



SCHOOL OF  
ARCHITECTURE,  
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

# I N H A B I T

School of Architecture, Planning  
& Preservation's **Alumni Magazine**

MARYLAND'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT SCHOOL

*Inhabit* is the annual alumni e-magazine of the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation—Maryland's Built Environment School.

*Inhabit* showcases achievements and activities within the school, highlights the work of our alumni and connects our MAPP community. You may also view it on our website at [www.arch.umd.edu](http://www.arch.umd.edu).

To share alumni news or be added to our mailing list, contact us at: [mappalum@umd.edu](mailto:mappalum@umd.edu).

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The MAPP Alumni Newsletter was produced with Adobe InDesign. The text is set in Interstate, Univers and Bembo.

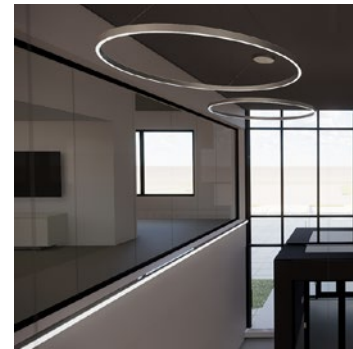
We appreciate your comments on this publication and encourage you to contact us at: [mapp-communicate@umd.edu](mailto:mapp-communicate@umd.edu).

December 2020

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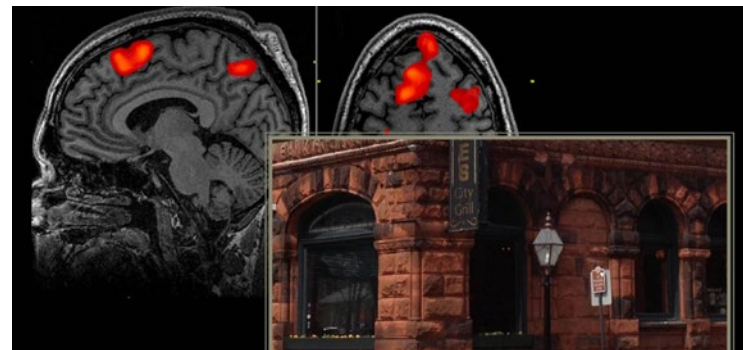


Above: Rendering of green building by Perkins + Will for ongoing research by Professor Madlen Simon and Assistant Professor Ming Hu on the brain's response to sustainable design.

Below: fMRI mockup image, courtesy of Jeremy Wells.

*Read more about these projects on pages 6-9.*

Above: Residents of North Brentwood, Maryland, wade to work after a night of heavy downpours in 1955. Research conducted through the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) lab is working to address this enduring issue for the predominately African American community (*read more on page 10*). Photo courtesy: the *Washington Star*, 1955.



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Our new virtual environment offered the advantage of engaging wider audiences, affording our students perspectives from alumni and practitioners from around the world. -DON LINEBAUGH



# Dean's Message

As we look back on the events of 2020, certain words naturally come to mind: exhausting, surreal, heartbreaking, unprecedented and never-ending. But, when I reflect on the past 12 months here at the school, the words that reverberate in my mind are actually quite different: resilience, creativity, community and hope.

In 2020, our MAPP community demonstrated dedication and fortitude in the face of overwhelming uncertainty. In March, when the university was forced to quickly pivot online with the state's Coronavirus shutdown, our faculty adeptly overhauled class discussions and studio work for a virtual environment, using innovative technology and restructured virtual spaces to replicate day-to-day in-person activities.

The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others this past spring led our community to examine issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, systemic racism and bias within the school; town halls and ongoing conversations have led to an [anti-racism plan](#) that we continue to evolve and work has begun to address issues that need immediate attention.

We had one of the most productive research years in our school's history. Record funding has spurred new projects and initiatives that engage our faculty and students in "big idea" challenges:

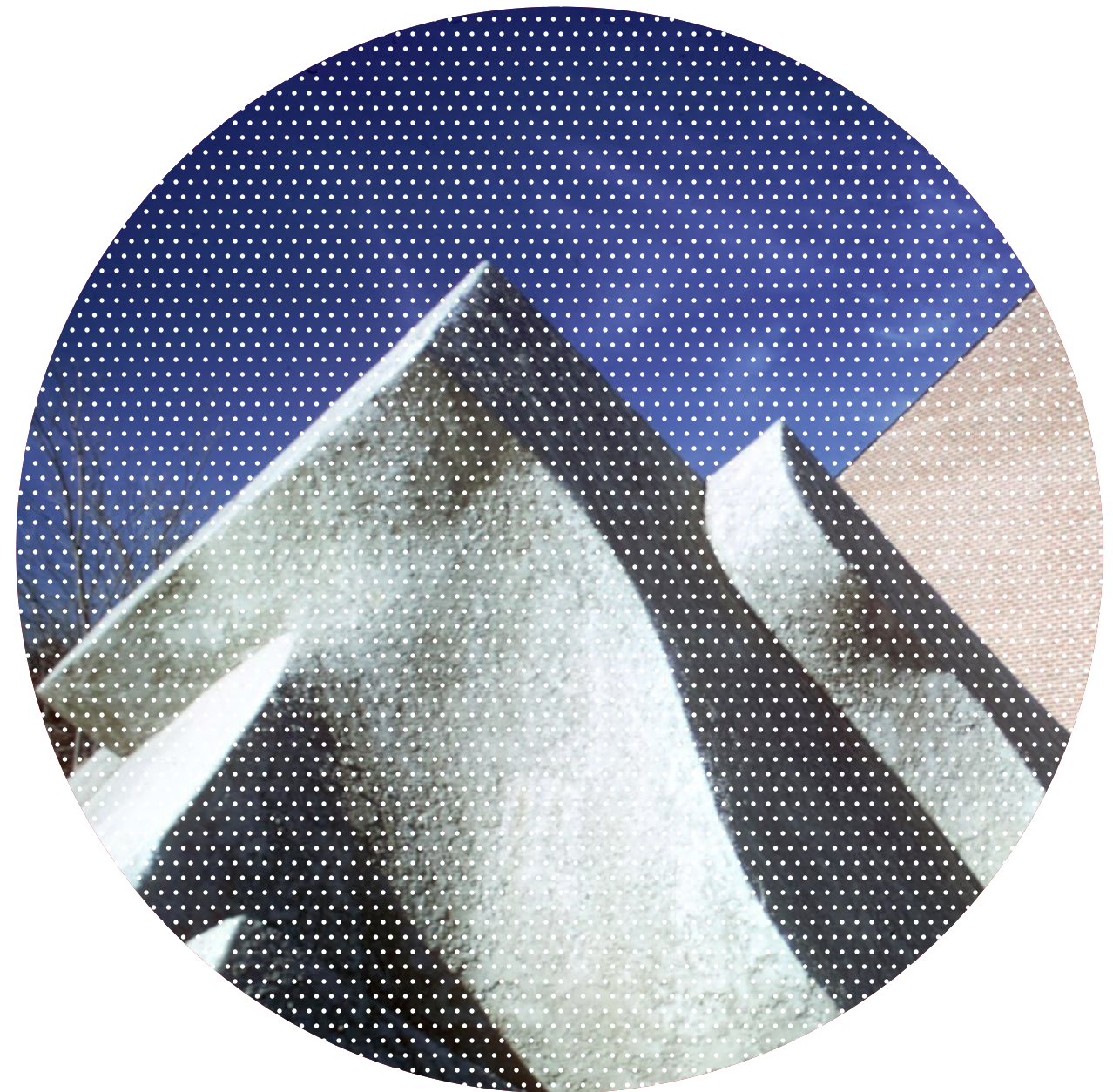
gentrification, sustainability and green design, smart cities, social and environmental justice, climate change and economic development.

Our new virtual environment offered the advantage of engaging wider audiences, affording our students perspectives from alumni and practitioners from around the world. We have watched our students succeed despite incredible obstacles and our graduates poise themselves—with determination and grace—to make their mark on the world.

The year 2020 was one of incredible hardship and loss. Our community faced new obstacles because of the pandemic and were robbed of the intimate, engaging experiences that define college life. We lost beloved faculty and are navigating new challenges as a school. But it was also a time of reflection and renewal; we did more than maintain the status quo, we pushed beyond it.

We approach 2021 with new resolve as a community and look to a future propelled by those bright spots of 2020. Wishing you a joyous and healthy new year.

*Donald W. Linebaugh, PhD, RPA,  
Interim Dean*





Rendering of green building by Perkins + Will for ongoing research by Professor Madlen Simon and Assistant Professor Ming Hu on the brain's response to sustainable design.

## The Building Blocks of Human Health

*Does working in a light-filled space make a person more productive? Could exposure to patina help hospital patients heal faster? New research by UMD faculty is exploring the psychological and physiological responses to the places where we live, work and play to understand how factors like built heritage and green building practices could impact quality of life. Read on to see why human health might be the next big design movement:*

### Green Is Good for You—and Your Career

*Architecture, Psychology Researchers Explore Workplace Performance Benefits of Sustainable Buildings*

The gentle carbon footprint that green building design delivers is undoubtedly good for the environment. Research underway at the University of Maryland indicates that it might also be a boon for job performance.

Certain qualities synonymous with green buildings—such as enhanced light and an open

floor plan—provide a boost to areas of the brain associated with workplace strengths like collaboration and mental well-being, the ongoing study between the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and UMD's Brain Behavior Initiative suggests.

Using virtual reality (VR) and electroencephalogram (EEG) brain imaging, architecture Professors Madlen Simon and Ming Hu and psychology Associate Professor Edward Bernat are examining the cognitive activity of study participants as they experience two different environments: a green building equipped with flexible work spaces, abundant natural light and colorful walls, and a more conventional work environment with white walls, fluorescent lighting and sequestered offices. (The virtual spaces have another Maryland connection—area design firm Perkins +Will built them with 3D graphics software from Tim Sweeney '93's Epic Games, which brought the world Fortnite.)

As participants wearing a VR headset and an EEG cap explore their virtual surroundings, nearly 100 electrodes measure specific brain responses to light, views and the spatial quality of each environment. When analyzed

and combined, EEG data has shown intriguing changes in emotional responses that influence behavior.

"There's a lot of evidence that natural exposure has the ability to reduce stress," says Bernat. "We hypothesized that people would be more engaged by the visual aspects of green buildings and what we've seen is conducive to that. While that's not surprising, what we've been able to correlate that to is very compelling."

Initial findings show that participants who are immersed in a green building environment demonstrate significant increases in brain activity that drive attributes like information sharing and collaboration, a willingness to approach others and a likelihood to try new things. In addition, the findings suggest a reduction in prefrontal activity, with regions of the brain talking less to each other and quieting.

"The interpretation is that pulling individuals into the present moment through the spatial and visual elements of green building design can reduce their stress and make them more available to the work," says Bernat.

"Some environmental metrics of a green building are well-defined, like energy, water or air quality," says Hu. "But all of those intangible soft benefits are hard to measure. For the longest time, we've only had anecdotal evidence. Now we have numbers."

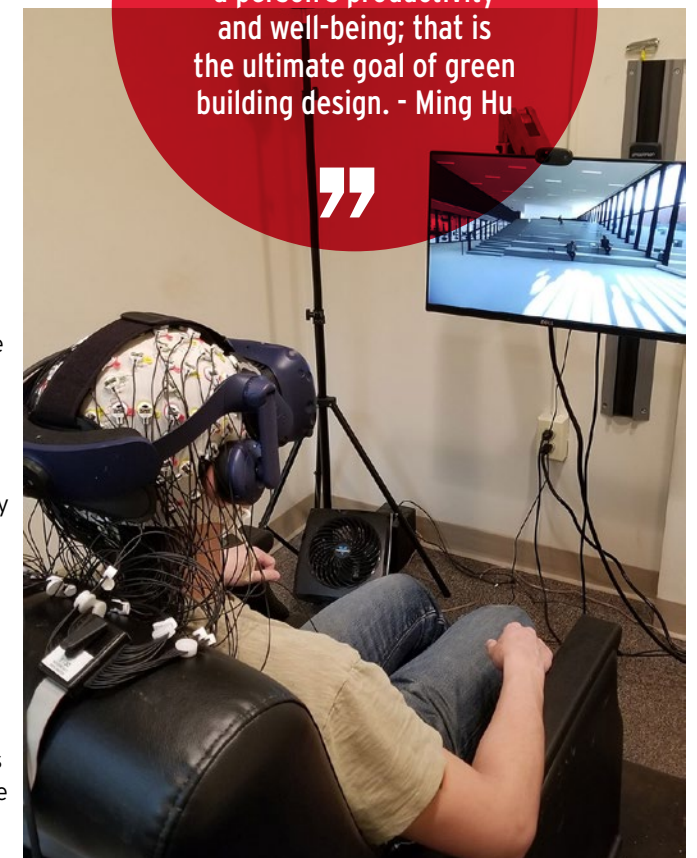
While the combination of VR and EEG isn't new, this is the first time that researchers have used it to gauge how design influences human behavior. According to Hu, whose research focuses on net-zero building systems, their work may lead to a new way of measuring building performance—not by how much energy it saves, but by the performance of the people inhabiting it.

"When people think of green buildings, even our students, they think about the solar panels, or a green roof. But that is not a true green building," says Hu. "A real sustainable building is a space that can enhance a person's productivity and well-being; that is the ultimate goal of green building design."

This people-centric focus could be a secret weapon in winning the argument for more sustainable buildings. Despite their obvious environmental benefit, Simon and Hu agree the world has been slow to adopt sustainable building design, with the biggest barrier being the higher construction cost. But the findings of this pilot study might sway companies to "go green" by demonstrating the impact it can have on their bottom line.

"If one can construct an economic argument that people will be more productive, have higher executive functioning, be more creative or more collaborative, then you begin to get clients saying, 'we need a sustainable building,'" says Simon, who has spent nearly two decades studying design thinking. "If your employees are making you more money in

**A real sustainable building is a space that can enhance a person's productivity and well-being; that is the ultimate goal of green building design. - Ming Hu**



productivity, it makes sense to spend a little more cash up front.”

The pilot study was funded by an AIA Upjohn Research Initiative grant, one of five awarded this past year; the team is currently pursuing a National Science Foundation grant to further their research, which would allow them to pair certain tasks with different VR environments and examine how public and private spaces impact certain cognitive functions. They also plan to collaborate with the A. James Clark School of Engineering’s VR Cave to provide a more immersive, 5-D experience. This could lead to discovering if certain environments nurture specific skill sets, such as creativity or analytical thinking.

“It’s not quite as simple as just seeing if people are happier surrounded by a lot of windows and a potted plant,” says Simon. “That’s a logical conclusion. What we wanted to know is, what is the brain saying? And how will that influence how we design buildings in the future?”

## Is the Definition of Heritage All in Your Head?

### *New Research by Associate Professor Jeremy Wells Turns to the Brain to Explore Human Connections in the Historic Built Environment*

For centuries, historic preservationists have used the mark of patina—signs of age like moss-covered brick, blue-green copper or ornamentally etched stone—as a guidepost in dictating age and value in the built environment. But is the practice of heritage conservation representative of what is treasured by all people? And could heritage sites have benefits we have yet to uncover? New research by Associate Professor Jeremy Wells is turning to the inner workings of the brain to explore the human connection to heritage by measuring the psychological response to the historic built environment.

“Built heritage conservation doctrine and law hold these assumptions of how we perceive and interpret the built environment, that we all have a similar aesthetic perception, but without any empirical backing,” says Wells. “It’s very subjective. But it doesn’t have to be.”

fMRI mockup image. Photo courtesy: Jeremy Wells.

In what he has coined “heritage psychology,” Wells is leveraging environmental psychology, phenomenology and neuroscience technology, such as MRI, to gain new insight into the emotional connection people have with historic environments—age, decay and change of materials over time. While this data-driven, human-centered approach is more common in evaluating environmental conservation practice, Wells’ work is a first for the historic preservation discipline.

“We know very little from a psychological perspective of people’s relationship to the built environment,” he said.

His most recent study, published in July, offered a statistical analysis of survey data from 864 people who were asked to rank 24 images of old, decayed building materials and 7 control images of new building materials based on aesthetic qualities, condition and perceived age. The results showed that people generally preferred new materials to aged or decaying materials, with the exception of ornamental patterns, particularly in stone and copper, which also garnered a high rating.

While there weren’t significant differences in responses from different economic groups, there were small differences in preferences from African-American and Latino respondents. But the most striking difference was between people who identified as working in the historic preservation field versus laypeople: individuals connected to the practice were much more likely to rate older building materials more aesthetically pleasing and newer materials less aesthetically pleasing than other respondents, almost three to one. The assertion that not all patina is created equal, nor equally valued, poses critical questions about equality and social justice within the practice, according to Wells.

“People in the preservation field really do seem to perceive patina in a very different way than the average person,” he says. “It seems like that might make sense, but what’s different is that, until now, there’s never been any data to back this up. As a field we dictate what’s considered old, what should be preserved, how much age is ‘the right amount.’ That’s important because if we realize there is a psychological gap between people who work in

the field and the public, maybe we can begin to bridge that gap.”

A previous study by Wells and Elizabeth Baldwin, associate professor in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management program at Clemson University, tasked 12 individuals to take pictures of areas of the built environment that were meaningful to them; the researchers found that time and again, individuals connected emotionally with these environs and their perceived history.

