



# **PEDAGOGIES OF INCLUSION**

**THE NEW SCHOOL**





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# **THE NEW SCHOOL**

## **PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN**

School of Constructed Environments  
School of Design Strategies

## **THE NEW SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Milano School of International Affairs

## **EUGENE LANG COLLEGE THE NEW SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS**

# Pedagogies of Inclusion

***Pedagogies of Inclusion*** is a collection of student and faculty-led projects from The New School, spanning a wide geographic and disciplinary spectrum in the urban domain. These projects showcase the work of urban students, academics, practitioners and policymakers engaged in capacity building and urban transformation, striking a unique balance between theory and practice.



# The Y Project

## Valle de Angeles, Honduras

The Y Project has a mission to empower vendors and small business owners along the side of the road, supporting them with the power to organize and access crucial educational and infrastructural needs.

The first project, Y-Corn, takes place in Honduras on the main thoroughfare between the urban capital and a rural tourist town. This is a road where women sell corn and corn edibles produced for potential clients traveling in cars and buses to and from these centers.



# The Y Project

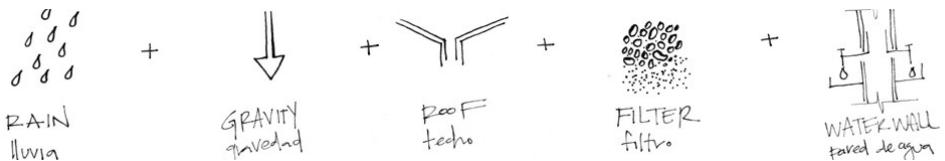
## Valle de Angeles, Honduras

The Y-Corn pilot began in August 2013, involving fifteen vendors and their families; local construction workers, woodworkers, and engineers; two visual artists; architecture and engineering students; potential mentors, the town mayor, the Honduran Department of Health, a federation of small business owners; and students and faculty abroad from The New School.

The four major components of the project are the vendors' organization, their education, construction, and mentorships. Currently, the locations where the corn vendors cook and sell their food lack basic infrastructure, such as a floor, roof, and water. The women handle and prepare the food with a bucket of stream water carried by foot the night prior or the morning of.



This infrastructural proposal forms a crucial component of the Y Project's education and mentorship program, which focuses on the needs and values of the vendors.



# The Y Project

## Valle de Angeles, Honduras

The Y Project's Y-shaped roof harvests rain water to be filtered and purified for the use of the cooks and clients. This infrastructural proposal forms a crucial component of the Y Project's education and mentorship program, which focuses on the needs and values of the vendors.

The Y Project has transdisciplinary teams in New York and Honduras, who are constantly evaluating and thinking about the process and impact of seed ideas that are re-generated, thus re-valued, for continuity in the pertaining community. This project was selected as a winner for the University-wide New Challenge in 2013.

**Project Leaders:**

Cristina Handal Gonzalez, MS Design and Urban Ecologies '14  
Parsons The New School for Design

Marco Zelaya, MS Urban Policy '13  
The New School for Public Engagement

**Website:**

[www.yprojecto.com](http://www.yprojecto.com)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/YProjecto](http://www.facebook.com/YProjecto)

**Twitter:**

@TheYprojects





# Santa Cruz Visible

## Medellín, Colombia

In early 2013, the Design and Urban Ecologies program at Parsons launched a pilot project with the community organization Corporación Nuestra Gente, situated in Santa Cruz, a working-class neighborhood in the north of Medellín. The instructors developed a studio curriculum around research and community engagement with the potential of creating self-sustaining improvements in economic and socio-spatial dimensions for the city of Medellín. Investigations

were framed within the mission of Nuestra Gente's Community Development Project (Comuna 2): "Strengthen the social fabric in Comuna 2, Santa Cruz, by promoting existing collective community leadership and support and contribution to the emergence of new leadership groups, based on community participation, solidarity, equity and advocacy, projecting the Commune to the city and to the world."

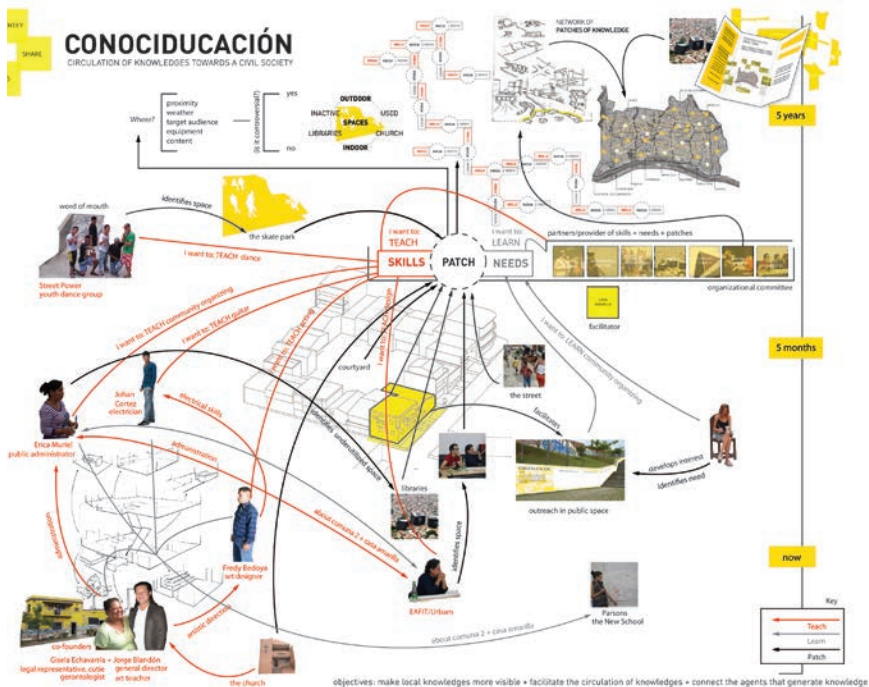


# Santa Cruz Visible

Medellín, Colombia

In the initial phase of the project, the team engaged in developing community relationships and commenced exhaustive research of Santa Cruz and surrounding areas. The team traveled to Medellín in April 2013 to conduct field research, confront the realities that condition the city, experience the sites to be intervened, and reinforce the participative dialogue of all project participants.

During the Unitary Urban Research phase, the objective was to develop research and fieldwork frameworks that have a capacity to grasp and operate inside the deep structures of a highly complex urban condition. In the Design of Community Urban Action Plan phase, the team defined the necessary components and processes for speculating strategic physical, social, economic and political ruptures to the



# Santa Cruz Visible

## Medellín, Colombia

existing complex, as well as assessing the real impacts of the recommended operation(s). It should be noted that it was not the goal of the studio to develop final designs. Simply put, the overall goal was to understand and speculate on complex urban conditions.

The following thematic formed points of departure for the research teams: Communal Processes, Social Infrastructures, and Political Economies. Students developed lines of research and eventually re-assembled teams and their investigations under new paradigms, or “ecologies.” These ecologies formed the basis for the design strategies proposed at the end of the studio to a panel of critics in New York and to our partners in Medellín.



Research and community engagement informed these proposals for economic and socio-spatial improvements.

