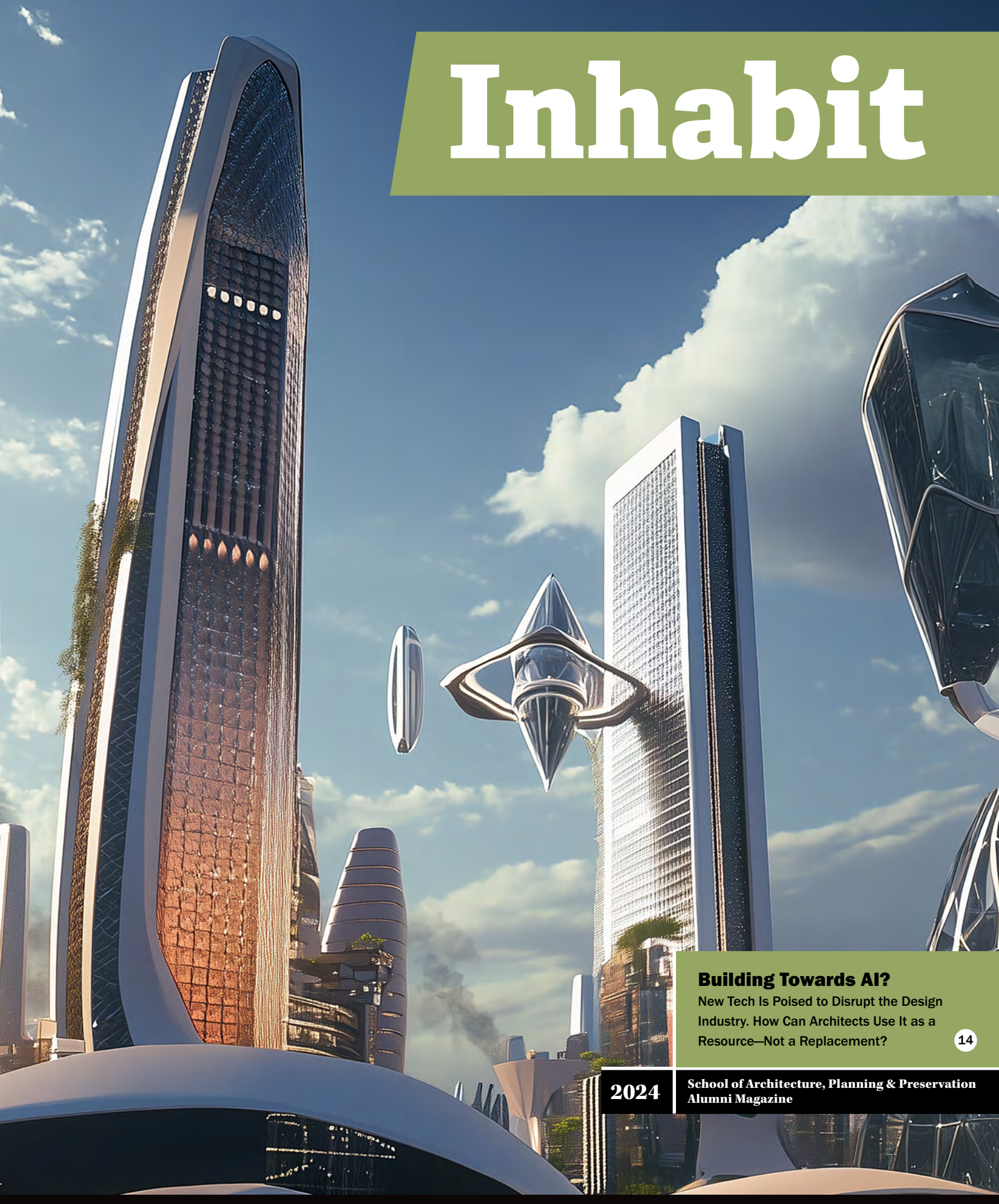
Inhabit



Building Towards AI?

New Tech Is Poised to Disrupt the Design Industry. How Can Architects Use It as a Resource—Not a Replacement? 14

2024 School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation Alumni Magazine

Inhabit is the annual alumni 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.

Cover
Front: AI-generated image in Midjourney, prompted by Jelena Djaković.
Back: Roger Lewis in Barcelona, Spain. Photographer unknown.

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Dean's Message

If you were to ask me to describe my "dream city," a few images come to mind: beautiful buildings with vibrant streets; children playing; and as an expert in signage law, really good signs. Artificial intelligence (AI) got close (although the first several attempts kept putting me in a mash-up of Times Square and Hong Kong).

As AI seeps into our every day, from ChatGPT to Alexa, we're also seeing the ripple effects in our professions. At Maryland, we're looking at how machine learning might help us make space for more creativity in studio or aid in research; and as you'll read in this issue of *Inhabit*, our alums are experimenting with it, too.

While a new frontier for sure, AI may prove to be a great partner in our work of building prosperous, equitable and beautiful places. As you'll see in the pages that follow, our faculty, alums and students are leading the way, together.

Dr. Dawn Jourdan
Dean
School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

MAPP News

Faculty News

Alumni News

Features

Eye of the Storm

Socioeconomically Vulnerable Communities in Washington, D.C., Lack Infrastructure to Manage Heavy Rainfall, Study Finds

A new University of Maryland study suggests that the most densely populated communities in Washington, D.C., particularly in historically Black Southeast, lack critical public resources—including sewer capacity and "green" infrastructure—to handle runoff from heavy rainfalls made more frequent by climate change.

Conducted through the University of Maryland's Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab, the study mapped sewer pipelines and similar "gray" infrastructure for over 450 census block groups within Washington, D.C., correlating them with urban features like impervious pavement, housing density and green infrastructure such as rain gardens and permeable pavement. These factors were then linked with the socioeconomic makeup of the geographical units, including factors like median income, home value, rent prices, race and age.

While they found that the city's stormwater infrastructure has been unable to keep pace with its population growth, green and gray infrastructure are less prevalent in densely populated areas with high levels of impervious surfaces—frequently marginalized communities of color—which creates excess runoff and overwhelms the outdated sewer structure.

"Stormwater and sewer infrastructure haven't been historically studied through an equitable justice lens because it's pretty invisible; it's not an issue until it's an issue," said one of the authors, Marccus Hendricks, associate professor of urban studies and environmental planning. "These communities will encounter greater challenges in dealing with extreme weather events, which are becoming more frequent."

Photo by Robert Lawton, Wikimedia Commons

> ***Stormwater and sewer infrastructure haven't been historically studied through an equitable justice lens because it's pretty invisible; it's not an issue until it's an issue.***
>
> *- MARCCUS HENDRICKS*

The study also points to the role of racist planning practices dating to the 19th century that fueled inequitable infrastructure distribution and housing conditions across D.C. as a contributing factor to which parts of the city are more prone to flooding.

"These communities are much more densely populated with a lot of pavement and concrete, so less places for the water to go," said SIRJ Lab Manager and Postdoctoral Associate Priscila Alves, one of the study's authors. "These are the places we are seeing that struggle with flooding."

The study, which was also authored by Minkyu Park Ph.D. '24 and Rachel Whiteheart M.C.P. '23, is one of the few to look at both above- and below-ground infrastructure through a socioeconomic lens, and the first to do so for D.C., with the aim of helping city planners funnel infrastructure dollars to neighborhoods most at risk.

"They recognize that we are facing more of these storms, and risk of overflows—why not leverage the academic institution right in their backyard to support them in understanding the issue and addressing it?" said Hendricks. // MH

New EFC Program Helps Maryland's Rural Counties Cut Carbon

Federal grant money available for emissions-cutting projects could be a windfall for local governments looking to go green—if the application process didn't look to municipal staffers like billows of red tape.

Now, a new program administered by the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) will help cash-strapped and lean-staffed local governments land funding to launch waste-to-energy programs, dispatch electric school buses and institute other initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint. Supported by up to $500,000 from the Maryland Department of Environment, the Maryland Local Government Climate Action Support program will provide guidance and technical support to small and rural local governments.

Targeting governments in 12 rural counties in Western and Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore, the program will advance the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2031, achieving 100% clean energy by 2035 and reaching net zero emissions by 2045.

"The federal government is putting money in the hands of communities to tackle sustainability projects," said Allison Tjaden M.P.H. '12, special projects manager for the Maryland Department of the Environment. "But it became clear to us that it was dizzying for our local governments. And there is a short window of time to take advantage of these opportunities."

Actions that spur climate mitigation in rural counties sometimes look very different than in their urbanized counterparts, said Tjaden. Projects geared towards rural communities could include promoting healthier forest cover, retrofitting septic systems or establishing incentives for soil conservation, which helps with greenhouse gas reduction.

"These communities' challenges are unique, but so are the opportunities," she said. "And the EFC is poised to share lessons learned and work with government agencies collaboratively to create real impact." // MH

Photo by Adobe Stock, edited by Jelena Djaković

Shelter From the Swelter

Extreme Heat is Changing More Than Just the Thermostat. It Will Shape How We Design Cities.

