TRAVELING SOFA

Alumnus Franco Albarran '99 spent many all-nighters in the architecture building. Albarran and many other students would set up sleeping-bags underneath their drafting tables before a professor eventually found out and gave them a key to sleep on an old couch in his old office that was used as a storage closet on the fourth floor.

“We would basically live there throughout the week,” said Franco Albarran. “The couch eventually got passed around to different studios and we would all take turns if we had to pull an all-nighter.”

During Albarran’s first and second year, him and other students would use chip boards as bobsleds to slide from one floor to another.

“We would bob sled quite often,” shared Albarran. “We had to quit doing that, though, because someone got hurt and administration immediately put a stop to it.”

# CARLOS JIMENEZ '81

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1981*  
*Rice University, Professor*

Born San Jose, Costa Rica (1959), Carlos Jimenez moved to the United States in 1974. He trained as an architect at the University of Houston College of Architecture, receiving a Bachelor of Architecture in 1981. He established Carlos Jimenez Studio in 1983. Jimenez is currently a tenured professor at Rice University School of Architecture (2000), while also having taught at the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc), Texas A&M University, University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) and at Berkeley, University of Navarra in Pamplona Spain, Williams College, Tulane University, University of Houston, Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, University of Texas at Arlington and at Austin, University of Oregon, and Washington University in Saint Louis. Jimenez is a frequent lecturer, critic, and jury member at national and international architecture events. He served on the jury of the Pritzker Architecture Prize from 2001 to 2011.

His built works include the Central Administration and Junior School for the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Spencer Studio Art Building at Williams College, Irwin Mortgage Corporate Headquarters, Cummins Child Development Center,

Peeler Art Center at DePauw University, Crowley House in Marfa, Rice University Library Service Center and Data Center, Tyler School of Art at Temple University, Centre Urbain in Evry France, Hotel Saint George in Marfa, Texas, and Won Buddhism of Houston.

Jimenez has received numerous awards for excellence in design and teaching from Architectural Record, the American Institute of Architects, Rice University, DesignIntelligence, the Chicago Athenaeum, Architecture, Progressive Architecture, and the Architectural League of New York, among many others. His work has been published in numerous architectural journals, dedicated monographs, and authored books, including *Carlos Jimenez* (Barcelona 1991), *Carlos Jimenez Buildings* (New York 1996), *2-G Carlos Jimenez* (Barcelona 2000) *Carlos Jimenez House and Studio* (Cambridge 2003), *Crowley* (Singapore 2009), *Carlos Jimenez Textos sobre Docencia* (Valencia 2014), and *Carlos Jimenez: 30 Years, 30 Works* (AV 196, Madrid 2017).

*“My UH education instilled in me the value of learning as an open, unfolding life-long pursuit, the opposite of following a fixed career path (often riddled with unfulfilling detours and turns). The exposure to an intense and diverse faculty, along with the enthusiasm of my classmates, reinforced a sense that anything was possible in that generous spirit of learning. An atmosphere of complementary astonishment and skepticism prevailed in how we would appraise the world around us. This awareness has greatly impacted my life and work to this day.”*





*“My education at UH has been instrumental to my career because of the student body’s diversity and the College’s comprehensive core curriculum. I was trained to be self-initiating, diligent, and resourceful. The ID program introduced me many cutting-edge ideas opening up a world of possibilities.”*



# SHAN LIU '10

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, 2010  
Rah Rah, Product Manager

After a three-year post-graduation stint in art, Liu turned to user experience design to fulfill her desire to be a creator. She was attracted by the scope of change made possible by digital applications and how much lives are shaped by the intangibles. This curiosity led Liu to leap into the unknowns. She partook in numerous hackathons, make-athons, game-athons, and freelance projects, and learned how to design digital products by simply doing.

As an immigrant, Liu had some first-hand experiences of being scrappy. Never would she have imagined this would support entrepreneurship. When working with startup founders, being resourceful enough to get from zero to one has been the most rewarding challenge. She secretly enjoys being called a MacGyver and credits it to both her immigrant roots and design education.

She is currently a product manager at a New York based startup in the higher education space. Her job helps design and develop software making college campuses more connected and discoverable. She draws upon her experiences as an international student at UH and hopes the app will help more people like her.

FAIA

# FERNANDO L. BRAVE '88

*Master of Architecture, 1988*

*BRAVE/architecture, Principal*

Fernando Brave, FAIA, graduated from the University of Houston with a Master of Architecture in 1988. Having previously completed his undergraduate degree in Argentina, he permanently relocated to Texas in 1987. BRAVE/architecture, the architecture firm he founded in Houston, Texas was named Firm of the Year by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) – Houston Chapter in 2018, and received the Texas Society of Architects Firm Award in 2021.

Fernando lectures on various architectural topics and has written for numerous publications. In 2017, he was invited to the International Architecture Biennial in Buenos Aires as a featured speaker. His works have been recognized with design awards, as well as featured in prestigious publications. Many of his projects are listed in the third edition of the AIA Houston's Architectural Guide. He is the author of the book *Architecture for the Arts: The De Santos and Sicardi Galleries*.

He has been involved with various boards, including the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Texas Society of Architects, and a few cultural organizations. He has also served as a member of the City of Houston's Planning Commission for over seven years.