### **Project Leaders:**

Alessandro Angelini, Lecturer in Design and Urban Ecologies  
Parsons The New School for Design

Quilian Riano, Lecturer in Design and Urban Ecologies  
Parsons The New School for Design

Students from Design and Urban Ecologies  
Studio 2, Parsons School of Design Strategies

### **Website:**

[dsgnagnc.com/santa-cruz-visible](http://dsgnagnc.com/santa-cruz-visible)



# Rio Matanza

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

Since 2010, The New School has been sending graduate students to monitor and evaluate the efforts of national, provincial, and local governments and other institutional and civil society actors to remedy and develop the highly polluted area of the La Matanza-Riachuelo River Basin. The objective of the Buenos Aires International Field Program is to study and analyze the different dynamics (environmental, social, economic, institutional, etc.) that co-exist in the river

basin area. A tributary of the Rio de la Plata (La Plata River), the Matanza-Riachuelo is the most contaminated river basin in Argentina, and since 2013 listed as one of the ten most contaminated places in the world. Over the past hundred years, the Matanza-Riachuelo River Basin has been used as a sewage sink for the entire city of Buenos Aires; approximately 15.000 industries are still discharging untreated, highly toxic chemical waste in the river basin.



# Rio Matanza

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

Pollution levels have increased steadily along with rapid urbanization in the metropolitan area of Buenos Aires. The basin is home to Argentina's largest concentrations of urban poor. Of the approximately 5 million inhabitants in the basin, 1.5 million live below the poverty line; an estimated 10 percent live in informal settlements, often in flood-prone areas and/or near open garbage dumps. As a result, the health, livelihood, and well-being of the population living in the basin are at stake.

Within the scope of the 2013 International Field Program (IFP), three New School students worked with ACuMaR, the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin Authority, which has three main objectives: first, to monitor the cleanup process of the Riachuelo river; second, to improve the quality of life of the basin's inhabitants;

and third, to focus on preventing further contamination. The students worked with ACuMaR's Comisión de Participación Social, evaluating and researching the impacts of social participation in ACuMaR's cleanup work, particularly in the areas of education, health and the production process of small businesses. Furthermore, in visiting local initiatives like the Proyecto Secundario Liliana Maresca, the students evaluated the efficiency of ACuMaR's communication with the local communities in regards to their work; the communities' perceptions of their ability to participate in the process; and how the cleanup of the basin has affected the local communities' sense of identity and image. In addition to this work, another group of three IFP students assessed the impacts of a project, implemented by AySA, the public water company of Argentina, to bring water to a shantytown, Villa Albertina,



# Rio Matanza

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

and how this undertaking has improved the lives of the local communities within the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin. A separate group of students worked directly with a university, Universidad de Avellaneda, and the local municipality to evaluate the needs and challenges of the underserved community Villa Inflamable, throughout the process of relocation due to the contaminated environment it is exposed to. Finally, two IFP students, interning for the local organization, Fundación X la Boca, are studying the impact of a program implemented to build a positive community identity for the children of the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin and will be making recommendations to improve its efficiency.

Together these various initiatives aim to ensure the development and integration of the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin's *villas miserias* (slums) within a more formal urban framework in order for its inhabitants to gain access to basic services and, subsequently, a better quality of life. This program is the single largest urban environmental project undertaken by the international community within an individual city in any developing country. Its breadth, ambition, difficulty, and substantial financial resources make it an important experiment in development cooperation as well as urban environmental rehabilitation. Through the initiatives and impact evaluations conducted by the IFP students, the inhabitants of the Matanza-Riachuelo Basin can become cognizant the improvements in to the of environment and community development, thereby acquiring a stronger sense of identity and a respect and understanding for the need to prevent polluting behaviors going forward.

**Its breadth, ambition, difficulty, and substantial financial resources make it an important experiment in development cooperation as well as urban environmental rehabilitation.**

### Project Leaders:

Alessandro Angelini, Lecturer in Design and Urban Ecologies  
Parsons The New School for Design

### Website:

[dsgnagnc.com/santa-cruz-visible](http://dsgnagnc.com/santa-cruz-visible)





# **Junt@s:** **A Socially Conscious Brand** La Merced, Colombia

Junt@s is a legal organization that is aiming to create economic opportunity through sewing and artistry for women who are heads of households, victims of domestic violence or victims of the political conflict that plagued Colombia for decades. Junt@s was born in the summer of 2012 when Nonprofit Management graduate student Daniela Talero was participating in the Colombia International Field Program in the town of La Merced, Caldas, Colombia.



# Junt@s:

## A Socially Conscious Brand

La Merced, Colombia

La Merced is an agriculturally based town that was subjected to a decade of violent paramilitary activity which, along with diminishing economic opportunities, led to massive emigration to larger urban areas. Historical and cultural forces at play have created highly marginalized demographics, mainly women and youth. Junt@s was designed to address the societal, cultural and economic challenges that face these demographics. The end goal of Junt@s is to establish a new work environment with a holistic approach using therapy, workshops, and a community-based system to provide a supportive, stable, and trusting work environment.

From the beginning, Junt@s sought to provide women and youth with economic opportunities, and, thanks to the cooperation of La Merced's Mayor, Daniela was lent access to twelve sewing machines that were not being used. Sewing was the natural starting point for Junt@s, although the organization will also be working on other artistic ventures. Last year, Daniela received the financial support and validation necessary to make Junt@s a reality when her idea for the organization was named winner of the New Challenge in 2013.



# Junt@s:

## A Socially Conscious Brand

La Merced, Colombia

To teach the necessary skills, Junt@s has partnered with a Colombian government-sponsored education program, El SENA, in order to offer the women the chance to obtain a certificate in sewing. The certificate represents a sustainable and economically viable skill that empowers women to be in control of their economic futures by having the means to provide for themselves and their families

Aside from creating economic opportunity, Junt@s also seeks to address the trauma many of these women have lived through because of political conflict and the machista culture. Hands-on work and participation in workshops and weekly reflections act as social and therapeutic activities with the potential to heal existing emotional scars. Through this cooperation, Junt@s also creates a tight knit community where women can be involved in creative and innovative projects they can be proud of, all while building a larger network of support in their society.

### Project Leaders:

Daniela Talero, MS Nonprofit Management '13,  
The New School For Public Engagement

### Website:

[prezi.com/5lc1ks36jpao/junts/](http://prezi.com/5lc1ks36jpao/junts/)



Aside from creating economic opportunity, Junt@s also seeks to address the trauma many of these women have lived through because of political conflict and the machista culture.



# Pier to Pier Lab: Informal Urbanisms

## Guarapiranga, Brazil

The Pier to Pier Lab is a transdisciplinary urban design project focused on the Guarapiranga Reservoir in São Paulo, Brazil. This experimental lab brings together the students from the School of Architecture and Urbanism at the University of São Paulo and the Theories of Urban Practice masters program at the School of Design Strategies at Parsons. Twelve students came together for two weeks to conduct field research, brainstorm ideas, and produce design solutions to address urban issues around the reservoir.



# Pier to Pier Lab: Informal Urbanisms

## Guarapiranga, Brazil

With a focus on informal urbanism, the students researched ways to bring communities together using the underutilized water reservoir. Students imaged the reservoir as beyond just water infrastructure, a public space for its economically diverse community. This lab transcends the traditional designer-to-client relationship designing directly for the community of São Paulo and Guarapiranga.

In January 2014, the group convened in the Guarapiranga region of São Paulo. Definitive to this workshop was its unconventional framework. Without an explicit client or agenda, the team defined its own objective to create solutions to improve the lives of people near the reservoir. The first week of the workshop was dedicated to fieldwork and investigation of Represa de Guarapiranga and its environs. The students built their understanding of the study area from the waterfront outward to the surrounding neighborhoods.