If the sweltering assault of "heat domes" and 100+ degree days are a bellwether for what's to come—and scientists agree they are—extreme heat will be our perilous new normal. Heat is now the leading global cause of weather-related deaths. In cities, where more than half of the world's population lives, temperatures can soar five to seven degrees higher than surrounding areas, as unshaded swaths of concrete and asphalt transform city blocks into "heat islands," absorbing the sun's rays and returning them as heat into the atmosphere.

How humanity weathers recurrent spikes in temperature—while reducing carbon-producing activities that bump the thermometer—will require creative approaches to how we live, but also how we construct the cities we inhabit. Below, architecture faculty offer "cool" trends worthy of exploration:

Meet the Experts

Julie Gabrielli, Associate Clinical Professor / **Peter Noonan**, Professor of the Practice / **Jana VanderGoot,** Associate Professor / **Matt Bell,** Professor / **Hooman Koliji**, Associate Professor

Graphic and photo: Jelena Djaković

Build Local

Designing for the climate means more than just going for the (LEED) gold, says Associate Clinical Professor Julie Gabrielli. Architects should also design for climate change at the regional level. "The international scope of building design that we saw in the 20th century is very abstract, but we're still doing it; a glass and steel building in Abu Dhabi today is really inappropriate," she said. "It will be critical to understand and design for the climate you're in. So much of sustainability is about local economies, local food—that should also apply to how we build."

Choose Wood for Good

Mass timber—an engineered product comprising multiple wood panels—offers a sustainable replacement to the glass and steel of today's city skylines, says Professor of the Practice Peter Noonan '88, M.Arch '92. Good for short and tall buildings, mass timber is lower in embodied carbon and excels at insulating a building compared to concrete and steel. "That's why you can roast a marshmallow with a wooden stick and the handle end is cool to the touch," he said. "I don't think there's going to be any one silver bullet [to mitigating heat], but any effort that can slow impacts of climate change is going to help."

> ***Normalizing time in outdoor spaces teaches us how to be more resilient. And it brings us to the same place as all the other living organisms on this planet."***
>
> *- Jana VanderGoot*

Design for Adaptation

Designing structures that integrate indoor and outdoor spaces will help inhabitants navigate temperatures outside their comfort zone and reduce the pressure on building systems, said Associate Professor Jana VanderGoot. This may also require swapping cotton for linen and adding a sun hat to your wardrobe, she says, but our bodies are incredibly adaptable. "Normalizing time in outdoor spaces teaches us how to be more resilient," she says. "And it brings us to the same place as all the other living organisms on this planet."

Reorient a Building's Footprint

Architecture Professor Matt Bell says **designing buildings for the environment** they shape is as important as the building design itself. This includes paying more attention to a building's orientation and height: When situated the right way, buildings can cast significant shade on sidewalks and streets or capture breezy crosswinds. "If you do it right, you not only significantly reduce the load on building systems, you'll reduce solar gain on the street as well," he said.

Grow Green(ery)

Lush landscapes grown on raised structures, roofs and walls—such as the High Line in New York or the Trans Bay Terminal in San Francisco—create beautiful amenities for a city, but also can create environments 10 degrees cooler than unshaded asphalt, said Associate Professor Hooman Koliji. "Trees are the foot soldiers of the environment," he said. "Hard surfaces like concrete and brick absorb heat and radiate it back into the environment, but softscapes actually deflect radiation while also casting a shadow. It's very effective in reducing urban heat." // MH

$14K Awarded to Stefan Woehlke From New Do Good Campus Fund

Assistant Clinical Professor Stefan Woehlke M.A.A. '13, Ph.D. '21 was one of 27 grantees to earn funding from the University of Maryland's inaugural Do Good Campus Fund to recruit and engage underrepresented students in archaeological heritage fieldwork. The fund is part of a suite of new campuswide investments to expand the university's leadership and impact to advance the public good.

Do Good Innovators

DO GOOD

The Do Good Institute recognized EFC's Climate Resilience and Sustainability Program Director Brandy Espinola, Associate Clinical Professor of Architecture Julie Gabrielli and Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Marccus Hendricks with the provost's Do Good Innovator Award this past spring. Espinola, Gabrielli and Hendricks were among 57 UMD faculty and staff recognized for their commitment to social impact through education, programs and research in and outside the classroom.

Whose 'Right to Suburbia'?

New Book Exposes the Banishment and Battle for a Place in Washington's Suburbs

Ellsworth Avenue in Silver Spring, Md., sizzles on a summer evening: Residents stroll along its tree-lined sidewalks under the neon glow of upscale chain restaurants, retailers and a Whole Foods Market. Beyond the din of downtown is a different kind of sizzle: the intoxicating aroma of sliced meat frying in butter, garlic and onion—called tibs—wafting from one of many Ethiopian restaurants just outside the city center.

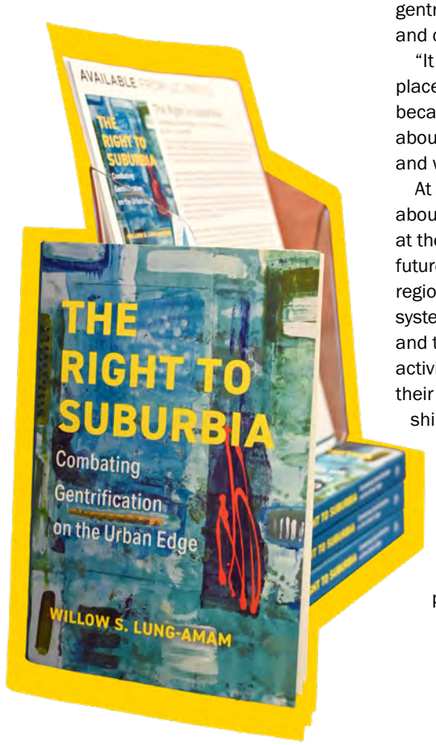
Many of Silver Spring's Ethiopian population—one of the largest outside of Ethiopia—struggled to endure the redevelopment that spawned its flashy retail and entertainment district, and the rent hikes that followed. Now, they face new challenges with the construction of the state of Maryland's light rail Purple Line.

A new book released this fall by University of Maryland Associate Professor Willow Lung-Amam M.C.P. '07 asks the question: When a neighborhood is revitalized, who benefits? "The Right to Suburbia: Combating Gentrification on the Urban Edge" tells the story of people of color and immigrant communities fighting for their place in three rapidly developing American suburbs.

"I knew I wanted to write about this region, and I knew I wanted to write about it from the perspective of folks who were actually living here," said Lung-Amam, who is the director of UMD's Small Business Anti-Displacement Network. "This is a story that's been overlooked."

> ***This is a story that's been overlooked.***
> *- Willow Lung- Amam M.C.P. '07*

Through a deep dive into Silver Spring and two other Maryland suburbs nestled along the edge of Washington, D.C.—Wheaton and Langley Park—Lung-Amam reveals the history, politics and growing activism that has led to their varied yet interconnected fates. The book exposes the powerful influence of developers, government and white residents on the shaping of suburbs over a century and breaks down the complex process of gentrification, which uproots communities and culture during redevelopment.



"It matters that we're talking about places other than urban communities because it broadens the way we talk about this phenomenon, who's affected and what we can do about it," she said.

At its heart, "The Right to Suburbia" is about people: her in-laws, who worried at their Wheaton kitchen table about the future of their diverse neighborhood; the region's Black residents, who have been systematically and serially displaced; and the growing new wave of suburban activists working for a voice in shaping their community's future and "building a ship as it's sailing," said Lung-Amam.

"Residents, small businesses and activists have learned from each other to build the tools that made each subsequent case more successful in pushing for new protections for vulnerable people and places," she said. // MH

Image generated by Midjourney

Ask the Expert: Jesse Saginor

Buying a Home Is the American Dream. For Many Americans, That's All it Is.

The Federal Reserve's interest rate cut in September signaled that the inflation induced by COVID-19 is easing up—and a move economists say will make it easier for Americans to borrow money.

But, it's not enough to solve the housing crisis that many Americans are weathering, said Jesse Saginor, associate professor of real estate development. In 2013, half of all U.S. homes on the market were considered affordable using the standard 30% of housing expenses to monthly income ratio; by 2023, that number had plummeted to 16%. A dearth of housing stock, lower incomes and even pandemic migrations are all at play—and addressing the crisis is just as complex.

"There is no silver bullet," he said. "Interest rates can help, but they won't be the answer."

Saginor breaks down three reasons why it's harder to buy a home now than ever before:

We're building plenty of housing—just the wrong kind. The proliferation of high-end apartment buildings around D.C. could make anyone question the reality of a housing shortage. But, Saginor says that the problem is that in many cities, what's being built isn't for the people who need housing, such as the restaurant workers or service people who work there. That pushes mid- to low-income earners further out of the city where prices are cheaper—and inadvertently fuels a rougher commute. "It's what contributes to congestion issues," he said.