Fernando taught design at the University of Houston's College of Architecture for eleven years and is a frequent guest juror at several schools of architecture. He has also served as juror for the Design Awards of the AIA chapters across the United States. Fernando was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 2012.

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*"The Hines College is a fantastic gateway to this great city, socially and professionally. My experience as a student was both nurturing and enriching."*



AIA, LEED AP

# ARTURO CHAVEZ '90

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1990*  
*Page/, Senior Principal*

Art Chavez is an alumnus of the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design and a member of the Architecture Alumni Hall of Fame. At the College, he learned the value of community engagement, which has served him well as a leader at Page/. He has established an endowment to fund study abroad programs for Hines College students; serves as chairman of the East End Foundation, an area designated a Cultural District; and sits on the Board of American Leadership Forum – Gulf Coast Chapter and the Board of Trustees for Vorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina. Chavez is determined that Page/ employees should perceive the firm as diverse and inclusive as the population of Houston.

Under his leadership, the Page/ Houston office has repeatedly created designs making lives better. From two national, award-winning urban parks within several miles of each other, to the first dedicated NCAA Division I stadium helping its university create a sense of connection throughout the city, to a healthcare facility dedicated to serving the homeless, the

contributions to the community outweigh the value of the design awards won. Chavez and Page/ also have placed the firm's stamp on numerous academic, healthcare, housing, and corporate facilities throughout the greater Houston/Galveston metropolitan area.

After decades of global project work from Europe to Africa and the Middle East to China, Chavez is currently training his focus on expanding Page's presence in Latin America, where the firm believes there are great possibilities in the new opportunities being opened up through the convergence of the cultures. Chavez recently spearheaded the opening of an office in Mexico City, formalizing Page's long-standing history there.

*"My experience at UH was a major catapult into my professional career. My education, professors, and classmates established a network that continues to be vibrant and valuable today. I could not have asked for a better experience."*



FAIA

# KAREN L. BRAITMAYER '85

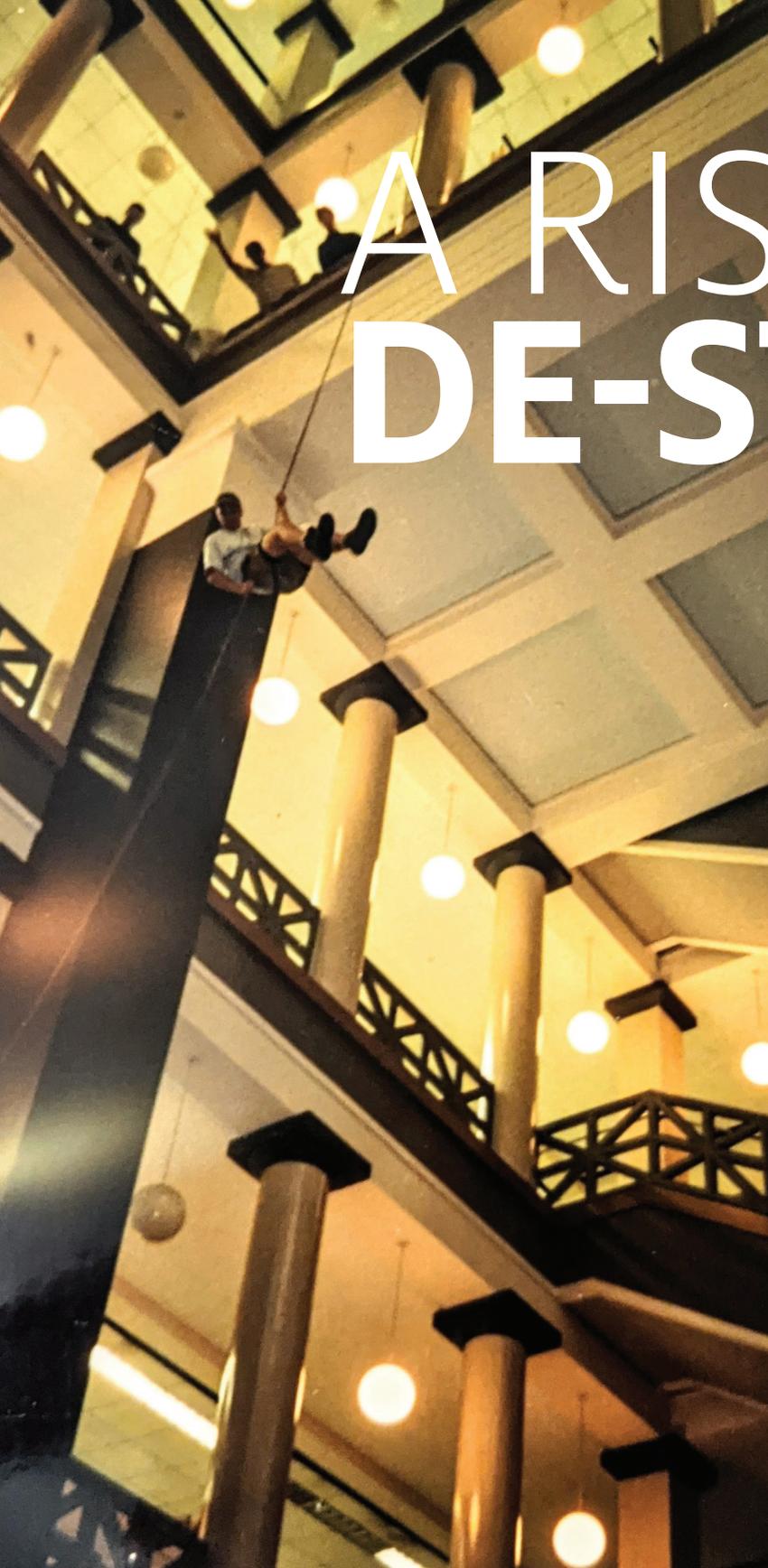
*Master of Architecture, 1985*  
*Studio Pacifica, Principal*