# Pier to Pier Lab: Informal Urbanisms

## Guarapiranga, Brazil

The group initially surveyed the coastline of the reservoir and then entered neighborhoods by land. The daily journey into different areas revealed the complexity of relationships between local communities and the massive body of water, which itself is a force that both connects and divides the region. During the second week, the research subgroups convened and found a common concern: many communities surrounding the reservoir do not have practical access to this valuable resource. From this exchange emerged an innovative solution to increase the possibilities for communities to interact with the reservoir. Via the “Praças Flutuantes” and the network of piers, new spaces are created where people can connect with increased social, economic and transportation opportunities.

### **Project Leaders:**

Renato Cymbalista, Professor  
University of São Paulo

Aseem Inam, Director, Theories of Urban Practice  
Parsons The New School for Design

Students from MA Theories of Urban Practice,  
Parsons School of Design Strategies, and  
University of São Paulo

### **Website:**

[informalurbanisms.org](http://informalurbanisms.org)





# From Urban Homesteading to a New Ecology of Housing

## Brooklyn, NY

From Urban Homesteading to a New Ecology of Housing is a long-term project based in New York City. It was initiated by a transdisciplinary group of faculty and students from the graduate program in Design and Urban Ecologies at Parsons. Starting from an investigation of the current housing condition, homelessness and structural vacancy, and the success and failure of the urban homesteading

program, the project seeks to design alternative strategies for community-based access to housing renovation. Simultaneously, the project aims to infill existing housing stock, through the provision of public grants, loans, sweat equity subsidies and expertise to low-income families willing to renovate existing vacant dwellings towards new models of ownership.



# From Urban Homesteading to a New Ecology of Housing

## Brooklyn, NY

Another crucial component of this project is the analysis of local policy determinants, programs, finance mechanisms and agencies currently engaged in neighborhood and community stabilization. This research complements the proposed housing initiatives, interrogating structural dependency in the housing market and the invigorating effects of urban state sponsored homesteading activity on the creative and latent productive capacity of homeless, under-housed, foreclosed and displaced people. Furthermore, this project intends to design operative strategies, participatory structures, financial tools and legislative avenues for policy application, while implementing a new initiative to provide access to vulnerable and ill-served communities, as demonstrated in a feasible pilot program.

## CITYSTEADING: THE STEADY MAKING OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE AS A COMMUNITY.

The shades of Manhattan have been swept by the working class of Brooklyn. The crisis of gentrification, with its displacement and rising inequality in full bloom, has led to a new ecology of housing, one that is not just about the city but about the people who make it a city in these spaces.

Therefore, an effective response to the crisis, one that recognizes the role of the city in the crisis, is to create a new ecology of housing, one that is not just about the city but about the people who make it a city in these spaces.

Letting go of the past and the present, we can begin to create a new ecology of housing, one that is not just about the city but about the people who make it a city in these spaces.

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Do we have a right to the city? The people of Brooklyn are asking this question. They are asking it in the streets, in the parks, in the schools, in the workplaces, in the homes. They are asking it in the language of the city, in the language of the people who make it a city in these spaces.

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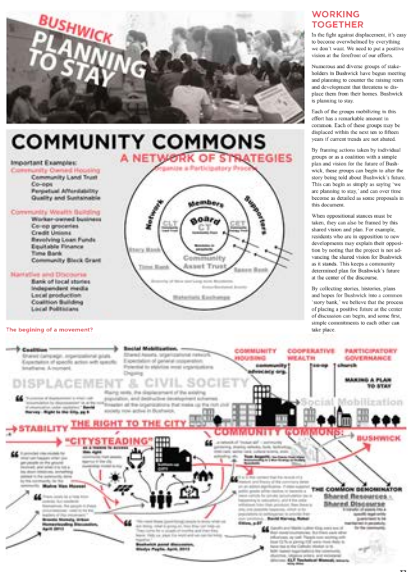
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# From Urban Homesteading to a New Ecology of Housing

Brooklyn, NY

The Bushwick district of Brooklyn was selected as a case study in the first term of this project for evidencing rapid housing changes, tenant displacement and vacancies. A number of activities were organized as part of this initiative, drawing the participation of local residents and members of community-based organizations including: The Right to the City Alliance, Picture the Homeless, Bushwick Housing Independence Project and Make the Road New York.

The urban investigations and strategies were disseminated in a neighborhood gazette across Bushwick and other districts facing similar conditions. Some of the housing models will be developed further as pilot projects in actual vacant properties. The ultimate goal of this project is to design innovative strategies where property owners, community members, local groups and city officials could collectively work towards the actual rehabilitation of abandoned and underutilized buildings.

**Bushwick was selected as a case study for evidencing rapid housing changes, tenant displacement and vacancies.**

## **Project Leaders:**

Gabriela Rendón, Co-Founder of Cohabitation Strategies; Adjunct Professor  
Parsons The New School for Design

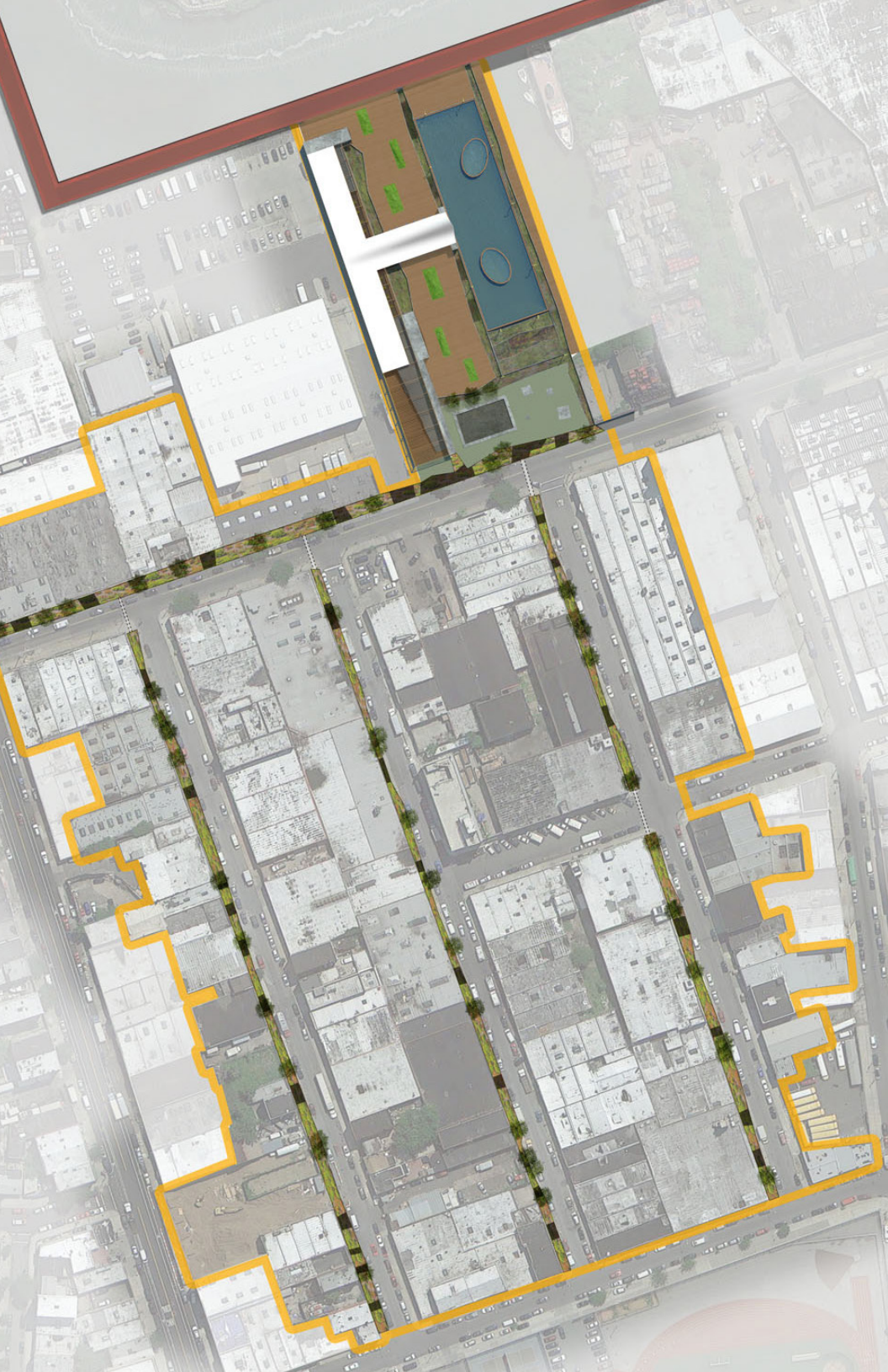
Frank Morales, Housing Activist; Writer; Lecturer  
in Design and Urban Ecologies  
Parsons The New School for Design.