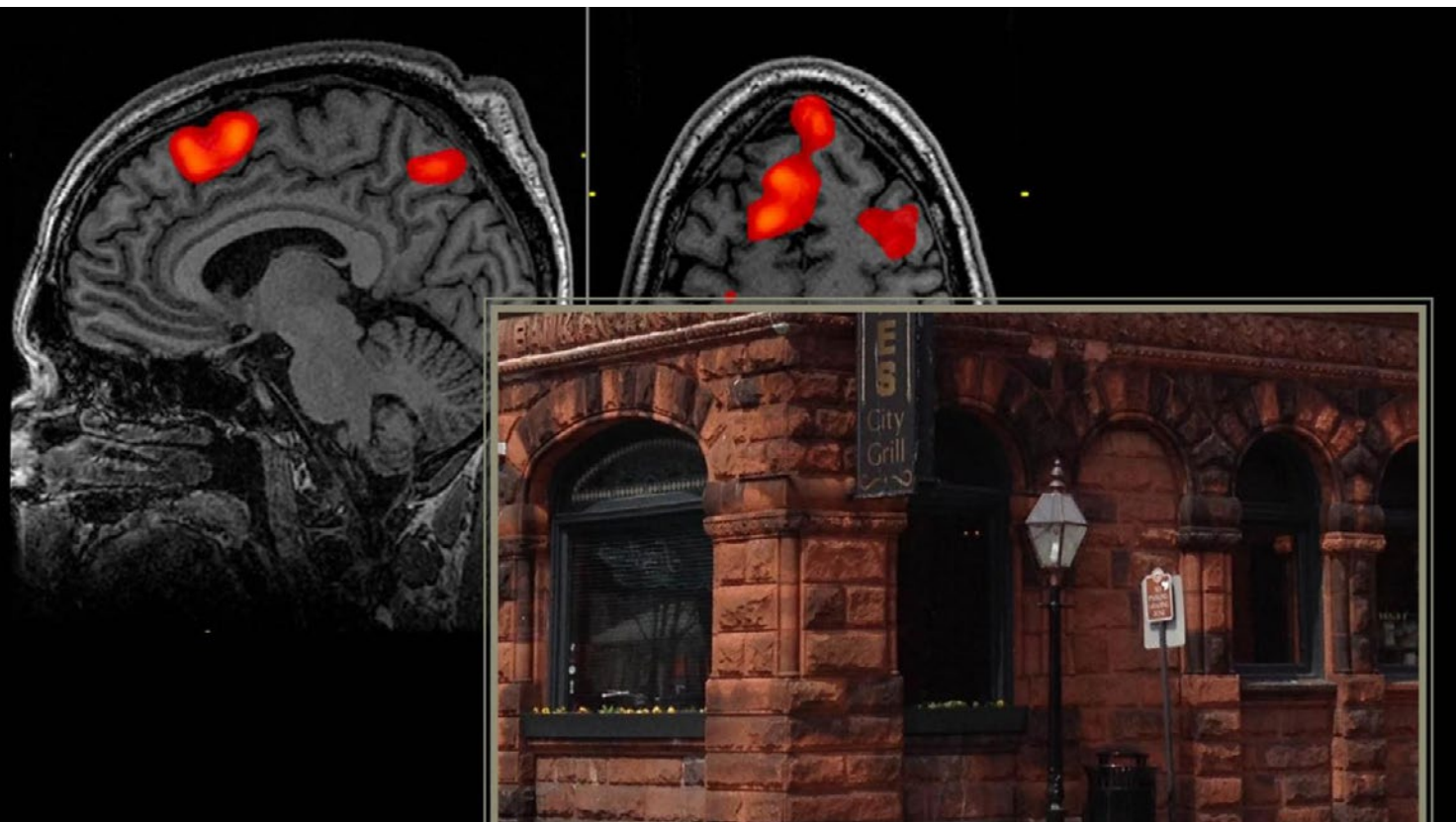
“We found the subjects conjuring these stories of what might have happened in these places through time,” said Wells. “There are so many questions surrounding the human relationship with heritage.”

This fall, Wells is focusing on one question in particular: could exposure to a senescent built environment actually be good for your health? Wells and Erica Molinario, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher in UMD’s Department of Psychology, are hoping to determine if certain regions of the brain are uniquely activated by exposure to patina. While previous studies have shown a correlation between pain reduction and holding historic objects, very little is known of the psychological and physiological response to the built environment. The researchers will be looking specifically at whether regions of the brain associated with positive emotions are engaged when exposed to aged materials, which could impact everything from mental health to faster healing.

“The reason we do preservation is because it’s in the public interest, but how is it good for people?” he says. “That’s what we’re hoping to uncover.”



“The reason we do preservation is because it’s in the public interest, but how is it good for people? That’s what we’re hoping to uncover.” - Jeremy Wells



## Troubled Waters: Rising Floodwaters and the Toll on Marginalized Communities

An examination of infrastructure inequity in America cannot take place outside the conversation of race. The deeply-rooted discrimination and marginalization besieging people of color is writ large in the concrete and asphalt of every American city.

These inequities are especially stark when the rain begins to fall. In Baltimore, it is commonplace for raw sewage to erupt into the basements of inner-city homes—often feet-deep of brown, foul water—every time the city sees significant rainfall. In the historic Washington enclave of North Brentwood, Maryland, stormwater flooding continues to plague the community, the result of its low-lying proximity to the Anacostia River and a history of missteps by government agencies. Over time, the water's ebb and flow has led not just to greater environmental risk, but to significant impacts on human health, economies and social fabric.

For Marccus Hendricks, the situations facing communities like North Brentwood and Baltimore City are strikingly familiar. Hendricks has spent close to a decade studying the link between disaster events and the physical inequities of the built environment—such as loss of green space, lack of infrastructure maintenance and the uneven distribution of resources—particularly in socially vulnerable communities. This year, he launched the [Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice Lab \(SIRJ\)](#), which leverages a framework rooted in environmental justice and social vulnerability to disaster to understand hazardous human-built environments; examine the facets of flood risk; and initiate participatory opportunities to mitigate risk and create more resilient, healthy, equitable communities. Together with doctoral students Brittney Drakeford and Bridget Kerner, Hendricks is uncovering the history of the region's racialized topography: residential segregation based on economic, political and social policy that, for hundreds of years, has limited Black and Brown communities in where

they can live. The flooding events that impact these communities are not just a side effect of climate change, but the convergence of climate, aging infrastructure, disinvestment and a legacy of systemic racial injustice.

Understanding the history, says Hendricks, is integral to mobilizing a way forward.



"I think a lot of times, when it comes to more contemporary issues, we tend to focus on the 'right now' and future projections without looking at how we got there to begin with, and I think that's the significance and importance of the work we're doing," says Hendricks. "How are race, community development, flood risk and land use connected over time? What were the options for a freedman to purchase land and start a community—I'm sure there is a difference between him and others."

Above: Residents of North Brentwood, Maryland, wade to work after a night of heavy downpours in 1955. Research conducted through the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) lab is working to address this enduring issue for the predominately African American community. Photo courtesy: the *Washington Star*, 1955.

### The Cost of Neglect: Baltimore's Basement Problem

For much of the 20th century, Baltimore's sewer system was considered to be at the forefront of infrastructure advancements. One of the last major cities in the U.S. to install sewer lines, the city was also the first to utilize a separate sewer/stormwater system. But as the decades passed without management and maintenance, cracked sewer pipes became overwhelmed with stormwater every time Baltimore saw significant rainfall, causing sewage to dump into local rivers and, ultimately, the Inner Harbor and Chesapeake Bay. The practice became so frequent that, in 2002, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) sued the city, giving them 14 years to repair Baltimore's network of sewer pipes, a decree that was later extended to 2021 then, last year, to 2030. And as the city slowly closed off the over 60 release valves across the region, basements across Baltimore began to flood.

Basement flooding isn't a new problem from Baltimore. Yet, according to a 2017 article in the *Baltimore Sun*, crews responded to nearly 5,000 reports of sewage in city basements in 2015, compared to 622 in 2004.\* The majority of these backups take place in predominately Black neighborhoods.

For Bridget Kerner, the problem is personal. As a resident of Baltimore City with a background in public health, she was interested in exploring an issue that, despite its prevalence, hasn't been widely studied from a community planning or health perspective. "While the city has taken steps to address their aging infrastructure and manage the problem, from a community perspective, it hasn't been addressed in the right way," she says.

With the support of a Harvard Fellowship Grant, Hendricks and Kerner hope to spend the next year interviewing government stakeholders, like the MDE and the EPA, as well as coalition leaders and non-profit advocates doing work in this space, to shed light on the history behind basement flooding, where the real challenges lie and how they are being managed. Higher-

level conversations are coupled with ground-level community outreach to provide a collective voice to residents; Hendricks and Kerner have attended community meetings and plan to speak with residents door-to-door to accumulate enough data to establish a baseline understanding of residents' experiences in different parts of the city and how it ripples through their day-to-day life.

The process in gathering these experiences is complex. Many residents are hesitant to talk about what's happening in their basements. When flooding occurs, neighbors often band together to handle the clean-up, with entire families donning rubber gloves and wrapping their feet in garbage bags to protect themselves from toxins and human waste. According to Kerner, it goes beyond the shame and stigma; for many residents, repeated flooding has cost them their homeowner's insurance policies. In some cases, residents have claimed their neighbors have been dropped from their policies as well, simply by association.

"We haven't completed a lot of the qualitative in-depth work yet, but I think what we might find is that there's not a lot of positive feedback and support when [these residents] are able to express what's happening," says Kerner. "So, when you seek out help, not only are you penalized, but your community is penalized. What results are these tight-knit clusters of residents who work together to solve this problem within their community but aren't able to rely on the government or insurance companies to provide the additional support that they should be providing."

According to Hendricks, this is the sociological tipping point. When cities do not plan for maintenance or management of infrastructure, it is often the most vulnerable populations who face the most risk; they are also the least equipped to effectively respond when crisis sets in. The COVID-19 pandemic is the most recent example; with scientists still unsure if the virus is transmittable through human waste, it has raised new concerns for Hendricks.

"We as a nation have sort of abandoned infrastructure," says Hendricks. "That's



I think the work that we're doing through the lab is a testament that you can do high-quality research and meaningful, ethical engagement—they can live and exist at the same time without sacrificing one for the other. -MARCUS HENDRICKS



reflected in some of these high-profile situations that we've seen from water quality issues in Flint to bridges collapsing in California. It's evidence that we need to do a better job in the maintenance over a lifecycle, particularly in these communities that have been operating at the margins. Whether its COVID-19 or sewer backups, it seems that the most vulnerable amongst us bear the most brunt."

Hendricks and Kerner hope that the quantitative and qualitative examination of Baltimore City leads to the kind of community response and support that shapes how the problem is managed, but also creates more conversations about disparities in resource allocation and infrastructure investment.

"Recently the City of Baltimore released a report that showed a wide disparity in the allocation of funds," says Brittney Drakeford, who is also conducting work in the Maryland community of North Brentwood. "They were not allocating funds to some of the poorer communities at the same rates as some of the wealthier neighborhoods. Power and privilege have largely shaped policy decisions."

"It was a really important step when Baltimore's planning department recently reflected on where they've invested and came out to say, 'we're not doing this right,'" says Kerner.

#### Tracing Injustice: Flooding in Brentwood

Who makes the decisions for how a community is shaped? When a community does not have

a voice in the conversation, how does that handicap their resiliency? The community of North Brentwood is a case study in power dynamics: 100 years ago, in the era of Jim Crow, residential lots in the northern part of the community were earmarked for African-American families—smaller than the lots to the south and prone to flooding from a nearby mill. The area's low-lying topography and proximity to the Anacostia has created an environment for continued problems, now exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

Drakeford and Hendricks found themselves studying flooding in North Brentwood, ironically, after the thousand-year flood in Ellicott City in 2017; Hendricks quickly became the go-to voice of expertise in the news and caught the eye of North Brentwood city officials.

"North Brentwood had been facing chronic flooding for decades, really since the inception of the community," says Hendricks. "They saw a young Black scientist who was working at the nexus of infrastructure and flood risk, and they wanted to get me in to bring their community up to speed to the endemic challenges related to flood risk and the options in addressing it. That was the start of that relationship."

Hendricks brought in Drakeford, who had previously worked as a historian for the Prince George's County Black History Program and who is pursuing her doctoral degree in urban planning under Hendricks. Initially, Hendricks hoped to bring attention to North Brentwood's story, but quickly recognized that with Drakeford's expertise, they could engage

with the community in a deeper and more meaningful way. Using archival documents and oral histories, Drakeford is creating a timeline that traces North Brentwood's lineage of flooding through the history of land use, development and policy. Laid bare is what Drakeford calls a "deep legacy of divestment," with stories of power and privilege at play, and how communities become more vulnerable and susceptible to issues of flooding when decisionmakers are not taking their interests into consideration.

"I believe there are tales of resilience that can serve as examples of best practices for local and community governments across the country as to how you deal with issues of urban flooding, how you think about power and privilege as it relates to the built environment—not just social structures of injustice, but how those structures have managed to manipulate the built environment," says Drakeford.

"Brittany has a first-hand account of how disparities in power and privilege are built into planning practice, policies and implementation that a lot of folks might not be privy to," says Hendricks.

As the research at SIRJ progresses, the team is exploring pathways to support communities. This includes reports that contextualize community issues which, Hendricks explains, helps legitimize things that the communities intuitively already know. An affiliation with UMD's Environmental Finance Center poses new opportunities to connect municipalities with resources and pathways to funding. Hendricks also plans to draw on his experience of activating residents as citizen scientists, empowering them to ask questions and collect information to address grand community challenges. Continued research and outreach by SIRJ, as well as coursework at UMD, can result in powerful tools—whether it is an envisioned master plan or data analysis—that communities can use to address these issues with stakeholders and policymakers.

"At the end of the day, the ultimate goal is to leave something tangible and meaningful behind that they can utilize immediately in terms of moving the needle and making

change in their communities," says Hendricks. "I think the work that we're doing through the lab is a testament that you can do high-quality research and meaningful, ethical engagement—they can live and exist at the same time without sacrificing one for the other."

For Drakeford and Kerner, it goes beyond their efforts as scholars; it is a responsibility to their communities.

"I'm so thankful to Marccus for the opportunity to bring these practical and lived experiences to bear and think about them from a research perspective, but to also turn them into something meaningful to address these community challenges," said Drakeford. "It's allowed me to almost redistribute this intellectual capital that I'm gaining at UMD, to the community that I'm from—and, ultimately, to give back."

## TESTING THE WATERS AT HOME

Assistant Professor Marccus Hendricks, along with colleagues from the National Center for Smart Growth, the iSchool, the A. James Clark School of Engineering, Facilities Management and others are currently studying stormwater runoff from campus into regional waterways using new outdoor sensors, which provide a real-time view of water quality and quantity, as well as infrastructure performance on campus. "The data gives a sense of what's out there, and then we can make informed decisions about the types of green infrastructure, the types of restorations that can be implemented in terms of treating that water on campus and improving the quality of the water," Hendricks said.





The vernacular architecture class uses the Bostwick House as a studio for drafting plans. Photo courtesy of Dennis Pogue.

## Double Duty: Three New Dual Degrees Prepare Students for a Changing and Challenging World

Could a person's health be determined by a stretch of concrete?

Study after study has found that simply having access to sidewalks correlates to lower rates of depression, blood pressure and obesity. That connection also demonstrates how two seemingly different disciplines—urban planning and public health—are intrinsically linked.

Now, a new graduate degree offered between the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP) and School of Public Health will prepare students to forge healthier communities as emerging professionals. It's one of three new dual degree programs launching in Fall 2021 to mesh different disciplines such as information systems technology, American studies and historic preservation to tackle the "grand challenges" facing the world.

"Issues of gentrification, climate change, the health disparities laid bare by COVID and the racial inequities brought to fore by Brianna Taylor and George Floyd require many experts at the table and, increasingly, knowledgeable practitioners who can bridge the disciplines they represent," said Donald Linebaugh,

interim dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

MAPP's interdisciplinary dual degree programs address the increasingly complex challenges facing communities worldwide, including affordable housing, stormwater surges, urban blight, human health and the preservation of the built and natural environments.

In addition to the dual urban planning/public health degree, a new Master of Urban Planning and Information Systems Technology and a new Master of American Studies and Historic Preservation will bring MAPP's number of dual degrees to 15, the most offered at UMD and the most at any school in the country that specializes in the built environment.

The urban planning/public health dual degree offers eight tracks, allowing students to focus on research, planning and preventative work on issues like flooding or infectious disease spread, or on solutions that foster healthier urban environments, like more green space and transit options.

"The key is to be able to think from both sides," said Assistant Professor of Public Health Jennifer Roberts, who points to a

centuries-long interdependence between the two disciplines, from curbing disease to providing safe drinking water. "COVID has certainly put that front and center. Most of the time, we both want the same thing but we don't talk the same language. The folks coming out of this degree will be bilingual."

The dual degree in urban planning and information management, a partnership between MAPP and the College of Information Studies, will prepare students to devise "smart cities"—automated, tech-driven and sustainable communities of the future. Students will graduate with expertise in collecting and analyzing real-time data, opening doors to career paths from developing automated urban environments to designing software.

