

# Participant profiles

Class of 2016

LSE **Cities**

Executive MSc in Cities

LSE



# EXECUTIVE MSC IN CITIES

For the last decade LSE Cities has brought together some of the world's leading urban thinkers and practitioners in its annual Urban Age programme in cities across the globe, from Mumbai to Johannesburg, Rio de Janeiro and New York. Internationalism is at the core of our research and teaching. For the inaugural Executive MSc in Cities, 23 urban professionals from 15 cities will convene at the LSE for five residency sessions to explore how they and their organisation can deliver effective change in their cities.

Representing diverse sectors from Local Government, National Government, Architecture, Urban Design, Planning, Technology, Energy, Finance, Real Estate and Global Climate Change and Housing NGO's, the class of 2016 embodies the necessary sectorial diversity to deal with the cross cutting challenges and opportunities that today's cities are facing.

[exec.lsecities@lse.ac.uk](mailto:exec.lsecities@lse.ac.uk)

## *Spatial distribution of the class of 2016*

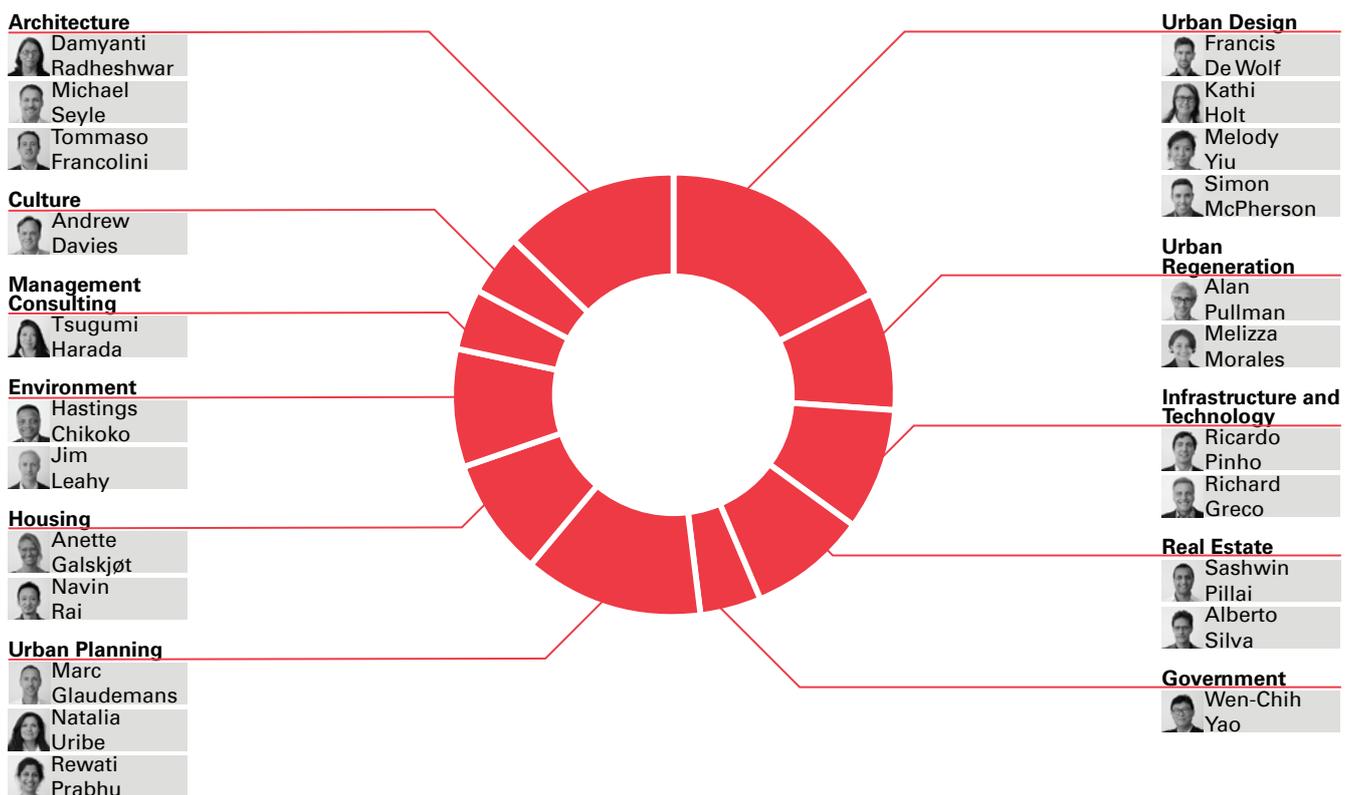
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## Sectoral affiliation of the class of 2016





# Alan Pullman

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Alan Pullman is an architect and urban designer based in Los Angeles, California. He was raised in New York, and made his way to California after attending architecture school at Syracuse University. After practicing architecture for several commercial firms in the region he found a calling of sorts after working on a local community-driven revitalisation project. That project made him think more broadly about the responsibility of designers and the roles they should play in creating more sustainable, equitable and liveable cities.

