

Department of Architecture

In 1865, William Ware, the first professor of architecture at MIT, said “It is the aim of this School to do what it can, in its day and generation, to ensure that the Architecture of the future shall be worthy of the future.” This timeless mission statement has been guiding the department for a hundred and fifty years, bringing scholarship, research, and design to bear on the world’s great challenges. To this day, the [Department of Architecture](#) continues to be committed to a critically engaged, socially progressive, technologically advanced, and culturally meaningful vision of the built environment, and has grown to include the fields of architecture, art, design, urbanism, building technology, and design computation, as well as history, theory, and criticism. Our highly ranked programs include master of architecture (MArch); master of science in architecture studies (SMArchS); master of science in art, culture, and technology (SMACT); master of science in building technology (SMBT); and doctor of philosophy (PhD) with concentrations in building technology (BT), design and computation (COMP), and history, theory, and criticism of architecture and art (HTC). Undergraduates can earn a bachelor of science in architecture (SBA) or a bachelor of science in architecture studies (SBAS) with concentrations in one of five departmental discipline streams, and can minor in architecture, design, and history of art and architecture. We are committed to excellence across the seven degrees offered in the department, as well as ambitious collaborations across these areas in the department, school, Institute, and beyond.

The Department of Architecture is one of the four founding departments at MIT, and the oldest school of architecture in the United States. Committed to a robust understanding of design, research, and scholarship, MIT’s Department of Architecture comprises five discipline groups, Architecture and Urbanism (A+U); Building Technology (BT); Computation (COMP); History, Theory, and Criticism (HTC); and Art, Culture and Technology (ACT). The department also includes The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture (AKPIA) as well as several labs: Urban Risk Lab; POP Lab; Self-Assembly Lab; Sustainable Design Lab; Future Heritage Lab; and the Infrastructure Architecture Lab (MIT/IAL).

Recognition

MIT Architecture’s standing has been recognized in recent years both nationally and internationally. For the third year in a row, the QS World University Rankings ranked MIT number one for architecture and the built environment. For the second year in a row, MIT ranked number two for art and design. In addition to the international QS ranking, the professional master of architecture program has consistently been ranked in the top five schools nationally by DesignIntelligence, jumping from fifth to second position in 2016. In ratings of specific skill areas, MIT’s graduate architecture program ranked first in computer applications, second in sustainability, and third in construction methods and materials. Furthermore, our distinguished doctoral programs lead their disciplines, consistently winning their top choice PhD candidates against better-funded competition.

Master of Science in Architecture Studies Degree Program

The SMArchS program is organized into six areas of study. Professor Terry Knight and Associate Professor Christoph Reinhart finished their second year as co-directors. Their main goals are to strengthen the program's visibility outside MIT, foster research across discipline groups, and further increase student funding. While 88% of SMArchS students receive some support from MIT, the majority accumulate significant debt during their time at MIT.

SMArchS students form a tight community and regularly organize department-sponsored dinners, which foster dialogue among discipline areas and provide a platform for exchange with administrators and faculty. The two main events every year are prethesis and thesis reviews in December and May, during which SMArchS research is presented to critics from within and outside the Institute. This year's spring thesis reviews were particularly well organized and attended, and external reviewers commented on the consistently high quality, rigor, and depth of the work.

In AY2017, there were minor changes to the curriculum regarding thesis preparation and a new approach to colloquiums. The first-year SMArchS students in the architectural design area enrolled in thesis preparation in the spring, instead of the fall of their second year, and the first-year SMArchS architecture and urbanism students took a new thesis preparation class. In response to ongoing concern among SMArchS students regarding the required colloquium, the SMArchS committee proposed a significant restructuring of the subject. Starting in fall 2017, the subject will be more student-focused and organized with second year students presenting their thesis or research work to the first years each week. This introduces the first years to the nature and culture of SMArchS research and gives second year students an opportunity to articulate their work to a fresh audience.