Our incomes have not increased at the same rate as the cost of the average home. In 1985, the median sales price of a home was about $78,000, with the average income at $22,000. In 2023, home prices had surged to $433,000, but income had only risen to an average of $74,000. "People may be making more money, but the demand for housing has pushed the price up far beyond what it was even 10 years ago," he said. "You just need to make far more money to afford buying a home."

Affordable housing must be championed locally. Most affordable housing incentive programs are largely funded by the feds, but programs are managed at the state, county and city level, Saginor said. Cities also have some sway in boosting the amount of affordable housing being built, from offering tax incentives to footing the bill for infrastructure, which defrays development costs.

But, high-end development generates more property and income tax revenue than affordable housing projects—and is often the reason the supply doesn't match the demand. "Thirty percent of a city's population may have jobs that fall within the affordability range," he said, "But, you're not going to find that same percent of affordable housing." // MH

*Get the full conversation—from where to find a good fried avocado to the "sticky" factors that keep people in expensive cities—in the first of our "Ask the Expert" series at the QR Code below or visiting: **bit.ly/ask-the-expert-Jesse-Saginor.***

The Beaux Arts Ball returned in Spring 2024 with a Venetian Carnival theme. Photo by Jelena Djaković

Beaux Arts Restart

After a 15-year Hiatus, the Annual Evening of Costumes and Community Returned to MAPP's Great Space

Alums of a certain age look back on the Architecture Building's Great Space as the setting for countless studio hours, lectures, thesis and even graduations—but also for its wild transformation each spring to a 1920s speakeasy, the streets of New York City or a star-studded Hawaiian luau.

For one epic night, Beaux Arts Ball, the beloved annual fete that ran from the mid-1970s until 2007, was part Halloween costume party, part Hollywood movie set and a dash of high school prom. The ball returned after a 15-year pause this past spring, reimagining the Great Space into an elegant Italian setting for this year's theme, Venetian Carnival.

"Events like this are a way for people to come together and build community," said Dawn Jourdan, dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. "Beaux Arts is magical for a lot of people."

First conceived by students of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1892, the spring bacchanal known for high style, costume, and a hefty dose of nudity and debauchery was adopted by many American architecture schools during the second half of the 20th century.

At MAPP, the party was historically open to the entire university, with architecture students selling tickets outside the Stamp for weeks leading up to the event. Students would tap local firms to fund elaborately designed and constructed set pieces based on that year's theme, a process that commandeered both the Great Space and student productivity for a full week before the event (faculty complaints moved the ball to Preinkert and the Art-Sociology building in later years, and occasional off-campus locations like the Kennedy-Warren in D.C.).

> ***It continues to live on as one of the most raucous parties in the school's history.***
> *- Gordon Stewart '82*

Largely funded by the architecture student government association, there were lean years that required creative financing to pull it off. After realizing the association was in debt in 1981, Gordon Stewart '82 and his classmates vied for—and secured—$5,000 in student activity fees from the university to pull off "Delirious in New York," bringing a staggering 840 attendees to the Great Space.

"It continues to live on as one of the most raucous parties in the school's history," said Stewart.

It wasn't until the 2000s that Beaux Arts faded completely from the spring social scene. While it was revived briefly off-campus in 2018, this year's return is the first Beaux Arts in its original spot, thanks in part to the convergence of student organizations, but also the support of the dean and alumni like Grimm+Parker President and CEO Melanie Hennigan '83. Over 150 students, faculty and staff from the school and across campus came donning masks and headdresses, velvet waistcoats and floor-length gowns to eat, drink and dance in a space they've only ever known for schoolwork.

"I wanted to go out with a bang," said Ayden Harris '24, who, along with co-organizer Ben Bilo '24, missed her prom due to COVID. "I think any opportunity to dress up in my opinion is a great one, especially all together as a community." // MH

Graduate student Addison Richmond '24, former president of Women in Architecture, spent roughly 20 hours gluing feathers to a thrift store find for a swoon-worthy, swan-themed dress. "When I heard we were bringing back the ball, I knew I wanted to go all in and take it over the top." Photo by Jelena Djaković

A remnant from Beaux Arts Ball '81, "Delirious New York," endured for decades after the party ended—a grid of Manhattan painstakingly laid out, taped and spray-painted over several days by students. "Karl (DuPuy) was pointing out his favorite haunts as we were taping," recalled Mitchell Lowe '83.

Each spring, the brick and concrete of the Great Space was transformed with elaborate sets designed by the students. In the late '80s, a giant checkpoint tower was erected for "Berlin," to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall; the bicentennial (above) was the theme in 1976. "It just took over the school," said Professor of the Practice Peter Noonan '88, M.Arch '92.

An AR-Aided View of Black History

UMD, Montgomery County Recreate Life at Historic African American Cabin

Visitors pointing their phones at the unassuming log cabin tucked along a wooded road in Olney, Md., may see a 19th-century wash basin still wet with laundry just outside the back door, chickens roaming around a wooden coop or a neighboring log cabin just yards away.

But when they lower their phones, all that remains is an empty yard and a deeper understanding of this property's complicated past.

Through augmented reality (AR), a technology that overlays live scenes with computer-generated imagery, visitors to the African American heritage site in Montgomery County can now envision the livelihoods of Black families who lived there after the Civil War. Developed by the University of Maryland in collaboration with Montgomery County's parks and technology departments, the project is believed to be the first AR experience created for an African American historic site in Maryland.

"Black history and experiences are underrepresented in academic research, in public sites and interpretation," said Stefan Woehlke M.A.A. '13, Ph.D. '21, an assistant clinical professor in UMD's Historic Preservation Program. "It was important to me to work on a site where the county government is investing resources and sharing this period of history through these digital tools."

Oakley Cabin was one of three cabins originally built in the 1820s as part of the 100-acre Oakley farm. The one-and-a-half-story oak and chestnut log cabin housed enslaved laborers until emancipation in 1864; it was home to free Black tenant families well into the late 20th century until Montgomery Parks took over the property in 1976.

With graduate student Rachel Wilkerson '23, M.A. '25, immersive media design student Isabelle Klimanov '24 and history alum Kyle Houston '23, Woehlke used digital laser scanning and photogrammetry to turn thousands of images of the site into 3D models and flyovers of the cabin's interior, exterior and landscape. By scanning QR codes, visitors can immerse themselves in eight different AR experiences, including virtual park guides in seven languages, videos that recreate the historical surroundings, 3D models of the cabin's interior and exterior, and interactive games.

Oakley Cabin is one of 17 historic sites across the county; because park staffing is limited, the interior of the cabin is only accessible to visitors 14 days a year. Through AR programs like the one developed by Woehlke, visitors can now learn about the history of a property year round.

"There are so many important historical sites across Maryland filled with artifacts and information from the lived experiences of these communities, and programs like this make them so much more accessible," said Klimanov. // BR

The Hill at Greenbelt. Courtesy of HKS Architects

UMD Wins 2024 NAIOP Capital Challenge

A team of five graduate students from the University of Maryland's Colvin Institute of Real Estate Development Program took first place in the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP) DC I MD 2024 Capital Challenge for their project, The Hill at Greenbelt, in April. The win marks the third time Maryland has taken the top prize in the intercollegiate real estate competition for the Washington, D.C., area. //

Designing a Better Democracy

New Course Creates Innovative Ways to Increase College Election Participation

Could a giant Testudo shell packed with games entice students to pause and learn about voting? What about a mysterious looking stack of black boxes? Or a multistory projection onto a building?

Those are among the many ideas from a new class this spring, "Design and Democracy," that brought together architecture, public policy, government and politics, and art majors to develop pop-up proposals to encourage college students to register and cast ballots this presidential election year.

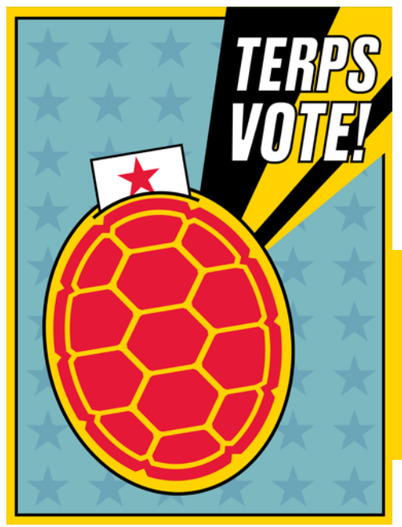
Hannah Smotrich, an associate professor of design at the University of Michigan who is the Arts for All designer-in-residence at UMD, and UMD architecture Professor Ronit Eisenbach co-taught the course, bringing in election experts to students about the importance and challenge of increasing civic engagement. Americans aged 18-24 turned out to vote at the lowest rate of any age group in the 2020 election, according to the U.S. Census.

"How do we get students to not only see that voting is important, but figure out how to actually vote?" Eisenbach says.