He started his firm, Studio One Eleven, in 2000, which has since focused on the repair and revitalisation of existing cities through master planning, infill architecture and building rehabilitation. Alan sees Los Angeles grappling with urban challenges prevalent in many other regions: finding the balance between growth and quality of life, protecting a fragile environment, overlaying new mobility options and infrastructure on an existing metropolis, addressing increased economic inequality, building social cohesion between communities, and bridging the divide between citizens and government. He looks forward to the LSE experience to broaden his thinking and share knowledge with his fellow participants.

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*Architect and Urban Designer, Studio One Eleven*

*Los Angeles, USA*



# Alberto Silva

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Alberto Silva has an academic background in Urban Sociology and more than 20 years' experience in urban programmes at local government level in Rio de Janeiro and Angra dos Reis. He has also worked as an urban researcher and for civil society organisations. From 1991 to 1996 he worked at the City Hall of Angra dos Reis, implementing adult literacy and school democratic management programmes. For his work as General Coordinator of the Sanitation Programme of Angra dos Reis, Alberto was commended with a good practice award in 1996 at the Second World Urban Forum, Habitat II in Istanbul. He has since worked with ActionAid in Brazil and as Country Director at ActionAid Mozambique, restructuring the programme towards a rights based approach.

In April 2010 he joined the Port Region Urban Development Company (CDURP), a Municipal Company in charge of implementing Rio de Janeiro's Port Region Urban Consortium Operation (also known as Porto Maravilha - Marvelous Port). Initially acting as President Special Advisor, he became President of the Company in November 2012. Porto Maravilha's main goals are: increase the population area, improve urban mobility, appreciate material and non-material heritage, and promote social inclusion. This is the largest urban reform project under implementation in Brazil, utilising an innovative institutional framework and funding mechanism, and a new urban governance model.

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*Urban Sociologist*

*Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*



# Andrew Davies

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Andrew Davies is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the charitable arts organisation No.9: Contemporary Art & the Environment located in Toronto, Canada since 2007. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Queen's University and Master's in Architecture from the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Los Angeles. For five years Andrew was employed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. While at MoMA, he designed and administered over thirty international museum exhibitions. He returned to Canada in 2002, and founded Andrew Davies Design, which was responsible for the preliminary Interpretative Design Strategy for Evergreen at the Brickworks in Toronto, with the mandate to transform an industrial heritage site into an international showcase for urban sustainability and green design. Andrew Davies Design has provided art consultation services for numerous major public art projects in Toronto, including the NXT Gardiner Expressway Gateway Project, the Mississauga Master Public Art Plan and the Pan Am Aquatic Centre.

*Executive Director of  
No.9: Contemporary  
Art & the Environment*

*Toronto,  
Canada*

Davies taught at Eyebeam Atelier in New York and at George Brown College in Toronto, Canada. He has spoken at lectures, reviews and symposiums around the world, including MIT Media Lab, Columbia University and MoMA. He served on the Educational Advisory Committee at the Art Gallery of Ontario and currently sits on the Environmental Advisory Committee for the Toronto District School Board. He resides in Toronto with his wife, Elizabeth and their two children, Hanna and Rupert.



# Anette Galskjøt

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Anette Galskjøt, CEO at the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), has a long career including investment banking, IT and public service. She has a law degree from Copenhagen University and an LLM from King's College, London. Since June 2015 Anette has led the 103-year old member and partner based federation IFHP. IFHP originated from the Garden City movement and works to make cities better for people and housing for all through innovative urban labs and with its worldwide network of urban experts.