Admissions applications were very competitive, with an 11% acceptance rate (343 applications, 29 targeted, 39 admitted, 26 enrolled). Diversity statistics show continuing high international student numbers (66% international students enrolled), and approximately equal gender numbers, and increasing numbers from underrepresented minority (URM) groups (18 URM applications up from 10 last year, four URM enrolled up from one last year).

Master of Architecture Degree Program

The MArch program is a professional degree program that integrates critical thinking and design with advanced technical tool sets to prepare students to contribute meaningfully to the field, be it through practice, teaching, or research. This past year, Associate Professor Ana Miljački and Professor Andrew Scott co-directed the MArch program.

Changes to the MArch curriculum this year included a new subject, 4.S13 Architecture Assemblies, offered for second-year students in the spring. Additionally, 4.105 Geometric Disciplines and Architecture I, offered for first year students in the fall, was revised and condensed, and 4.107 Geometric Disciplines and Architecture II was canceled. In place of 4.107, students chose a computation restricted elective in the second semester from a short list of subjects, including 4.S12 Architecture Design—

Carbonhouse Workshop; 4.511 Advanced Projects in Digital Fabrication; 4.521 Visual Computing I; and 4.567 Introduction to Building Information Modeling in Architecture. In summer 2016, incoming MArch students were offered the opportunity to enroll in a free, eight-week online version of 4.605x A Global History of Architecture, taught by Professor Mark Jarzombek. In addition, the pre-orientation workshop was revised for incoming MArch students without an architectural background, adding an online tutorial that students could work through at their own pace at home before arriving on campus for the two-week workshop.

Admissions was highly competitive with an acceptance rate of 10% (562 applications, 24 targeted, 59 admitted, 24 enrolled). Diversity statistics show good international student numbers (42% international students enrolled), almost equal gender numbers (10 men, 14 women), and 17% were URM students.

Undergraduate Degrees Program

The bachelor of science in architecture and bachelor of science in architecture studies programs are broad, nonprofessional degree programs that prepare students for either a graduate professional degree program in architecture or a related field in design, building technology, computation, history, or art and technology. Undergraduates can also minor in architecture; design; and history of art and architecture. Professor John Ochsendorf finished his third year as director of the undergraduate program. Faculty members who served as undergraduate advisors included Assistant Professor Azra Akšamija; Professor John Fernández; Professor Terry Knight; Assistant Professor Caitlin Mueller; Professor Leslie Norford; Associate Professor William O'Brien Jr.; Professor John Ochsendorf; Associate Professor Lawrence Sass; Associate Professor Kristel Smentek; Professor George Stiny; Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas; and Professor James Wescoat.

The new design minor developed by the department was successfully launched this year. Knight served as the design minor coordinator. Thirty-nine undergraduate students—most from Mechanical Engineering (18) and Computer Science (17)—were enrolled in the minor in June 2017. The design minor was the fourth most popular minor at MIT, out of the 56 minors offered across the Institute. Three students in the minor graduated in June 2017. All three of the required foundation subjects for the minor offered this year were at capacity enrollment.

Master of Science in Building Technology Degree Program

See Building Technology discipline group program notes below for faculty activities.

Master of Science in Art, Culture and Technology Degree Program

The [MIT Program in Art, Culture and Technology](#) is a discipline group and an academic program within the Department of Architecture, and a center for artistic research and practice within the School of Architecture and Planning. The program's mission is to promote leadership in critical artistic practice and deployment, developing art as a vital means of experimenting with new registers of knowledge and new modes of

valuation and expression, and continually questioning what an artistic research and the learning environment can be and do. Gediminas Urbonas continued as the director of ACT. Faculty and staff in ACT were Professor Renée Green; Associate Professor Gediminas Urbonas; Associate Professor Azra Akšamija; Professor Emeritus Joan Jonas; and the following lecturers, Sam Auinger, Lara Baladi, Nikola Bojič, Mario Caro, Carla Fernández, Marisa Jahn, Claudia Joskowitz, Tobias Putrih, Pedro Reyes, and Jan Werner.