Since STEM majors are less likely to cast a ballot, students focused on engaging engineering majors by rendering installation ideas, designing pamphlets and posters on the registration process and developing survey questions on voting (or non-voting) behaviors. Then, they formed multidisciplinary teams to scale up their ideas, culminating in an exhibit at the end of the semester.

"Maryland is lucky that there's an amazing group of people interested in this work of expanding civic participation," Smotrich says. "If these creative projects can bring more people into the conversation, that's a win." // KS

Photo by David Dowlings



TerpsVote poster by Jelena Djaković

> ***How do we get students to not only see that voting is important, but figure out how to actually vote?*** *- Ronit Eisenbach*

Building Towards AI?

New Tech Is Poised to Disrupt the Design Industry. How Can Architects Use It as a Resource—Not a Replacement?

Written by Brianna Rhodes M.J. '17 | Images generated by Midjourney, prompted by Jelena Djaković

Hundreds of hands and years of planning are behind the architectural marvels that make up our city skylines. But, as artificial intelligence (AI) permeates the design world, those numbers may shrink. With the rapid advancement of large language models and generative AI, designers can quickly analyze reams of data and conceive astonishing renderings from just a handful of written prompts in seconds. It could be a boon for architects, offloading some of the more tedious tasks with a handful of keystrokes and allowing them to visualize different ideas faster and more efficiently.

But, as the technology grows, so does some trepidation among the design community of what AI's impact will be on the future of the profession.

"[I'm] optimistically terrified," said Ayers Saint Gross Design Technologist Mike Talbott '03, M.Arch '07. "I think the big question is, how far is it going to go into the creative realm and how far do we think it's going to be transformational in how we design buildings?"

According to a survey conducted by industry-leading architectural software company Chaos Enscape, around 46% of respondents reported using AI tools for their projects, and an additional 24% plan on using them in the future.

Will AI bring creativity or chaos to the design world? We asked Talbott and four other UMD alums currently exploring its capabilities in architecture on first impressions (ranging from rosy to skepticism), putting the tech to work in practice and the possibilities for the future.

The following images in this story were generated using Midjourney by MAPP designer Jelena Djaković, using keywords pulled from each of the interviews

Jordan Goldstein *('94)*

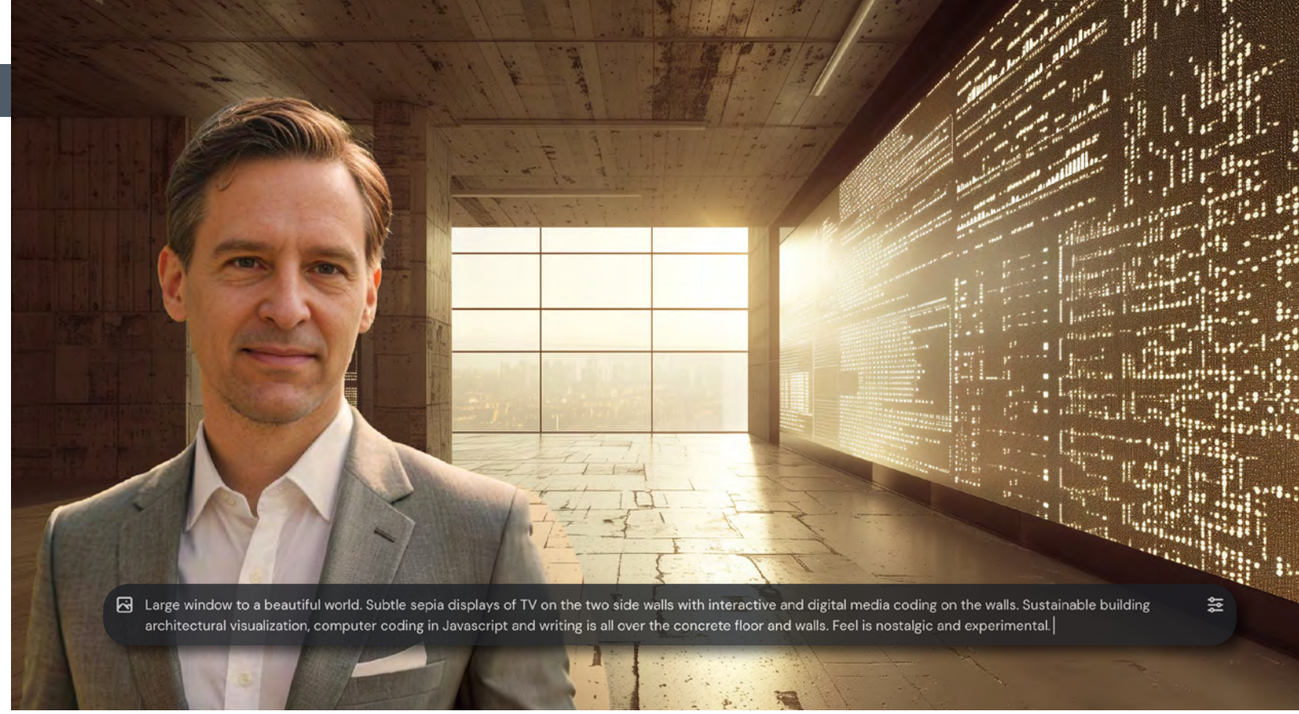
Co-CEO of Gensler

> ***"I'm excited about pushing the envelope."***

Recently named the sixth most innovative company in the world by FastCompany, it's not a surprise that Gensler is diving into AI. But, its capabilities—and what it's poised to do in the future for architects—go beyond throwing some words into a program to generate an image, says co-CEO Jordan Goldstein: It's the ultimate collaboration tool for pushing innovation and speed. Design teams can often generate hundreds of images with an AI assist in the time it would take to create a handful conventionally, allowing them to hone the best concepts for further refinement. Beyond the concept stage, AI can help create more sustainable fabrication by predicting building performance or analyzing the lifecycle of materials.

But, it's the "add-on" pieces of collateral, such as "user experience" renderings generated in seconds by AI software, that Goldstein says brings their concepts to life by simulating what it feels like to inhabit the project. As part of a recent master plan project, the team generated evocative images of walking between buildings or seeing the site from the window of an airplane. Learning about the potential of the technology after 30 years in the field, said Goldstein, is like "an old dog learning new tricks."

"I'm not only charged by it, but I feel like it's also an obligation to lean in, learn and experiment with it so that we can really make sure that our design work, our creative process, our innovation and our impact are at their utmost capability," Goldstein said.



Mark Burlinson *(M.Arch '93)*

Principal, Interface Multimedia

> ***"We're just scratching the surface."***

The same year "Terminator 2" was released in theaters, Mark Burlinson and his future business partner Jeff Pulford M.Arch '92 were setting up the Architecture Program's first computers just outside the Great Space. Mainstream AI software was decades away (despite the tech-powered assassins on screen), but Burlinson and Pulford knew the future was here: if they could just get the faculty on board.

"None of the professors wanted us to use the computers," Burlinson said. "They thought it was folly."

Thirty years later, Burlinson and Pulford are still using technology—including AI—as the co-founders of creative marketing studio Interface Multimedia to produce architectural visualization and marketing for their clients, who include developers, interior designers and architects.

Burlinson said the company is still learning and "scratching the surface," using AI to assist with tasks such as code reviews, programming, writing and research. They recently used the software Midjourney and OpenAI to help inform a brand guide for a sustainability design firm. The software significantly reduced their research time and provided a litany of information on sustainable building practices, said Burlinson, which the team filtered and distilled for the client.

"In the past, it would be something that would take my staff weeks to complete," Burlinson said. "Now, we can do that research in a matter of hours."

Austin Raimond *('14, M.Arch '16)*
Senior Associate, Perkins Eastman

Perkins Eastman Senior Associate Austin Raimond compares the exploration of AI to Hans Christian Andersen's 1847 short story, "The Shadow."

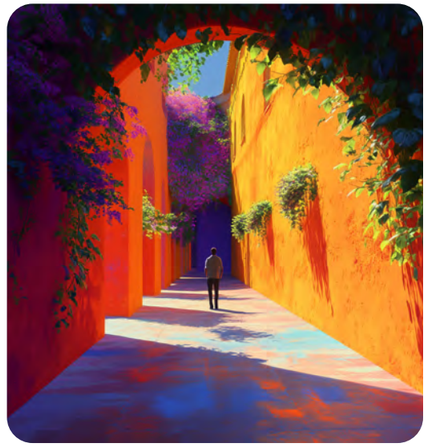
In the story, a man confined to his apartment uses his shadow as a "surrogate" to see the outside world he is longing to explore. The story takes a drastic, dystopian turn when the shadow replaces the man and achieves an identity for itself and lives a fully realized, fulfilled life. One could extrapolate a trade-off between what we choose to externalize versus take part in first-hand, says Raimond.

Raimond sees AI's potential as a "surrogate" tool to explore the edges of creativity and offer different design perspectives—while still giving autonomy to the human at the keyboard. He recently has been working with software like Stable Diffusion and Midjourney to investigate and "stress test" what they can achieve for iterative design tasks.