Karen L. Braitmayer, FAIA, is the founder and managing principal of Studio Pacifica, an accessibility consulting firm in Seattle. She and her team provide consulting services to local governments, school districts, architects, engineers, companies and individuals concerned with complying with federal laws and state codes, as well as simply creating spaces that work for the unique needs of individual users. Braitmayer also leads presentations and workshops around the country to further educate professionals about codes, standards, and inclusion.

Early in her career, it occurred to Braitmayer that, as an architect and a wheelchair user, it was possible for her to make a unique contribution to the field. Her professional focus on accessibility and her advocacy efforts for inclusion have certainly come to fruition. As a registered architect, Braitmayer was admitted to the prestigious College of Fellows by the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In 2010, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the United States Access Board, a policy position she still holds today. Most recently she was awarded the 2019 Whitney M. Young Jr. award by the AIA in recognition of her leadership in civil rights for people with disabilities, social sustainability, public policy, and universal design. Braitmayer was named 2019 Person of the Year by New Mobility Magazine. She an active volunteer and non-profit board member.

*"It was my fellow architecture students who cemented my theory that altering the built environment could alter my ability to participate. By building me a custom sized drafting table, they ensured I would be on a level playing field in studio and supported by inclusion. I did not ask for this but was given it, in a gesture of team support. I pass that notion forward every chance I get."*





# A RISKY DE-STRESSER

Alumnus Daniel Crank '99 was interested in rock climbing as a student. After spending a few all-nighters at the College, he decided to find some fun ways to de-stress.

“With a structurally sketchy postmodern columned atrium and railings, I decided to do a little investigation,” said Daniel Crank. “After a few trial runs on the second level, I set up my climbing ropes on the top floor, where it conveniently overhung the lower levels, and did a few runs of rappelling.”

With the help of a few other classmates, the next night Crank and others decided to expand the rappelling with fifth year and graduate students. Unfortunately, the following week they were informed by Lannis Kirkland, associate dean and professor at the time, that the rappelling needed to stop.

“Even after attempting to clean the footprints from the headwall, till this day some of our footprints remain there,” shared Crank. “We eventually changed activities.”

FAIA, NCARB

# STEVEN F. CURRY '80

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1980*

*Curry Boudreaux Architects, Managing Partner*

A founding principal of Curry Boudreaux Architects, Steven Curry is involved in all aspects of the firm's practice – architecture, interior architecture, historic architecture, as well as planning and management. He has led the efforts on many notable community-based projects throughout his career, including institutional, recreational, and healthcare. Curry's commitment to the rehabilitation of existing structures across the region is a hallmark of Curry Boudreaux Architects' comprehensive services allowing for the creation of thoughtful environments that can delight, be respectful of and inspired by the particulars of their site and history.

Curry is a member of the AIA College of Fellows, Texas Society of Architects, fellowship committee chair of AIA Houston, president and past board member of Houston Mod, past president and board member of the UH Architecture and Design Alumni Association, the board of managers at Weekley Family YMCA, the awards committee of Docomomo US, and position 9 – preservation professional of the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission.

*"After initially welcoming me as a transfer student to the undergraduate program, the Hines College proved to be all I had expected and far more. In the College I found a vibrant academic community that was challenging and encouraging of self-inquiry, a collaborative environment with an emphasis on innovation and creativity."*



# ELIZABETH MILLER BRANNAN '94

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1994*

Brannan Designs: Architecture & Interior Design, *Principal Owner and Creative Director*



Elizabeth Miller Brannan, a native of southeast Houston, chose to study at the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture in 1994. Influenced by the various architectural structures, history, and art she was exposed to as a child, Brannan had a desire to learn more. Her deep interests in archaeology, anthropology and history, psychology, art, photography, and buildings, created a bit of a dilemma for her when choosing the right career path. Always an artistic child, upon graduating from South Houston High School it was her high school art teacher Thomas Loftus who helped direct her into a career path that would become a favorite. Upon further exploration of architectural studies, it was evident that architecture involved all the subjects she found interesting.

Since graduation, Brannan has been involved in the design and construction of many buildings and spaces around the world, and most importantly, in her hometown of Houston. Over the course of her career, Elizabeth has worked on many different project types, from public and private projects, to retail, and from urban planning to interior design. In 2005, Brannan started her own company, Brannan Designs: Architecture & Interior Design. She continues to create spaces with 'a desire to improve the human experience through the built environment.' Brannan previously served as the president of the UH Architecture and Design Alumni Association.