The program conducted two faculty searches that yielded 214 applicants for its tenure-track position, and 90 applicants for the tenured position. In spring 2017, six of 69 viable applicants to the graduate program were accepted and four were waitlisted. ACT hoped for an entering class of six students; ultimately, four admitted students and one waitlisted student accepted their offers. To increase the financial support it could provide, ACT decided to limit admission to five students.

For additional program notes and faculty activities, refer to the separate entry for ACT in the School of Architecture and Planning's report to the president.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Programs

See discipline group sections below (Building Technology; Design and Computation; and History, Theory, and Criticism) for PhD notes.

Department of Architecture Enrollments

As of fall 2016, Course 4 counted a total of 21 undergraduate majors, 42 undergraduate minors, and 224 graduate students. Graduate students were enrolled as follows: 99 MArch; 54 SMArchS; 8 SMBT; 15 SMACT; 41 resident PhD; and 7 nonresident PhD.

Leadership

Professor J. Meejin Yoon completed her third year as department head. Professor Caroline Jones served as associate department head. Academic program directors were: Miljački and Scott (MArch); Ochsendorf (undergraduate); Knight and Reinhart (SMArchS); and Urbonas (SMACT). Professor Sheila Kennedy served as chair of the Committee on Graduate Students. Our discipline groups were led by Urbonas (ACT); Miljački and Kennedy (AD); Professor Nasser Rabbat (AKPIA); Ochsendorf (BT); Associate Professor Takehiko Nagakura (COMP); Associate Professor Arindam Dutta; and Professor James Wescoat (URB).

Visiting Committee

The department welcomed the visiting committee for its biennial meeting, chaired by Gregory Turner '74, AR '77, from April 25 to 26, 2017. The visiting committee report is slated for presentation to the MIT Corporation in fall 2017.

Faculty Promotion and Appointments

We are excited to welcome Professor Judith Barry to the ACT faculty and Assistant Professor Mariana Ibañez to the architecture design faculty. Two members of the core team of architecture faculty, Associate Professors O'Brien and Miljački, received tenure.

Assistant Professors Miho Mazereeuw and Lauren Jacobi were promoted to associate professor. Associate Professor Christoph Reinhart was promoted to professor.

Lectures

In fall 2016, the department lecture series hosted Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu of SO-IL; Maria Alessandra Segantini of C+S; Sam Jacob; Todd Saunders; Fabrizio Barozzi; and Ines Weizman. Department faculty came together to discuss their work at the Venice Biennale. Janet Echelman presented the Edward and Mary Allen Lecture in Structural Design. In spring 2017, the department lecture series hosted Takaharu Tezuka, Mabel Wilson, Reinier de Graaf, and Tarik Oualalou and Linna Choi. Tatiana Bilbao presented the 28th Arthur H. Schein Memorial Lecture. The department launched the Agendas lecture series, curated by two students, which brought Assemble, Boris Groys, and the Tehrani Symposium with Lamia Joreige, Keith Krumwiede, and Michael Webb under the theme Politics of Production.

The Architecture Student Council hosted the Dinner with the In-Laws fall series, focusing on the themes thick and thin; drawing; and research, with the following faculty: Joel Lamere, Brandon Clifford, and Caitlin Mueller; William O'Brien, Brandon Clifford, and Oana Stanescu; Sheila Kennedy, Ana Miljacki, Skylar Tibbits, and Mark Jarzombek, respectively. In Spring 2017 the series focused on pedagogy; territory; and agency, with faculty Hashim Sarkis, Eran Ben-Joseph, and J. Meejin Yoon; Lorena Bello Gomez, Arindam Dutta, Rania Ghosn, and Rafi Segal; and Azra Akšamija, John Ochsendorf, and Mark Jarzombek, respectively.