*CEO International  
Federation for  
Housing and  
Planning*

*Copenhagen,  
Denmark*



# Damyanti Radheshwar

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Over four decades of architectural practice in the USA and India, mostly in the public realm, provided Damyanti Radheshwar with many opportunities to contribute to planning and infrastructure projects - manifesting her interest in the larger realms of sustainable communities, to explore ideas about development, planning, and infrastructure. This brings her to London School of Economics and Political Science to study New Urban Agenda and Urban Governance at LSE Cities.

Damyanti's practice, D Radheshwar Architect + Urban Planner and Strategist ([www.dradheshwar.com](http://www.dradheshwar.com)), based in New York is a collaborative model of working with interdisciplinary peer groups in the USA, India, and UK.

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*Founder,  
D Radheshwar Architect*

*New York,  
USA*



# Francis De Wolf

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Francis De Wolf is an architect certified by the Order of Architects in Belgium. In 2005 he started working as a Project Leader in the City Planning Department of the City of Antwerp. His main responsibilities were the coordination of a redevelopment project in the largest high-rise social housing neighbourhood of Belgium and a European knowledge exchange program about the urban regeneration of social high-rise estates. He completed a degree in urban planning in 2006 and since became a tutor at the Urban Planning Department of the University of Antwerp.

In 2008 Francis founded 'Brut Architecture and Urban Design', a company working on both architectural and urban planning scales. Here, he has been responsible for the coordination of urban planning projects varying in scale from site planning for complex urban development projects, redevelopment plans for city centres, neighbourhoods and old industrial zones, to large scale studies for urbanised regions. Francis currently lives in Copenhagen, where he is collaborating with renowned Danish architects and planners on large scale projects in Belgium and looking into possible projects in Scandinavia.

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*Partner, BRUT  
Architecture and  
Urban Design*

*Brussels,  
Belgium*



# Hastings Chikoko

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Hastings Chikoko is the Regional Director for Africa at C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group. In this role, he is responsible for the implementation of the C40 business plan in Africa, supporting C40 member cities in Africa in their climate action planning, measurement and implementation, and helping to forge inter-city as well as regional collaboration. He serves on the Advisory Board of the African Centre for Cities (University of Cape Town). His work with local authorities started at the City of Blantyre and later at the Ministry of Local Government in Malawi. Prior to joining C40, Hastings had a long career with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Zimbabwe, Kenya and the global headquarters in Switzerland. He was also the Interim Regional Director for East and Southern Africa and Head of IUCN in South Africa.

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*Regional Director for  
Africa, C40*

*Johannesburg,  
South Africa*

Hastings has been one of the International Development Research Centre's (IDRC's) African Mentors for policy think-tank groups in Africa and a member of the Regional Technical Committee for the Global Water Partnership (Southern Africa). He holds academic qualifications in Economics (University of Malawi), Environmental Diplomacy (University of Geneva – Switzerland) and Strategic Management (University of Derby – UK).



# James Leahy

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James Leahy, PE, LEED AP® is a Senior Consultant for DNV GL. He is a professional Civil Engineer registered by the State of California and has a diverse background in engineering design, planning, and policy development. As an energy consultant, James assists clients in establishing energy performance and environmental standards to build community resilience and support greenhouse gas emissions reductions. He works with cities and utilities to develop sustainable and resilient design strategies, integrate clean distributed energy resources and increase energy efficiency. He is adept at promoting community and organisational sustainability through education, stakeholder engagement, and providing engineering and technical guidance on the latest trends, technologies, and best practices. His background in infrastructure design, community planning, and resource management lends to a fully comprehensive understanding of our built environment, our energy use, and the potential impacts of climate change on local communities.

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*Senior Consultant,  
DNV, GL*

*Boston,  
USA*

Understanding that education plays a vital role in the advancement of the sustainability of our built environment, James has volunteered time through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and has conducted workshops and coordinated various events on energy and water efficiency strategies. He is a former member of the USGBC – Upper Northeast (US) Regional Council, a former member of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Chapter of the USGBC and a former member of the USGBC – Pacific Regional Council.



# Kathi Holt

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As an Architect and Urban Designer trained in South Africa and Australia, Kathi Holt has committed much of her professional life across four continents to education, research and engagement. Teaching architecture for the last twenty-six years at many leading Australian Universities she has become increasingly drawn towards Urban Design; heading up the UD Discipline at Queensland University of Technology for the last eight years.

Kathi has used the University as a laboratory; the students as scientists; and the city and its many players as the site of operations to interrogate urban problems. She harnessed these challenges to drive the pedagogy and frameworks for teaching. Kathi now has her own research and design practice – Nerø Holt – consulting to government agencies, community groups and not-for-profit entities to create innovative solutions for urban challenges.