Perkins Eastman, he says, is in the early stages of experimenting with what AI can do; still, clients on tight deadlines have asked if the firm could use the technology to accelerate the ideation process. While he is excited about the efficiencies it brings, he doesn't see AI as a one-stop solution for designing.

"I would be very concerned with any design process that was relying on pushing a single button, generating a couple images and declaring that the design," he said. "I see generative design more as an emergent tool for informing a series of design avenues and explorations that are going to feed into how we're solving the larger problem."

> ***"We're pushing the edges of what this software can achieve."***



Coren Sharples *('87)*
Founding Principal, SHoP Architects

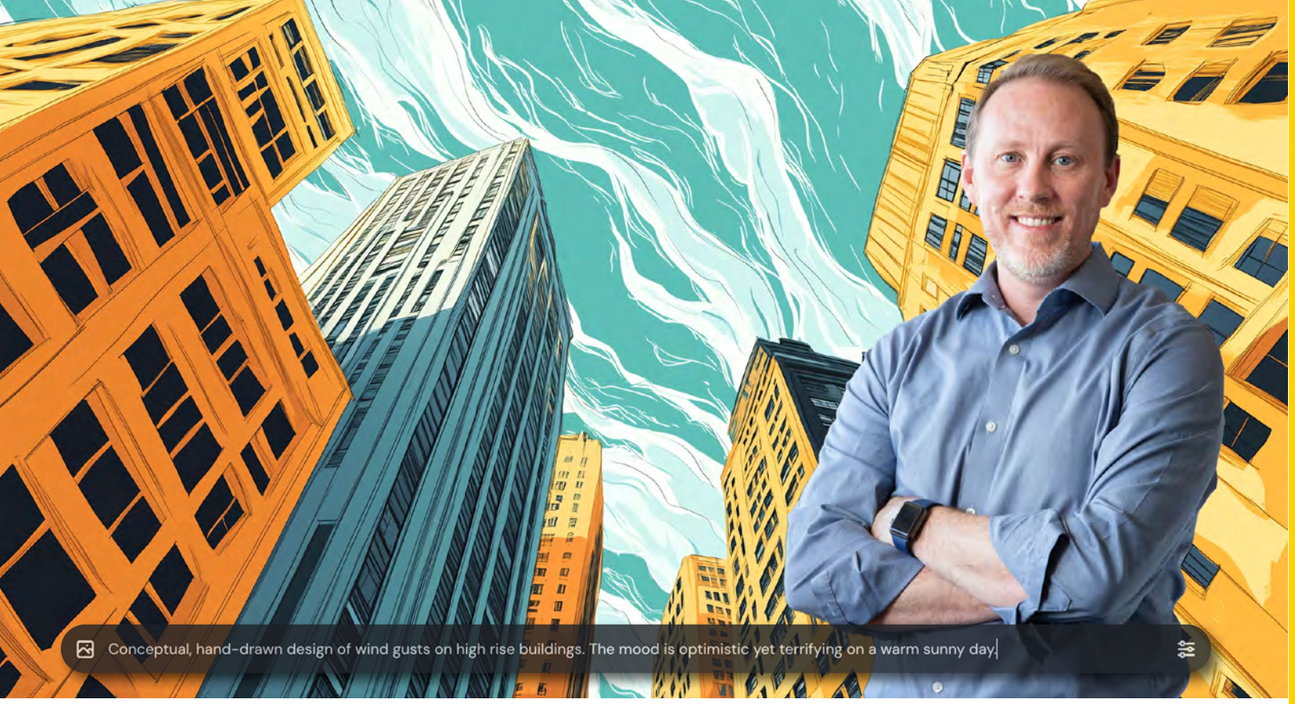
Coren Sharples has always considered her architectural firm a trailblazer of technology and innovation "in the service of great design"–and now, she's looking to AI to enhance this effort.

As a founding principal of SHoP Architects, Sharples and her team are exploring ways to use AI to help the company build models with the "SHoP DNA": training AI tools with data from their own projects to help generate models. AI could create and test multifamily residential unit mixes for floor plans using SHoP's guidelines. It can evaluate what to add or do in the development stages. Then, different outputs could be incorporated into the model.

This approach, says Sharples, is both efficient and effective from a business standpoint and ensures the knowledge doesn't get lost. She calls it a "digital twin."

"I've been really excited about how we can use technology to do the dumb stuff," she said. "It frees designers' time up to focus on more creative visioning and problem solving–the things that really matter."

> ***"I'm excited about how we can use technology to do the dumb stuff."***



Michael Talbott *('03, M.Arch '07)*

Design Technologist, Ayers Saint Gross

Ayers Saint Gross' Mike Talbott has used AI programs like Autodesk's Forma to quickly assess the impact of wind conditions on high rise projects and other analyses typically farmed out to consultants. But, on days when his creative tank is running on empty, he occasionally turns to AI for fuel.

"I love using it as this ideation tool where it just spits out a bunch of crazy results," he said. "I take them all with a grain of salt, but maybe one of them kind of sparks something in me that then I want to explore further. So, I learn from it and then build upon it."

Ideas generated by AI are built off massive amounts of information found online—from drawings and photographs to text and video. It is creative, says Talbott, because it riffs on human creativity. But, he's worried that AI could someday move from assistant to creative director as it continues to learn.

"One caveat is if it surpasses that barrier," he said. //

> ***"I love using it as this ideation tool where it just spits out a bunch of crazy results."***

Machine Learning

How Will AI Impact Architecture Curriculum? Faculty Test-Drive the Tech in Studio Pilot.

Any architecture alum who's lamented the lighting in the Great Space might get a certain satisfaction seeing what Associate Clinical Professor Hooman Koliji's students cooked up with AI: inverted skylight "pyramids" that funnel light into the studio, and other sustainable design elements that breathe new life into the 52-year-old building. The concepts, aided by software like Autodesk and Midjourney, were part of an early AI elective taught by Koliji in the fall of 2023, with students transforming hand-drawn sketches into full renderings.

If Koliji's elective challenged students to reconsider the school's roof, the expansive curriculum created this fall by architecture faculty blew it clean off. Two Teaching & Learning Transformation Center AI-focused grants from the University of Maryland funded new AI workshops for undergraduate and graduate studios, an in-depth report on the state of AI in the profession and academy, and a symposium.

Associate Clinical Professors Brittany Williams '05, M.Arch '07, Michael Ezban and Lindsey May designed and piloted week-long AI workshops that engaged over 150 students with text-to-image-based tools to explore building aesthetics, landscape design and analysis, and facade design. These tools and workflows helped students rapidly iterate a range of ideas that furthered their studio projects.

Williams, Ezban and May's research into AI, which was aided by three graduate students over the summer, culminated in "The AI Report," a 50-page booklet that offers a perspective on the state of AI in the profession and the academy, and served as a useful primer for UMD students engaging with AI for the first time. They also organized the AI + Design Thinking Symposium, held in mid-November, which brought together international professionals, alumni and researchers to share their experiences with AI and observe the work happening in the Architecture Program's studios. //

By feeding sketches, reference images and written prompts like "modern, brick, dusk and mullion" into AI software, architecture junior Asher Harcum brainstormed potential ideas for a Georgetown infill project. "It definitely helped me think more out of the box in terms of what I did and didn't want to do, but also helped me rethink some preconceived ideas," she said.

Intelligently Predicting Housing Instability

Imagine predicting which apartment buildings on a neighborhood block were most at-risk for turning their vulnerable residents out on the street. It's a dream for city and county governments grappling with shrinking affordable housing stock and upticks in homelessness—but could soon be a reality.

UMD's National Center for Smart Growth researchers Kathryn Howell, Chester Harvey and Nick Finio M.C.P. '15, Ph.D. '22 are in the early stages of creating an innovative system to help forecast housing instability and preserve housing affordability, with a pilot currently underway for the Purple Line Corridor's Preservation Network in partnership with Enterprise Community Partners.

The project uses AI to sort, integrate and merge county and state level data about properties, such as housing evictions, court filings and building conditions, to store information and analyze at-risk buildings.

According to Harvey, the system will be used as an initial screening tool for identifying buildings that have the potential to be unstable along the Purple Line corridor.

"It's really difficult for folks in assistance agencies or nonprofits that are trying to help maintain affordable or stable housing to know where to look," Harvey said. "What this is designed to do is be an early warning system for saying, 'Oh this building looks like it has some factors that could make it unstable. Let's see what we can do to improve the stability going forward.'" //

From Ashes to Awe

Students and Faculty Mark 20 Years of Documenting Little-Known Ruins Near Pompeii

Perched above the glittering Bay of Naples, Castellammare di Stabia was the vacation destination of choice for the who's who of ancient Roman society. They'd flock to fabulous villas to host intellectual discussions, swim in the sea below and partake plentifully of the local wine, all while enjoying an unimpeded view of Mt. Vesuvius. The partying came to a sudden end in the year 79, when the volcano erupted, releasing toxic gases and boiling-hot ash that buried the resort area, its neighboring towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and thousands of their inhabitants.