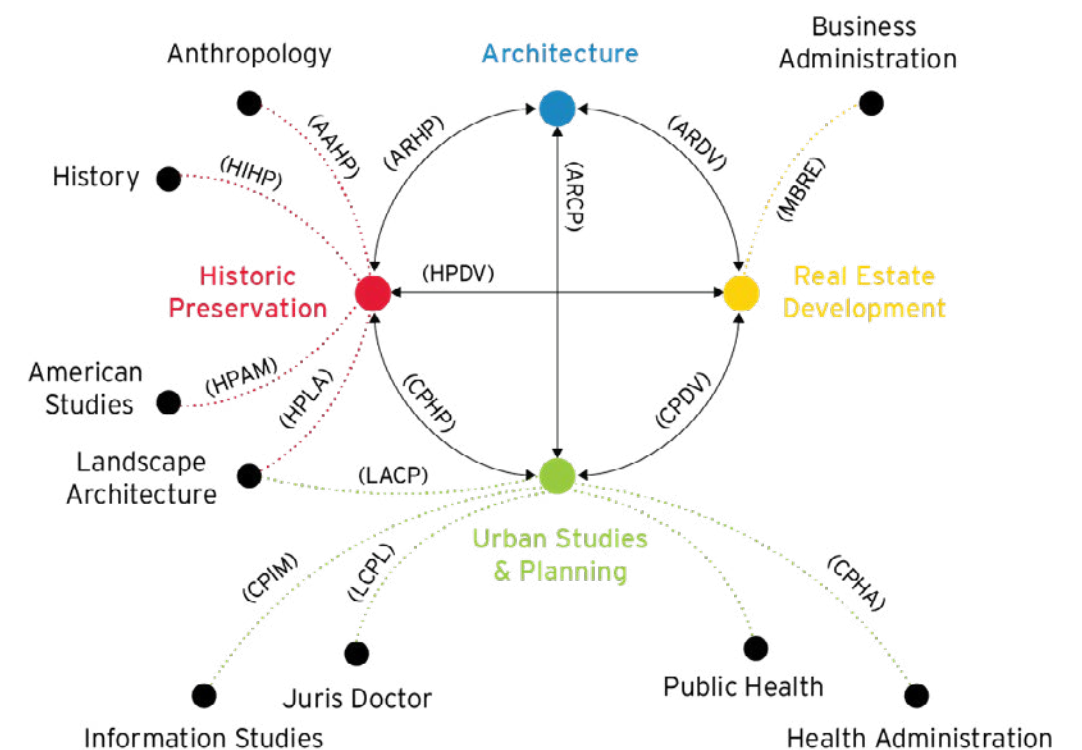
"Pure data scientists are focused on the tools and the tech," said Professor Casey Dawkins, director of the Urban Planning Program. "They are really good at coding, but they often don't have the questions. Bridging data science with the understanding of urban challenges uniquely positions our students to identify and solve them."

Associate Professor Mary Sies, who holds a joint faculty position in American studies and historic preservation, said the programs' new dual degree is the result of a focus by the Historic Preservation Program on social justice and "inclusive" preservation. Preservationists, Sies said, have a history of coming into communities with good intentions, but inadvertently contributing to marginalization and gentrification. A preservationist's toolkit, combined with a broader knowledge of public

Dual degree graphic by Pete Morelewicz.

## Dual Degrees Offered

Those with dotted lines partner with an external program



humanities and cultural landscapes found in American studies, prepare students to engage communities of color and approach issues surrounding culture resources, such as museums and historic sites.

“They’ll be better equipped to deal with the range of issues that they’ll see in the communities they are working with,” she said. “And we feel it could be a national model of training students in a more just and equitable model of preservation.”

Kirsten Crase, who earned a graduate certificate in historic preservation and a doctorate in American studies at Maryland, used skills gleaned from both programs in her dissertation on marginalization in the southeast D.C. community of Congress Heights and the Eastern Kentucky hometown of her father in Appalachia.

“There is no singular American experience,” she explained. “My coursework in American studies gave me a deeper theoretical idea of these nuanced histories, marginalization and power dynamics, and how that might shape the interactions and the responses you might get. It helped me be up front about my lack of knowledge going in and gain the trust necessary to tell their stories.”

Students pursuing dual degrees benefit from the collaboration of the participating departments in project work, lectures, coursework and advising, and on average, can complete them a year shorter than if pursued separately. They can also be a boon for students in their employment search.

“The job market continues to evolve to meet the demands of today’s challenges, and that’s definitely impacted employer expectations,” said Kristen Tepper, MAPP’s director of career services. “They are looking for the whole package so, if our graduates can bring multiple skills to the table, they’ve got a leg up.”

Right: Jazmin Inoa (B.S. Architecture '19) presenting her final project. Photo courtesy of MAPP Staff.

Right, below: Real Estate Development students on a site visit to the United Therapeutics office in Silver Spring, MD. Pictured left to right: S.Stein, S.Neuhauser, N.Sass, M.Elliott, S.Petersen, C.Carman, P.Strobel, J.McInturff. Photo courtesy of Tanya Bansal.

## **SUSTAINABLE DESIGN THAT “STEMS” FROM INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION**

This fall, faculty from UMD’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, the Landscape Architecture Program and the School of Public Health began plans for a new cross-disciplinary teaching and learning laboratory that centers on the design and study of a “green wall,” a multi-layered, biomimetic facade of sustainable materials and vegetation. The hands-on project will take a novel approach to design pedagogy—meshing design thinking and evidence-based design, health and environmental science, materials and technology—to understand how sustainable building methods impact environmental and human health. Under the new curriculum, students will engage in research of building materials and best practices, using literature reviews; prototype design and build-out; experimentation and testing; and data collection and publication.



## Making “Ah-ha” Moments Happen: Brian Kelly on the Power of Giving and Study Abroad



Ask Brian Kelly about the moment when it all came together for him—his communion with architecture, the beauty of the built world and the certainty of his future—and he’ll relate a story of a young, jetlagged college student, fresh off an airplane from New York, stepping into the afternoon light of the Pantheon’s oculus.

“When I was in high school, I had this impressionistic view of Rome,” says Kelly. “I knew it was important but I didn’t know why it was important to architecture. Walking through the portico of the Pantheon and into that rotunda was the most awesome experience, in the traditional sense of the word. It makes you feel like you’re in a relationship with the

Cosmos. It’s bigger than life. And it was the gateway drug, I think.”

For nearly four decades, Kelly has returned to Rome and other parts of Italy, often with students in tow, to share the gospel according to Bramante, Raphael and Michelangelo. He has watched the immersive experience of sketching, studying and living in another country transform legions of students, and has witnessed the indelible mark it makes on their professional and personal lives. It is the inspiration behind Kelly’s decision to establish an endowment at the University of Maryland, which will fund need-based travel scholarships that offer special consideration to students who have never traveled outside of the United States.

“I’ve been here longer than any place else in my life,” he says on his decision to establish the fund at Maryland. “I just feel it can do the most good here. Over the years I have come to realize that it really makes a huge impact on our students in their life and their experiences.”

Maryland has been Kelly’s home for more than 30 years, but it is not his alma mater; he obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame and his master’s at Cornell. Since arriving at Maryland, he has taken students abroad all over Europe, but Italy continues to be his home base.

Students sketching on the steps of Villa Giulia in Rome, Italy, during Summer 2019’s study abroad trip. Photo courtesy of: Brian Kelly.



Study abroad students at Villa Farnese in Viterbo, Northern Lazio, Italy. Photo courtesy of: Brian Kelly.

In 2017, he was instrumental in establishing an in-residence program in Florence.

“Forget broadening horizons, it just exploded my horizons,” said Michael Way, Jr. (M.ARCH ’02), a Southeast D.C.-native who travelled with Kelly to England on a scholarship provided by alum and Kea Professor Mark McInturff (B.ARCH ’72). “It was the first time I had ever been out of the country. Growing up, my parents put travel money into school.”

Way remembers that, until his experience traveling with Kelly, he suffered from “a strong case of imposter syndrome” at UMD; he knew he wanted to be an architect since he was 10, but his classmates’ seemingly effortless drawing skills were intimidating. It took a centuries-old city and long conversations about architecture with Kelly to convince him he was in the right place.

“That time helped me see that I knew more than I thought I did,” he says. “That it’s not just about drawing excellence but about communicating those ideas and concepts. To this day, I use that understanding in my work to enable other people and show them that they can do more than they think.”

Traversing the Italian cityscapes to sketch as a group is an exercise Kelly has integrated over the years; drawing side-by-side with their professor, Kelly says, helps students realize there isn’t any magic to it. But he also maintains the real takeaway is less about honing their design skills and more about slowing down, taking stock in what is around you and becoming an active observer.

"The school's Rome program changed my life," says Jordan Goldstein, Principal & Global Director of Design at Gensler. "It was my first time overseas and I didn't know what to expect. The way that Brian and team turned the piazzas and streets of Rome into our everyday classrooms was truly extraordinary. I learned to see the world through a different lens that summer and it had a profound impact on the architect that I am today."

While study abroad is on hold because of the pandemic, a current use fund will allow students to take advantage of the scholarship as soon as the programs reconvene. Kelly hopes the fund will inspire "ah-ha" moments in students for years to come.

"To me that's what makes it all worthwhile," he says. "That's what I live for."



Brian Kelly sketching in Italy.

## Draw Like the Romans Do: Architecture's Oldest Study Abroad Program Puts the Classics at Students' Fingertips

The longest-standing education abroad offering in the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation is the Summer in Rome program, a five-week architectural and cultural boot camp where students trade textbooks for sketchbooks and vacate the classroom for the cities and the landscapes of Italy. With Kelly as their guide, students learn the living history of Rome and how centuries of architects have contributed to its urban fabric, from ancient and Renaissance styles to neo-classical and modern. Students live among the palazzos and piazzas, gathering in the mornings and afternoons at famous sites like the Piazza della Rotonda, the Santa Costanza and the Villa Giulia to sketch with Kelly. Fridays are for field trips to places like Hadrian's Villa, the Palazzo Farnese in Caprarola and the Villa d'Este in Tivoli.

"There is no comparison to working in the field versus being in a classroom," said Andrew Mazer (M.ARCH, '21). "There are pieces of information that sometimes get lost in translation along the way. To be able to see a piece of architecture in person and to immerse yourself within it and its context is a

far greater experience of learning than reading a passage out of a textbook."

The coursework returns students to the fundamentals of "drawing as a means of seeing," migrating them from digital dependency and allow them to explore and analyze their environment through sketch assignments and an architect's journal. "What you're looking at," Kelly said, "isn't something from the past that must stay in the past, but you must transport the principles of what you're looking at back home to where they're needed."

The program, Kelly says, helps the students to grow not only as architects but as people. They learn more about living independently, especially as guests in another country. The syllabus for the course includes tips on adapting to the culture, such as "Italian men do not wear shorts in town," encouragement to greet shopkeepers with "buon giorno" (good day) upon entering, and a gentle warning that catcalling is commonplace. Kelly even prepares some meals for the students, to help them learn to cook like a "real Italian."

Students who are afforded the opportunity to travel and study abroad, says Kelly, return to College Park transformed and more assured; the immersive experience shapes their understanding of how cities are built and how history and culture can inform their work as practitioners.

"Moments after arriving in the city and capturing a glimpse of the Roman world outside of the doors of the train station, I was instantly in disbelief that architecture so ancient yet beautiful, actually existed," said

Madison Hamer (B.S. Architecture, '21). "Before attending the trip, historical architecture was not one of my favorite aspects. Being on this trip made me realize how without acknowledging and respecting the past, you will lack the correct knowledge needed to build the future."



Leia Droll,  
Chief Development  
Officer

### Leia Droll Joins MAPP as New Chief Development Officer

Leia Droll joined the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation this past fall as the school's new chief development officer. A native of Davenport, Iowa, Droll has 15 years of experience in development in nonprofits and higher education, including positions at World Monuments Fund, Asia Society and Long Island University, all in New York City. She was most recently the chief development officer for NC State University Libraries, where she increased the Libraries' endowments by over 200%, and helped the them meet their capital campaign goal more than two years ahead of schedule. Droll sees a lot of potential for growth at MAPP, from faculty and program development to student support, and has already hit the ground running in her new position. "I'm excited to learn more about the work happening here at MAPP and I'm really looking forward to meeting the alumni and hearing their stories. I've always felt that's the best way to learn about where you are is from other people who have experienced it."



Above: A vintage Chanticleer matchbook cover found on Ebay, circa 1940s. Photo courtesy of: Colleen Cox.

## Historic Preservation's LGBTQ Heritage

In the Fall of 2018, Professor Jeremy Wells' Historic Preservation Studio Workshop students launched what he believes to be the country's first preservation studio course focused on LGBTQ heritage.

The students were tasked with designing a toolkit for identifying and documenting "affirming" places for the LGBTQ community in Baltimore, Maryland.

The idea was born, he said, after a conversation with Preservation Maryland's director of communications, Meagan Baco, and graduate student Ty Ginter (MHP '19, who was a volunteer with the organization.

"I learned about a number of priorities, but none seemed more important than the state of recognition (or lack thereof) of LGBTQ built heritage in Maryland," Wells said. "(I thought), 'Wow, this is not only a great learning opportunity for students; it has potential to benefit the LGBTQ community.'"

The project happened to fit well, he said, with the program's strategic plan to focus on social justice and equity issues.

"As a group, LGBTQ people have long been denied a voice in the recognition and control of their own built heritage. A major focus of this studio was positioning its outcomes in terms of addressing social injustice," said

Wells. "For instance, not even one percent of all of the places listed on the National Register of Historic Places is associated with LGBTQ history."

The Preservation Studio Workshop (HISP 650) is part of the standard second-year course of studies for master's students. It is an applied experience that allows students to put theory into practice. Collaborating with a local community organization— in this instance, Preservation Maryland— students work as a group to conduct research, perform analyses, engage with professionals and other members of the public, and propose solutions to a matter that is seemingly problematic to a local geographic or social community. The course gives students real-world experience and is a valuable step toward their future careers.

"My favorite part of the project was doing the oral history component of the project and listening to my elders tell their stories," said Ginter, who identifies as queer. "It is harder and harder for young LGBTQ people to connect with their elders, so that aspect of the project was very special to me and resonated with me in a way that was quite profound. The pain in their voices as they described the neighborhoods disappearing within their living memory—will stick with me for a very long time."

The studio members executed a case study around The Hippo, a renowned Baltimore gay club. Beginning in 1972, The Hippo became the go-to spot for members of the queer

“A major focus of this studio was positioning its outcomes in terms of addressing social injustice. -Jeremy Wells”

community, and was the site of many LGBTQ fundraisers and charity events, including during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s. The 2015 closure of The Hippo and conversion of the space to a CVS pharmacy was a shock to the community.

"The project was a great way to explore the intersections of architectural study for historic preservation methods, and how documentation can support the exploration of oral history and intangible heritage," said Emma Schrantz (M.ARCH, MHP '19 who worked closely with colleagues Kelly Marie Haley (M.ARCH, MHP '19) and Katherine Boyle (MAA, MHP '18) to measure the exterior of the club and produce a 3D computer model. "However, we began with a very skewed set of data that left out perspectives from Baltimore's African American community. Archival research is difficult to conduct due to most history passed through word-of-mouth and through private collections - and the project allowed us to challenge the common notion and perspective of preservation discourse."

Indeed, one of the key discoveries the students made was the fact that the history of African Americans in LGBTQ Baltimore has been almost entirely neglected.

This fact was reflected in the group's investigation of The Hippo, which uncovered that despite the slogan "Where Everyone is Welcome," many female-bodied persons and persons of color did not feel embraced.

In fact, the study notes that "had community engagement come earlier in the process, a more inclusive affirming place for people of all identities in the LGBTQ community would likely have been identified and selected for the case study."

"As in many areas in historic preservation and public history, there tends to be an over-emphasis on dominant classes, such as white people," said Wells. "My students definitely found this to be true in their work. The study that the students produced is likely to be the first time that the African American perspective on LGBTQ heritage (especially as it relates to the built environment) has been documented."

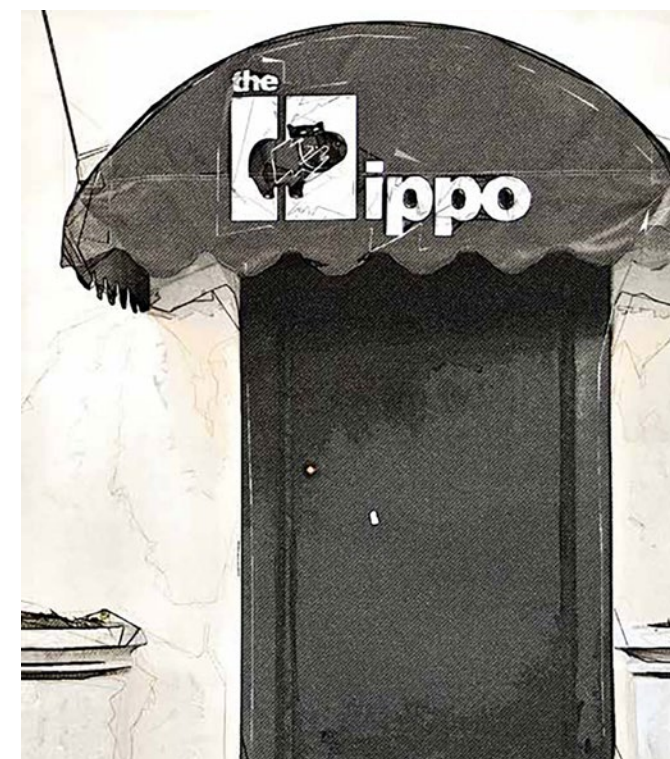
Throughout the project, as students conducted interviews with scholars and stakeholders,

including preservationist Dr. Susan Ferentinos, author of "Interpreting LGBT History at Historic Sites and Museums"; Megan Springate, editor of the National Park Service's study of LGBTQ America; Jabari Lyles, the LGBTQ Affairs Liaison in the Baltimore Mayor's office; and Johns Hopkins University History Ph.D candidate Morris "Mo" Speller, who hosted the students on walking tours of some of Baltimore's LGBTQ neighborhoods.

The students interviewed said the project had a profound impact on them and served as a wake-up call to the importance of documenting America's misplaced histories.

"The stories across different generations were intriguing but also really proved to me that this topic matters and our studio work could help give a voice to a community that is severely forgotten in the preservation world," said Haley. "Our biggest goal was to step away from the academic and intangible side of preservation and really grasp what celebrating and commemorating history means to a community. We all understand that the future of preservation is multi-faceted and is not just another historic museum or case report meant only for the preservationist community."