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*Executive Director –  
Nerø Holt, Adjunct A/  
Professor QUT*

*St Lucia South,  
Australia*



# Marc Glaudemans

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Marc Glaudemans is professor of urban strategies at Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts (FHK) in Tilburg. He is also the director of two MSc programmes in architecture and urbanism at Fontys. In 2006 Marc founded the Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory, a postgraduate international programme. Stadslab has developed into an international think tank and urban design laboratory, with a track record of programs in Europe (Portugal, Netherlands, Serbia, Poland, Hungary, Georgia, Ukraine) and Asia (Japan, Vietnam). Marc graduated in Architecture and Urbanism and holds a PhD in Architectural Theory and History. In 2014-2015 he was visiting professor at the Institute for Design and Urbanism at ITMO University in St Petersburg.

Marc's professional career is driven by understanding cities and their ongoing transformations, combining the reflexive potential of an academic standpoint with the hands-on mentality of professional practice. As a working method, this comes alive in the Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory, which combines design skills and a design thinking approach to complex, real-world urban challenges.

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*Professor of Regional  
and Urban Strategies,  
Fontys School of Fine  
and Performing Arts*

*Eindhoven,  
Netherlands*



# Melizza Morales

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Melizza is an urbanist with a wealth of international experience in urban regeneration and disaster recovery projects. Until 2016 she served at government organisations in New Zealand leading the reconstruction and recovery of Christchurch city centre, after the devastating effects of the 2010-2011 earthquakes. In her roles as Principal Urban Designer at Ōtākaro Ltd, and prior to this, as Project Design Lead at the Christchurch Central Development Unit, Melizza provided urban design advice for delivering some of the recovery plan major precincts and led the production of a long-term strategy for the reconstruction of the city's public space network: The Christchurch Central Streets & Spaces Design Guide (2016 Best Practice, Strategic Planning and Guidance Award from the New Zealand Planning Institute).

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*Senior Urban Designer*

*Christchurch, New Zealand*

Between 2006 and 2013 Melizza held various positions with the Victorian Urban Renewal Authority in Melbourne, where she was involved in delivering two of the largest urban renewal projects undertaken in Australia, Revitalising Central Dandenong and Melbourne Docklands. Melizza began her career in urbanism at Bogotá's Water and Sewage Company, overseeing the design and delivery of projects aimed at the ecologic and urban regeneration of waterways and wetlands, some located in Bogotá's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Melizza holds a Masters in Urban Design from Melbourne University and a Bachelor in Architecture from Los Andes University. Born in Colombia, she has also lived in Canada and Germany and will be based in Spain for the duration of the MSc in Cities programme. Melizza holds dual Colombian and Australian citizenship.



# Melody Yiu

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Born and raised in Hong Kong, Melody has studied and worked in the U.S. and Europe, and is now based in Hong Kong/Shanghai. With 15 years of experience, she has been practicing in China for over a decade with a focus on urban place-making and sustainable development. As senior associate and urban design team leader at Perkins + Will's Shanghai office, Melody has led projects from new town master plan, tourism and mixed-use, to site planning for a healthcare and education institution.

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*Urban Designer*

*Hong Kong / Shanghai, China*

Since 2015, Melody was invited as studio tutor for an undergraduate design studio at the University of Nottingham Ningbo Campus and China Academy of Arts in Hangzhou. She recently co-organised a design-build workshop - "Living with Nature", with participants from Taiwan, Japan and China, to explore the potential of community place-making at the rural village site. Through her practice and experience with both public and private sector, Melody's aims are to facilitate meaningful collaboration through design, and to enhance the dialogue between stakeholder and the authority.



# Michael Seyle

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Mike Seyle is president and chief executive officer of WATG, an award-winning global design firm specialising in hospitality, luxury residential and mixed-use urban real estate development projects. The firm provides architecture, planning, strategic consulting, interiors and landscape design services for some of the world's most prestigious companies, including Four Seasons, Disney, Ritz Carlton, Kerzner International, MGM, Hyatt, Marriott, Intercontinental, Hilton and Starwood.

Since 2009, Mike has led the company through recovery from the global recession toward expansion to 10 offices in six countries, with annual growth averaging 5%, and transition of the company to a John Lewis-type employee trust ownership model. In 2015, Mike completed his doctorate in business and innovation from Georgia State University. He has an MBA from San Diego State University and a law degree from the University of the Pacific. Mike and his wife Michelle live in Twickenham with the youngest two of their five precocious children.