*"The Hines College was a wonderful place to develop as an architectural and interior designer, being in the heart of the city of Houston, as well as creating lifelong friends and colleagues in the industry. Staying engaged with the University is easy and convenient. Graduates can volunteer and support students who are learning and growing."*

# GARY LONGBOTHAM '73

*Bachelor of Fine Arts/Commercial Design, 1973*

*J.Tyler, Executive Vice President/Co-Founder*

Longbotham entered the commercial design industry in 1970 while studying at the University of Houston. Graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design, he became a staff designer at a leading contract furnishings company. In 1975, he made his first presentation of Herman Miller's groundbreaking introduction, *Action Office*, the world's first modular furniture system and became fully engaged in the period launching the open office concept revolution in the Houston market.

After serving seven years as a staff designer, he moved on to become regional manager for JG Furniture Systems and served on several product innovation design teams. In 1982, Longbotham and his wife, Jennifer, co-founded J.Tyler as one of the first independent project installation and services companies in the United States. There he led in development of the first computer-based project management software programs, which later evolved into the first bar code asset management system in the industry. He was also a founding organizer of the National Refurbishers Association and jointly pioneered the pre-owned furnishings brokerage industry.

Today alongside his wife, Jennifer, who is president, his two sons and daughter-in-law, and a talented award-winning team of employees, he is head of business development for J.Tyler, a leading MillerKnoll commercial interiors and furnishings dealership. J.Tyler has received dozens of awards and accolades over its 39 year history, the most significant being named #1 Service Team in the country. Gary is most proud of J.Tyler's inclusion in the University of Houston Cougar100 every year since its inception.

Additionally, he serves on the UH Hines College Leadership Council, the board of UH Stanford Alexander Center for Excellence in Real Estate, Woodlands Area Economic Development Board, Association of Medical Facility Professionals, and a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He is a Life Loyal Sigma Chi and former president, Lifetime UH Alumnus, and an Eagle Scout.



***"My time at UH was invaluable to the development of my career and my personal life. I feel fortunate that the years in which I attended UH were almost an entrepreneurial period where we had very thought provoking professors and an atmosphere that promoted creativity and the desire to be successful."***





# HOLIDAY DECORATING

Alumnus Robert Vergara '92 created many memories during his time spent at the Hines College of Architecture and Design. During the fall of 1987, two big Christmas trees were brought into the atrium to be decorated by students. After the trees has been filled with ornaments designed during studio time, one night, Vergara and other classmates decided to further embellish the tree with toilet paper.

"The whole atrium was decorated as the toilet paper not only hung on the trees, but also from railing to railing across the atrium and from floor to floor," said Robert Vergara. "There were many things taking place in the middle of the night in the atrium."

Vergara and other students would also go to the emergency stairwells that were covered in graffiti to spray paint their projects. The students would play a game in which a person had placed a mark of sorts at various spots along the four walls up and down those stairs

"This would go on till there was a fun type of graffiti piece with various people's individual colors, creating one image," shared Vergara. "It was a sad day when we returned from summer vacation to find the stair well had been painted and 'cleaned up.'"

# MARDIS BAGLEY '06

*Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design, 2006*  
Nonfiction Design, Partner + Creative Director

Mardis Bagley is an American Industrial Designer based in San Francisco. He has designed award-winning products and experiences in the fields of transformational technology, consumer electronics, medical, neuroscience, lifestyle products, and many more. His clients include Nike, Facebook, Logitech, Dell, Intel, Chevron, Jiffy Lube, Corning, Symantec, and mid-sized companies and startups. His direct efforts have garnered tens of millions of dollars in sales and venture capital funding.

Bagley is a co-founder and creative director at Nonfiction, a San Francisco-based creative agency. Together with his partner and wife, Phnam Bagley, he engages clients aligning with the studio's vision to turn science fiction into reality for a better future. Nonfiction is a multidisciplinary studio made of industrial designers, architects, computational and generative designers, researchers, and strategists with backgrounds stemming from around the world. This diverse and varied atmosphere encourages innovation, collaboration, and cross-pollination of ideas.

Prior to Nonfiction, Bagley co-created the personal audio brand Felt Audio. While there, he shepherded products

from design through manufacturing and distribution to retailers worldwide. Along with a small team he built, Bagley created the brand from the ground up and various assets for retail and online experiences. Through Felt Audio, he developed deep industry insights that would help him throughout his career.

In addition to operating a design consultancy in San Francisco, Mardis is an adjunct professor in industrial design at the California College of the Arts. He teaches sustainability + social impact and thesis studios.

*"The University of Houston Industrial Design program gave me the foundation of knowledge to compete and excel in a very competitive career. The freedom I was given in college allowed me to explore my interests and better target my goals for life after college. The cultural diversity and inclusion of the student body are only paralleled by the world-class faculty and facilities."*



FAIA

# PETE ED GARRETT '78

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1978*  
*Studio RED Architects, Partner*

Pete Ed Garrett, FAIA, founding partner of Studio RED Architects, has over 40 years of award-winning architecture and design experience. His work has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally with awards for design excellence. Garrett has designed over 50 performing arts and assembly spaces, mentored over 200 students, won over 30 design awards, volunteered with 10 non-profit organizations, and created one award-winning company honored with the local AIA chapter's Firm of the Year Award and the AIA National Diversity Award.

Garrett was also named one of 50 Outstanding Graduates from the University of Houston College of Architecture from the past 50 years. He is passionate about creating spaces that engage users, inspire creativity and drive innovation.