Leonardo Varone M.Arch '00 accompanied Stabiae's most famous fresco, Flora di Stabiae, from Baltimore's airport to the National Museum of Natural History for an exhibit in 2004.

Yet the details on how the Roman elite lived, entertained and decorated their lavish homes have come to light two millennia later through excavations and analysis of the site led by University of Maryland faculty and students. This summer marked the 20th anniversary of their work in Italy, and a new book coming out next year will showcase their progress.

The unlikely project began with Leonardo Varone M.Arch '00 a native of C. di Stabia who enrolled in UMD's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. As a young boy, he had joined his father, who was a judge in Pompeii, along with a television crew and a nationally known reporter to see the ruins of the famous Villa of the Papyri in nearby Herculaneum. The vibrantly colored mosaics led to a love of Roman history.

But the villas of Stabiae–as the ancient part of town is known–were, Varone says, "a second player" compared to those at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Visitors could wander up the cliff and ask a guard to show them around, but the site lacked any formal infrastructure. At Maryland, his master's thesis proposed turning the villas into an archaeological park, complete with a ticketing process, visitor's center and transportation between the site and the modern city of 65,000 below.

Faculty members encouraged Varone, who now works as an architect in Washington, D.C., and has volunteered his time to the Stabiae project, to share his thesis with local government officials in C. di Stabia, who were excited about the prospect of increasing tourism to their town.

The roughly 72,000-square-foot site and its dozen or so villas had undergone prior excavations: In the 1700s, Swiss architect and engineer Karl Weber and Spanish military engineer Roque Joaúin de Alcubierre, who was working for the Spanish king, dug up some of the site and made drawings of it, but the ruins were once again largely forgotten. In the 1950s, local scholar Liberio D'Orsi excavated rooms from the Villa San Marco and Villa Arianna.

In 2004, after several years of talks with Varone and the local government, UMD partnered with the Superintendency of Archaeology of Pompeii and the region of Campania to form the Restoring Ancient Stabiae Foundation (RAS). Through RAS, led on UMD's end by Professor Emeritus Robert Lindley Vann, students and faculty began traveling to Italy each summer, excavating Villa Arianna and its gardens.

"The Italians were saying, 'Jeez, if the Americans are interested, maybe we should devote some more resources to this,'" says Matthew Bell, a UMD professor of architecture who serves as vice president of RAS and was Varone's thesis advisor. "We succeeded in getting attention for tourism resources and a research focus to the site that might not have arrived otherwise."

Over time, the Terps—and groups from Yale, Columbia, Emory and nearly 80 other universities—revealed more than 100 walls covered in richly colored frescoes of Roman gods, people, geometric designs and gardens, and a more extensive section of the gardens themselves.

"It's stunning," says art history major Stephanie Korth '25, who traveled to the site this summer. "Almost all the walls are preserved. We have remnants of stairs leading up to a second story. You can still see the figures and all the little decorations."

The team has also found that villas' owners had set up their homes for rites related to the secret societies they belonged to, including the famous initiation known as the Eleusinian Mysteries.

"There are discs that hang from the ceiling or between columns, and wreaths and animal skins," says Joseph C. Williams, assistant professor of architectural history and current supervisor of the project. "In some cases, these artifacts have been preserved, and in others, they're represented in the frescoes."

Now the UMD team is focused on documenting the paintings, plantings and general architecture of the houses. That process includes making line drawings—illustrations of the walls that feature digital measurements made by scanners and lasers. These illustrations are more nuanced and precise than a photograph, says Williams.

For Varone, the growth of Stabiae is a victory. He personally accompanied Stabiae's most famous fresco, "Flora di Stabiae," which depicts a woman holding flowers, from Baltimore's airport to the National Museum of Natural History for an exhibit in the mid-2000s, and has seen the site grow from just a couple thousand yearly visitors to some 100,000.

"I did something well beyond my wildest imagination," he says. // SL

Amy Gardner's Legacy at UMD is a Group Effort

If you look through the hundreds of photos taken of Clinical Professor Amy Gardner at the University of Maryland, there's one thing that sticks out—and it's not her signature asymmetrical hairstyle. It's that she's rarely alone.

It's not because Gardner avoids attention (although she does), but because of a philosophy she has carefully constructed during her tenure at Maryland—that architecture is not an "I" but an "us," rooted in interdisciplinary teamwork to deliver a holistic, collaborative curricula that mirrors the practice and delivers thoughtful, award-winning design concepts.

Gardner, who retired in May after 35 years with UMD's Architecture Program, is one of the literal architects of ARCH 600/611, Integrated Design Studio and Advanced Technology, a cornerstone of the program's curricula that set a national standard for how architecture is taught by the National Architectural Accrediting Board for programs across the country. It is design that pays as much attention to systems and materials as to form, and where the environment is as much a stakeholder as the client.

"Amy has made true believers in sustainable architecture for multiple generations of students," said former student and Associate Clinical Professor Brittany Williams '05, M.Arch '07.

It also served as the foundation for two award-winning U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon entries: the second place 2007 entry, LEAFHouse and the first place overall 2011 winner, WaterShed. Beyond trophies, is its manifestation in projects—through her thriving practice in Washington, D.C.—and people, in the legion of students and colleagues, who now gravitate towards a collaborative design process for the greater good.

"We'd have these evening meetings with all of these people from different professions and disciplines with this singular vision of this house," said Associate Clinical Professor Julie Gabrielli, who was a faculty advisor on LEAFHouse. "Amy and I would sit in the back of the room, sort of freaking out and saying, 'This is really happening! This is what we dreamed about.' We set this thing into motion, but really, she set this in motion."

After UMD, Gardner will continue to put her "strength-in-numbers" philosophy in practice, which has won her firm acclaim and a reputation among peers in other disciplines for bucking the traditional architect stereotype—one she hopes is her legacy at Maryland.

"I'm uncomfortable with thinking of any one person, particularly me, as being the leader, it's really a group thing," she said. "It always was a group thing. And that's the point. We can't solve these big problems as singular voices." // MH

> ***It always was a group thing. And that's the point. We can't solve these big problems as singular voices.***
> *- Amy Gardner*

Raising funds for Watershed in 2011.

Mike Binder's Regenerative Career

Mike Binder presenting his thesis in 2006.

> ***It's combining not only engineering and physics, but also design. So, I made the change to architecture to do something I'd always wanted to do.***
> *- Mike Binder M.Arch '06*

For Associate Clinical Professor Mike Binder M.Arch '06, teaching architecture wasn't rocket science. He knows, because he did that—in a former life at NASA before scratching an itch to leverage his science mind to propel sustainable, regenerative design.

Teaching architecture for UMD's School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation was a literal labor of love for Binder: in studio, on the competition stage, as a mentor and advisor.

Binder, who retired in May, taught the intricacies of structural technology, a complex and often intimidating requirement for students, through cardboard bridges and solar houses, capitalizing on his passion for bettering the built environment as well as his natural creativity.

He began his 38-year career working on particle physics and engineering, where he specialized in system simulation of rockets and jet engines as a contractor for IBM and NASA before switching to architecture.

"I'd always been interested in sustainability partly because I'm a systems guy and sustainability is like the ultimate in systems disciplines," said Binder. "It's combining not only engineering and physics, but also design. So, I made the change to architecture to do something I'd always wanted to do."

Binder returned to school to obtain his master's in architecture at UMD in 2003—and stayed. During his tenure with MAPP, he guided students through the complex yet necessary concepts of sustainable systems, structural principles, energy modeling, lighting and HVAC. His unique expertise fueled four Solar Decathlons: as a student in 2005, as a mentor with LEAFHouse in 2007, and as a faculty advisor for WaterShed in 2011 and reACT in 2017.

Beyond his work at UMD, Binder worked as a registered architect and LEED AP BD+C on high-performance, single-family residential projects through his business, Binder Regenerative Design Studio, and with Amy Gardner through Gardner Architects.

In retirement, Binder hopes to concentrate on other towering marvels: decorative cakes, a hobby he loved as a kid. But unlike the models created in studio, these creations have a destination other than the dumpster outside the fabrication lab.

"I'll be able to make something creative, but at the end of the day, you get to eat it," he said. // BR

Promotions

ARIEL BIERBAUM was promoted with tenure to associate professor of urban studies and planning. With 25 years of experience in the non-profit and public sectors, her cross-disciplinary background connects urban studies, planning and public education. Bierbaum explores how public schools and planning at the neighborhood, city and regional levels interact and contribute to the perpetuation of inequality. She has taught at UMD since 2017. Bierbaum's book, "Schools for Sale: Displacement, Dispossession, and School Reuse in Philadelphia," will be published next year.

MICHAEL EZBAN was promoted to associate clinical professor of architecture last fall. Ezban has served as assistant director of the graduate architecture program since 2022. His work and research centers on multispecies urbanism and environments.

SUSAN KERN was named associate professor of historic preservation. The director of UMD's Historic Preservation Program, Kern studies history and how the past is used in museums, monuments and public spaces. Her current book project explores landmark preservation projects of the early 20th century and their lasting influence on historical imagination about early America.