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*President and Chief  
Executive Officer,  
WATG*

*London,  
UK*



# Natalia Uribe

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Natalia is a registered architect in her native Colombia with 15 years professional experience working on high profile projects in the UK, Middle East, Asia and Latin-America. She is well known for her passion in the front end design of large scale urban master plans, the collaborative thinking of global multidisciplinary teams and her great interest in the development of Latin America.

Natalia studied Fine Art and Architecture in Colombia, where she founded and ran her own practice "Espacio 10" for 5 years, focusing on city interventions which included installations, performances and large video-projections in public space. She has since moved to the UK and worked with various British architectural firms, including Benoy, an international firm of architects, masterplanners and interior & graphic designers with 11 design studios in the UK, the Middle East and Asia. At Benoy, Natalia is a Senior Associate Director. She specialises in the front end design of large mixed-use schemes and retail-led developments projects. She is also responsible for identifying and exploring new business opportunities in the Latin America region and is currently leading projects in Colombia, Panama, Nigeria, Cameroon and India.

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*Senior Associate  
Director, Benoy*

*London,  
UK*



# Navin Rai

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Navin Rai is a senior and first class gazetted officer in Planning & Architecture, permanently employed with the Urban Development & Housing Department, Govt. Of Sikkim, India. Navin is responsible for several administrative affairs related to urban governance, monitoring and is in charge of key national flagship missions. He has over twelve years of experience handling a wide range of technical as well as bureaucratic matters.

Navin possesses a Master's degree in Planning and a Bachelor of Architecture Degree and is equipped with additional expertise in public relations. Currently, he is looking for opportunities to add global expertise and specialisation by undergoing more educational exposure in an institute of international repute, enabling himself to understand emerging trends in planning, sustainable design and mechanisms to understand the creation of economically viable urban infrastructures. He is looking forward to having first-hand experience of how communities participate in local area planning processes in developed countries where citizens are more informed, aware and vocal.

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*Joint Chief Town  
Planner, Urban  
Development and  
Housing Department,  
Govt of Sikkim*

*Gangtok,  
India*



# Rewati Prabhu

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An architect and urban planner with 20 years of experience in the USA, Europe, India and Africa, Rewati Prabhu is an integral part of the core team that started Frischmann Prabhu India in 1995. Rewati has led master-planning projects all over the world, including Pell Frischmann's influential Low Carbon Infrastructure Study for Indian economic corridors, Konza Technology City in Kenya, and the Delhi Metro. She is currently advising Indian cities on sustainable infrastructure, sanitation and low-income housing and is particularly interested in protecting cultural and environmental identity while creating smart cities.

Rewati co-created the Jagriti Yatra project, an innovative pan-India youth enterprise programme, which has nurtured over 600 new enterprises and has been replicated in the USA and in France.

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*Architect and Urban  
Planner, Co-founder  
of Frischmann  
Prabhu India*

*London,  
UK*



# Ricardo Pinho

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Ricardo Pinho is currently based in southern Africa, in Luanda, Angola. Working with Mitrelli as business development manager, he is responsible for the origination and development of new business opportunities with the public and private sectors. Engaging with clients and investors and other stakeholders to develop impact investing opportunities in large-scale projects in sub-Saharan Africa, he developed projects on utilities and infrastructure sectors as well as urban governance, across both central and local governments.

Prior to this position, in Moscow, Russia, with Strelka Institute, he was a researcher in urbanism in a one-year team project to develop new approaches to create change in the physical and social environment with Moscow as field of study. Until 2011 he held leadership positions in Poland and Portugal, working with Mota-Engil Group as business unit manager, with responsibility for P&L for providing environmental services for local governments and private sector.

Ricardo holds a degree in environmental engineering by Portuguese Catholic University and an MBA from the University of Illinois (USA). Entrepreneur by nature and passionate about cities, he applies business strategies to generate impact in the for-profit industry. Through a continuous learning, practice and research process, he develops his expertise in cities and impact investing fields, building the opportunity to maximize outcomes and add value to solve world's wicked problems coming with urbanisation and blend the required finance towards a more sustainable development.