Students from Design and Urban Ecologies Studio 2, Parsons School of Design Strategies

## **Website:**

[homesteadinginitiative.wordpress.com](http://homesteadinginitiative.wordpress.com)



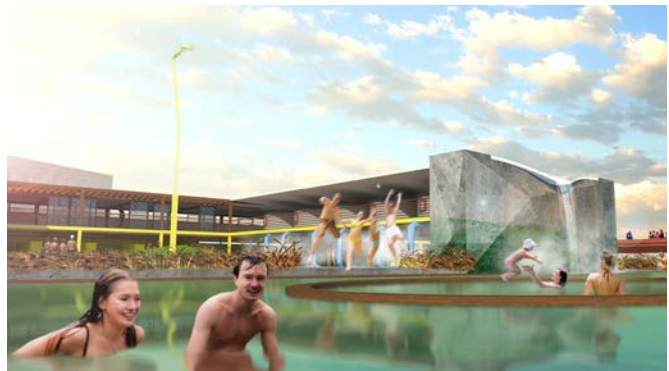


# Exorcise Pool

## Brooklyn, NY

Historically, the development of public parks and pools in New York City has been undertaken to promote public health and hygiene, generate employment, and increase public access to New York's water resources. This project aims to realign and expand the focus on the development of a public park and pool located in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn with a proposal for a public pool

integrated with a local master plan. This master plan addresses the overburdened existing water-related infrastructure through the redevelopment of the street sections' relationship with storm water remediation. In addition to the treatment of storm water, this new surface infrastructure can be treated as a public space or connective tissue through the neighborhood.

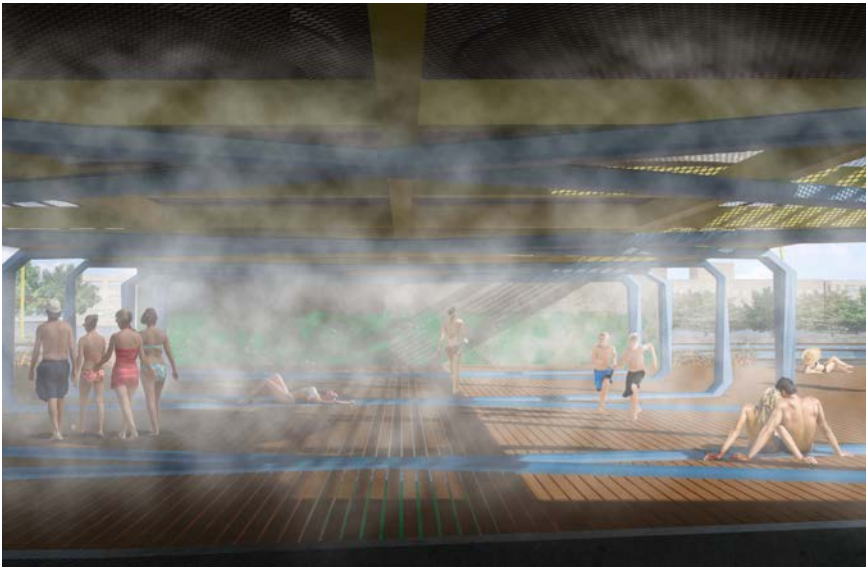


# Exorcise Pool

## Brooklyn, NY

The integration of this public pool with the new water-related infrastructural plan serves as a working piece of occupiable infrastructure, making explicit the land's relationship to water and the public. This project attempts to answer the following question:

How can architecture  
create an environment  
that incites  
responsibility and  
awareness?



# Exorcise Pool

## Brooklyn, NY

The project is not intended to reverse the effect of storm water, but rather to compel the public into a physical conversation with the infrastructures and built environment that respond to it. The program of a pool further provokes the public to engage in a shared experience, where the pool's existence is recognized as inextricable from the water and landscape surrounding it.

Located in the neighborhood of East Williamsburg, a pool sited adjacent to the Newtown Creek begins to create a new dialogue within the highly industrial zone. A storm water remediation system, which doubles as a public space, serves to connect the neighborhood of a primarily hardscaped industrial zone from a masterplanning scale. A pool at the corners of Morgan Avenue and Meadow Street serves to attract the public to this site and also functions as an occupiable bioremediation hub for storm water.

**Project Leader:**

Rahul Shah M.Arch '13  
Parsons The New School for Design

**Website:**

[rahulyshah.com/Exorcise-Pool/](http://rahulyshah.com/Exorcise-Pool/)



# Harlem School of the Arts

## Harlem, NY

The Harlem School of the Arts is fifty years old in 2014. The school is planning for its “next fifty years” and its vision is to garner interest from the city, the community and its supporters to open up an in-depth study of the institution of HSA that is tightly integrated with the design and programming of the building. Planning the building for its next fifty years was the focus of the Allied Design Studio

in Parsons School of Constructed Environments. Counter to the one architect-one vision approach of the Ulrich Franzen-designed HSA building, this investigation leveraged the interdisciplinary nature of the studio, looking at space, material, structure, light, environment and the senses to focus on various areas that are in need of design and or redesign.



# Harlem School of the Arts

Harlem, NY

The studio took up the challenge of looking at the areas of the building in present need of attention and, through an open process of analysis, planning and design, interrogated other areas of the building and incorporated them into holistic design proposals.

The collaboration between HSA and SCE continues the spirit of teamwork that was at the core of the school's founding.

## Project Leaders:

David Leven, Associate Professor of Constructed Environments  
Parsons The New School for Design

Derek Porter, Associate Professor of Lighting Design  
Parsons The New School for Design

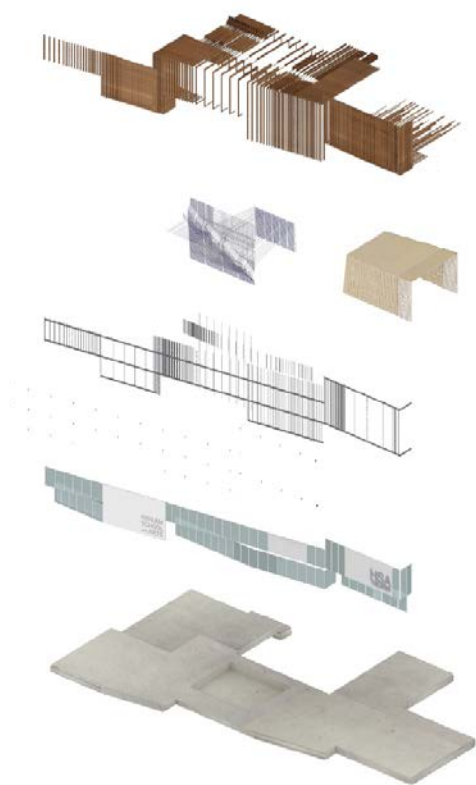
Star Davis, Lecturer in Lighting Design  
Parsons The New School for Design