MIT's National Organization of Minority Architects chapter launched a lunchtime series focused on women in architecture. Sessions focused on women in the practice, academia, and the city, and concluded with a student roundtable. Participants included Jennifer Bonner, Andrea Leers, Sheila Kennedy, Caroline Jones, Lauren Jacobi, Joyce Hwang, Caitlin Mueller, Anne Whiston Spirn, Gabriella Caroline, Ingrid Gould Ellen, Heba Allah Essam E. Khalil, Tigist Kassahun Temesgen; and students Emily Watlington, Stephanie Lee, Jessica Varner, and Jess Myers.

Publications and Exhibitions

Manager of publications and exhibitions, Irina Chernyakova, oversaw five exhibitions: *Thinness* with Joel Lamere (September 23 through November 1, 2016); *September '55* with PhD candidate Cagri Zaman (November 2016); *Big Data, Visualization, and Society* with Sarah Williams (November 2016 through February 2017); and *Evidence of Real Alternatives: MArch Thesis* (February 2017) in the Keller Gallery, as well as an exhibit of undergraduate work from the undergraduate architecture and design minor courses in the Rotch Library (April 2017) with Paul Pettigrew and AY2017 undergraduate faculty. Chernyakova also completed updates on the handbook for undergraduate programs, and pamphlets for the fall and spring final reviews for the SBA, MArch, SMArchS, and SMBT programs. Also in spring, Zachary Angles completed *Thresholds 45: Myth*, to be distributed by the MIT Press.

Personnel, Faculty Activities, and Discipline and Program Notes

Architecture and Urbanism Discipline Group

For clarity, personnel are grouped below into either architecture and design (AD) or urbanism (URB) based on their primary teaching roles in either the MArch, SMArchS, and AD/SSA studio sequence and programs, or the SMArchS URB program.

AD personnel in AY2017 were Professors Antón García-Abril, Sheila Kennedy, Andrew Scott, J. Meejin Yoon; Associate Professors Mark Goulthorpe, Ana Miljački, and William O'Brien; Assistant Professors Joel Lamere, Skylar Tibbits, and Brandon Clifford; Professors of the Practice Yung Ho Chang (on leave) and Philip Freelon (on leave); Research Scientist John Klein; Belluschi Lecturer Cristina Parreño Alonso; visiting professors Lorena Bello Gomez, Angelo Bucci, Keith Krumwiede, Jennifer Leung, Tarik Oualalou, and Linna Choi; technical instructors Christopher Dewart and Justin Lavallee; and teaching fellow Jongwan Kwon.

URB personnel in AY2017 were Professors Adèle Naudé Santos, Hashim Sarkis, and Anne Whiston Spirn (joint appointment with the Department of Urban Studies and Planning [DUSP]); Associate Professors Alexander D'Hooghe (on leave), and Rafael Segal; Assistant Professors Rania Ghosn and Miho Mazereeuw; and Principal Research Associate Reinhard Goethert.

During AY2017, Scott and Miljački were co-directors of the architecture group, and Wescoat was director of the urbanism group.

Kennedy received the Award of Excellence from the United States Department of State for furthering the design of US Embassies under the Barack Obama administration. Additionally, the Tozzer Anthropology Building, built by Kennedy's firm KVA MATx, was selected as Harleston Parker Award finalist. KVA MATx received two important commissions: Harvard University for the Schlesinger Library of Women's History and a contract to design two new zero-carbon housing projects in Australia.

Structures of Landscape, created by Ensamble Studio and led by García-Abril at the Tippet Rise Art Center, received the 2016 Excellence in Structural Engineering Award from the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations, and was one of the 25 architectural masterpieces chosen by *Wired Magazine* in 2016.

Ghosn and Design Earth's *Pacific Aquarium* won an Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Faculty Design Award and Honorable Mention in the AIN Best of Design Awards for Architectural Representation. Ghosn also received a Graham Foundation grant in support of *Geostories*, Design Earth's new publication.

Miljački's exhibition, *Un/Fair Use*, was on view at the Wooster Hall gallery in Berkeley University's School of Architecture in fall 2016, and her book *The Optimum Imperative: Czech Architecture for the Socialist Lifestyle, 1938–1968*, is out in hardback, published by Routledge.