*"Studying architecture at the University of Houston laid the groundwork for my career. I developed my technical skills, learned the importance of effective project management and perhaps, and, most importantly, realized the value of being involved in the local community. This value is something Studio RED Architects embodies. Located in midtown, our firm supports a variety of local non-profit organizations and is passionate about giving back to the city that built us."*



# KRISTEN COCHRAN '09

*Bachelor of Fine Arts - Studio Art (Interior Design), Minor in Architecture, 2009*  
Marriott International, *Director of Design | Global Design Strategies*

Kristen Cochran began her career in Houston, Texas, where she graduated from the University of Houston with degrees in fine arts, interior design, and architecture in 2009. After graduation, she worked with several notable interior design firms, as well as her own company on high-end residential projects. She later moved to New York to follow her passion and new opportunities in hospitality design. New York residential interior design work led to designing boutique hotels, then a position with Starwood Hotels in early 2012.

In late 2013, Kristen joined Meyer Davis Studio as their Senior Designer. Some of her most notable projects while working with Meyer Davis include 1 Hotel South Beach, Miami, Four Seasons Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo, and Four Seasons Houston. Additional completed work with Meyer Davis included projects with Dream Hotels, W Hotels, Langham Hotels, Equinox, STARR Restaurants, Crafted Hospitality, and other Four Seasons Hotels.

In late 2018, Kristen accepted an opportunity with Ian Schrager Company as a Vice President of Architecture and Design. In the position, Kristen was involved with two monumental openings of EDITION hotels in New York (2018) and in West Hollywood (2019) while also leading the creative direction of future projects.

In 2021, Kristen joined Marriott International as a Director of Design on the Global Design Strategies team. She currently lives in New York City with her husband, Luke, and their Siberian Husky.



***"I spent my four years UH challenging myself like I never had before. For the first time, I finally felt I found something I truly loved to do and felt that I was meant to do which was a combination of art, interior design, and architecture. The professors at times were relentless in preparing us for the future, but they prepared us well."***





# THE HARLEM SHAKE



In 2013, the Harlem Shake was all the rage. The viral movement resulted thousands of videos uploaded to YouTube every day. While most of the videos did not actually include the Harlem Shake dance originating in the 1980s, they welcomed an inspired movement for many, including the Hines College's students.

Architecture and design students spend the majority of their educational experience at work perfecting their studio projects, and every once in a while they just need a break. One evening, students decided to channel their creative energies into making an epic Harlem Shake video in the fourth floor studios of architecture building.

The video has captured over 35,000 views on YouTube since its posting on February 18, 2013. It is captioned, "A typical day in the life of a UH architecture student. Jury in the morning, projects due, but who cares!"

AIA, ACHA, LEED AP

# STEVEN C. SCHULTZ '80

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1980*

*PhiloWilke Partnership, Managing Partner*

Steve Schultz, an adopted Texan, proud Houstonian, and UH Cougar through and through, graduating from the University of Houston in 1980. He serves as managing partner at PhiloWilke Partnership, a health-focused architectural firm and six-time University of Houston Cougar 100 recipient.

Over a career spanning 41 years, Schultz has concentrated on designing environments for healing and science. Working with top academic centers and healthcare institutions nationwide, he leads a team of talented specialists taking projects from a conceptual idea through design execution and occupancy. He has helped to develop improved and effective design solutions and utilized innovative construction methods enabling medical facilities to deliver better care, serve their communities, and meet the ever evolving challenges they face. Continually seeking to push past conventional solutions, thinking operationally, and applying rigor to achieve optimal design outcomes are all central to Schultz's professional practice.



*"My time as an architectural student was both humbling and extremely gratifying! Up until that point, I had never worked so hard in my life. Working those late hours in the studio with my peers, meeting crazy deadlines and thinking outside the box was like drinking from a fire hose. It was an experience I feel very fortunate to have had."*



Assoc. AIA, LEED AP, WELL AP, BREEAM Assessor, fitwel

# ANICA LANDRENEAU '05

*Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design, 2005*  
HOK, Senior Principal | Global Director of Sustainable Design



Landreneau leads HOK's global sustainable design practice, serving on the firm's board of directors and design board. Based in Washington, D.C., she serves locally on the Green and Energy Codes TAG, authoring one of the nation's first zero energy codes, *Appendix Z*. She has been appointed to the Mayor's Green Building Advisory Council since 2012 and also co-chairs the Building Energy Performance Standard Task Force.

Nationally, Landreneau serves as vice chair of the USGBC LEED Advisory Committee and recently served on the IECC 2021 Commercial Code Development Committee. She is a Senior Fellow of the New Buildings Institute. Landreneau is currently appointed to the AIA Government Advocacy Committee and previously Chaired the AIA Codes & Standards Committee. She served on the AIA Blue Ribbon Panel on Codes, coauthoring *Disruption, Evolution, and Change: AIA's Vision for the Future of Design and Construction*. Landreneau's 2019 congressional testimony before the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and her policy recommendations were included in the Majority Staff Report, *Solving the Climate Crisis: The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America*.

Along with the U.S. General Services Administration, Landreneau coauthored *The New Sustainable Frontier: Principles of Sustainable Development*. She has also authored numerous green building guides for the District of Columbia and *Sustainable Urban Planning Policy Guidelines for New Growth in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*.