Lauren Crahan, Lecturer in Interior Design  
Parsons The New School for Design

Students from Allied Design Studio, Parsons School of Constructed Environments

## Website:

[sce.parsons.edu/blog/fall\\_2012\\_allied\\_studio](http://sce.parsons.edu/blog/fall_2012_allied_studio)



# Harlem School of the Arts

## Harlem, NY

The HSA building was designed by the modernist architect Ulrich Franzen, completed in 1974 and constructed at a very different time in the life of the neighborhood that, one could surmise, forced the building to be inward looking and closed off from the life of the street. New York in the 1970s was in tough shape and Harlem was tougher. Franzen collaborated with Dorothy Maynor, the world famous soprano and founder of HSA, to conceive of the spatial necessities and programming of the building. He also consulted with George Balanchine on the design of the two perfectly square dance performance spaces on the north side of the building.

The collaboration between HSA and SCE continues the spirit of teamwork that was at the core of the school's founding, envisioning an arts learning facility for the next half century. The work undertaken in this studio course was sequenced into several discrete exercises that built upon one another to a holistic understanding of the Harlem School of the Arts building, the design interventions therein, and one's own design process as an architect, lighting designer or interior designer immersed in a complex and comprehensive design process.





# The Integral City Studio

## Greensboro, NC

The Integral City Studio was a collaborative project between The New School Urban Collaborative (Parsons The New School for Design and Milano Graduate Finance Lab) and Elsewhere, an experimental, living museum and artist residency program in

downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. Students traveled to Greensboro and used collaborative art and design tools to identify, strengthen, and connect Greensboro's cultural assets and naturally-occurring community hubs.



# The Integral City Studio

## Greensboro, NC

Over the last decade, downtown Greensboro has experienced community vitalization through grassroots and city-led planning, infrastructure, and urban programming initiatives. Despite a population of 300,000, the downtown has struggled to attract and retain live/work resources, economic diversity, business longevity, and a design sensibility that re-imagines the downtown's character and strengthens the city's identity. Divided into four groups, the students began by researching the historic development of Greensboro; the location and identification of different types of properties – residential, retail, institutional, governmental, cultural, manufacturing, and others; the urban context and infrastructure, including transportation, open space, demographics, topography, and parking; and the stories of

Greensboro, comprised of interviews with local residents, merchants, government officials, non-profit managers, and other stakeholders.

The studio went on to conduct field research during a two-day trip to Greensboro, starting with an insider's tour of the downtown area by non-profit partner Elsewhere. Students met with administrators and clients of a homeless resource center, civic leaders and policymakers, managers of local arts organizations, long-time residents, college and graduate school students, artists and writers, all of whom called Greensboro their home. During those meetings, they had a chance to exchange ideas, increase their understanding of the city, and further their explorations of perception and reality.



# The Integral City Studio

## Greensboro, NC

Over the course of the studio, students investigated public art programming and alternative revenue models to connect cultural and other organizations; proposed creative resource investment to grow community participation; and developed design interventions aimed at building urban connectivity between hubs and advancing the downtown as an integrated destination and home.

### Project Leaders:

Alison Mears, Dean, School of Design Strategies  
Parsons The New School for Design

Emily Moss, Director, Urban Design and Environmental Studies

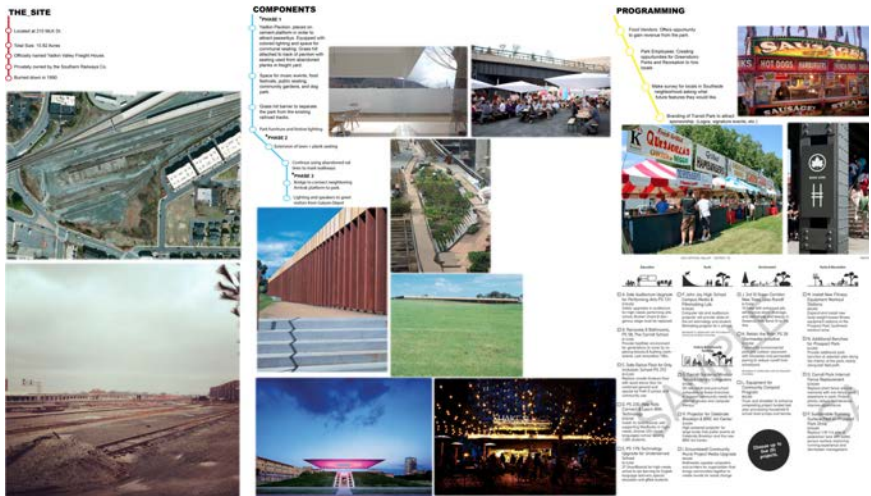
Parsons The New School for Design

Students from Urban Design Studio 4, Parsons School of Design Strategies and Milano Graduate Finance Lab

### Website:

[theintegralcity.wordpress.com](http://theintegralcity.wordpress.com)

Students used collaborative art and design tools to strengthen and connect Greensboro's cultural assets and community hubs.





# Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center

## New York, NY

The Parsons Design Workshop is an urban design and build program engaged in projects with positive social values and design work expressive of contemporary ideologies of built form. Each year, a diverse student team provides pro-bono design and construction services to ameliorate existing facilities in underserved neighborhoods. The Workshop is currently completing a multiyear effort of making improvements to the Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center in Washington Heights, an adaptive reuse project in collaboration with NYC Parks.



# Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center

## New York, NY

The addition of locker and changing rooms on the deck of the pool allow the Recreation Center to operate year round, previously not possible since those functions used to be housed in the interior. Each year during the pool season, the gym and other spaces typically used by the community had to be converted to locker rooms, thus preventing the building from being programmed as a community center with year round recreation staff. With the completion of Splash House last summer, the pool patrons are now able to access the pool without entering the main building. The enclosing and renovation of the central vestibule connects the two wings of the complex, providing additional condition space and resolving the entry sequence.

**Project Leaders:**

Alfred Zollinger, Director, Design Workshop  
Parsons The New School for Design

Students from Parsons Design Workshop, Parsons School of Constructed Environments

**Website:**

[sce.parsons.edu/designworkshop-2013](http://sce.parsons.edu/designworkshop-2013)



# Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center

## New York, NY

The Parsons Design Workshop engages projects with positive social values and design work expressive of contemporary ideologies of built form.

Students in the Design Workshop interfaced with the client and representatives of various city agencies in order to gain the necessary approvals for the project – no small task for a public project within a landmarked site in New York City. They were involved in all aspects of the process from schematic design through completion of the construction. This project took into consideration myriad aspects of the public work, including economic disparity, educational inequity, community engagement, health outcomes, human rights, and design excellence.





# Drive Change

## New York, NY

Drive Change is a social enterprise that operates food trucks to hire, train, and empower formerly incarcerated youth ages 16-25. They generate opportunities for youth coming home from adult jail/prison so that they can live crime-free and build financially self-sustainable futures.



# Drive Change

## New York, NY

In New York State, the age of adult criminal responsibility is 16 years old. Because of this, thousands of teens leave the criminal justice system with adult felony convictions that are made public to future employers and academic institutions. As a result, opportunity for change is limited and re-offense is common: the recidivism rate for adolescents treated as adults in the criminal justice system is nearly 70%. The need for transformational opportunities for youth who have been caught up in an unjust system is very real.