"The most disappointing part of any heritage project like this," added Ginter, "is seeing how much is gone."



Artistic rendering of The Hippo side entrance. Photo courtesy of: Daniela Tai (M.ARCH, MHP '19).

### A PLACE TO START

A Toolkit for Documenting LGBTQ Heritage in Baltimore City (and Beyond)

View the toolkit at: [www.go.umd.edu/LGBTQ\\_toolkit](http://www.go.umd.edu/LGBTQ_toolkit)

# News at MAPP:

## Projects, Research and Initiatives, 2019-2020

Click on any of the titles to be redirected to the full online story.

### Designing for a Post-Pandemic Future

In April, *Washingtonian* magazine challenged architects across the region to reimagine D.C.'s emblematic spaces—the Metro, the National Mall, the bustling K Street corridor—for life after a global pandemic. Nearly 20 ideas were submitted in the “Washington Coronavirus Design Challenge,” and in August, the magazine shared the best of them—including four from students and faculty at the University of Maryland’s School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. One entry, a National Pandemic Memorial by Douglas Crawford (lecturer), Daquan Proctor '20 and Madison Hamer '21, was modeled after the 23 pairs of chromosomes that comprise the human genome. The subterranean memorial, situated on the edge of the reflecting pool opposite the Lincoln Memorial,

uses water and light to remember “those we have lost to pandemics and the challenges we have overcome.”

### Over 50% of Maryland Municipalities Go Green in 2020 through Sustainable Maryland Program

This past spring, the Town of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, joined over 75 municipalities to enroll in Sustainable Maryland, a statewide “greening” program from the University of Maryland’s Environmental Finance Center (EFC) that provides municipalities with customized roadmaps to become more sustainable, vibrant and healthy. Since 2011, the program has mobilized communities both urban and rural, including the top 10 biggest cities in Maryland and 25 of the 27

*A National Pandemic Memorial* by Douglas Crawford (lecturer), Daquan Proctor '20 and Madison Hamer '21.

municipalities in Prince George’s County, connecting them with funding opportunities, training, expertise and a tight-knit network of peer municipalities. The dozens of “greening” actions municipalities can undertake—from launching a community garden to installing energy-efficient lighting in municipal buildings—create measurable impacts in community energy consumption, water quality, carbon footprint and bottom line. “Becoming a Sustainable Maryland community means that we have an objective ruler by which to measure the impact of our efforts to improve the river we swim in, the air our children breathe, the soil we grow our food in and the buildings our citizens study, shop, live and work in,” said Salisbury Mayor Jacob Day (B.S. Architecture '04).

### Printers Unite! Alumni, Students Re-Purpose 3D Printers to Support Healthcare Workers

Using an NIH-sanctioned blueprint provided by 3D printing company Prusa, MAPP alumni and students joined a growing legion of citizen servants who pivoted their technology this past year to address critical shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE), which continue to plague hospitals and first responders nationwide. “When you have a firm with the wherewithal to pull this off and people willing to do it, well, of course we had to do it,” said Ayers Saint Gross Architect and Associate and alum John Kucia (B.S. Architecture '09, M.ARCH '11).

### “Roving Resources” Help Envision a Community’s Future

The “pop-up” trend aims to deliver temporary assets, from restaurants to retail, to areas that otherwise go without. But could the concept also be used to spark conversations about a community’s future? That was the idea behind a spring undergraduate design studio led by Professor of Architecture Ronit Eisenbach and Neighborhood Design Center program manager Allie O’Neill. The student- and community-driven concept, called mobile resource hubs, took the pop-up concept literally on the road: souped-up vans that travel from block to block and transform into



Amy Duan (M.ARCH, MHP '20) trying on a 3D printed visor.

instant gathering spaces—from mobile internet cafes and community kitchens to playgrounds and libraries—delivering critical resources and connection. Sited in the Maryland community of Greater Riverdale, the hubs were part of a larger effort to engage and support the culturally rich communities nestled along the future tracks of Maryland’s light-rail Purple Line. “When a major project comes to a community, it presents a lot of challenges and uncertainty, but also opportunities that, frankly, can be overwhelming,” said Eisenbach, who is also director of the National Center for Smart Growth’s Creative Placemaking Collaborative. “Placemaking through temporary installations and programming can help anchor a community by highlighting what it has to offer, and test out ideas, setting the stage for long-term transformations.”

“  
Placemaking through temporary installations and programming can help anchor a community by highlighting what it has to offer, and test out ideas, setting the stage for long-term transformations.  
- Ronit Eisenbach  
”



### UMD's Bridging the Gap Studio Awarded Studio Prize by Architect Magazine

Last fall, Bridging the Gap, a collaborative, cross-continental design studio between the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Al-Nahrain University in Iraq, was awarded *Architect Magazine's* 2019 Studio Prize. Launched in 2016 by Professor Madlen Simon with the support of Gensler's Washington, D.C. office, Bridging the Gap uses the shared discipline of architecture to explore commonalities and counter misconceptions among two cultures nearly half a world apart. The cross-continental studio has students "swap cities" to tackle a specific urban challenge with thoughtful design responses, connecting them through social media and web conferencing to bridge culture and distance. *Architect Magazine's* Studio Prize is awarded annually to a select number of university programs that demonstrate excellence in design education through studio courses that stress sustainability and "a capacity to improve society."

### Making the Holodomor Memorial: Context & Questions

In 1932, Joseph Stalin orchestrated a man-made famine in the Ukraine, an act of

oppression that killed over four million people and was hidden from public knowledge for half a century. Known as Holodomor, which in Ukrainian means "hunger by extermination," the event was marked in 2015 with a national memorial designed by Architecture alumna Larysa Kurylas ('80), an ethnic Ukrainian born to immigrant parents. The making of the memorial—and the questions that surround loss, truth and remembrance—was the subject of a spring Kibel Gallery exhibit curated by Ronit Eisenbach called Making the Holodomor Memorial: Context & Questions. Cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, the memorial was digitized in late spring and is available [online](#).

[Read more about Kurylas' journey to building the Holodomor Memorial in this profile.](#)

### UMD's PALS Program Forges Long-Term Partnership with Prince George's, Montgomery Counties

Strategies that combat more frequent and intense flood damage; a dashboard that tracks pedestrian / vehicular accidents in Prince George's County; shifting small-scale production and makerspaces from the industrial park to Main Street; a 17-mile extension to the East Coast Greenway. These are just a few of twenty-six projects for Maryland's two most populous counties—Prince

*Redevelopment of Karrada District* project created for the Bridging the Gap studio. Rendering by Tochi Ohakawa.



George's and Montgomery—developed this past year as part of the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program, to address county priorities in economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Developed by UMD's National Center for Smart Growth, PALS pairs faculty expertise and student ingenuity with sustainability challenges facing Maryland communities. The PALS mission is to provide high quality, low-cost assistance to local governments while creating an active and valuable real-world learning experience for UMD students. Launched in 2014 as a partnership with The City of Frederick, Maryland, PALS has since collaborated with 20 individual communities, counties or departments, ranging from community partnership groups and cities to county and state agencies. The program has engaged nearly 2,200 students and faculty to improve quality of life in the state through site-specific projects. PALS is one of the largest action-learning programs in the country.

The ongoing partnership with Prince George's and Montgomery Counties places UMD students within neighboring communities as citizen practitioners, collaborating with county agencies, regional stakeholders and residents to address enduring sustainability challenges, from creating a resilient corridor along the upcoming Purple Line corridor to safeguarding small businesses and stormwater management

structures. The innovative ideas that emerge from fresh eyes are a boon to the counties, while the opportunity to work on real-world challenges exposes students to ideas, issues and communities they are not afforded in a classroom.

"Prince George's and Montgomery Counties are amazing partners with a range of interests and projects that will keep our students busy for years to come," says Kimberly Fisher, director of the PALS program. "Their willingness to work with students to tackle sustainability projects that are critical to their citizens and their future, has been really gratifying."

### Heritage Trail Captures African American Past in Prince George's County

Last fall, graduate students from the Historic Preservation Program developed a three-and-a-half-mile heritage trail in Southern Prince George's County to capture the places and significant history that shaped the state's first African American resort towns. Developed with the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability, the tour is grounded in four overarching themes—education, tobacco's role in Reconstruction, religion and resort

*Making the Holodomor Memorial: Context & Questions* Kibel Gallery exhibition. Photo courtesy of: Jelena Dakovic.



Interim Dean Donald Linebaugh working with artifacts from the Kippax Plantation Archaeological Site. Photo courtesy of: Jelena Dakovic.

towns—leveraging oral histories, archives, site exploration and historic photographs to guide users through the region’s rich heritage. More importantly, the student research shed light on historic events and stories central to the American story. “It’s uncovered so much; things we never knew,” said Linda Garoute, chief executive officer of the Cedar Haven Civic Association, who can trace her lineage in the area back two centuries. “The student work was a godsend. They really got down to the heart and soul of this place and made our history come alive. It’s expanded our sense of place, and we want other people to experience that too.” The project was honored in March by Maryland’s Sustainable Growth Commission with a Sustainable Growth Challenge Award.

an ongoing project for Maryland’s Historic Preservation Program for over 15 years and has introduced the processes and techniques of archeological preservation to dozens of graduate students. Linebaugh’s extensive work has unearthed a number of structures and artifacts, shedding light on the trade history between Native Americans and early European settlers, as well as the existence of African American slaves during that time.

### EDA Center to Provide On-the-Ground Assistance to Maryland Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19

A \$300,000 grant was awarded to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, University Center at the University of Maryland, College Park and Morgan State University (UMD-Morgan EDA Center) in July to help Maryland small businesses respond to the devastating economic impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. The grant will fund three interrelated activities targeting the urgent challenges currently facing small businesses: Purple Line Small Business support, an innovation and entrepreneurship incubator and further work with small businesses in Baltimore.

### Chesapeake Cultural Studies Grant Funds Ongoing Archeological Work in Virginia

A new grant from The Conservation Fund will support completion of the documentation and study of the Kippax Plantation Archaeological Site, an ongoing archaeological project led by Professor and Interim Dean Donald Linebaugh. A protected 17th-century plantation that was once home to Colonel Robert Bolling and his wife, Jane Rolfe, the granddaughter of Pocahontas and John Rolfe, Kippax has been

Click on any of the titles to be redirected to the full online story.

### Study Examines What Factors Influence a Building Retrofit’s Success

New research from Assistant Professor Ming Hu and David Milner (B.S. Architecture ’20) indicates that compact buildings in a mild climate that are renovated within a specific construction cost range have a higher likelihood of achieving a net-zero energy goal. These findings, the researchers say, could help stakeholders better consider a building’s characteristics when creating a building energy retrofit plan. Using actual, real-world building performance data, the team hopes future research and practice will turn to data analytics to better understand best tactics for energy renovations.

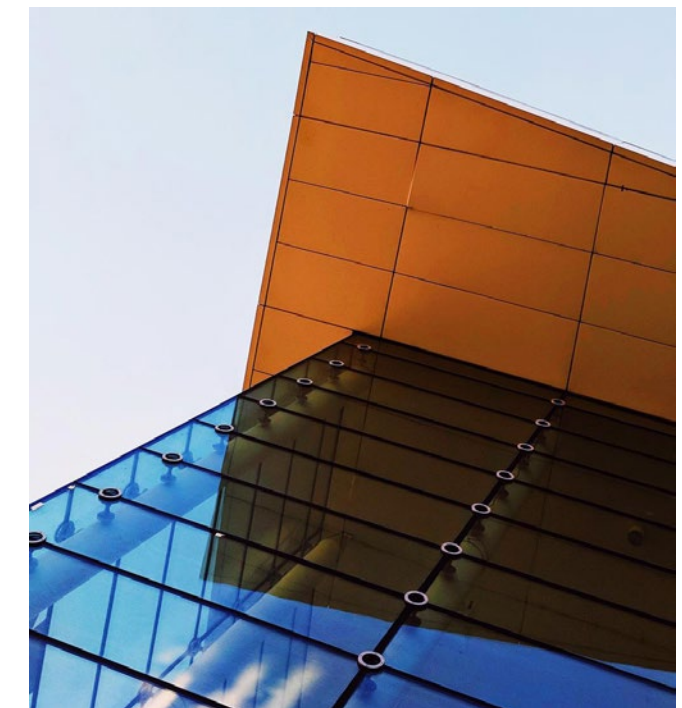
recounts the fitful, improvised construction of the Romanesque Cathedral of Molfetta in Apulia, a region in southern Italy, during the Middle Ages, and offers a case study on an adaptive design approach that allowed builders to respond to the sporadic funding conditions of the time. According to Williams, it is a technique that could also inform today’s approach to design in a rapidly changing modern world.

### Creating a Net-Zero Campus

A two-year study led by Assistant Professor Ming Hu, Professor Emeritus Ralph Bennett and Associate Professor Hiroyuki Iseki tasked students to develop plans for retrofitting

### Hendricks to Analyze Disaster-Induced Contaminants in Vulnerable Communities

A new, three-year study led by Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Marccus Hendricks, Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sacoby Wilson and colleagues at Duke University will analyze the impact of environmental contaminant exposures associated with natural disasters, particularly in vulnerable communities. Funded by an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the project will produce a modular tool to evaluate contaminant risk under a variety of disaster scenarios and offer a framework for building community resilience and readiness.



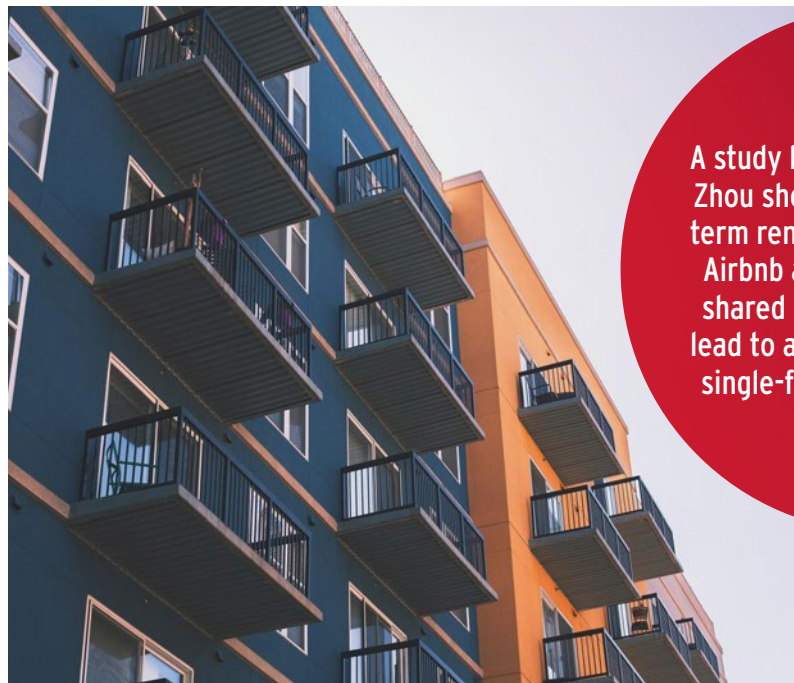
Galleria Arad building in, Arad, Romania. Photo courtesy of: Nick Nice, Unsplash.

three buildings on campus—including the Architecture Building—into energy-efficient, sustainable campus models. Working in collaboration UMD’s Facilities Management, the project outlined specific recommendations for helping the existing buildings achieve net-zero energy. The study also investigated the introduction of electric vehicle charging into building infrastructure grids.

### Ad-Hoc Architecture: Could the Building Practices of the 11th Century Influence Modern-Day Design?

In *Architecture of Disjuncture: Mediterranean Trade and Cathedral Building in a New Diocese* (11th - 13th Centuries), released this summer, Assistant Professor Joseph Williams





A study by PhD candidate Frank Zhou shows that prolific short-term rentals, from services like Airbnb and VRBO through the shared housing economy, can lead to a 2% to 8% increase in single-family property prices.

Photo courtesy of: Brandon Griggs, Unsplash.

### Is Airbnb Quashing the Dreams of First-time Homebuyers?

A study of Washington, D.C.'s short-term rental market by PhD candidate Zhenpeng (Frank) Zou suggests that prolific short-term rentals, from services like Airbnb and VRBO through the shared housing economy can lead to a 2% to 8% increase in single-family property prices. Using three years of short-term rental data and property sales records, Zou found value inflation that can create distinct barriers for first-time home buyers in tourist-heavy neighborhoods, but also in more diverse neighborhoods like Shaw and Columbia Heights. Legislation that sets specific rules of engagement—like a new bill passed by D.C. last fall—could potentially provide safeguards for renters and those looking to buy a home.

and lack of tenants' rights are major factors contributing to the health and safety issues in multifamily housing in parts of Prince George's County. *Housing Matters: Ensuring Quality, Safe, and Healthy Housing in Langley Park, Maryland*, sheds light on the aging, often neglected affordable housing stock prevalent in inner-ring suburbs and the critical need for housing investments to protect the health and safety of residents. With a focus on Langley Park, a predominately Latino immigrant neighborhood in Prince George's County just two miles from College Park, the report calls for improved housing code regulations, resources and enforcement as well as safeguards for tenants.



### Housing Report Sheds Light on Housing Conditions for the Region's Vulnerable

A report co-authored by Associate Professor Willow Lung-Amam and CASA, the leading immigrant's rights organization in the Mid-Atlantic region, reveals that lax housing code enforcement, limited county resources



# NUEVA ACEQUIA

## UMD For the Win! Maryland Students Bring Home Top Honors in 2019-2020

### First Place: Timber in the City, 2019

Aperture, the mixed-use public asset that transformed a vacant waterfront lot in Queens, New York, took first place at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture third annual Timber in the City Competition in July 2019. Constructed with a variety of wood materials, the inventive design created by graduate students Eric Bos and Trevor Wood, and guided by Professor of the Practice Peter Noonan, envisioned a mix of housing and wellness amenities situated along a dense waterfront promenade.