Anica has been interviewed by the Washington Post, Bisnow, The Architect's Newspaper, GreenBiz, BuildingGreen, ENR, and many other industry and mainstream publications.

|||||

***"At UH, I had an opportunity to lead – through AIAs, Student Council, my teaching assistant position with Dr. Nora Laos! I was able to cultivate leadership skills through my architectural education experience, presentation skills through juries and crits, as well as community engagement skills through committee work with local AIA and USGBC chapters. All of these opportunities and skills helped me to develop the career path I was seeking and be recognized as a leader in my field."***

# BREAK-IN



When alumnus Christopher Cortes '93 was a student at the Hines College he was able to create many fun memories with classmates.

“One night, during fifth-year, a guy broke into the building in the middle of the night,” said Cortez. “I had to distract him long enough for the police to arrive and tackle him.”

The male busted through the side windows narrow space and began making his way up the stairs, dragging a large two-by-four. All the students in the building gathered by the railings to watch what was happening.

Cortes experienced many other memories with classmates – taking boxes from the new stools for their drafting tables and creating ‘box henge’, creating a cannon of steel cans and firing tennis balls over the building, and dropping stacks of phone books tapped 30 to 40 feet tall, arranged from largest book on the bottom to smallest on the top, from the fourth-floor balcony to see which stack would bounce higher.

“There are so many memories from my time at the College it is hard to choose,” shared Cortez. “I loved my time there and cherish every crazy all-nighter.”

FAIA

# DEAN STROMBOM '80

*Master of Architecture, 1980  
Gensler, Principal*

With a Gensler career spanning four decades and a portfolio of more than 50 million square feet, Dean leads the planning and design of corporate campuses, commercial office buildings, workplace interiors, and mixed-use developments. He is the south-central region's strategic advisor to the consulting + real estate practice area, and a Houston office leader.

A highly regarded workplace performance specialist and frequent speaker at industry events across the United States, Dean leverages his unique blend of education in psychology, sociology, and architecture to offer strategic real estate and design insight. He has authored many industry articles over the years and is co-author of *The Commercial Real Estate Revolution*. Dean is actively involved in Houston chapters of professional organizations including NAIOP, ULI, HOLBA, and AIA, and also serves on the board of CoreNet.



*“When I started at the University of Houston, we shared space with the art department. The mix of energy and innovation made it an exciting place to be. When we moved to our own building it seemed like it was time to grow up – not bad, just different.”*

# LAURI GOODMAN LAMPSON '88

*Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1988*  
*PDR, President + CEO*

Lauri Goodman Lampson is a business visionary challenging executives to rethink their approach to work and place. As PDR's President and CEO, she is the mastermind behind the firm's innovative business model and integrated approach to consulting, design, and brand services.

She frames business challenges as optimistic calls to action. An adversary of complacency, Lampson motivates organizations to move forward faster. She believes the wave of changes in technology, health, and wellness, and the marketplace are undeniable. Organizations must restructure their fundamental approach to how they communicate their purpose, how they gather, and how they work.

The opus of Lampson's career demonstrates her ability to see every business as an extraordinary collection of people – as unique as a fingerprint and incredibly full of latent possibility. She listens acutely to 'who' the business is and challenges its leaders to unleash the potential of its people. Through empowerment, inspiration, motivation, or simply getting out of the way, Lampson's strategic guidance enables an organization's people to do their best work. Her career as a designer,

workplace strategist, and business advisor has built PDR into the thought leadership platform and creative powerhouse it is today. In her early days as a young designer at PDR, a mentor imparted a wise message she has carried with her since: change is the only constant and preparedness leads to optimism in uncertain times. This sentiment is baked into the DNA of every project at PDR. It is a clear result of Lampson's driving influence: strategy bridges to design, and design is always rooted in strategy.

***"I learned how to think at UH. Seriously, the design program was based on critical thinking and problem solving for the human condition in place. I learned that neither design nor architecture matter unless they are intentionally solving a human experience problem. I have built my entire career on that premise. I was very fortunate to find my way to PDR, a firm built on the same premise, early in my career as a designer. PDR gave me the opportunity to grow as a designer and a leader, and it has been my home for over 30 years."***



# EMILIO ARMSTRONG '04

*Master of Architecture, 2004*

*ProChile, Trade Representative for the Country of Chile in Texas*



After graduating from the University of Houston, Armstrong worked at SIR Inc., Architects and Planners, a well-recognized firm by the AIA. In 2005, he returned to Chile and became a partner of Armstrong, F.H. Architects, one of the largest architecture firms in Concepción, the second largest city in Chile. At the same time, Armstrong began as a studio professor for the College of Architecture at Universidad del Desarrollo (UDD). In 2009, he became the Director of the College of Architecture at UDD until 2012 when Armstrong received a call to run for Mayor of Concepción. While he received a significant percentage of vote, he did not win the election. This opened the door for him to run for State Commissioner, where he won with highest majority in the district. At the same time, Armstrong returned part-time to the University and served as the Director of Innovation.

At the state level, Armstrong promoted the creation of the Science and Technology Commission and approved funds for several programs and projects. Three years later, he became the President of

the State Commissioners and felt honored to get the support of 100% of his colleagues, even though they had different political views.

At UDD, he enhanced the ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship. Many programs were in partnership with the STVP from Stanford University. For three years, Armstrong served on the jury of the Avonni Foundation for a National Innovation Competition.