# Drive Change

## New York, NY

Drive Change provides three concrete services that are proven to lower recidivism: paid, transitional, quality employment; concrete, transferable industry-specific skills and credentials; and community building and outreach. Additionally, the structure of Drive Change provides opportunities for mentorship and group-work, two models that have significantly lowered recidivism rates. All aspects of Drive Change are devoted to empowering youth to believe in the value of their voice and their lives. Empowerment of voice and the development of self-esteem are two variables that are also directly correlated to lowering recidivism.

**Drive Change provides three concrete services: paid, transitional, quality employment; concrete, transferable industry-specific skills and credentials; and community building and outreach.**

### **Project Leaders:**

Annie Bickerton MS Nonprofit Management '14,  
The New School For Public Engagement

Jordyn Lexton, Co-Founder and Executive Director,  
Drive Change

### **Website:**

[drivechangenyc.org](http://drivechangenyc.org)  
[www.snowdayfoodtruck.com](http://www.snowdayfoodtruck.com)

### **Twitter:**

@DriveChangeNYC and @SnowdayTruck

Drive Change is inspired by groundbreaking social enterprises that use food businesses to transform opportunities, such as Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles and Greyston Bakery in New York. This model was transformed into an innovative version on wheels. The first food truck, Snowday, will serve a local, seasonal menu featuring Upstate New York maple syrup. All sales from the business recycle back into the organization to help subsidize the cost of running a holistic re-entry program.

Drive Change has received considerable media attention, including coverage by MSNBC, Edible Manhattan, Gothamist, MTV Act, Huffington Post, Brooklyn Based, Idealist, and Heritage Radio Network.



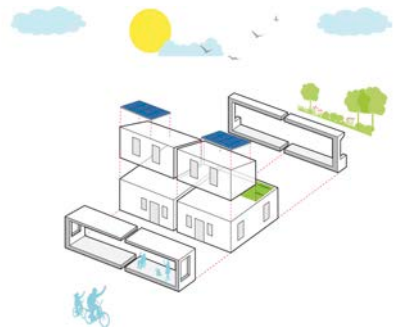


# Empowerhouse

## Washington, DC

The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon is an international competition that challenges twenty collegiate teams to design and build a cutting-edge sustainable house. Among the hundreds of entries, twenty finalists are selected. Held every two years since 2002 on the National Mall in Washington, the competition draws throngs of visitors during its ten-day run. The houses are typically transported across

the country or around the world and then back to the schools where they were built. This time around, the Empowerhouse team, together with Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC, and the DC Department of Housing and Urban Development, turned their demonstration house into a permanent, two-family home in Deanwood, a neighborhood in northeast Washington, DC.



# Empowerhouse

## Washington, DC

In order to build a solar powered home that is also affordable, Empowerhouse is designed according to Passive House Standard, consuming 80% less primary energy than a conventional home. This allowed the team to minimize the size and cost of the mechanical system and solar array. Empowerhouse is also a site net-zero energy home, efficiently producing as much electricity as it uses in a year. A 4.2 kW solar array produces all of the energy to heat and cool the home, power the lighting, and run the hot water heater and electric appliances, eliminating electricity bills for the Deanwood family. Empowerhouse uses conventional, market available components in a synergetic relationship, maximizing their efficiency.

The form of Empowerhouse was designed for transportation and replicability, while the details were designed for ease of construction for volunteer labor. Habitat for Humanity of Washington DC and other chapters nationwide will benefit from this approach. Empowerhouse is a replicable model that aims to change the way affordable housing is built in America.

Materials were selected according to a series of criteria including: affordability, green certification, embodied energy, non-toxicity, livability, constructability, and overall environmental impact. Meeting these criteria ensures Empowerhouse is an affordable, buildable home with healthy indoor air quality.



# Empowerhouse

## Washington, DC

The Empowerhouse team worked in partnership with the DC Department of Housing and Community Development, Groundwork Anacostia, and Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC, a volunteer-led organization that works to build affordable, energy- and resource-efficient homes for people in need. This house is the product of an interdisciplinary team of graduate and undergraduate students from a number of design disciplines, including architecture, interior design, lighting, fashion, product design, communication design, and design and technology, as well as engineering, urban policy, sustainability management and environmental policy students. Urban Policy student, Orlando Velez, who was operations manager for Empowerhouse, was later hired by the DC Habitat affiliate as the Manager of Housing Services at DC Habitat. Since the project began, over 200 students, twenty faculty and administrators from the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy, Parsons The New School For Design, and Stevens Institute of Technology have been a part of the team.

In order to build a solar powered home that is also affordable, Empowerhouse is designed according to Passive House Standard, consuming 80% less primary energy than a conventional home.

**Project Leader:**

Laura Briggs, Assistant Professor of Architectural Design  
Parsons The New School for Design

**Faculty Leaders:**

Charles Allison, Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Finance  
The New School for Public Engagement

John Clinton, Associate Professor of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management  
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David Leven, Associate Professor of Constructed Environments  
Parsons The New School for Design

Alison Mears, Dean, School of Design Strategies  
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Lyn Godley, Part time Lecturer in Product Design  
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John Nastasi, Director of Product-Architecture Program  
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Timo Rissanen, Assistant Professor of Fashion Studies and Sustainability  
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John Stinar, Part-Time Lecturer in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management  
The New School for Public Engagement

Over 200 students from The New School and Stevens Institute of Technology

**Website:**

[parsit.parsons.edu](http://parsit.parsons.edu)

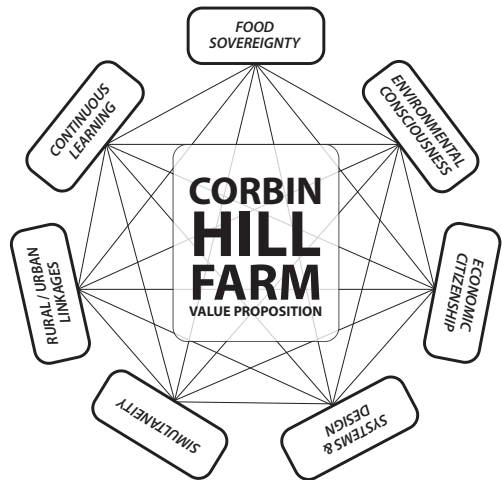


# Corbin Hill Food Project

## Harlem and Bronx, NY

Corbin Hill Food Project is a network of rural farms and urban communities in New York. They work with farmers from upstate New York and community groups in New York City to deliver fresh, local, sustainably grown produce to Harlem and the Bronx. They partner with organizations that serve the most vulnerable

members of our society: the young, the old, and those who are struggling financially and physically, specifically because the people they serve are the ones most in need of high-quality, healthy food — as well as the ones who are least likely to have access to it.



# Corbin Hill Food Project

## Harlem and Bronx, NY

Unlike traditional CSAs (community supported agriculture), Corbin Hill is designed as a farm share model that benefits low-income individuals and families in the Bronx and Harlem. Local fruits and vegetables are delivered on a regular basis to sites in Harlem and the Bronx, where shareholders, or members, pay in advance to receive a share of the freshly harvested produce. The Farm Share is open to everyone and offers flexible membership terms, affordable prices, and items that reflect the diverse cultures it serves. Working out of their Harlem office, they distribute fresh produce to neighborhoods that have limited access to fresh food. Corbin Hill partners with community organizations who host the Farm Share distribution once a week (once

a month in the winter) in office buildings, church basements, living rooms, schools and universities, hospitals, sidewalks, and anywhere else the share can be accessed by residents of that community.