### First Place: HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition 2019

A mixed-use housing and retail development for low- and moderate-income residents in San Antonio, Texas, earned an interdisciplinary team of MAPP graduate students first place and \$20,000 at HUD's 2019 Innovation in

Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition. Brooklyn Bend beat out over 70 projects from some of the top university programs in the country, turning judges' heads with a high-density, village-like development. Team UMD 2019 was: Cassandra Huntington (M.ARCH, MRED '19), Lauren Stamm (M.C.P. '19); Andrew Mazer (M.ARCH); and Nyasha Mandima (MRED '19). The team's advisors were Maria Day-Marshall, director of UMD's Real Estate Development Program and Rob McClennan, AIA, managing director in the DC office of ZDS Architecture & Interiors and UMD adjunct professor.

### Second Place: HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition 2020

The University of Maryland's net-positive, affordable housing project with a defined community focus took second place in the seventh annual HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition (IAH) 2020. The interdisciplinary team of real estate, planning, historic

Photo caption: The Santa Fe, New Mexico-based project, *Nueva Acequia*, placed UMD's Team second in the 2020 HUD Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition.



Real Estate Development Program students on a site visit.

preservation and architecture graduate students behind the Santa Fe, New Mexico-based project, called Nueva Acequia, deftly addressed the significant need for affordable housing and the city's desire for high-density development by presenting an ambitious, 200-plus unit plan, one of the highest in the competition. The team initially beat out 32 teams from some of the finest and most prestigious graduate-level programs in the United States to gain a coveted finalist slot. Team UMD 2020 was: Maggie Curran (Team Leader, M.C.P. '20), Shayne Piltz (M.ARCH, M.C.P.), Tochi Chimaobi Ohakawa (M.ARCH, MRED), Sam Bohmfalk (M.H.P, MRED) and Andrew Walker (M.ARCH, MRED). Maria Day-Marshall, director of the Real Estate Development Program and Rob McClennan, AIA, managing director in the DC office of ZDS Architecture & Interiors and UMD adjunct professor were the team's advisors.

### Award-winning Planning Project Balances Housing Need with Conservation

For many counties in Maryland, managing the growing need for new housing—without jeopardizing existing forestry, farmland and

environmental assets—is a complex challenge. A year-long interdisciplinary project, led by graduate students in the Urban Studies and Planning Program, worked with one growth-limited county—Harford, north of Baltimore City—to devise a framework for sustainable, strategic growth. Conducted as part of UMD's Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program, students worked with county stakeholders to leverage the selective transfer of development rights, a market-based plan that allows the county to develop more densely in some areas while preserving and protecting more environmentally sensitive areas and features, balancing the beloved rural character of the county while potentially adding 8,000 to 20,000 new homes. The students' report took second place in the American Planning Association's 2020 Student Project Awards and was also recognized last fall by the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association as the most outstanding student project of 2019, where judges cited it as a possible prototype for other counties in the region. In March, the team was awarded a Sustainable Growth Challenge Award by Maryland's Sustainable Growth Commission.

*Click on any of the titles to be redirected to the full online story.*

## UMD Launches First Undergraduate Real Estate Development Program

The University of Maryland will launch a bachelor's degree program in real estate development in Fall 2021, a long-awaited addition to its acclaimed interdisciplinary graduate program in real estate development and popular undergraduate minor. "Real Estate and the Built Environment" will weave practical knowledge of the field, including urban planning and architecture, into a traditional finance-based curriculum. It will be one of just a handful of undergraduate real estate programs in the country administered outside of a business school.

The new major will prepare students to enter the real estate development industry with broader concepts of sustainable, community-focused investment—elements that Professor Donald Linebaugh, interim dean of MAPP, said are critical in creating responsible impact in 21st-century communities.

"The complex societal challenges we face today require a much wider lens," Linebaugh said. "As a school, we have committed to research and teaching that integrates the different disciplines we offer to collaboratively address these significant challenges. This new interdisciplinary program is a major step in realizing that goal."

Students in the program will balance coursework in finance, economics, business and construction management with courses in allied disciplines such as preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, history, public policy and urban planning for a deeper understanding of the role real estate development plays in creating sustainable places. Elective courses will allow students to build on their core academic work and pursue interests such as community planning or urban design.

"Real estate development should encompass a more holistic approach in process," said Real Estate Development Program Director Maria Day-Marshall. "It's not just about finance, although that's important; developers need to understand zoning and entitlements; the historic context of the site; or the



The complex societal challenges we face today require a much wider lens. As a school, we have committed to research and teaching that integrates the different disciplines we offer to collaboratively address these significant challenges.

This new interdisciplinary program is a major step in realizing that goal.

—INTERIM DEAN DONALD LINEBAUGH



environmental impact of a new building or redevelopment to realize a successful project."

The new program was developed over the past two years after an overwhelming response to a real estate minor program launched in 2015 that now has roughly 180 enrolled students. Meanwhile, a real estate club developed by undergraduate students in 2018 has about 40 members.

"Real estate is a career field that will never go away," said Casey Alvarado, a junior minoring in real estate and working part-time as a lease consultant for Cushman and Wakefield. "It goes hand-in-hand with so many other disciplines. There is definitely a business side to it, but having some knowledge of urban planning or sustainable design are skills that really help you in the profession."

Industry demand, according to Day-Marshall, also supported the argument for launching the program; a feasibility study identified a significant need for emerging professionals in the real estate development industry, particularly those who have a broad knowledge of the built environment.

"Traditionally, people get into the real estate development industry and do their learning on the job," Day-Marshall said. "We believe that there are a whole host of jobs out there that are available for students that have education in real estate development, but that demand is not being met in this area."

# Alumni Profile: Dan Reed

The simplest way for Dan Reed (B.S. Architecture, B.A. English '09) to answer D.C.'s most-asked question, "What do you do?" is: "I wear many hats."

Indeed, he does. For his "day job," Reed is an urban planner with Toole Design Group in Silver Spring. He is a licensed realtor, working since 2016 with his family's boutique real estate firm, Living in Style Real Estate. He is also a freelance writer for local publications including *Washingtonian* Magazine and *Greater Greater Washington*, which focuses predominately on transportation issues. To residents of East Montgomery County, Reed is a tireless community advocate and go-to source of local information via his popular blog, *Just Up the Pike*. Reed is a regular guest on the *Kojo Nnamdi Show*. He has been an advocate for the building of the Purple Line since he was a teenager. He hopes to one day own an ice cream parlor.

"I tend to collect jobs," he said.

Reed received his bachelor's in Architecture and English in 2009.

"I loved (the University of) Maryland because it was big enough that I could put my finger in a whole bunch of pies and, at the same time, the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation was small enough that I sort of considered that my home," he said.

He left that home in 2009, graduating into the Great Recession.

"Like a lot of folks in my cohort, it forced me to be really resourceful and flexible in constructing the career and constructing a life," he said. "And with that comes the ability to see things from multiple perspectives and to blend different disciplines together."

Although he did not end up pursuing a career in architecture, Reed said he frequently hears back to something program director Brian Kelly said: "No matter what you were going to do out in the world, you are going to approach it like an architect."

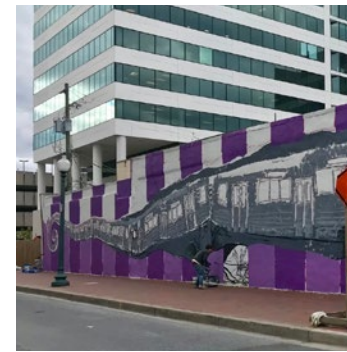
Approaching it like an architect, Reed explained, means being open to criticism and accepting multiple drafts and concepts as an idea is developed. The studio process of being an architecture student, as well as the workshop process of being an English student, helped strengthen him as a professional.

Part of Reed's overarching goal is to make information that might be full of jargon accessible and engaging to people who don't have a background in architecture—or planning or real estate—to be able to talk to his community about why certain streets are built certain ways, why certain housing types are common or why certain design choices were made.

"I see both (architecture and English) as different forms of communication and sharing ideas. A lot of the work I do is about breaking down design ideas for people and helping to explain some of the phenomena that we see in the built environment around us."

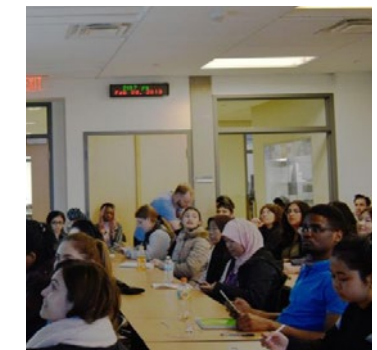
Reed has spent most of his life in the area, and has seen Montgomery and Prince George's Counties change over the years. A spark was kindled, however, during the 90-minute, two-bus commutes from College Park to Bethesda when he was a college intern at an architecture firm.

"One morning, the bus didn't come because a bridge had washed out due to a rainstorm. It got me thinking about all the sort of broken connections—mental, emotional, physical—between



Left: An in progress mural depicting a 'train-chameleon' hybrid. Photo courtesy of: Dan Reed.

Right: Dan Reed speaks to Montgomery College students about urban planning issues. Photo courtesy of: Rachel Taylor.



Left: Bicyclists on Woodglan Drive in White Flint. Photo courtesy of: Dan Reed.

the sort of more wealthy prosperous side of Montgomery County and communities like Silver Spring, where I had grown up, that were much more diverse and experiencing a lot of change but hadn't always gotten to participate."

Those thoughts evolved into Reed's blog, *Just Up the Pike*, further fueled his activism for the Purple Line and for his neighborhood, and illustrated for him the value of intersection and connectivity.

"Everything is connected," he said. "Transportation, housing, social equity, the economy, education—all of these things are very closely intertwined and what we do with one thing ends up affecting all the other things. Each of these conversations often happens in their own

silos and rarely do they get brought up in the same conversation. That was one thing I wanted to do with my work."



Everything is connected... transportation, housing, social equity, the economy, education, all of these things are very closely intertwined and what we do with one thing ends up affecting all the other things. -DAN REED



# Alumni Profile: Ian Kelly

You might say real estate development is in Ian Kelly's DNA.

"I think my grandfather approached me (about joining his company) when I was in my early 20s," said Kelly (MRED '16).

Kelly's grandfather was the late Albert W. Turner who, in 1953, incorporated and served as the first mayor of New Carrollton, Maryland. The elder Turner founded Carrollton Enterprises (CE) in 1957 to develop planned communities with neighborhood shopping centers that would support local economic development and growth. "CE's mission is to provide solid, neighborhood necessity retail centers within Prince George's County," said Kelly. "We want the tenant mix in our shopping centers to provide goods and services that support the community."

Today, Carrollton Enterprises owns eight shopping centers in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Kelly joined Carrollton Enterprises in 1999 as a leasing associate. "The day-to-day was maintaining the current tenant mix and trying to attract new tenants to fill the empty spaces, although I dealt with the national tenants as well," he said. "I enjoy dealing with the local mom-and-pop type tenants; some have leased space in our centers for 20, 30, 40 years."

He was 23—"young and active and ready to prove myself," he said—working alongside men and women decades older. His mentor was Bill Harrison, the director of leasing, who had been in the business for more than 40 years.

"Bill worked for the landlord but was always thinking of the tenants, and this showed me both sides of the retail leasing business," Kelly said.



I wanted to make sure we [Carrollton Enterprises] incorporated the best practices that were standard in the industry. I wanted to get perspectives from different disciplines. -IAN KELLY



By the time he joined the company, Carrollton Enterprises had been in business for more than 40 years, but Kelly was able to bring a "newer, younger feel and fresh ideas," he said, including introducing email as a company practice. "Emailing was new 20 years ago. Most meetings were face-to-face and weren't as efficient."

Thirteen years into working at the company, Kelly decided, with his grandfather's encouragement, to go back to school to receive his Master in Real Estate Development at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP).

"I wanted to learn as much as I could about real estate development and put that knowledge to work, knowing that I would someday be taking over my grandfather's position within the company," he said. "I wanted to make sure we incorporated the best practices that were standard in the industry. I wanted to get perspectives from different disciplines. What could we be doing differently?"

While he had started his career as the "young buck" of Carrollton Enterprises, when he began his graduate studies at Maryland (he earned a bachelor's degree in Management Studies at University of Maryland University College in 2010), he found he was something of an elder statesman in most classrooms.



Left: Ian Kelly with former Fire Chief Marc Bashoor of Prince George's County and with Glenn Turner, his uncle, at the annual Valor Awards ceremony for firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel.

Right: Ian Kelly



Right: Ian Kelly interacting with Largo Plaza tenants at the National Night Out program. Photographed are officers from Prince George's County as well as members of the Kettering Civic Federation.



"I think it was a benefit to the overall class for me to bring in my work experience," he said.

Still, despite years of real-world experience, Kelly said he was able to acquire new and exciting wisdom during his time at MAPP.

One useful tool he learned about was a right to recapture provision, which allows a landlord to take space back from a tenant if, for instance, there was a plan to redevelop one of Carrollton Enterprise's shopping centers. Learning new and different aspects of a lease, working on financing projects and looking at projects on a 10-year basis were some of the valuable topics approached in class that can be used in this business.

Kelly remains a faithful TERP fan, and said he would like to have the opportunity to mentor rising MRED students.

In March 2019, Albert Turner died, leaving his grandson to carry on his legacy.

"There's definitely more responsibility for me now," Kelly said. "I intend to practice the values he instilled in me in his way of dealing with people both personally and professionally—making sure we're part of the community. My grandfather had a reputation as a man of his word and as a very honest, down-to-earth person. These are the things I try to honor every day."

# Alumni Profile: Sarina Otaibi



It is all about the stories that are embedded in a place. –SARINA OTAIBI



In May, 2018, Sarina Otaibi (MHP '11) stood in the church her great-grandmother attended and married the man she loved.

What makes this story unusual, if not unique, is that Otaibi owns the church—an 1882 structure in Granite Falls, Minnesota, that she has been restoring since 2012.

“There are so many stories that live within its walls,” she said.

Indeed, saving stories is what drives Otaibi, who earned her Master of Historic Preservation in 2011, to want to save structures.

“It is all about the stories that are embedded in a place. It is nice to look at a well-built structure and marvel at its architecture,” she said, “but if you miss the layers of stories that come with that structure, then you may not be able to connect with it. I want to be able to imagine the people and the activities that were happening in and around a particular place.”

The church is seventh on a list of structures Otaibi has worked to restore, though the stories are countless. The first building she worked on was an octagon-shaped house that had belonged to her great aunt.

“That’s where my preservation journey started,” she said. “That’s where I started pulling up carpet and doing small renovation jobs when I was 17.”

That was the year her family moved from Saudi Arabia, where they had lived for 16 years, to her mother’s hometown of Granite Falls. Working alongside her mother, who has always had a love of old houses, gave Otaibi a sense of history.

“I lost my connection to place when I moved away from the Middle East, and I needed a place to call home.”

The sense of Granite Falls as home didn’t come immediately. She was only there a year before she went away to college, to St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and then to Stetson University in Florida to study business administration. During her undergraduate years, she purchased, relocated and began spending her school breaks restoring the Julian Weaver House, an 1878 Italianate home, one of only two Granite Falls structures to earn a spot on the National Register of Historic Places. That solidified her love of historic preservation and propelled her to the master’s program at MAPP, not knowing what would come after.

Otaibi wrote her final project on bridging the gap between preservation and economics in Granite Falls, but her future was still unsure. A conversation with then-professor, now-interim dean Donald Linebaugh helped seal her fate.

“I told Don Linebaugh that I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do—stay in D.C. or go back to Granite Falls. I felt really lost. He looked right at me and said, ‘You need to go to Granite Falls.’ I trusted that he saw something there that I didn’t see.”

Otaibi dove into life in the 3,000-person town, working for an environmental organization and establishing herself as a preservationist. She became an active member of the local community, sitting on the boards of numerous organizations and running a successful write-in campaign to win a seat on the city council, where she served for more than six years. She became a founder of the Bluenose Gopher Public House, a cooperative-model pub that features community events and Minnesota wine and beer. Otaibi calls the Bluenose both her most challenging and most educational project.

“I was thinking about the intersection of economic development and preservation,” she said, “and I had a gut feeling (about the space). Instead of

waiting for someone to open it, I thought about whether it would be possible for a group of community members to open it ourselves. One of the reasons I love small communities is that you have the opportunity to innovate.”

In 2012, Otaibi met the man who would become her husband. “He knew how to use tools, which made him really attractive to me,” she said. They lived together in the church basement and he helped with the restoration. A photo of her great-grandmother hangs in the kitchen. “That’s powerful for me because I know she was in the space I’m preserving.”

Otaibi knows it is not only her family’s stories she is preserving by restoring the church, but those of her neighbors as well. She is exploring her options as to what will become of the space when it is completed—a community performance venue or an artists’ residency space, perhaps.

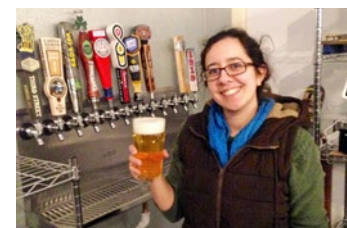
“There are so many stories that live within its walls that you feel more of a responsibility to its community to preserve the building. It is not uncommon for people to stop by and tell me their story of the old church.”

Today, Otaibi is the rural programs manager for the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota. She coordinates networks of people working in their communities to create vibrant downtown areas in Minnesota’s towns and cities. She also leads the organization’s Artists on Main Street project, which explores how the arts can help address some of the challenges affecting Main Street communities.