KEN FILLER '14, M.Arch '16 was promoted assistant clinical professor this fall. In addition to design studio, he teaches courses related to visual representation and architectural drawing, and experiments with visual communication strategies.

STEFAN WOEHLKE M.A.A. '13, Ph.D. '21 was promoted to assistant clinical professor this past summer. Woehlke's work focuses on community heritage empowerment by centering descendant communities in heritage projects. His current work focuses on developing community-centered projects with the African American communities that surround the University of Maryland and College Park.

BRITTANY WILLIAMS '05, M.Arch '07 was named associate clinical professor last year. She joined six academic professionals from across the nation to help bridge the gap between architectural practice and academia as a member of the AIA 2024-2025 Higher Education Advisory Team.

JOHN SPRINKLE was named adjunct professor of historic preservation this past school year. Sprinkle has taught a variety of courses for the University of Maryland's historic preservation program since 2012. He published his most recent book, "Heritage Conservation in the United States: Enhancing the Presence of the Past" in 2023.

MAPP Welcomes New Architecture Faculty Members This Fall:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL KLEISS specializes in computational models for design patterns, structural morphology, generative design of skyscrapers, shape grammars and the architecture of diplomacy.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ANDRESSA MARTINEZ advances architectural technologies such as algorithmic and parametric design, rapid prototyping and digital fabrication through her research and teaching.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DEOK-OH WOO focuses on performance-based building design, mechanical systems in buildings and building automation system specifically in occupancy detection-based HVAC system controls.

Faculty Achievements

Witnessing History at the White House

Urban studies and planning Associate Professor Marccus Hendricks served as a senior advisor for climate and community resilience on the inaugural White House Environmental Justice team in 2023. Through his one-year appointment under the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Hendricks supported the development of federal policies, initiatives and efforts that advanced place-based strategies and solutions related to water, hazard mitigation, disaster recovery and infrastructure.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture recognized Professor **Mohammad Gharipour** with a 2024 Architectural Education Award for his positive, stimulating and nurturing influence upon students. Gharipour also started his new position as the president of the Society of Architectural Historians.

The Academic Advisory Council for Signage Research & Education selected Clinical Assistant Professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives **Lindsey May** as a 2024 Emerging Fellow.

Adjunct Architecture Professor **Andrew Pressman** will release his book "IDEAS—a Secret Weapon for Business" in December.

Peter Noonan '88, M.Arch '92 was reappointed as professor of the practice for the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Noonan also received a 2023 AIA Maryland Honor Award for the Farm to Table House project as a principal with McInturff Architects.

Lecturer **Daniel Curry**, an associate architect and a member of the design team for the Bard High School Early College project in Washington, D.C., won a National AIA Design Excellence Award in the Education Facility Design category.

Homecoming

Barry Farm's Black Residents Were Neglected for Decades—Then Displaced. One Alum is Helping Them Reclaim Their Community.

Photos by Jelena Djaković

> ***I tell residents that I'm a Black girl from D.C. I'm designing this and creating this because I'm you. I'm from this city.***
> *- Maia Shanklin Roberts M.C.P. '14*

As a native Washingtonian who grew up in Southwest and Northwest D.C., Maia Shanklin Roberts M.C.P. '14 embraced being in an urban environment surrounded by a majority-Black community.

"Everything was so Black," she said, from her neighbors to her doctors—an example of why D.C. was once known as "Chocolate City."

Although her upbringing helped Roberts value the importance of Black community, she knew she lived in a segregated city where there were inequities east and west of the Anacostia River, a dividing line between affluent white neighborhoods and those majority-Black.

"Something is inherent in the way that [our] communities are structured that disables us," she said. "It's creating this sickness within our neighborhoods and it made me think more critically about what changes need to happen in the physical environment."

Now, as the vice president of real estate development at Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) for the Mid-Atlantic region, Roberts is redeveloping Barry Farm, a historically vibrant Black community that fell victim to the ravages of poor housing conditions, overcrowding, poverty and crime. Over time, the area deteriorated due to the city's neglect and residents lived in terrible conditions until redevelopment plans by the District displaced many of them in 2019.

Since joining POAH in 2022, Roberts has been leading the effort to modernize and implement POAH's 2013 master plan, which aims to provide affordable housing for former residents in today's new economic environment. The development will comprise a mix of apartments and townhomes of varying sizes, along with a community center, retail spaces, a cultural center, amenities and open spaces. POAH completed the first building in August.

Roberts admits there have been challenges surrounding the decade-long initiative. Former residents of Barry Farm have dealt with the trauma, displacement and mistrust of the project since moving out of the area for its demolition. There are residents who still live there; multigenerational families developed a culture in Barry Farm they're still fighting to preserve.

"I tell residents that I'm a Black girl from D.C.," she said. "I'm designing this and creating this because I'm you. I'm from this city. I know what it feels like, and I empathize with them from that lens."

This perspective also guides her business, Shanklin Hall, a brick-and-mortar social club located in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of D.C. She opened the social club with her siblings and family friends to create a space that honors the legacy of Black entertainment and socialization in a rapidly gentrifying city. The goal is to curate a space and community that feels good, organic and authentic to residents.

Roberts acknowledges that the work she is doing at Shanklin Hall is essentially a smaller-scale version of what she does at POAH.

"It's so beautiful to see how everything ties together," she said. "It's creating the physical infrastructure for the community to engage and grow and take shape. That's my job. I don't see myself as an architect, but my mission and drive is to help us to reclaim space." // BR

Inhabit 2022

Maryland's Built Environment School

Auburn University appointed **Jim Carroll** '87, M.Arch '89 as the new vice president of facilities management.

Zoom Room, a venture-backed, revolutionary indoor dog training gym, announced **Herb Heiserman** '90, M.Arch '92 as the executive vice president of design and construction.

The Washington Business Journal profiled **Pablo Quintana** M.Arch '95, the principal and director of design, OTJ Architects, Inc.

Architecture and design magazine Dezeen featured the 33-story Skyglass Tower designed by **Julia Nagele** M.Arch '96, which was recently unveiled in downtown Seattle, Wash. Nagle is the senior principal of architecture studio Hewitt.

Gilbane Building Company promoted **Ted Holt** '97 to division leader in the Mid-Atlantic.

M.Arch '02 **Kirin Makker's** collaborative artwork, "Womb Chair Speaks" is on display in an exhibition at the Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Del. until Jan. 5, 2025.

Perkins Eastman Kennedy Center Master Plan

Perkins Eastman's Matthew Bell, **Christian Calleri** M.Arch '01 and **Bhavi Venkitaraman** M.Arch, M.C.P. '21 completed a conceptual urban design master plan for the National Capital Planning Commission that trades the tangled mess of highway around the Kennedy Center for a cohesive and sustainable public environment of green parks, bike paths and transportation access. The work was featured on Fox5 DC and in the Washington Business Journal and the Washington Post.

AIA Fellows

The American Institute of Architects elevated MAPP alums **Ann Marie Borys** '80 and **Craig Spangler** '82 to its College of Fellows.

Gabrielle Collard M.C.P. '03 was appointed deputy director of planning for the city of Frederick.

Gresham Smith, a top-ranked national architecture and engineering firm, announced **Corie Baker** M.Arch '05 as the market vice president of the firm's healthcare market.

Studio Alliance (previously Alliance Architecture) tapped **Sherry Banaei** '06 as its new head and creative director.

Baltimore development and investment firm Greenberg Gibbons secured a $34.5 million deal to acquire Cool Springs Pointe, a fully-leased strip mall in Brentwood, Tenn. Real estate alum **Eric C. Walter** '04, MRED '10 serves as president of the company.

An Emblem of Resurgence and Restoration

Twenty-three years ago, architecture alum **Bill Spack** '82 became a part of Arlington County's effort to restore and relocate 13 nearly century-old Tiffany stained-glass windows in Arlington, Virginia. The windows were once the crown jewels of the Abbey Mausoleum, a prestigious burial ground builtbetween 1924 and 1926 for nearly 300 affluent individuals who resided in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., in the early 20th century. The last of them—a depiction of Jesus Christ titled "Christ in Blessing"—found sanctuary earlier this year in the vestibule of the new Central United Methodist Church in Arlington, Va.

Tribal Loyalties

Photo courtesy of John T. Consoli, University of Marlyand

Terp Magazine featured M.Arch ’09 **Joseph Kunkel’s** efforts for his work on sustainable development practices for Indigenous communities, such as the Wa-Di Housing Development in New Mexico. As a principal at international architecture firm MASS Design Group, the affordable housing at Wa-Di is one example of Kunkel’s work around the country to provide Native people with the resources they have long been denied: high-quality homes, health clinics, child care centers and marketplaces. Kunkel works alongside tribal housing authorities, members of tribes, community development financial institutions, architects and other partners to create places that take into account the aesthetic and cultural values of specific Native groups. Read about Joe’s work in Terp by using the QR code to the right or visiting: **bit.ly/tribal-loyalties**.