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*Business  
Development  
Manager, Mitrelli*

*Luanda,  
Angola*



# Richard Greco

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Richard Greco is an optimistic technologist and a futurist. He is fascinated with the IOT, M2M, Artificial Intelligence, 3D printing, autonomous vehicles, and how new technological developments in these areas will change our lives, disrupt existing business models, create new business opportunities and enable the creation of smart cities. He spent over 20 years in “corporate America” with companies like ITT, General Dynamics, Nortel, Bell Atlantic, Loral Orion and ICO Global Communications.

In the mid-nineties, he helped to establish Orion Network Systems as the “Internet Satellite Company.” Orion was a pioneer in the delivery of the internet via satellite connecting over 70 countries back to the US. While he was Orion’s President, the company raised over \$700M in debt for constellation expansion, secured a NASDAQ listing for Orion and sold the company to Loral. Richard was subsequently recruited as CEO for London based, NASDAQ listed, ICO Global Communications which he restructured and sold out of Chapter 11 to a group of international investors for over \$1 Billion. He became an entrepreneur in 2000, founding, growing and later selling Bulldog Broadband, the UK’s second largest DSL broadband company. In 2005, he created Treasure Investments, which invests in real estate and tech and telecom companies. He presently serves as Chairman for one of those companies called Edifice. When not travelling, Richard lives in Key Largo, Florida with his wife of nearly 25 years. They have three adult children and two grandsons.

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*Entrepreneur*

*Miami,  
USA*



# Sashwin Pillai

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Sashwin Pillai is a fourth generation descendant of the Indian Indentured Labourers who arrived on the Truro ship in Port Natal (present-day Durban) on 16th November 1860 from Madras (present-day Chennai). Sashwin was raised in Durban and derived his inspiration from struggle heroes Nelson Mandela and his grandfather Mr VSM (Mannie) Pillai. Sashwin remains a loyal supporter and member of the African National Congress and serves various corporate, non-profit, private and public sector clients. Sashwin is a sponsor of the Progressive Business Forum, KZN Blind & Deaf Society, Child Welfare South Africa, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin, Sathya Sai Organisation of South Africa and he supports various other charities, organisations, businesses and aspiring individuals.

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*CEO, Africa Vision Holdings*

*Durban, South Africa*

Sashwin graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Architecture at Oxford Brookes University and completed a Summer School Programme at the Architectural Association in London entitled 'Multiplicities'. Sashwin is also a member of SKAL International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals. He previously worked for Chartered Practice Architects and thereafter for David Chipperfield Architects in London.

Upon returning to South Africa in 2003, Sashwin established Africa Vision and the business currently employs a range of professionals, specialist consultants and contract resources in accordance with the specific requirements of its various projects and programmes. Sashwin serves on the Centre of Excellence Committee for the Barclays Africa Group and is currently appointed as Lead Consultant for 13 countries in Africa. He is currently a member of the Strategic Project & Programmes Support Unit for Mbombela Municipality, an Expert Design Advisor to the South African Bureau of Standards in South Africa, and provides Programme Management services to various governmental and private sector entities in SA.



# Simon McPherson

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Simon McPherson was born and raised in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia. Trained as an Architect in Melbourne, he traversed into an urban design focus via early employment in the Victorian Government, then a Masters at London's Bartlett School in 2005-06, after also spending two years living and working in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1999 and 2000. On returning from London, Simon founded a specialist Urban Design consultancy, SJB Urban, within a group of affiliated companies in architecture, planning and interiors, and built a prominent and highly regarded practice working in Melbourne and other Australian cities, with specialist capability in urban renewal, transport planning, strategic advice and design review.

Simon also established major research initiatives in partnership with RMIT University in Melbourne, including the development of an award-winning prototype housing choice web app called Home:LiFE and leading research into housing careers and development dynamics. He has since departed SJB Urban to pursue new career directions, and has established Global South, an independent, research-focused urban practice currently in early formulation, and has been enjoying diverse opportunities for collaboration, research, engagement and learning in the urban field.

Simon is the Australian Institute of Architects representative on the Board for Australia's Urban Design Protocol, and a member of Melbourne University's Urban Design Advisory Board. He is a member of the Design Review Panels for Victoria and South Australia, and is currently working with the New South Wales Government Architect, preparing an Architecture and Urban Design Policy and Design Guides for New South Wales.

Simon has relocated to London for the duration of the Executive MSc in Cities, with his partner Robyn and children Sophie, 4 and Thomas, 2, and they are enjoying an exciting year of travel, rest, work and engagement in their respective fields.