“I am lucky to work with passionate people who love their community, as I love mine,” she said.

Otaibi and her husband recently moved to Minneapolis, but she travels to Granite Falls frequently to work on her church and to just spend time at home. It is a concept that, once elusive, is now hers to possess.

“I finally feel like I can call Granite Falls home,” she said. “I didn’t plan on staying. But working on my church, then getting involved with other buildings in town and starting Bluenose embedded me and connected me to that community. When I invest so much of my time toward different places in that community, it’s hard for me to pull away. I learned about my history there.”

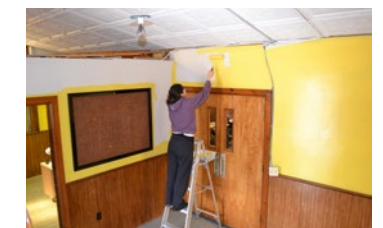


(Left to right): Sarina Otaibi’s first pour at Bluenose Gopher Public House.

Sarina and Tim in front of her church. Photo courtesy: Alike Faythe Hartmann.

(Top): Sarina painting walls in the yellow entry area.

(Bottom): Octagon-shaped Holthouse in winter, built in 1884.



# Alumni Profile: Chris Ryer

Chris Ryer (MCP '86) received a 2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award for Leadership & Service for his dedication to Baltimore City's planning, development and nonprofit communities. The award was presented in 2019 by the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission.

Ryer began his career with the city more than three decades ago, interning with the Baltimore City Department of Planning while pursuing his master's degree. In January 2019, he was named Baltimore City's Director of Planning.

"When I mentor students, I tell them that the internship is the most important part of grad school," Ryer said. "I tell them to go to school and to intern where they want to work."

A third-generation native, Ryer knew Baltimore was where he was meant to be. He spent part of his childhood and young adult years in California, including time earning a bachelor's degree at the University of California, Berkeley, but coming back to the area—and to the University of Maryland—was truly a homecoming.

"I live and work in areas where my grandparents lived and worked," he said. "It wasn't until I moved back to Maryland and discovered the planning program (here) that everything clicked." He lived what is now the Federal Hill neighborhood, walking back and forth to school, taking in the city.

"Baltimore is a city of neighborhoods," Ryer said. "There are 200 or 300 small neighborhoods and a lot of them are very cohesive. The people in those neighborhoods can be very powerful vehicles of change. Baltimore has a very organic side to it."

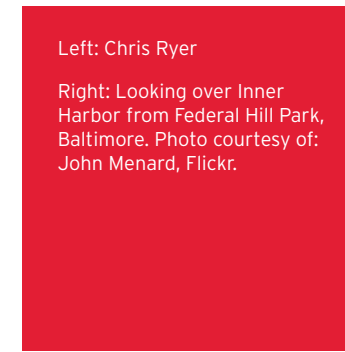
Ryer has spent his career serving the people and the neighborhoods. Following his beginnings as a community planner, he worked in the nonprofit

sector at the Trust for Public Land and as executive director of the Washington/Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council, leading the transformation of an underserved neighborhood, "into a community of choice, while helping hundreds of residents overcome substance abuse, establish a career, and even purchase a home," according to Ryer's LinkedIn profile.

He returned to the Department of Planning in 2002, serving as chief of comprehensive planning and deputy director, then moving back into the nonprofit world as the executive director of the Southeast Baltimore Community Development Corporation. Under Ryer's leadership, multiple neighborhoods in Southeast Baltimore have experienced revitalization. A few highlights of his work from that time include rejuvenating the Eastern Avenue business district, guiding renovation of the historic Northeast Market and spearheading a "live where you work" program to encourage employees of Johns Hopkins University and Hospital to buy homes in Southeast Baltimore.

In January, 2019, when his appointment to the position of director of planning was announced, Ryer told the MAPP Communications Office that one of his top goals was to stimulate investment and improve quality of life in the city's affordable neighborhoods, which he qualified as "middle-neither wealthy nor distressed."

"They tend to be blue collar, with a lower-middle-class component. The trends are often downhill—aging homeowners, aging housing stock. The houses might be too expensive to keep up. The economic base may have changed. The biggest component of household wealth is home value. If the housing value declines, the household wealth declines. Three-quarters of middle neighborhoods in Baltimore are black. Statistically, black households have lower household wealth than white



households. One thing nobody taught us when I was in grad school is that race has had a tremendous effect on real estate values."

Ryer credits Dr. Howell "Howie" Baum, Professor Emeritus of Urban Studies and Planning, with teaching him the value of planning based on the people and the social capital, such as race, rather than the physical planning, a concept that was "radical" at the time.

"It's rewarding to do the work and be involved in the day to day lives of real people," Ryer said. "There's nothing like a legacy city to crystallize the problems and opportunities of urban America. Everything is in Technicolor in a city. The problems are in Technicolor and the good things are in Technicolor."

In addition to working with the people in his neighborhoods, Ryer said one of his goals is to help strengthen the connection between local universities—including the University of Maryland and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation—and the City of Baltimore. Part of the connection between the school and the city



It wasn't until I moved back to Maryland and discovered the planning program (here) that everything clicked. —CHRIS RYER



was lost, he believes, when the program—then called Community Planning and part of the School of Social Work in Baltimore—was absorbed by the School of Architecture and moved to College Park in 1988.

"In some ways, moving to College Park was a shame because we lost [that] connection," he said. "In other cities, the universities often band together with professional associations and act sort of as a think tank. It's a way to float alternative policies. I would like to see (local) universities collaborate with city and heritage groups. I would like to reconnect the school to Baltimore. That's my goal."

# Alumni News

**Jeffrey M. White, Architect DPC (B.ARCH '75)** has had a practice in New York State for the past 40 years. Their work is best seen on their web site [www.jeffreymwhitearchitect.com](http://www.jeffreymwhitearchitect.com), which is orchestrated by his son, a graduate of the Northeastern School of Architecture.

**Joseph Brancato, FAIA (B.ARCH, B.S. Urban Studies '80)**, was elevated to the College of Fellows at the American Institute of Architects in 2019.

**Carl Elefante, FAIA (B.ARCH '80)** retired from Quinn Evans in September 2019 after an accomplished 47-year career. He will serve as principal emeritus and continue to consult on selected design initiatives, including the firm's ongoing work to preserve and restore the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Larysa Kurylas (B.ARCH '80)** received a Fulbright Scholars Grant to study in the Ukraine. The grant will allow Kurylas to survey memorials throughout Ukraine to identify design trends for her project, "Thirty Years of Memorialization in Independent Ukraine."

**Earl L. Purdue, AIA, LEED AP (B.S. Architecture '83)** was promoted to Vice President at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Timothy Newton (B.S. Architecture '84)** received a Morgan County Volunteer of the Year Award for his dedication to Wind Dance Farm, a 20-acre farm constructed from oak trees felled by a 2012 storm in Morgan County, West Virginia, that hosts outdoor and environmental education programs for schools and camps. "Many times, since graduating in 1984, I have used what I learned at the Maryland School of Architecture for building permits, zoning exceptions, renovation cost analysis and construction implementation," Tim wrote. "This project is the pinnacle of that education."

**Stephen Ayers (B.S. Architecture '85)** was named a 2020 fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 2019, he was awarded the National Institute of Building Sciences highest award, the Mortimer M. Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. It is awarded to someone who has demonstrated a lifetime of dedication to the mission and goals of NIBS.

**Thomas O. Gray, AIA, LEED AP (M.ARCH, Grad Certificate in HISP '93)** is Principal at TOG Architects, LLC, specializing in residential additions, remodels, design/build and light commercial. He also dabbles in real estate development, buying-renovating-selling - single family homes. He is married with two kids 15 and 17, and lives in Pittsburgh and Chautauqua, New York.

**Chris Ryer (MCP '93)**, was awarded the [2019 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award](#) for Leadership & Service to Baltimore City's community development, planning and nonprofit communities.

**Jordan Goldstein, FAIA (B.S. Architecture '94)**, principal and global director of design for Gensler, was elevated to the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) College of Fellows for 2020. He was also named to the AIA College of Fellows in 2019.

**Lawrence Prosen (B.S. Architecture '94)**, partner at Kilpatrick Townsend in Washington, D.C., practices construction litigation on government contracts and public and private/commercial projects including various military and embassy/consular projects for contractors and design/builders in the U.S., Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Larry's recent projects include representing the Republic of Indonesia in the extensive renovation of its historic Consulate Office in Los Angeles, and the developer of a 44-story luxury apartment in the Baltimore Inner Harbor on the old McCormick Spice site. Larry was recently invited to join The Jefferson Society, a group of architect/lawyers around the United States. He is a founding Fellow of the Construction Lawyer's Society of America and founding Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Construction Arbitration and ADR published by Juris Publications.

**Christy Schlesinger (B.S. Architecture '95)** is Associate Principal at Perkins Eastman, Washington, D.C.

**Stefan Zastawski, RA, NCARB (B.S. Architecture '93, M.ARCH, HISP Certificate '95)** joined Quinn Evans Architects in 2019 as a senior architect. Zastawski has 25 years of design and project management experience in the Mid-Atlantic, with numerous projects completed for the Architect of the Capitol, the National Park Service, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the Smithsonian Institution.

[Solid Ground](#), a project co-developed by 2019 Kea Professor and ARCH alum **Pablo Güiraldes (M.ARCH '98)** as part of his volunteer work for the nonprofit Vivienda Digna (the Dignified Housing Foundation in Buenos Aires) earned the top award in the National Argentina Solidarity Architecture Competition of the SCA and CPAU.

**Heather Lech, AIA (M.ARCH '98)** was promoted to Product Manager for Autodesk FormIt in 2019.

In June 2020, **Jeffrey Jay Osmond (M.ARCH '97, MCP '98)** began his 33rd year of service to the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Civil Engineer Corps Commander assigned to the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command. Jeff was appointed to the council for the Town of Berwyn Heights and served from February 2019 to July 2020. During the pandemic he is writing a book on power in society, liberty, civic engagement heightened civility and citizenship. His wife of 19 years, Fatou, works in UMD's Office of the Comptroller and they have two sons.

**Gerrod Winston (B.S. Architecture '95, M.ARCH '98)** is the founder principal and owner of Winston Design + Development, a Pittsburgh-based architectural design and real estate development firm. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture.

**Tom Jester, FAIA (M.ARCH '99)** principal at Quinn Evans, was elevated to the College of Fellows at the American Institute of Architects in 2019.

**Ivette Mongalo-Winston (B.S. Architecture '99)** is the founder of a consulting practice focused on urban design, community engagement, planning and facilitation. Mongalo-Winston Consulting is rooted in the desire to make Pittsburgh, and all the communities she works in, a better place to live for all. Learn more at [www.mongalo-winston.com](http://www.mongalo-winston.com).



Grid Architects, founded by **Brian Grieb, AIA NCARB, LEED BD+C (B.S. Architecture '99, M.ARCH '01)** and **Alick Dearie AIA NCARB, LEED BD+C (B.S. Architecture '99, M.ARCH '04)**, celebrated its 5-year anniversary with three 2019 Award-Winning projects as cited by AIA MD + AIA Chesapeake Bay, including Spa Creek House, above.

**Jeff La Noue (MCP '99)** is leading the Baltimore Green Network Corridor Plan through the Baltimore City Planning Department. The plan identifies a citywide path network that will connect medium and large parks in the city as well as the city shoreline with paths for walking, bicycling, running, strolling and scooting. The first project is a partnership with Rails to Trails and is endorsed by the Greater Washington Partnership to build a 30-mile trail "beltway" within the city limits for both recreation and transportation. Contact him at [jeff.lanou@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:jeff.lanou@baltimorecity.gov).

**Emma Chang, AIA (B.S. Architecture '96, M.ARCH '00)**, design director and principal at Gensler Beijing, was awarded the "2019 China Designer of the Year" at this year's China Design Annual Conference on August 29, 2020. The award is the only official design award bestowed by the Chinese government. Chang has over 15 years of architecture and planning experience, specializing in holistically designed workplaces and public spaces, corporate campuses and commercial office buildings, and was instrumental in establishing Gensler's presence in China.

**Allison Fitzgibbon Ladd (MCP '01)** has been named Deputy Mayor for the City of Newark, New Jersey; she was named the city's director of economic and housing development in 2019.

**Valerie (Walter) Culiner (B.S. Architecture '03)** is an administrative services coordinator at Mode Transportation in Ivyland, Pennsylvania.

**Elizabeth (Holler) Dang, AICP (MCP '04)** was appointed as planning division manager for the City of Orlando, Florida.

**Noah Harburger (M.ARCH '04)** was promoted to senior associate, building technology at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Silvia (Carroll) Hasty (B.S. Architecture '04)** was promoted to senior associate, interiors at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Ethan Marchant, AIA, LEED AP (B.S. Architecture, '04; M.ARCH '06)** was promoted to senior associate at Quinn Evans in Baltimore.

**Najahyia Chinchilla, AIA (M.ARCH '07)**, an Associate Architect, Project Manager at Gensler Detroit, received the 2018 AIA Detroit Young Architect Award. She also won the Associate of the Year honor and is currently serving as vice president/2021 president elect for the organization.

**Brittany Williams (B.S. Architecture '05, M.ARCH '07)** was a juror for the Architecture Contest at Solar Decathlon Europe in 2019. She was promoted to clinical assistant professor of architecture at UMD in 2020.

**Michael Fischer (B.S. Architecture '05, M.ARCH '08)** is a senior designer with Fielding International having experience working on a variety of educational facilities both in the United States and throughout the world. Michael also serves as an architectural consultant for the Real Estate Development Program at UMD, assisting graduate students with development of their thesis projects.

**Farzam Yazdanseta, AIA NCARB (M.ARCH '08)** is Assistant Chairperson of Undergraduate Architecture at Pratt Institute in New York City. He is also founder and principal of FYA: Farzam Yazdanseta Architecture PLLC, based in Brooklyn.

**Maureen Vosmek (M.ARCH, MHP '08)**, designer and preservation specialist, has been promoted to associate at Quinn Evans in Washington, D.C. She has contributed to numerous cultural and higher education projects, including the modernization of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. She is a Fitwel Ambassador.

**Matt Bowling (MHP '09)** was selected as one of five authors in The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's "The Place Database Contest 2019." Bowling used the database map to convey information about the urban growth in the Buffalo-Niagara region.

**Richard A. Lawrence, Jr. (MCP '10)**, special assistant to the city manager for the City of Alexandria, Virginia, was named to the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 for 2019 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. He helps to implement citywide policy initiatives, which have included the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Waterfront Plan and the Oakville Triangle & Route 1 Corridor Plan, and serves as president of the Alexandria Metropolitan Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA).

**Adam LaRusso (B.S. Architecture '09, M.ARCH '11)** is a senior designer with Fielding International. Recent projects include two elementary schools with the Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, Colorado, and the development of visioning and a master plan for the Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic School System as an educational design consultant. Adam has traveled extensively, studying



abroad in Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Italy. Adam also spends some of his spare time volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and teaching middle school students about architecture.

**Yukari Yamahiro (B.S. Architecture '11)** is currently a senior strategist for Frog Design in New York, focusing on organizational design. Her projects range from digital, physical, to service design that helps catalyze innovation. She is also a World Economic Forum Global Shaper and lead a project that tackles loneliness throughout New York City. She recently got married and adopted a new dog, Butter.

**Ahmed Zaman, AIA (B.S. Architecture '09, M.ARCH '11)** is an Associate at Perkins Eastman in Washington, D.C.

**Andrew Bernish (MCP '12)** earned a Special Achievement in GIS Award from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in July 2019. Bernish was recognized for his work with the Maryland Department of Transportation for bringing accessibility and innovative design to his GIS analyses and cartographic productions.

**Linda Clark, AIA, IIDA, NCIDQ, WELL AP (M.ARCH '12)**, an architect/interior designer for Grimm + Parker, recently became WELL AP credentialed, Grimm + Parker's first. In a statement by the firm, Linda "is helping us expand our expertise into green building and operation certifications for our clients."

**Justin A. Cullen (M.ARCH '12)** and **Kiley Wilfong Cullen (M.ARCH '12)** founded Ven Studio LLC in 2017. Their backgrounds in multi-family residential housing, construction and BIM has fortified their work in single-family residential new construction and renovations and commercial construction.



**Jason Abramowitz (B.S. Architecture '17)** was a positive, determined figure at MAPP during his undergraduate years, and was commencement speaker in 2017. Jason passed away in the summer of 2019. [Read more about Jason's legacy.](#)

**David Gavin, AIA, (M.ARCH '12)** has been promoted to associate at Quinn Evans in Baltimore. He is a credentialed Certified Passive House Consultant (CPHC).

**Jason Hesch (MCP '12)** is working as a mapping technician for Bhi Energy in Miami, Florida. He is almost finished writing a novel, titled Dear Colleague, about an intern finding herself while living and working on Capitol Hill. He hopes to have the book, which is based on his experiences as a D.C. intern, published soon.

**Niu Yi (Ph.D. '12)** earned the 2020 Nijkamp Award Given from the Regional Science Association International, which recognizes the outstanding potential of a mid-career researcher from a nation in the developing world where there is a formal Section of RSAI. The organization seeks to encourage the development of the early career scholar as a high-quality researcher in the field of Regional Science and as a participant in the international Regional Science community.

Senior Associate at Ayers Saint Gross **Amber Wendland (B.S. Architecture '10, M.ARCH, MCP '13)** has been appointed to the Neighborhood Design Center's Board of Directors.

**Kristen Fox (M.ARCH, MHP '14)** joined the National Park Service in August as architect and project manager. She serves national parks, preserves, battlefields and historic sites in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming. She is also president-elect of AIA Santa Fe.