Ahmed Zaman '09, M.Arch '11 made Washington Business Journal’s 2024 40 under 40 list, which spotlights 40 of greater Washington’s brightest young executives. Ahmed is a senior associate for Perkins Eastman.

Amber Dickerson MRED ‘12 joined the University of South Florida as planner-in-residence for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program.

The Washington Business Journal recognized **Maia Shanklin Roberts** M.C.P. '14 as a honoree for its Diversity in Business Awards. Roberts is the vice president of real estate development for the Preservation of Affordable Housing’s mid-Atlantic region.

Metropolis Magazine's Arch30 program recognized **Erin Barkman** '15, M.Arch '17 as an emerging architectural leader under 30.

Li (Kerry) Fang Ph.D. ‘18 joined the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as an associate professor this fall.

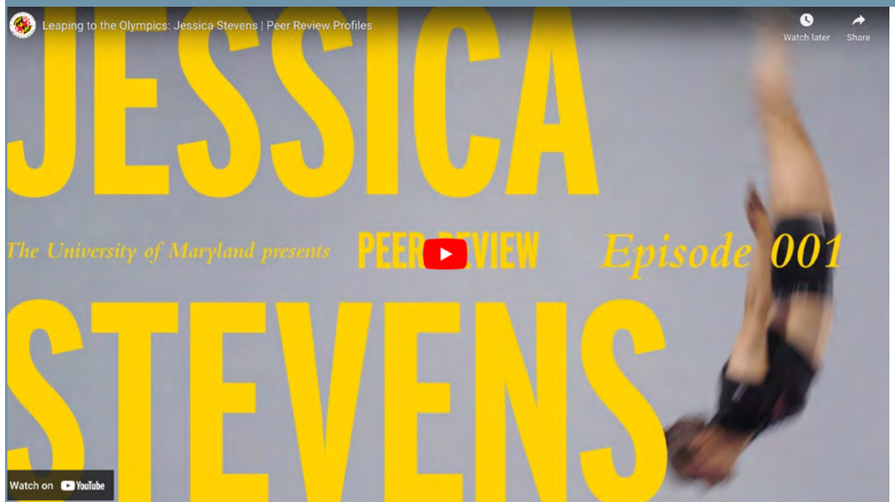
Ridhima Mehrotra M.C.P. ‘18 started a new position with KFH Group as a transportation planner II.

Juhi Goel M.Arch ‘19 and her team members at Prellwitz Chilinski Associates received the Runner's Up Award and the People's Choice Award for the inaugural Embodied Carbon Reduction Challenge.

Dominique Gebru M.C.P. ‘23 joined the Build America Bureau at the U.S. Department of Transportation as a community planner and program analyst with the Thriving Communities Program.

Anonnya Islam M.C.P. ‘24 joined Arundel Community Development Services as a housing and community development planner in July.

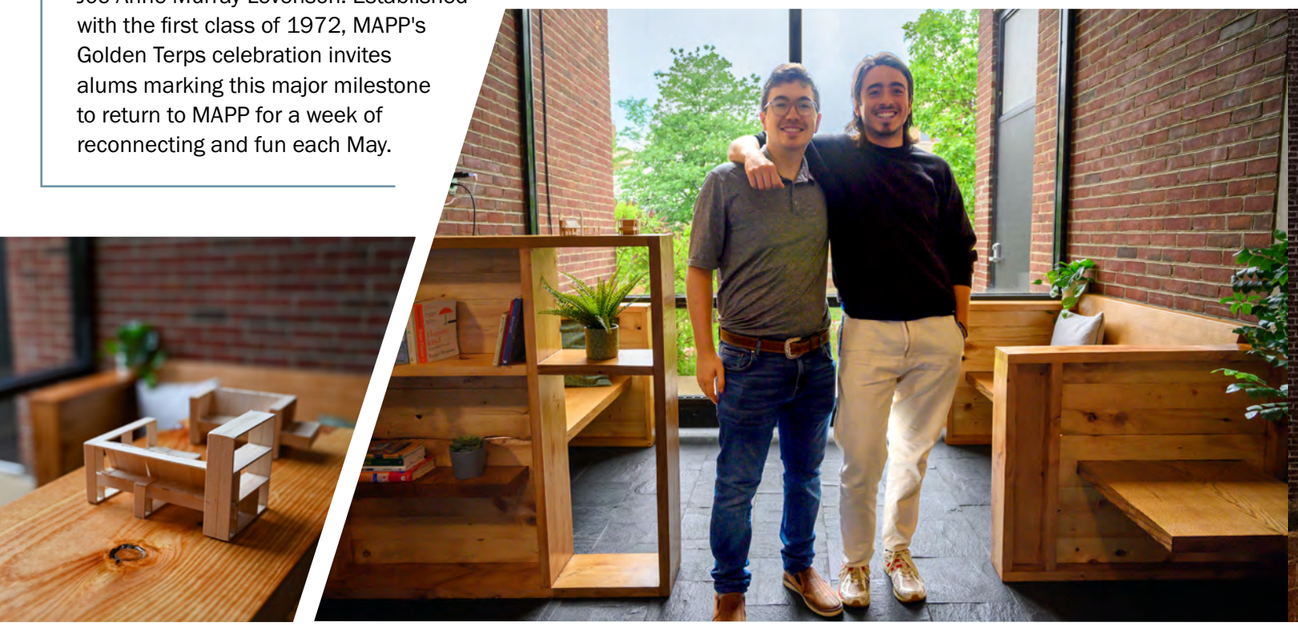
Going for the Gold



Konstantin Gulisashvili ’19, M.Arch ’23 helped fellow Terp Jessica Stevens ’24 vie for Olympic Gold in trampoline gymnastics as her head coach at the 2024 Olympic Games. Get a sneak peek at how Gulisashvili helped Stevens soar toward her highest achievement in UMD’s new “Peer Review” video series. View the video using the QR code to the right or visiting: **bit.ly/leaping-to-olympics**.

Golden Terps

MAPP's newest "Golden Terps"–members of the class of 1974–celebrated their 50th anniversary alongside the class of 2024 at the school's spring commencement. Pictured back row, L to R: Pat Krochina, David Sternberg, Abe Rosenthal. Front row: Becky Swanston, Janet Niederberger, Joe Anne Murray Levenson. Established with the first class of 1972, MAPP's Golden Terps celebration invites alums marking this major milestone to return to MAPP for a week of reconnecting and fun each May.



Photos by Jelena Djaković

Parting Shot

As part of an independent project their senior year, **Ben Bilo** '24 and **Mateo Ortiz** '24 designed and built a beautiful seating/hangout space for the MAPP community, which now lives in the alcove just outside the Kibel Gallery. The custom-made furniture, constructed out of salvaged wood, was installed before both students graduated in May. (Ben returned this fall to pursue his master's!)

It's time to reimagine our space.

Since its founding in 1967, the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation has grown exponentially, and now houses over 500 students in five disciplines. Join us as we embark on an exciting new project to grow, enhance and renovate our building.

Photo: Betsy Nolen Petrusic '13, M.Arch '15

Hire Our Students

Looking for fresh talent for your firm or organization?

Post jobs with us on Handshake: **app.joinhandshake.com**. Save the date for MAPP's Career and Internship Fair, March 7, 2025! Interested in an invitation? Email us at **mappalum@umd.edu.**

Stay connected

Keep in Touch: MAPP's Great Space delivers school news, alum profiles and events to your inbox monthly. Not receiving it? E-mail us at **mappalum@umd.edu.**

What's New? New job? Big project? Classmate run-in? We want to share it. Email your news, pictures, or updated contact information to **mappalum@umd.edu.**

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College Park, MD 20742

A Portrait of Roger K. Lewis

Professor Emeritus Roger K. Lewis, FAIA, who died Oct. 2, 2024, at 83, was one of the first architecture professors to join the school's faculty in 1967 and was instrumental in shaping the curriculum we still nurture today. Over his decades-long career, he balanced a professional trifecta as an architect, writer and teacher with prolific service to the profession, most recently as president of the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation.

Roger was generous with sharing his love for good design and spirit of adventure with his students—he helped lead the school's first study abroad trip in 1971 and hired many students to work in his Washington, D.C., firm over the years. When not practicing or teaching, he was writing...and drawing. He penned the beloved column "Shaping the City" for nearly 40 years at the Washington Post, each footnoted with one of his signature cartoons; his book, "Architect? A Candid Guide to the Profession," continues to serve as canon for architects everywhere.

"He was a lifelong teacher," said Mark McInturff '72. "When you're in school, you don't know what relationship, if any, you'll have down the road with these people. With Roger, it was ongoing. It's as if school didn't stop."

In 2007, Lewis established the Roger K. Lewis Graduate Fellowship to provide financial support to students in the Architecture Program. You can contribute to Roger's legacy at: bit.ly/roger-k-lewis-fellowship or by scanning the QR code.