Much of the produce bought by Corbin Hill and all of the produce from the farm is grown organically but has not been certified as such. In many cases, the cost of the organic certification process would increase the price of crops. When Corbin Hill's partner farmers are unable to rely on a fully organic system, they use Integrated Pest Management. This means that if more than 30 percent of a crop is threatened, water-soluble chemicals such as copper (far less harmful than industrial-scale pesticides) are used to treat the plants.



### Project Leaders:

Dennis Derryck, Professor of Professional Practice

The New School For Public Engagement

### Website:

[corbinhillfoodproject.org](http://corbinhillfoodproject.org)

### Twitter:

[@CorbinHillFarm](https://twitter.com/CorbinHillFarm)



# Corbin Hill Food Project

## Harlem and Bronx, NY

Dennis Derryck Management Professor and founder of the Corbin Hill Food Project has engaged students from the Milano School for International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy in Corbin Hill's mission of giving low-income communities access to affordable, locally grown food through a variety of courses, including "Breaking Barriers: Social Ventures and Food Access," "Urban Food Systems," and "Social Venture Creation: Transportation and Food Access." Student projects have focused on using insights taken from the positive and negative outcomes of Corbin Hill to formulate social ventures that address one of the many aspects affecting access to affordable fresh produce in low-income communities, including transportation costs, community organizing, scalability, creation of a cold chain, and access to financing.



Corbin Hill is designed as a farm share model that benefits low-income individuals and families in the Bronx and Harlem.

Farm Hub



Farm Share



Farmer Network





# **Urban Policy Lab:**

## **Recommendations for a Family Zone**

### **Crown Heights, NY**

The Urban Policy Lab anchors the Urban Policy program's singular client-centered curriculum. In this intensive six-credit practicum, groups of four or five students work as a consulting team to address real-world policy and management problems for government officials or nonprofit executives. Each team of students

works on two projects over the course of the spring semester, supervised by a member of the Milano School's faculty. Each project culminates in a live briefing for the client, at which the team presents their findings and recommendations, followed by a written report incorporating client feedback.

# Urban Policy Lab: Recommendations for a Family Zone Crown Heights, NY

The project team created a report for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce determining best practices for the Chamber to use to develop a “Family Zone” in North Crown Heights focused on connecting and promoting existing cultural assets and creating the conditions for economic development.

North Crown Heights is an ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhood in the eastern section of Central Brooklyn’s Community Board 8 district. The area is home to a majority African-American and Caribbean-American resident base. There is also a significant Hasidic Jewish population mostly living south of Eastern Parkway. The community has assets that could help to revitalize and strengthen the

neighborhood including an established merchants association along the Kingston Avenue commercial corridor, strong community groups and organizations such as a mediation center, the large and multi-use Brower Park, strong religious institutions, and a resident base that cares deeply about the community’s future. There is an opportunity for the community to better utilize these assets to foster an environment for economic development in North Crown Heights.

The report recognizes three critical challenges that have delayed economic growth and development in North Crown Heights: negative media perception, lack of business investment, and unconnected cultural institutions.



# Urban Policy Lab: Recommendations for a Family Zone Crown Heights, NY

The report also emphasizes the benefits of connecting cultural centers like the Brooklyn Children's Museum, The Jewish Children's Museum, St. John's Recreation Center, and Weeksville Heritage Center. Furthermore, the project team identified cultural, business, community and government stakeholders and analyzed four alternatives as possible first initiatives for the new North Crown Heights Family Zone: maintain the status quo, create Family Zone incentives through special events, create neighborhood pathways through new transportation linkages, and build a brand. The team recommended that the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce build a brand for a new North Crown Heights Family Zone. The brand includes a logo, website and social media pages, street pole banners, an annual Family Zone day featuring an official brand launch, and a combination of grassroots and traditional media designed to increase visibility of the cultural institutions and businesses in the Family Zone.

This recommendation will leverage cultural assets for neighborhood revitalization. The brand will associate North Crown Heights with the unifying concept of "family" and develop the Family Zone. This new perception of the area will attract both local residents and visitors to frequent the commercial corridor and cultural institutions. Branding will connect the neighborhood and improve the overall image of the community. The Chamber continues to work with local stakeholders to implement the Family Zone.

## **Project Leaders:**

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Jeffrey Smith, Assistant Professor, Urban Policy  
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Esmeralda Gaton, Tara Klein, Laura Miller, Sam  
Rogers, Jugba Santi

This policy recommendation leverages cultural assets for neighborhood revitalization. The brand will associate North Crown Heights with the unifying concept of "family" and develop the Family Zone.





# ACTogether

## Uganda

Through its partnership with the NGO ACTogether Uganda, The New School has been able to offer to graduate students across programs the opportunity to be engaged with one of the most vibrant and refined grassroots organizations for urban development in the South.



# ACTogether

## Uganda

Slum Dwellers International (SDI) is a network of community-based organizations of the urban poor in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It was launched in 1996 when “federations” of the urban poor in countries such as India and South Africa agreed that a global platform could help their local initiatives develop alternatives to evictions while also impacting on the global agenda for urban development. In each country where SDI has a presence, affiliate organizations come together at the community, city, and national level rooted in specific methodologies. SDI’s mission is to link urban poor communities from cities

across the South that have developed successful mobilization, advocacy, and problem solving strategies.

The National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda is a ten year old network of community savings groups that practice daily savings, while using their collective strength to improve the lives of urbanites who reside in six of Uganda’s growing municipalities: Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Mbarara, Kabale and Arua. The Federation believes that savings groups not only generate unity, but also financial capacity, effective organization and collective



# ACTogether

## Uganda

efficacy. Savings are the foundation for their work, which includes housing construction and modeling, census-like self enumerations, national and international exchanges, health and hygiene, security of tenure, income generation activities, as well as credits.

ACTogether Uganda is an independent Ugandan organization affiliated with Slum Dwellers International (SDI). ACTogether was established in 2006 to support the community savings groups that constitute Uganda's Federation of Urban Poor. They facilitate processes that develop organizational capacity at the local level and promote pro-poor policy and practice in Uganda's urban development arena. In partnership with organized communities of urban poor, ACTogether strives to increase access to secure tenure, adequate shelter, basic services, information, and many of the other building blocks required for healthy communities.

Interning students gain insight into international development practice, community participation, and slum upgrading schemes by working directly with project and program design and management of this organization. The organization, in turn, is able to strengthen ongoing processes, explore new avenues of intervention, advance its documentation needs, and foremost, touch the career paths of dozens of young professionals.

ACTogether facilitates processes that develop organizational capacity at the local level and promote pro-poor policy and practice in Uganda's wider urban development arena.





# ATLANTIS: Urbanisms of Inclusion

## Europe

This program brings together faculty and students from European and North American universities involved in the Trans-Atlantic project titled Urbanisms of Inclusion. The ATLANTIS student and faculty exchange program is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of

Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) and the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG-EAC). The purpose of the ATLANTIS program is to promote a student-centered transatlantic dimension to higher education and training in a wide range of academic and professional disciplines.



# ATLANTIS: Urbanisms of Inclusion

## Europe

In 2010, the five international partner universities received a four-year Atlantis grant to develop Urbanisms of Inclusion: A Transatlantic Education Program (UI/TEP). This design, research, and curriculum exchange program is intended to bring together the strength and richness of different design approaches and methods build upon the long tradition and experiences in urbanism in each of the participating universities. The program has developed new and innovative urban curricular concepts, research methods, as well as new urban knowledge and modes of urban action, as it has attempted to produce highly qualified, university-trained urbanists: designers, planners, and researchers.