O'Brien's [Mask House](#) won a Residential Architecture Design Award from *Architecture Magazine* and a Progressive Architecture Award. In addition, he received the Civitella Renieri Fellowship this fall for a six-week residency in Umbertide, Italy. O'Brien's BALTSprojects was featured in a solo exhibition in Zurich in April.

Segal was selected to be a part of the fourth regional plan for the metropolitan area of New York and the tri-city area. He also received the Barr Ferre Foundation grant for his book, *Space Packed: The Architecture of Alfred Neumann*, published by Park Books.

Yoon's firm, Höweler + Yoon, was commissioned to design the [Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at UVA](#), to be located on a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the University of Virginia campus. Yoon received the 2016 Boston Society of Architects Women in Design Award, the 2016 Acadia Teaching Award, and her work was exhibited at the Vitra Design Museum in an exhibition titled *Hello Robot*, which opened in February 2017.

Goulthorpe has been working on a postsolve symposium bringing together oil and gas, and polymer and chemical research groups affiliated with MIT. He has been working to initiate research and design consortia with industry and involve others in the department.

Mazereeuw launched her [real-time, crowd-sourced flood mapping project](#) in Indonesia at the end of January.

Clifford completed his [Five Fields Play Structure](#) project in historic Lexington, MA. He also won the 2017–2018 Rome Prize for Architecture.

Parreño Alonso won a commission to build a permanent art project in Boston's Hyde Square neighborhood in Jamaica Plain.

Bello Gomez won first prize in the Spanish national competition to rebuild part of the Camino de Santiago for a proposal based on her PhD dissertation.

Arts, Culture and Technology Discipline Group

For additional program and faculty information, refer to the separate entry for ACT in the School of Architecture and Planning's report to the president.

Building Technology Discipline Group

During AY2017 Ochsendorf was the director of the Building Technology group. BT personnel were Professors John Fernández, Leslie Norford, and John Ochsendorf; Associate Professor Christoph Reinhart; Assistant Professor Caitlin Mueller; Professor posttenure Leon Glicksman; visiting professor Mark West; and Lecturer Andrea Love.

In collaboration with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT, BT faculty recently completed a three-year funded research project on the lifecycle energy performance of cities in Kuwait. Continued support from the larger MIT funding ecosystem, including the Tata Center for Technology and Design (a flagship project with the Masdar Institute), the MIT Portugal Program, the Center for Complex Engineering

Systems at MIT and KACST funds the majority of BT graduate students. Faculty have recently begun a new partnership with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology-MIT Research Alliance Consortium. In addition, industry fellowships from leading architecture firms, including Behnisch Architekten, continue to strengthen the program's traditional ties to industry.

For the first time, the four master of science in building technology thesis students were invited to participate in the end-of-term thesis reviews on May 19, 2017. Their presentations were scheduled together with the SBAD, MArch, and SMArchS thesis reviews, including attendance by outside critics.

In September of 2016, Mueller and students were awarded the Tsuboi Award from the International Association of Shell and Spatial Structures for the best conference paper presented the previous year.

Norford spent the AY2017 year on research leave at the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology and on sabbatical leave at Stanford University.

Fernández completed year two of a five-year term as director of MIT's [Environmental Solutions Initiative](#).

In July 2017, Ochsendorf began a three-year professional leave from MIT to serve as the director of the American Academy in Rome.

Christoph Reinhart will be on sabbatical leave during spring 2018.

Design and Computation Discipline Group

The ongoing goal of the Design and Computation group is to explore collaborations with industry and academic entities to extend the boundary of research in computation and spatial design. In AY2017, Nagakura served as group director. Personnel in Design and Computation were Professors Terry Knight and George Stiny; Associate Professors Takehiko Nagakura and Lawrence Sass. Skylar Tibbits was appointed assistant professor of design research effective July 2016, his appointment is joint with the Architectural Design group.