**Lucy Moore, AIA, LEED AP BD+C (M.ARCH, MHP '14)**, project architect and historic preservation specialist, has been promoted to associate at Quinn Evans in Washington, D.C. She has designed numerous historic preservation and modernization projects in the civic, cultural and higher education realms, and is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI) and DOCOMOMO.

**Carolina Uechi (B.S. Architecture '10, M.RED '12, M.ARCH '14)** has been promoted to associate at Quinn Evans in Washington, D.C. She has contributed to many of the firm's high-profile projects for the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

**Ashley Grzywa (M.ARCH '15)** joined the firm of Lake | Flato in Austin, Texas, as a project designer. Since graduating from the M.ARCH program, she worked for Bonstra | Haresign ARCHITECTS and served as a member and co-chair of the AIA | DC Design + Wellbeing Committee. Ashley writes: "I have enjoyed the opportunity to remain connected to MAPP as a guest critic for studio reviews and through other alumni events. I am grateful for all of the doors MAPP opened for me during my time here and I look forward to staying in touch during the next chapter in my journey!"

URSP alum and UMD alumni ambassador **Matt Jones (MCP '15)** was named to the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) [TDM 40 Under 40](#) list. Matt is currently the Hospitality Client Services Manager for [goDCgo](#), the District Department of Transportation's TDM program operated by Foursquare ITP.

**David Leestma, AIA, (B.S. Architecture '13, M.ARCH '15)** joined Quinn Evans Architects in 2019 a project architect. He has several years of experience in the Washington metropolitan area, including work on several mixed-use, multifamily residential and adaptive use projects.

**Gabriel Maslen (B.S. Architecture '15)** began a graduate program in Architecture and Urban Design at Politecnico di Milano in Italy in fall 2019. His projected graduation date is 2021

**Betsy Nolen Petrusic (B.S. Architecture '13, M.ARCH '15)** has been promoted to associate at Fentress Architects in Washington, D.C.

**Taylor Cooper (RDEV Certificate '13, M.RED '16)** is a development associate at The Excelsior Group in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is leveraging her background in architecture and commercial banking operations to develop projects that satisfy investors while uplifting people from all walks of life, and believes that affordable housing can and should be considered in every equation.

**Kevin Fitzgerald (MRED '16)** is a senior development risk manager at Enterprise Community Investment. He works on affordable housing development all over the country, with particular involvement in the pre-construction and construction of projects. The work allows him to apply both his knowledge from the MRED degree and his experience as a licensed architect. In his spare time, Fitzgerald volunteers as a board member for the Columbia Town Center Community Association, an organization representing residents of Columbia, Maryland, on local issues including real estate development. Kevin encourages fellow alumni to seek volunteer opportunities that suit their knowledge and interests.

**Rusty Holstine (M.ARCH '16)** was promoted to associate, building technology at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Varsha Iyengar (B.S. Architecture '16)** received her Master's in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati in May 2019. She is currently employed as an architectural designer with Rafael Viñoly Architects in New York. Varsha writes, "I could not have made it this far without UMD's Architecture program!"

**Elisabeth Walker Doughty (MCP '17)** and her husband are excited to announce the arrival of their daughter Zoe in June 2019. The whole family, Elisabeth writes, "is happy, healthy, and grateful for this new adventure."

**Jae Sik Jeon (Ph.D. '17)** was recently made an assistant professor at the School of Real Estate Studies at Konkuk University in Seoul, Korea. Most recently, Jae was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California-Berkeley's Urban Displacement Project.

**Naka Matsumoto (Ph.D. '17)** published "Social Relationships in Diverse Neighborhoods: Immigration and Gentrification in an Ethnic Enclave," an article based on her doctoral thesis work in Baltimore's Greektown, in a 2020 issue of the [\*Journal of Planning Education and Research\*](#).

**Stephen Pasquerello (B.S. Architecture '15, M.ARCH '17)** was promoted to associate, building technology at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Wadiah Akbar (B.S. Architecture '16, M.ARCH '18)** has been promoted to designer at Quinn Evans, Baltimore office.

**Bryan Asson (M.ARCH '18)** joined Quinn Evans Architects in Washington, D.C. in 2019 as a staff designer.

**Gina Fernandes (M.ARCH '18)** was promoted to associate, building technology at Ayers Saint Gross in August.

**Sara Ghafar-Samar (M.ARCH '19)** was awarded the 2020 CNU Student Charter Award from the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) for a community-centered vision for the Hispanic community of Langley Park, Maryland. "Connecting Crossroad; Imagining an Equitable Future for Langley Park & The International Corridor," which was Ghafar-Samar's final thesis project last December, was selected from over 50 submissions and was the CNU's sole student award this year.

**Lidia "Ty" Ginter (MHP '19)**, along with anthropology Ph.D. alum Megan Springate and co-contributors, took the 2020 Center for Historic Preservation Book Prize for their examination of preservation by and of LGBTQ communities in the United States. The prize is awarded annually by the University of Maryland's College of Arts and Sciences. Ty was recently named a 40 under 40 by #Dismantlepreservation and is the newest Historic Preservation Specialist at Atlantic Refinishing and Restoration Inc.

**Anastasiya Volkova (B.S. Architecture '19)** joined the Quinn Evans Baltimore office in 2019 as a staff designer.

**Malik Johnson-Williams (M.ARCH '19)**, Associate AIA, was honored with the AIA Potomac Valley Emerging Leader Award in 2019. As a student, Malik made an incredible impact on the MAPP community, resurrecting the UMD Chapter of NOMAS and leading Team Maryland to victory at the 2017 U.S. DOE Solar Decathlon. He is currently architectural designer at Page Southerland Page, where he creates meaningful spaces, and continues to promote diversity in the profession as a NOMAS university liaison.

**Jinyhup Kim (Ph.D. '20)** joined the construction economy and industry research division at the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) as an associate research fellow this past summer. KRIHS is committed to enhancing the quality of life and well-being of the Korean people through spatial planning studies and policy advice. Kim has been involved with a policy research project that encourages small- and medium-sized enterprises to take advantage of overseas infrastructure and urban development opportunities.



# Exhibits & Events

Above: The top portion of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of: Anice Hoachlander.

## Current/Upcoming Events

Click on any of the titles to be redirected to the full online exhibition and event.

### **THE END/2020** *Spring 2021*

The exhibition “THE END/2020” will encompass the experience of living the year 2020 through art and information. It will thematically guide the audience through each event of 2020. These pieces will be created by students and other artists, giving them an opportunity to express themselves and display their work.

### **Making the Holodomor Memorial** *Feb 12, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020*

This exhibition commemorating the Holodomor Memorial to Victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 strives to engage student designers and others in the process of making memorials and to present larger, multi-disciplinary issues related to the making of memorials. The exhibit examines questions such as why memorials are built in Washington DC, who decides what truth is represented in memorials, and how loss is conveyed in memorials. Larysa Kurylas of The Kurylas Studio, the design architect and sculptor of the National Holodomor Memorial led a gallery talk surrounding the exhibit before the shutdowns in March. The exhibit can now be viewed [online here](#).

### **RAPIDO** *November 8, 2019 - December 31, 2020*

The *Rapid Recovery Housing (RAPIDO) - Designing a New System for Disaster Reconstruction* exhibit by Omar Hakeem is a holistic and phased approach to providing emergency housing that allows communities to recover from disasters within months instead of years at a fraction of the average cost.

## Past Events

### **The Municipality is Building: Vienna Residential Reconstruction 1920-2020** *September 13, 2019 - October 20, 2019*

Sixty percent of residents in Vienna, Austria live in subsidized housing. This traveling multimedia exhibition demonstrated the importance of social housing construction in Vienna, a practice that was put into effect in 1923. The exhibition highlighted Vienna’s rich social housing history, from the first municipal building—the Metzleinstalerhof—to diverse 20th century residential construction and today’s residential housing programs, like its sustainable energy ‘SMART’ apartments. By presenting the outstanding achievements of Vienna’s social housing policies in the context of social changes and new urban planning developments, it showed that supplying affordable, high-quality housing was and remains a top priority.

### **Symposium on Public Housing, in Collaboration with the Austrian Culture Forum** *September 13, 2019, Embassy of Austria*

A complement to the exhibit “The Municipality is Building: Vienna Residential Reconstruction 1920-2020,” this symposium brought together international experts from Vienna with local representatives of the university, students, nonprofit organizations, architects, policy advocates and political leaders from both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties to exchange views on current challenges of affordable housing all over the world. Experts compared the public housing system in Vienna

with the one in the United States and discuss common lessons-learned along with ideas for future policy decisions.

### **Sustenance and Sustainability: Sparking Dialogue, Shifting Culture** *February 1, 2019 - Aug. 1, 2019*

The Sustenance and Sustainability Project focused on the cultural well-being and sought to advance three of ten questions posed in the MAPP@50 exhibition.

1. What can I do to ensure a sustainable future knowing the earth is finite?
2. When will we elevate social equity & environmental justice?
3. What if I allow my playfulness, passion and curiosity to lead?

*The Vienna Model: Social Housing for the 21st Century* was a symposium on Public Housing, in collaboration with the Austrian Culture Forum. Photo courtesy of: Jelena Dakovic.

The Kibel Gallery space was utilized in different ways to spatialize and communicate content around these three questions. From yoga classes to bake sales, students came together in pursuit of passion and curiosity. The goal was to foster richer and more complex conversation and programming around these issues in 2020.

### **MAPP@50: Concrete Pasts, Possible Futures Exhibition** *April 12, 2018 - Continuing*

This exhibit honors the first 50 years of the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and looks to the next 50. Images and notes from graduates and faculty are displayed on the concrete columns supporting the Kibel Gallery, representing the “concrete pasts” of how they have been shaped by their time at the MAPP School. A cloud of intertwined banners painted with questions and prompts including “We Are Moving Towards” and “Moving Forward I Will” compel students and visitors to contemplate their Possible Futures.



# Faculty News

## MAPP Welcomes New Faculty

### David Atwater, Assistant Clinical Professor

David Atwater joined MAPP in 2019 as an assistant clinical professor and head of MAPP's Fab Lab. Atwater is a prototype engineer with a background in full stack web development and a Bachelor of Arts degree in product design. He has collaborated with artists, designers, fabrication studios, and startups across New York City including Sebastian Errazuriz, Di Mondo Huerta, and Axios NYC. His work has been showcased at Art Basel, Salon 94, Cristina Grajales Gallery, the Carnegie Museum of Art, and in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Edgerton Center. Locally, David worked as a consultant, instructor, and prototyping specialist at TechShop, a membership-based makerspace in Arlington, VA. He is also a cofounder at the board game publisher Silversmith Games LLC.

### Michelle Magalong, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow

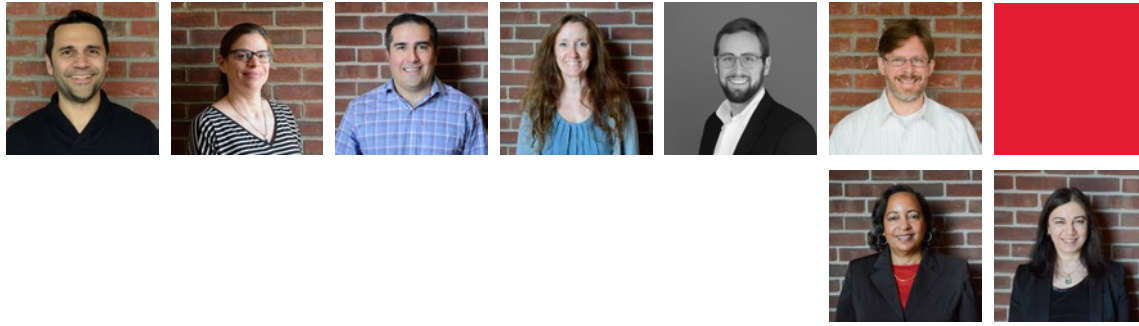
Dr. Michelle Magalong joined the historic preservation program in 2019 as its first Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow. With extensive professional and research experience in community development, historic preservation and public health in underserved communities, Magalong's career has been dedicated to telling the stories of historically marginalized groups through historic preservation. Her dissertation focused on the process and development of the National Park Service Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Initiative and Theme Study, part of the Park Service's recent effort to identify, acknowledge and preserve more inclusive and diverse historic sites. Magalong currently serves as the executive director of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP), a national volunteer-run, nonprofit organization. During Magalong's two-year appointment at UMD, she will expand upon her dissertation work to explore the importance and impact of the National Park Service Heritage Initiatives that include the American Latino Theme Study, LGBTQ Theme Study and special resources studies on women, the Civil Rights movement and African American Heritage Initiative. She was recently appointed affiliate faculty in Asian American Studies Program at UMD.

### Clara Irazabal, Professor and Director of URSP

This January, MAPP will welcome Dr. Clara Irazábal-Zurita to the University of Maryland as professor of urban studies and planning and new director of the Urban Studies and Planning Program. Irazábal-Zurita comes to UMD from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), where she was director of the Latin and Latin American Studies Program and a professor of urban planning. Prior to UMKC, she directed the Latin Lab and was an associate professor of urban planning at Columbia University in New York City and held appointments at both University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and the Pratt Institute, NYC.



Irazábal has spent over two decades exploring social and spatial justice through the lens of urban planning and design. She examines the complex paradox of planning's emancipatory promise—leveraging the constructs of the built environment to create social equity, opportunity and vibrant, just communities—and its systemic failure to deliver. Her research, which straddles continents, sits at the intersection of culture, politics and the politics of place, with case studies ranging from the informal settlements of Venezuela to the immigrant communities of the United States. She is the author of *City Making and Urban Governance in the Americas: Curitiba and Portland*, which illustrates the government-community synergy in two cities successfully navigating rapid growth, and has written and spoken extensively on the cultural, economic, political and racial issues that shape urban enclaves.



## Faculty Highlights

**Michael Abrams** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor in 2019. A second printing of his book, *The Art of City Sketching: A Field Manual*, was published by Routledge in 2019.

Assistant Professor **Ariel Bierbaum** received the MAPP Outstanding Teaching Award in May. She has published two papers this past year on school choice and school impact on community, appearing in the *Journal of Urban Affairs* and *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Bierbaum has led the school's efforts this past year towards equity and anti-racism as MAPP's Diversity and Inclusion officer.

Assistant Professor **Juan Burke** was appointed affiliate faculty this past year in the Latin American Studies Center at UMD.

**Jennifer Cotting** was promoted to director of UMD's Environmental Finance Center in 2019; she had previously served as interim director. She was also named an Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's Watershed Champion Awardee this past year.

ARCH Lecturer **Douglas Crawford** received Young Architect of the Year from the D.C. Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies this year. His inventive design for a post-pandemic memorial on the National Mall, developed with students Dauqan Proctor and Madison Hamer, was featured in *Washingtonian Magazine's* COVID design challenge this past summer.

Professor **Casey Dawkins** was appointed a fellow at Times for Homes, Inc., a non-profit housing organization in New York. His research on housing continues to gain traction in a number of publications, including *Housing and Society* and *the International Journal of Urban Sciences*.

Clinical Associate Professor **Maria Day-Marshall** was elected as an incoming Board Member to The Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). Day-Marshall also served on President Darryll Pines transition team. She and Assistant Clinical Professor Tanya Bansal selected as members of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations/National Association of Social Housing Organizations Delegation to South Africa in 2019.

Associate Research Professor **Sevgi Erdogan** secured a \$1.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation with colleagues from four peer institutions to develop a first-of-its-kind modeling system that links human activity, water quality, and policy action. A second, \$2.35 million NSF grant awarded to Erdogan and a multidisciplinary team from UMD will identify mobility challenges for eight low-income neighborhoods in Baltimore and model potential transit solutions.

**Michael Ezban** was promoted this past year to clinical assistant professor. His first book, *Aquaculture Landscapes: Fish Farms and the Public Realm* (Routledge, 2019), explores the landscape architecture of farms, reefs, parks, and cities that are designed to entwine the lives of fish and humans. In April the book was awarded the 2020 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize, an honor bestowed to books that make a significant contribution to the study of garden and landscape design.

**Julie Gabrielli** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of architecture this past spring. Gabrielli received MAPP's Outstanding Teaching Award, PTK Faculty, this past May.

Professor Emerita **Isabelle Gournay**, Associate Professor **Mary Corbin-Sies** and Rob Freestone's book, *Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change*, was named best planning history edited work by The International Planning History Society this past year.

In 2019, Assistant Professor **Marcus Hendricks** launched the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice Research Lab (SIRJ), where he acts as founding director ([see page 10](#)). A new, three-year study led by Hendricks, School of Public Health colleague Associate Professor Sacoby Wilson, and colleagues at Duke University will analyze the impact of environmental contaminant exposures associated with natural disasters, particularly in vulnerable communities. Hendricks also serves as associate editor of *Environmental Justice Journal* and co-edited and contributed to a special issue on *Water Infrastructure Resilience* for the American Water Resources Association's *IMPACT* Magazine. His work has been widely featured in the media, including *Baltimore Magazine*, *Baltimore Sun*, and the *Social Science Research Council's* digital forum, *Items*.

Assistant Professor **Ming Hu's** new book, *Smart Technologies and Design for Healthy Built Environments*, which was released this fall by Springer, explores how the sustainable building movement is ripe to foster physical, biological, physiological and psychological human health. Hu published studies in a number of publications this past year, including *Developments in the Built Environment*, *Urban Science*, and *Journal of Green Building*. Her portable, self-assembling mobile clinic inspired by origami art was one of nine University of Maryland projects to earn a UMD SEED grant as part of the university's effort to address challenges surrounding the global COVID-19. Early this year, Hu was awarded a 2020-21 Fulbright U.S. Scholarship to Finland and received the ACSA New Faculty Teaching Award in 2019.