The most recent exchange conducted for this program occurred in Venice, Italy in summer 2013. Students from Parsons School of Design Strategies and School of Constructed Environments participated in a design-intensive program called “Recycling City 2,” hosted by partner institution IUAV Venice as part of the European Masters of Urbanism (EMU) program. They were joined by colleagues from KU Leuven (Belgium) and TU Eindhoven (Netherlands), continuing a collaboration that had begun in the fall 2012 semester at Parsons. A new cohort of EMU students from TU Delft (Netherlands) and Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Spain) also joined the workshop, further enriching the collective experience of transatlantic exchange. Through a series of tours, lectures and

### Project Leaders:

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Parsons The New School for Design

Miguel Robles-Durán, Assistant Professor of Urbanism  
Parsons The New School for Design

### Website:

[urban.parsons.edu](http://urban.parsons.edu)  
[sds.parsons.edu/blog/students-question-recycling-city-in-venice](http://sds.parsons.edu/blog/students-question-recycling-city-in-venice)



# ATLANTIS: Urbanisms of Inclusion

## Europe

The program has developed innovative curricular concepts and research methods, while producing highly qualified urbanists.

workshops, they divided into teams to investigate, challenge and propose projects in various sites. Atlantis participants conceptualized the recycling of cities as an essential strategy, cutting across themes of the contemporary urban question: environmental crisis and extreme phenomena, a growing divide between rich and poor, and forced or denied mobility indicating new exclusions. Following this workshop, Parsons students enrolled in a fall 2013 seminar to bring their investigations to a closure by engaging in an additional research project on modes and types of inclusion encountered in Venice. The final objective of this curricular exchange is to prepare materials for a publication and website on Urbanisms of Inclusion.





# THE NEW SCHOOL

Forward-thinking educators founded The New School in 1919 to defy the intellectual constraints of traditional college education. As The New School approaches its centennial, it remains on the cutting edge - attracting active scholars, artists, and pacesetters who deploy creativity and innovation to challenge the status quo. In New York City, Paris, and online, The New School enrolls 10,000

degree-seeking students in more than 130 undergraduate and graduate programs focused on collaborative, project-based, interdisciplinary learning. Education is driven by open discussion in small classes and a human-centered approach to problem solving, combining design thinking and social research to address the complex issues of our time.

**[www.newschool.edu](http://www.newschool.edu)**



## EUGENE LANG COLLEGE THE NEW SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS

Eugene Lang College is a thriving intimate academic community immersed in the vibrant, cosmopolitan landscape of New York City. The vast intellectual and cultural resources of this city are integrated into the curriculum at every level — in the classroom and out into the city itself through a wealth of partnerships, internships, and service-learning programs. At the heart of Eugene Lang College is a deep commitment to a liberal arts education that reaches across and beyond traditional areas of study. Students pursue connections among the humanities, fine arts, and social and natural sciences through a curriculum that includes both traditional and innovative majors, minors, and interdisciplinary programs.



Eugene Lang College offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in:

- Anthropology
- The Arts
- Contemporary Music
- Culture and Media
- Economics
- Education Studies
- Environmental Studies (BA or BS)
- Global Studies
- History
- Interdisciplinary Science
- Liberal Arts (BA or BS)
- Literary Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Theater
- Urban Studies

## THE NEW SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The New School for Public Engagement is the university's founding division and is now one of seven divisions that compose The New School. The mission of The New School for Public Engagement is to create and nurture a learning community marked by interdisciplinary engagement with real-world issues and the integration of professional, civic, and liberal learning. The common thread that runs across the division's diverse academic programs is a commitment to learning that makes a difference in the world. In order to realize this commitment, the division aspires to provide an educational experience that is integrative, boundary-crossing, and collaborative. The division connects theory to real-world practice, training students to address civic life, to create new forms of culture, and to respond to contemporary challenges in their communities and throughout the world.

[www.newschool.edu/public-engagement/](http://www.newschool.edu/public-engagement/)

### **Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy**

The Milano School is widely recognized for its innovative approaches to educating leaders who make a measurable difference. Its activities focus on addressing complex, real-world problems in cities, organizations, and communities. Milano's approach is both comparative and global, with a commitment to the achievement of a just and equitable world.

The Milano School offers the following degrees and certificates:

Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management (MS)  
International Affairs (MA/MS)  
Nonprofit Management (MS)  
Organizational Change Management (MS)  
Urban Policy Analysis and Management (MS)  
Public and Urban Policy (PhD)  
Leadership and Change (Post-Master's Certificate)  
Organization Development (Post-Master's Certificate)  
Sustainability Strategies (Post-Master's Certificate)

Milano blends critical theory with hands-on practice, progressive thinking with social engagement, and research with reflection in action. The unparalleled faculty of scholars and practitioners engage in multidisciplinary, critical approaches that challenge prevailing wisdom. Milano graduates lead public, private, and non-governmental institutions around the world and in New York City.

The Milano School's Center for New York City Affairs and the Observatory on Latin America conduct applied research and convene public programs, engaging dialogue on pressing issues of interest.

[www.newschool.edu/public-engagement/](http://www.newschool.edu/public-engagement/)

## PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN

A pioneer in art and design education since its founding in 1896, Parsons has cultivated outstanding artists, designers, scholars, businesspeople, and community leaders for more than a century. Today, when design thinking is increasingly being employed to solve complex global problems, Parsons is leading new approaches to art and design education.

At Parsons, a diverse community of students develops critical thinking skills and applies them to challenges ranging from environmental degradation to physical accessibility and humanitarian crises. Through a network of interconnected design laboratories, students explore global phenomena at multiple sites and scales of engagement, from on-campus research initiatives to partnerships that affect change in New York and around the world.



[www.newschool.edu/parsons/](http://www.newschool.edu/parsons/)

### School of Constructed Environments (SCE)

Architecture, interior, lighting and product design students learn the skills of social entrepreneurship, integrated design and regenerative practices that collectively transform our cities into sustainable urban habitats. Students grapple with key forces shaping the world today – radical shifts in ecological flows, changes in living and working systems, growth of economic disparity, trends in consumption patterns, and increasing ethnic diversity – as they design functional, beautiful, and sustainable products, interiors, and buildings.

The School of Constructed Environments offers the following degrees:

- Interior Design (AAS)
- Architectural Design (BFA)
- Interior Design (BFA)
- Product Design (BFA)
- Architecture (M.Arch)
- Architecture (M.Arch) and Lighting Design (MFA)
- Interior Design (MFA)
- Lighting Design (MFA)



[sce.parsons.edu](http://sce.parsons.edu)

## PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN

### School of Design Strategies (SDS)

The School of Design Strategies is an experimental educational environment. We advance innovative approaches in design, business and education. In the evolving context of cities, services and ecosystems, we explore design as a capability and a strategy in the environmentally conscious practices of individuals, groups, communities and organizations. We explore strategy in action. How can we use design strategies to promote change, foster creativity, to envision the new urban? How can design improve or re-imagine a broad range of established systems, from fashion to healthcare to low-income housing? Considering the myriad of challenges in the modern world, how can we use all of our abilities to affect positive change? The School of Design Strategies confronts these challenges in both theory and practice, academically and practically, through rigorous research, experimentation and critical application.



The School of Design Strategies offers the following degrees and certificates:

- Integrated Design (BFA)
- Strategic Design and Management (BBA)
- Urban Design (BS)
- Design and Urban Ecologies (MS)
- Strategic Design and Management (MS)
- Transdisciplinary Design (MFA)
- Theories of Urban Practice (MA)
- Design and Business (Graduate Certificate)

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