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*Director, Global South Urban Design*

*Melbourne, Australia*



# Tommaso Franzolini

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Tommaso Franzolini (AA Dipl – RIBA) is a practicing architect and researcher focusing on the impact of emerging technologies on infrastructure, urbanism and architecture. Tommaso is currently an associate with the Advanced Technologies team at Scott Brownrigg Architects in London. The team focuses on the strategic planning and architectural design of complex technology-led projects, including the masterplan and vision of NuGen's Moorside Project: a £15bn nuclear new build development in Cumbria (UK). Previously he worked at Foreign Office Architects in London for a wide range of UK based commissions and international competitions, most notably as the project architect for the redevelopment of Birmingham New Street Station with responsibilities of managing a multi-disciplinary design team, liaising with local authorities, and preparing planning and tender documents.

*Project Leader,  
Advanced  
Technologies, Scott  
Brownrigg Ltd*

*London,  
UK*

In parallel, Tommaso maintains an active involvement with global research institutions such as the Architectural Association and NTU in the UK, the Weimar Bauhaus in Germany and the Polytechnic of Milan in Italy. He is the founder and director of Factory Futures: a think tank at the Architectural Association founded in partnership with the Adriano Olivetti Foundation and Gehry Technologies Europe. Factory Futures focuses on the European industrial heritage as a cultural matrix for a new productive landscape, including the development of innovative architectural strategies through computational design and manufacturing techniques.



# Tsugumi Harada

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Tsugumi Harada is a policy maker for the Socio-economic Unit of Japan's Cabinet Office, developing policy framework for promoting social entrepreneurship and business growth. Connecting seeds of innovative ideas with financial means, she is part of the mission to catalyse public involvement in bringing social impact and tackling inequalities. With degrees in architecture and civil engineering from Waseda University, Tsugumi has over 14 years of experience in Tokyo and in London as a technology professional for the top-tier financial sector. Designing operational resiliency into banking platforms, delivering projects of both local and global scales, she was a solutions architect, specialising in European markets and regulatory initiatives.

*Policy Maker,  
Cabinet Office,  
Government of  
Japan*

*Tokyo,  
Japan*

During the last three years of Tsugumi's tenure she was the EMEA head of technology risk and incident management team for Morgan Stanley's Fixed Income franchise. In 2014, her passion in education and youth outreach has led to completion of a certificate course in Coaching at University of Cambridge ICE. Since then, she is actively involved in mentoring young people through charities of her choice including the Queen's Young Leaders Program.



# Wen-Chih Yao

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Wen-Chih Yao has been a member of Taiwan's parliament since 2012. A journalist and political scientist by training, he aims to run for mayor of Taipei in 2018. Wen-Chih served as the Director of Information Office, and then the Deputy Secretary-General in the municipal authorities of Kaohsiung, Taiwan's second-largest city, between 1998 and 2003. He strived to foster a civic pride in Kaohsiung through facilitating visually inspiring public works, advocating historic conservation and organising mega-events.

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*Politician, Parliament  
of Taiwan*

*Taipei,  
Taiwan*

In 2005, he was promoted to the cabinet as Minister of Information Office and held the post for a year. Since being sworn in as a legislator, he has retained a seat on the Internal Administration Committee (which he has also chaired), and proposed various law amendments to protect and enhance public interest through strengthening disaster preparedness and economic development aspects of the built environment. In 2014, Wen-Chih won the Taipei mayoral primary with the Democratic Progressive Party, now Taiwan's ruling party. The theme of his campaign was a call for the closure of the Taipei Songshan Airport, which lies in close proximity to the city centre. This will enable the lifting of building height controls in large parts of the city that will facilitate urban renewal and the establishment of a new vast urban park using the old airport site. Determined to make his second attempt, Wen-Chih is very keen to lead the spatial revolution in the Taiwanese capital.

LSE Cities is an international centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science that carries out research, conferences, graduate and executive education and outreach activities in London and abroad. Its mission is to study how people and cities interact in a rapidly urbanising world, focusing on how the physical form and design of cities impacts on society, culture and the environment.

Extending LSE's century-old commitment to the understanding of urban society, LSE Cities investigates how complex urban systems are responding to the pressures of growth, change and globalisation with new infrastructures of design and governance that both complement and threaten social and environmental equity.

**lsecities.net**

**@LSECities**