Associate Professor **Hiro Iseki** has been named interim director of MAPP's Ph.D. program. He will assume the role in January. In his new role, Iseki will conduct a comprehensive program review to identify methods for strengthening student support structures and developing opportunities to further their goals as researchers and scholars. Iseki was selected as an Abe fellow by the Social Science Research Council to conduct a comparative study of transportation planning in the U.S. and Japan during his sabbatical this past year.

**Dr. Willow Lung-Amam** was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2019. She was named a nonresident senior fellow at Brookings Institution and a nonresident fellow at the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center. Lung-Amam was also recently appointed to the Mellon Urban Humanities Advisory Board at Dumbarton Oaks, which will advise on [The Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies](#). Lung-Amam was honored this past spring with an Exemplary Researcher Award from the University of Maryland, which recognizes a faculty member who best exemplifies research excellence. She was tapped by outlets nationwide to discuss the evolution of the American Suburb and issues of gentrification, including *The New Republic*, *CityLab*, *Greater Greater Washington*, *CalMatters* and *The New York Times*.



## Faculty Highlights

**Lindsay May** was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor and named assistant director of the Architecture Program this past year. She was named AIA|DC's 2020 inaugural architectural educator award by The Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA|DC) and Washington Architectural Foundation (WAF).

Professor **Madlen Simon** was promoted to full professor in 2019. Simon and Assistant Professor **Ming Hu's** collaborative research project with UMD's Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science, which uses virtual reality and brain imaging to understand the human impact of green buildings ([see page 6](#)), was featured in [January's issue](#) of *Society of Women Engineers* magazine. Her graduate-level studio Bridging the Gap, a collaborative, cross-continental design studio between the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Al-Nahrain University in Iraq, was awarded [Architect Magazine's 2019 Studio Prize](#).

**Jana VanderGoot** was promoted with tenure to associate professor of architecture this past spring. She was also appointed an ADVANCE Professor for the University of Maryland in 2020. The project is funded by a 2020-21 Venture Well grant.

**VanderGoot** and Assistant Professor **Ming Hu** are currently developing a new cross-disciplinary teaching and learning laboratory that centers on the design and study of a "green wall," a multi-layered, biomimetic facade of sustainable materials and vegetation.

**Jeremy Wells** was promoted with tenure to associate professor of historic preservation this past spring. He published several articles this past year on his research of brain imaging and patina, as well as two book chapters. His book, *Human-centered built heritage conservation: Theory and evidence-based practice*, was published by Routledge in 2019.

**Brittany Williams** (B.S. Architecture '05, M.ARCH '07) was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of architecture this past spring. She and her fellow PTK faculty—Lindsay May, Alex Donahue, Ken Filler, and Julie Gabrielli—were recognized with an outstanding teaching award this past May for their substantial efforts to bring architecture education online during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was also a juror for the Architecture Contest at Solar Decathlon Europe in 2019.

Assistant Professor **Joseph Williams** released his book, *Architecture of Disjuncture: Mediterranean Trade and Cathedral Building* in a New Diocese (11th - 13th Centuries), this past summer, an examination of the improvised construction of Italy's Romanesque cathedral of Molfetta in Apulia and offers a case study on an adaptive design approach that allowed builders to respond to the sporadic funding conditions of the time.

**TO ACCESS THE PUBLISHED WORKS OF OUR FACULTY FROM THE PAST YEAR, [CLICK HERE](#).**



Pictured above (left to right): Zena Howard, Cory Henry, Carl Elefante and Marques G. King.

This fall The University of Maryland's Architecture Program welcomed four accomplished designers as Kea Distinguished Professors for the 2020-21 academic year. **Zena Howard, FAIA, LEED AP, Cory Henry** and UMD alumni **Carl Elefante, FAIA, FAPT, LEED AP** and **Marques G. King, AIA, NCARB, CNU** collaborated alongside architecture faculty to bring diverse perspectives, experience and context to a roster of studio courses and seminars. Last fall, students benefited from the expertise of ARCH Alum Pablo Güiraldes, who, along with Howard, were the 2019 Kea Professors.



**Matthew Bell's** Graduate Urban Studio imagined design alternatives for Harlem Park in West Baltimore in 2019. The project was sponsored by a \$20,000 grant from the MD DHCD/Neighborhood Revitalization Division. Bell was recently named to Historic Preservation Review Board in Washington, D.C.



## Isabelle Gournay Writes Her Next Chapter

Conventional wisdom dictates a slowdown in retirement. Yet, for Dr. Isabelle Gournay, it appears she is just getting started. Since transitioning to Professor Emerita of Architecture last spring, Gournay has released a new book on planned communities, contributed to a second book on American art deco and is adding new insights to the phenomenon of the American Beaux-Arts architect. But if retirement is about taking the time to follow your passions, Gournay is right on track. She has built an established career as a scholar of housing, a lifelong interest since her early days as a student in France. She is an authority on the convergence of social, political, cultural and historical context and the built environment, knowledge she has shared prolifically with three generations of students. Her dedication, skill and standard of excellence has helped shaped the culture and pedagogy at MAPP.

Born and raised in France, Gournay first came to the United States at the age of 20, a solo trip to explore the Mid-Atlantic through the Greyhound bus pass program. "I was a young architecture student and wanted to see the United States and thought, why

not?" she recalls. She returned a few years later to obtain a Doctorate of Art History from Yale, simultaneously juggling work, a new marriage and the birth of her daughter. After Yale, Gournay taught as an adjunct at a few universities in Atlanta. When she wasn't teaching, she was exploring the architecture and urbanism of the American South; she wrote the *A.I.A. Guide to the Architecture of Atlanta* before coming to UMD in 1992.

It was in Atlanta that Gournay began questioning why some housing projects thrive while others, despite their seemingly beautiful architecture, fail, and the lessons that can be learned when history, design and socio-economics intersect. She carried this interest to Maryland, integrating it into coursework when she saw sociology wasn't part of the general architecture curriculum. Later, she took over a course on affordable



Community resilience involves people...Sometimes, it's too much top down, and we're trying to show what can be bottom up. - PROFESSOR

EMERITA ISABELLE GOURNAY



(L to R) Mary Corbin Sies and Isabelle Gournay. Photo courtesy of: Megan Searing Young/Greenbelt Museum.

housing from Ralph Bennett, transforming it into an interdisciplinary examination of housing reform, planning, architecture and the social constructs that guide it, the first of its kind in the school. A longtime resident of Greenbelt, Md., a quintessential planned community originally constructed as New Deal public housing, Gournay had a unique purview of life in a cooperative community; students benefited from her expertise and were encouraged to examine the places they grew up as well. The massively successful course influenced the trajectory of many students, who went on to work for housing groups like Enterprise Community Partners.

"Isabelle is a great gift to the school," said Professor Emeritus Ralph Bennett, who collaborated with Gournay on an affordable housing exhibit at the National Building Museum. She made the [affordable housing] course into a really excellent course that every school ought to have. She had very high standards of what students were writing and it resulted in some really great papers. She brought with her a set of standards and a skill that she continues in her research. Isabelle is a serious scholar and I admire her enormously."

Gournay's new book, *Iconic Planned Communities and the Challenge of Change*, co-edited with American Studies Professor Mary Corbin Sies and Robert Freestone, is a case study of 23 planned communities on six continents, from Scotland's 19th-century New Lanark company town and Chicago's Riverside community to England's Wythenshawe garden city and the new urbanist enclave Seaside in Florida. The book is less a history of these communities and more an examination of their fate; the social, political and economic drivers, events, tourism—even good intentions—that shape their trajectory.

"The Römerstadt community in Frankfurt, Germany, which was considered the pinnacle of community planning in the '20s and '30s, didn't have good transit to downtown Frankfurt, so they built a U-Bahn transit line. However, they built it in such a way that

it bisected the town and that completely obliterated the vistas. What should have been a positive change has been detrimental. The past can inform the present; it's that notion of living legacy and—I think at the level of a planned community—it is really important."

Beyond learning from history is the idea of preserving it, something Gournay sees more and more as a key element to a community's survival. "If residents know what a community is and are aware of its origin story and share the same ideals, it strengthens everything about the community and creates a social stitching," said Gournay. "We didn't talk about it a lot in the book, but in cities that have a movie theatre, the fate of that movie theatre is a bit of an indicator. Whether it's still a movie theatre or has been reinvented as a different community asset, it's almost a litmus test for the community's resilience."

As 21st century designers and planners gravitate to sustainable, community-driven urban centers, Gournay sees a possible resurgence in the planned community, albeit different from the strong images and ethos conceived by designers 100 years ago. Her hope is that the book will create a conversation around how planning and community input fit together to create the hybrid communities of the future. "Community resilience involves people," she says. "Sometimes, it's too much top down, and we're trying to show what can be bottom up."

Now in retirement, Gournay is going back to her roots of design origin: the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, where she obtained her architecture degree. Her latest efforts examine the contributions of U.S. and Canadian architects trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. She divides her time between Paris—where she frequently lectures—and an active civic life in Greenbelt, where she serves on a number of boards in between research and writing. Once in a while, she even gets a few minutes in her garden, which smacks more of retirement than her typical routine. "Yes, retirement is keeping me very busy," she laughs.



## Steve Hurtt Reflects on a Well-Built Career at Maryland

The crowd applauds Steve W. Hurtt (standing), during his retirement celebration at MAPP. Photo courtesy of: Jelena Dakovic.

Professor Steven W. Hurtt, a mainstay in the architecture program for nearly 30 years, retired from the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation last August.

Hurtt joined the school as dean of architecture in 1990 after almost two decades teaching at Notre Dame. He had a personal connection to Maryland—as a D.C. native, he had visited the campus many times in his youth. Two uncles had attended UMD after World War II under the GI Bill. His wife and her sister were both alumnae. But what brought him to College Park was the chance for true connections.

“It was the opportunity to be connected at every level, from the freshman up to the president. That’s really unique,” he said. “A lot of faculty members don’t have that experience. It was clear to me that a number of the faculty shared interests that I had. I sensed that it was a good fit.”

The school has grown rapidly in the nearly three decades of Hurtt’s Maryland tenure and he has been an instrumental part of that growth. He was active in the evolution of the school from one that was strictly architecture to the current four-program model that affords

an interdisciplinary approach to the built environment.

“An architecture education is quite miraculous,” Hurtt said. “Students are extremely unprepared for it. Most education is focused on language and math. Architecture is a visual learning progress that requires them to make value judgments. It’s the character of the world we live in. If you grow up in any major city, if you have the experience of that environment, it’s clear that there’s a larger order to architecture than individual buildings.” He continued, “Architecture is so closely associated with the individual building that they don’t think of architects being involved in things like neighborhood; it’s an integration of pathways and spaces, it’s part of a larger pattern. I knew the individual student could benefit from the opportunity to take courses across the disciplines.”

In a tribute speech at a retirement celebration for Hurtt last September, Interim Dean Donald W. Linebaugh credited Hurtt’s leadership as a guiding force in the evolution of the school and its curriculum.

If you grow up in any major city, if you have the experience of that environment, it’s clear that there’s a larger order to architecture than individual buildings.” - PROFESSOR EMERITUS STEVEN W. HURTT

“Steve had both the vision and the courage to act on opportunities and then leverage them in very strategic ways,” Linebaugh said. “As such, Steve was instrumental in taking us from a School of Architecture to the interdisciplinary powerhouse that we are proud to call Maryland’s Built Environment School.”

In his 14 years as dean, Hurtt served six provosts and worked alongside multiple campus vice presidents and leaders. “That kind of connectivity was a terrific thing,” he said.

He was instrumental in growth and changes to the campus itself, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. From the beginning of his time at Maryland, Hurtt expressed his desire to be involved with campus planning, receiving not only the blessing of then-President William “Brit” Kirwan, but also the encouragement to expand his thinking beyond the campus to College Park. Hurtt reviewed the Facilities Master Plan alongside Professor Brian Kelly and became a go-to person of sorts for review of new buildings and spaces. Hurtt led the design competition for the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and other campus planning and construction projects, including the Edward St. John Teaching and Learning Center, Mayer Mall, South Campus Commons dorms, the Kim Engineering Building and more.

He was a guiding force in helping the school build a reputation for success in competitions, including the university’s first foray in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon.

Throughout his tenure as dean and beyond, Hurtt has taken pleasure in supporting faculty development and advancement. In the 14 years that he served as dean, 13 people went up and were approved for tenure and three were awarded the Wilson H. Elkins Professorship, which recognizes a faculty member for a highly significant work of research, scholarship or artistic creativity completed in the recent past.

Hurtt has been instrumental in helping to expand and enhance the education abroad opportunities for students at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (MAPP). He and his wife recently spearheaded the Steven and Carol Hurtt Education Abroad Fund, which helps graduate students with financial need participate in the school’s education abroad programs.

“Support to this fund helps MAPP prepare our future architects to develop and implement the best of urban and architectural ideas in an ever-growing landscape of global issues related to the built environment,” Linebaugh said in his speech honoring Hurtt.

“I believe in the importance of a relationship between our history and our present,” Hurtt said. “The ability to study architecture up close—mainly by drawing it, taking the time to look at it—carefully provides the strongest fundamental basis you can possibly have developing critical judgment and a body of reference. The immersion in a situation, where there is so much architecture of such high quality in a city that developed over time, is a very grounding experience. You see all the stuff that not only reinforces what you thought you knew, but also contradicts what you thought you knew.”

Hurtt is filling out his first retirement year coediting a book focused on the urban design legacy of architectural historian Colin Rowe. He cites his writing goals—“a backlog of writing”—as one of the reasons he is stepping away from the campus.

“I thank everybody,” Hurtt said. “It’s been an extremely rewarding experience. I loved it. I will miss the engagement with the students.



## In Memoriam: MAPP Remembers Legendary Faculty



John Hill

In 2020, the University of Maryland lost three remarkable members of the MAPP community: Professors Emeriti John Hill, Karl Du Puy and Sidney Brower. John, Karl and Sidney were visionaries within the pedagogy and left indelible marks on legions of students and colleagues at the University of Maryland. Through incredible foresight and ingenuity, they built the programs that we know today and set a standard in teaching excellence followed by many. They leveraged their experience in their professions to shape how generations of practitioners observe, design and care for our built environment.

John Hill was the founding dean of the then School of Architecture, recruited from Kentucky by the university in 1968 to create the first architecture program in the state. He brought with him a white paper, detailing what the university would need to prove its mettle in the collegiate arena and to deliver the caliber of practitioners that had regional

firms clamoring. His recommendations—all of which came to fruition—included space for collaboration and work; an innovative and socially-minded faculty; a hands-on, creative curriculum; and the eventual addition of like-minded programs like historic preservation, real estate development, historic preservation and urban studies and planning. He taught and led under the guise of being a “force for good,” working to build and grow the program and instill in his students that social justice, environmental stewardship and community building go hand-in-hand with good design.

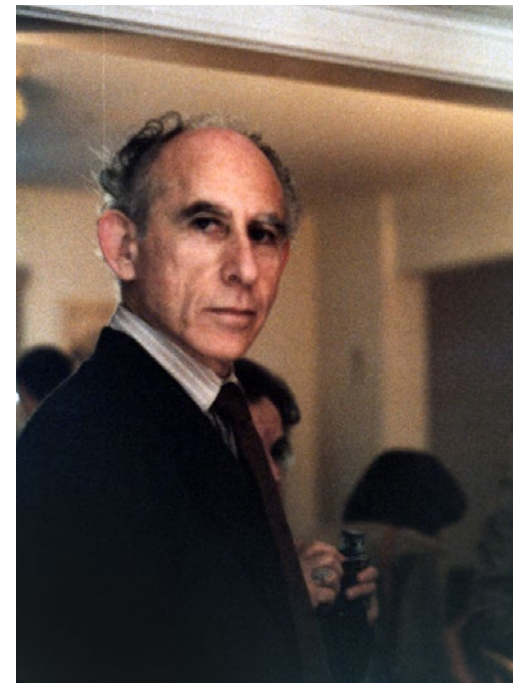
[Read a remembrance of John Hill here.](#)



Karl Du Puy

To colleagues, students and friends, Karl Du Puy was a force of nature, a giant within the Architecture Program at the University of Maryland, whose passion for urbanism, architectural history and building craft was a

foundational part of the curriculum. Karl led a number of studios during his 40-year tenure and guided hundreds of students through the hard-won thesis process. He was known for his tough love in the studio, a biting wit and his fearless, spontaneous energy guiding study abroad programs. Every person who knew Karl undoubtedly has a good Karl story and a favorite phrase or expletive, endearingly called “Du Puyisms.” He was fiercely dedicated to his students, generously giving of his time and spirit; he was renowned for his biting wit and critique, terrific sense of humor, fairness and kindness. [Read more about Karl’s impact on MAPP here.](#)



Sidney Brower

Sidney Brower was a founding member of the Urban Studies and Planning Program, one of just three faculty working out of small university offices in Baltimore in 1979. During his over 30 years at the University of Maryland,

Sidney was a constant, thoughtful presence, relaying his experience in neighborhood design as an accomplished practitioner in Baltimore. A visual thinker with a background in architecture and the arts, Brower brought a very people-focused, “sensitive side” to the science and economics of planning, skills he used to study the relationship between people and the spaces they inhabit; he was known for his ability to get to the heart of discussions and convey complex concepts sincerely and simply. Sidney was revered by his students and colleagues for his wit and easygoing nature and for his generosity of time and spirit. [Read a tribute to Sidney here.](#)

**Student scholarship was a priority for John, Karl and Sidney. You can honor their memory—and continue their tradition of student support—by contributing to one of their funds:**

Sidney Brower International Travel Scholarship

Ralph D. Bennett, Jr. and Karl F.G. Du Puy Studio Endowment Fund

John W. Hill Endowed Scholarship

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