In 2018, Armstrong was appointed by the President of Chile as State Director of Housing and Urban Planning for the Government of Chile of the Bio Bio Region. The following year, in 2019, he moved to Houston because his newborn baby needed a complex surgery at Texas Children's Hospital. In Houston, Armstrong started Armstrong Worldwide Group in order to partner with Chilean investors on business opportunities, however, about a year later, ProChile decided to open its 57th office in Houston. Armstrong has been with ProChile since April 2020 as the Trade Representative for the Country of Chile in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. During his personal time, he is a founding member and president of the Harris County Medical Center Rotary Club. Armstrong wants to give back what the TMC gave to his family.



***“As a student, I learned architecture transcends borders and time. We design buildings and public spaces for people, and we are compelled to design for the future. Today, someone can be working in a Houston architecture firm on a project developed for Asia and hiring architects in Latin America.”***

AIA, LEED AP

# KURT T. HULL '81

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1981*  
Kurt Todd Hull, LLC, *Principal*

Kurt Hull knew he wanted to be an architect as early as age nine, but certainly had no clue as to all the many different skill sets required to be a successful one. He liked drawing, sketching, model building, and being from the mid-western prairie, was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's organic architecture. Endless hours in design studio finally paid off with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Houston in 1981.

Shortly after graduation, one of his professors, Alan Hirschfield recommended Hull to friends of his who had started a small architectural firm just four years earlier. Scott Ziegler and Michael Cooper were struck by Hull's drafting and drawing skills and hired him thereafter. As a small firm, the projects varied from small scale residential commissions to individual retail interior spaces in the Galleria. The firm continued its focus on interior design and space planning until the late 80's and early 90's when small scale architectural commissions began to emerge. Hull's early experience with the firm included managing a decades-long account with Imperial Sugar Company based in Sugar Land, Texas. ZCA teamed with two associate architects, John K. Spear and Peter Bowers. This experience set Kurt on the course of managing all aspects of architectural commissions, from client interface to

architectural and consultant team guidance, to contractor oversight during construction.

By 1995, at the age of 35, Kurt was made a principal of the firm and began to lead several of the firm's more high-profile commissions including the Villa d'Este and Montebello High-rise Condos; The Austonian; The Broadway; and in 2000, the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Later that decade, Kurt was made Principal-in-Charge of the Commercial Architecture Studio and has led significant commercial architectural commissions, including as Chasewood Technology Center, CGG, CB&I, Research Forest Lakeside, 800 Bell, and most recently, Buffalo Heights mixed-use.

*"In 1981, the University of Houston was not a tier one university and was known as a commuter school, however, what drew me to the college of architecture was the fact that most, if not all the faculty, were practicing architects. I was not disappointed. With each class I attended, I not only learned about design and history, but about the professor's experiences at their respective practices. This reinforced my enthusiasm about being a practicing architect then and still does today."*



# LATE NIGHT SNACKS



Alumnus Caveh Masum '03 was a part of the last class allowed to have a toaster oven. He and his classmates would make various types of grilled-cheese sandwiches during late nights at the Hines College of Architecture and Design.

“One time we learned the hard way that paper towels should not go in toaster ovens,” said Masum. “Smoke had marginally stunk up the whole building.”

Fortunately, Masum and his classmates had only created a medium amount of smoke. They were able to catch it in time and everyone in the building was safe.

“On behalf of the class of 2003, I apologize for making toaster ovens inaccessible for future students and studios,” shared Masum.





*"I think one of the best things about my time at UH is it really incorporated a great balance of both grand exploratory and critical thinking about design, with some grounded practicality. Our practice today, and over the years, really is a reflection of that duality. We often get compliments not just on our design work, but also on how well our buildings are often put together."*



FAIA



# MARK SCHATZ '02

*Bachelor of Architecture, 2002*  
m + a architecture studio, *Architect of Record*

Mark Schatz is a bit of what you might call an applied dreamer. This is the course of his life – both methodically detail-oriented and a big picture focus at the same time. He tends to always be a bit too extreme of a personality for everyday practical purposes, yet not exactly radical enough to be a revolutionary. The course of Schatz's professional work is integral to his whole life. He believes it is the curse of being a true believer. Designers live and work in buildings they have designed and built. Schatz's career has had a good run with features in publications, receiving numerous awards, and appearing on television shows. Yet, he is most proud of the design-based practice he and his wife have built. Focusing on more accessible architectural design results in design oriented to a broader socio-economic group of people. This is what initially led to the launch of his career over twenty years ago – the spotlight on the Small House, even before it became the movement it is today. His practice has evolved over the years into an architect led design-build practice where he actually does a lot of the construction.

AIA, LEED AP

# MARK S. NOLEN '82

*Bachelor of Architecture, 1982*

*Ziegler Cooper Architects, Senior Principal and Senior Vice President*

Nolen serves Ziegler Cooper Architects (ZCA) as Practice Area Leader of the Workplace Interiors Studio, dedicated to workplace design for clients in the accounting, consulting, energy, engineering, finance, insurance, law, and technology sectors. He has over decades of project management and design experience with corporate interiors, landlord services, and commercial architecture projects. Nolen's clientele includes major corporations, real estate brokers, institutional owners, real estate developers, building leasing agents, and property managers.

Nolen is a graduate of the University of Houston with a bachelor degree in architecture, and is a member of several industry affiliated associations, including the National Council Architectural Review Board (NCARB), Texas Society of Architecture (TSA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), and the University of Houston Architecture and Design Alumni Association (UHADAA), where he served as president. He has been an active member of the Hines College's Leadership Council since 2015.