The group's lecture series, curated by Knight, featured talks by Rodrigo Perez de Arce, of the Catholic University of Chile; Jose Sanchez, of the University of Southern California; Deanna Van Buren, of FOURM Design Studio; Ian Bogost, of Georgia Tech; William Uricchio, of MIT; Jennifer Groh, of Duke University; and Vivian Sobchack, of UCLA.

Knight co-edited *Routledge Research in Design, Technology and Society*, a new series published by Routledge. She also served as a speaker at Universidad Tecnica in Chile in August 2016, at KAIST in South Korea in January 2017, and at UCLA in April 2017.

Nagakura was featured in DOMUS Innovation, this March 2017, in an article titled "Takehiko Nagakura: The Design Game" written by Arturo Tedeschi. He was an

invited speaker at the Harbin Institute of Technology in China, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and he offered four paper presentations, including Nagakura, Choi, and Tsai: “Panoramic Videos: Recording and Representing Heritage Experience” Cultural Heritage New Technology in Vienna, Austria. Additionally, a video screening of *Tatlin’s Tower* (Nagakura, 1999) was featured at City Museum in Japan, Kitakyushu City Museum in Japan, and the Art Basel exhibition in Miami Beach, FL.

Sass completed a research residency at Singapore University of Technology and Design (January through July 2017).

Tibbits was recognized in LinkedIn’s Next Wave Top Professionals 35 and Under. His book, *Self-Assembly Lab: Experiments in Programming Matter*, was published by Routledge, and his paper, “[Jamming Architectural Structures: Towards Large-Scale Reversible Construction](#),” written with Petrus Aejmelaeus-Lindström, Jan Willmann, Fabio Gramazio, and Matthias Kohler, was published in *Granular Matter* in 2016. Tibbits also guest-edited a special 2017 issue of *Architectural Design* titled “Autonomous Assembly: Designing for a New Era of Collective Construction.” His work was featured at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, France; Ars Electronica in Austria; and his installations included Milan SaloneSatellite, and Google Transformable Wall Pod. He offered keynote speeches at World Paper Week, in Montreal, Canada; North Carolina State University; Design Miami; NTT America Global Summit; and Syracuse Sustainability Conference. He organized the conference [Being Material](#) at MIT. His sponsored research projects included work for BMW (Adaptive Car Interiors), Google (Adaptive Interior Spaces), and Steelcase (Rapid Liquid Printing/Programmable Materials).

History, Theory, and Criticism Discipline Group

History, Theory, and Criticism faculty continued this year to teach, publish, and participate in key Institute events as well as other organizational activities, in addition to convening several important events pertaining to the field. Arindam Dutta resumed his role as director of the program after a year of leave, and is expected to continue in this capacity until summer 2018. Personnel in HTC were Professors Mark Jarzombek, Caroline Jones, Nasser Rabbat, and James Wescoat; Associate Professors Arindam Dutta and Kristel Smentek; Associate Professor Timothy Hyde; Assistant Professor Lauren Jacobi; Lecturer Peter Kalb and David Pullins; and postdoctoral fellow Rebecca Uchill.

The faculty worked to significantly smoothen the running of the PhD program by creating a new, broken-down system of evaluating student progress during their crucial examination period in their third year; the effects were immediately felt with students taking steps to efficiently complete their exams at the scheduled time. In the long run, it is hoped that these steps will ensure better completion rates for the PhD.

Smentek received tenure, a promising development for HTC’s continued initiatives in the field of art history, and she also spent the year on leave with an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship.

Jacobi was appointed to assistant professor without tenure. In October 2016, she and Daniel Zolli co-organized a conference titled Purity and Contamination in Renaissance Art and Architecture.

Jarzombek won a substantial three-year renewal to continue the Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative. He and Nasser Rabbat co-organized the symposium [Stan Anderson and HTC](#) to honor the contributions of HTC's founder.

Through his lab, MIT Infrastructure Architecture Lab, Dutta won an MIT Samuel Tak Lee New Enterprise Grant, in addition Dutta secured an important project from the government of India to plan ferry systems for six cities on the Ganges River, in association with the small planning firm TDG.

