

Cities News

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Lent Term 2012

Faculty

Ricky Burdett
Suzanne Hall
Phillip Rode
Fran Tonkiss
Savvas Verdis

Michaelmas Term Masterclasses

Edward Soja

Guest Practices

Kathryn Firth, OPLC
Jeff Risom, Gehl Architects
Tom Holbrook, 5th Studio

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MSc student news

Bettina Andrag and **Karl Baker** were jointly awarded the Cities Prize for Academic Achievement 2011. The Cities Prize for Outstanding Contribution 2011 went to **Carlo Castelli**, in recognition of his contribution to the collaborative City Design Research Studio (see more about our Class of 2011 graduates under Alumni News).

This year's City Design Research Studio, led by **Dr Suzanne Hall** and **Dr Fran Tonkiss**, is themed 'Public City: a studio exploration of the Barbican and its urban locale' and addresses the question 'how is public space and public culture constituted in a rapidly changing city?'. Guest practices invited in to the Studio in Michaelmas Term were **Kathryn Firth**, former co-director of the Cities Programme and currently Chief of Design at the Olympic Park Legacy Company, **Tom Holbrook**, founder director of 5th Studio, and **Jeff Risom** (MSc 2009) of Gehl Architects in Copenhagen. **Professor Edward Soja** returned to the UK to give three graduate masterclasses.

MSc students **Caitlin Amos**, **Iliana Adelson**, **Julia Day** and **Daniela Gorny** will be working with Valerie Beirne at Better Bankside to assess the social and spatial performance of their public projects as delivered within the Urban Forest framework.

PhD student news

The annual **Writing Cities** conference, organised by graduate researchers at the Cities Programme, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at MIT, MIT Media LAB, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Law School, will be held in Cambridge, MA from 10-12 May 2012. The theme is 'Limits' and the abstract submission deadline is 26 February (see website).

In December 2011, **Michelle Cullen** continued her fieldwork for her third trip to Dubuque, Iowa, examining the city's 'smarter' water and electricity projects. In early February 2012, she will present a smart cities overview to Georgetown University's MBA Energy Group. She's also been asked to speak on smart technologies and sustainability at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference in October of this year.

Congratulations to **Juliet Davis**, **Robin J H Kim** and **Juergen Kufner**, who have all been awarded their PhDs:

Juliet's thesis is called 'Urbanising the Event: present politics and future plans for London's Olympic Legacy.' Juliet, who was a Cities Programme Fellow, teaching on the City Design Research Studio while she completed her PhD, is now a researcher at LSE Cities, focussing on urban resilience in terms of the relationship between the design and governance of urban form.

Robin's thesis is entitled 'Correlation and Evolution: A New Urban Axis in London between St Paul's Cathedral and Tate Modern.' He is now Director of JHK Urban Research Lab and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Department of Geography, University College London.

Juergen's thesis is entitled 'Tall building policy making and implementation in central London: Visual impacts on regionally protected views from 2000 to 2008.'

Sadiq Toffa, an architect, urban designer, and civil society advocate who teaches architectural history and theory at the University of Cape Town, has joined the Sociology Department for one year as a visiting research student on a Commonwealth Scholarship. He is based at the Cities Programme and the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, and jointly supervised by Dr Fran Tonkiss and Professor Chetan Bhatt. His PhD work explores the cultural presence of minority groups in cities of trade and exchange, and spans the sites of Venice, Zanzibar and Cape Town.

Alumni news

RA Projects, set up in 2009 by **Rashid Ali** (Class of 2011), was shortlisted for the prestigious Autodesk Young Architect of the Year Award 2011. Rashid spent the autumn at the British School in Rome on a Giles Worsley Fellowship, researching Italy's influence on the architecture and the built form of Mogadishu between 1930 and 1980.