*"Giving back is critical to the continued success of the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. In addition to participating with the University of Houston Architecture and Design Alumni Association in the mid 1990's and the College's Leadership Council since 2015, my wife and I decided to establish an endowment to help with the cost associated with the Advanced Media Technology Lab. It is our way of showing our sincere thanks and gratitude for a wonderful education and experience."*





# SERGIO ALEMAN, JR. '12

*Bachelor of Science Industrial Design, 2012*  
Surg Design Studio, LLC, CEO & *Principal Industrial Designer*

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Sergio Aleman, Jr. is a highly skilled and experienced principal industrial designer and entrepreneur with a decade of experience in the industry. He graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design and a minor in Studio Art. Aleman started his career in the aerospace industry, where he learned about the value of stringent manufacturing practices before moving into designing automotive jeeps and cars for Hollywood featured movies! After much traction in the design world, he designed products for retail stores, such as Academy Sports & Outdoors, Ross, Amazon, and even medical equipment for hospitals all around the United States. Centered around the importance of how we all work in this present day, he helped start companies like Alcove Workstation™, a portable case for the modern workforce. Combining his experiences with the core of building relationships, Aleman is currently focused on Surg Design Studio, where he gets to work with companies of all sizes to help design, prototype, and engineer their vision and ideas toward production for the masses.



*“UH surrounded me with people that inspired and pushed me to be my greatest design self. I learned the process of design and working with people to be valuable in my daily operations, especially today while running my own company.”*



# THE GENEROSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

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The support of our alumni and friends is what fuels the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design and our ability to provide students with unparalleled opportunities. Our students explore architecture and design in different and innovative ways. The commitment of our community ensures our students are prepared with global minds that will help them thrive in multicultural societies, not just in Houston, but throughout the world.

*Below are many notable donations received since 1995. Gifts of every size and impact support the Hines College's strategic initiatives and fundraising goals. In the last decade, the College averaged annual overall fundraising from \$800,000 to over \$1 million each fiscal year.*

## **HINES**

\$7,000,000 Endowment Gift Naming the College of Architecture  
\$1,000,000 International Programming  
\$1,000,000 Advanced Media Technology Lab  
Hines Internship – Annual support for students interning with  
Miralles Tagliabue EMBT in Barcelona, Spain

## **WILLIAM F. STERN**

\$1,000,000 Visiting Professorship Endowment

## **SIEMENS**

\$66,000,000 Design Software

## **BILL KENDALL MEMORIAL ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**

\$250,000 from Kendall/Heaton Associates  
\$500,000 from Hines

*The professorship has currently raised over \$1,000,000.*

## **HARVEY HOUCK**

\$200,000 Burdette Keeland, Jr. Design Exploration Laboratory

## **WILLIAM STAMPS FARISH FUND**

\$125,000 ID+

## **JAPAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON**

\$100,000 Community Design Resource Center (CDRC)

# Endowed *Scholarships*

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Endowments provide stability to scholarship programs because the principal gift is retained to produce income on an annual basis, in perpetuity. Only a portion of the annual investment return is used for a scholarship award. The rest of the investment yield is returned to the principal, and over time, the fund grows. Endowed scholarships are an excellent way to ensure your legacy at UH because the University holds the principal of your gift in perpetuity.

## HINES COLLEGE CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

*Carl A. and William Childs Detering Endowment Fund for Scholarships in Architecture (1981)*

*CRSS/Aaron Farfel Endowed Scholarship (1989)*

*Ray Okumura Memorial Scholarship (1990)*

*Burdette Keeland Presidential Endowed Scholarship (2000)*

*John B. Van Ness Memorial Scholarship in Architecture (2000)*

*Ralph S. Herman Scholarship Endowment (2002)*

*David D. Red Scholarship (2006)*

*Powers Brown Architecture Scholarship Endowment (2007)*

*FKP Architects/Charles Sundin Scholarship (2008)*

*Sharon Sanders Hoover Memorial Scholarship (2008)*

*Huitt-Zollars Endowed Scholarship – Architecture (2013)*

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*EunSook Kwon & SunJin Kim Scholarship (2017)*

*Arturo Chavez – Page Sutherland Page Foundation Endowed Scholarship for International Studies (2018)*

*Ziegler Cooper Architects Endowed Scholarship in Architecture and Design (2019)*

*Gensler UH Alumni Endowed Scholarship (2021)*

*Hines College Alumni Endowed Scholarship (2021)*

*Tomorrow's Architect Endowed Scholarship – Ricardo Martinez (2021)*

*Joe Mashburn Endowed Scholarship for Applied Design (2021)*

*Thomas McCarthy – Page Southerland Page Foundation Endowed Scholarship (2021)*

# 75th Anniversary Gala

## Sponsors

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Thank you to the community members and companies who supported the College's 75th anniversary gala on October 9, 2021.

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Joe Webb B.Arch'71 and Leigh Hollyer BS'88, MS'92  
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*Wine Donated by Emilio Armstrong M.Arch'04*

# Our *Appreciation*

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The Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design is grateful for the generosity of so many since its early beginnings in 1945. Below is a list of donors who have supported the College with lifetime giving to the Hines College of \$50,000 or more, as of the printing of this book. These donors are displayed on the donor wall in the architecture building's atrium.

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