Jones's new book, *The Global Work of Art: World's Fairs, Biennials, and the Aesthetics of Experience*, was released from the University of Chicago Press.

Hyde won a Mayer Fellowship at The Huntington.

All of the faculty traveled widely across the world to deliver several prestigious lectures. Pullins and Kalb taught as visiting faculty to replace Smentek's courses.

Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture

The Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT is recognized as an academic leader in the study of architecture and urbanism in the Islamic world. Sustaining and reinforcing this standing is our main goal. Rabbat continued as director through AY2017. Personnel in AKPIA include Professors Nasser Rabbat and James Wescoat (joint appointment with URB and DUSP).

AKPIA continued to recruit promising students and improve the curricular content of our two programs of concentration in Islamic architecture and urbanism in the SMArchS program and the PhD program in the HTC section. AKPIA also sponsored various activities in the department, such as the Evening With lecture series, which invited eight speakers in AY2017; the travel grant program, which supported students in the School of Architecture and Planning; and the postdoctoral program, which had two visiting scholars.

AKPIA organized three events in spring 2017, a workshop on the Arab city, bringing together researchers from MIT and Columbia University; the symposium, [Stan Anderson and HTC](#), organized with Mark Jarzombek from HTC; and the workshop, "The Architecture of Refugees: The Question of Ethics."

Further integration within the Department of Architecture, and the Institute at large, is one of AKPIA's foremost objectives. To that end, both AKPIA professors have engaged in a number of long-term collaborative research projects in the fields of modern art and architecture, urban design and planning, water conservation, heritage protection, and reconstruction and resettlements at MIT as well as with similar institutions around the world.

Nasser Rabbat is an Aga Khan professor and the director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT. His most recent books are *The Destruction of Cultural Heritage: From Napoleon to ISIS*, an online book co-edited with Pamela Karimi and published in 2016; and *Al-Naqd Iltizaman: Nazarat fi-l Tarikh wal 'Ururba wal Thawra (Criticism as Commitment: Viewpoints on History, Arabism, and Revolution)*, published by Riad Alrayyes, 2015), which deals with the roots and consequences of the Arab Spring. He published several essays during AY2017 on the damages to Syrian heritage, they appeared in *Artforum*, *Critical Inquiry*, *The International Journal of Islamic Architecture*, and the newspapers *al-Hayat* and *al-Arabi al-Jadid*. He has also co-curated with Filiz Çakır Phillip the exhibition, *Syria: A Living History*, at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto between October 2016 and March 2017. In April 2017, he co-founded Syrians for Heritage a new professional association concerned with the preservation of threatened Syrian cultural heritage. At MIT, he formed a collaborative research project on the topic, named Ethics of Intervention, which strives to frame the debates on the preservation of heritage and in the planning for reconstruction in countries devastated by civil wars within ethical, civil, and humanistic frameworks. The research group organized and participated in a series of workshops and seminars, and is planning at least two scholarly events for next year.

James Wescoat is an Aga Khan professor who offers courses on Islamic architecture and the environment. These include seminars on Islamic gardens, water-conserving design, and disaster-resilient design, as well as design workshops on these topics in India. His research this year has concentrated on urban water supply in the state of Maharashtra, India; and water-energy systems in India and Pakistan. Wescoat published essays on the historical water channels of Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Delhi in *Marg*, cluster analysis of urban water systems in *Sustainable Cities and Societies*, and landscape history in the edited volume *Contemporary Urban Landscape Design in the Middle East*, published by Routledge. He also contributed to a research report titled “[Strengthening Blue-Green Infrastructure in Our Cities](#),” funded by the Ramboll Foundation. In 2016, he became co-director of the Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism and director of the SM degree program in urbanism. He is serving as a member of the National Research Council (NRC) Committee on Urban Flooding in the United States, which is his fifth NRC water resources committee role. At the Institute level, he serves on several campus planning committees, the Technology and Public Policy curriculum committee, and the Tata Center for Technology and Design committee.

More information about the Department of Architecture can be found on our [website](#).

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