Karl Baker (MSc 2011) has been working with an editorial team at Phaidon Press to prepare the content and research material for the front matter and introductory regional



Bankside 123



Bankside 123



Poured Lines by Ian Davenport at Bankside



Before: The Green Hut on Great Suffolk Street



After: Construction begins on a mixed residential development, Great Suffolk Street

Images above of changing cityscape at Bankside by Cities PhD candidate Corinna Dean

Editor: Anna Livia Johnston

sections for the forthcoming *Phaidon Atlas of Architecture*. Karl has now joined LSE Cities to undertake research relating to the Economics of Green Cities project.

Giacomo Biraghi (MSc 2011) is responsible for the business development of the Milan International EXPO 2015.

Carlo Castelli (MSc 2011) gave two lectures on 9 and 10 November 2011 at the University of Genoa within the Course of Urban Sociology held by Professor Antida Gazzola at the Faculty of Architecture: 'CCTVs and territorial control' and 'Urban Mobility – Design, alternative approaches and social justice'. Carlo is currently working on a freelance basis on Wayfinding projects for two transportation jobs in London and a masterplan in Saudi Arabia.

Dominic Church (MSc 2001) has joined the German Council for Sustainable Building www.DGNB.de to lead the delivery of their international certification and accreditation programme for sustainable urban quarters and buildings. He is also engaged in teaching and research at the Department of Urban Design at Stuttgart University and the Sustainable Urbanism Institute at Munich Technical University, with projects in Nuremberg-West, Gelsenkirchen-Herten and Stuttgart-Berg.

Drawing together leading academics and practitioners in the field of sustainability and resilience in design, **Dominic** organised an international symposium on "Sustainable Urban.Retrofit" at Stuttgart University in December 2011. The publication is scheduled for April 2012.

Dr Alasdair Jones (PhD 2008) has taken up a new post as a Research Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire's Centre for Sustainable Communities (CSC). Working with the CSC's Head of Urbanism (**Dr Susan Parham**, PhD 2009), Alasdair will be leading on a comparative study of sustainable living practices in the UK and Australia. As part of this research project, which is co-funded by the University of Hertfordshire and Lafarge, Alasdair is due to join the University of New South Wales's City Futures research centre as a Visiting Fellow during 2012.

Following the critically-acclaimed exhibition at the AA, ARCHIZINES – a showcase of new architecture magazines, fanzines and journals curated by **Elias Redstone** (MSc 2003) – is touring internationally throughout 2012. The tour begins at SpazioFMG in Milan and Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York.

For more alumni updates see our [Alumni and careers webpage](#).

Faculty news

Dr Suzanne Hall recently published 'High Street Adaptations: Ethnicity, independent retail practices, and Localism in London's urban margins', in *Environment and Planning A* 43(11) 2571-2588. The paper explores the economic vitality of a multi-ethnic street and broadly considers what public stewardship mechanisms for London's streets might comprise of.

Dr Fran Tonkiss recently published 'Template urbanism: four points about assemblage', *City*, 15/5 (2011): 584-88, and a review piece on 'The Just City by Susan Fainstein', *Contemporary Sociology*, 40/5 (2011): 584-5.

Fran was a keynote speaker at the 2nd International Conference of Young Urban Researchers (SICYURB) for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in Lisbon, October 2011, and at the Mind the Gap workshop on urban inequality at the first Nordic Architecture Fair in Gothenburg, November 2011.

Research and collaboration

MSc students **Nicolas Palominos** and **Adriana Young** and visiting research student **Sadiq Toffa** have joined **Suzi Hall** as researchers on a new project at LSE Cities. The Urban Public project will focus on spaces of learning within the ordinary stretches of the city, in which libraries, schools, market places, small businesses and streets coexist as spaces of exploration and exchange.

The project turns to the city itself as a confluence of economies, ideas, and people that foregrounds ways of learning about opportunity, innovation, difference, or simply making do and getting by, focussing on the everyday urban realm to explore the diverse and interdependent spaces in which a variety of urban skills are acquired.