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PAPRIKA! XIV U Y
 FINDING NEW GROUND FOR COLLABORATIVE STUDY
URBAN YALE
 VOL. 2 NO. 14: 02/02/17
 YALE UNIVERSITY
 RUDOLPH HALL, 180 YORK ST, NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

EDITORS' STATEMENT

Jacqueline Hall, Tess McNamara, and Katherine Stege

On June 14th 1969, Yale's Department of City Planning went up in flames. The event is rumored to have been an act of arson, following a tumultuous period of administrative clashes between the Department, the School of Architecture, and the University. Today the remains of this Department are difficult to find, but the necessity of situating our work in relation to an explicitly political discipline is more important than ever. The City Planning Department made it their prerogative to work for social change with New Haven communities, aggressively sought diversity among students, and disparaged local and national events that challenged their core values, but this legacy of activism, community engagement, and urban planning has been largely abandoned by YSOA. It is time, almost 50 years later, for the University to revisit the Department's focus, and to take up its cause—reinterpreted for the 21st century.

At a time where our institutional history from the 1960's parallels the energy and issues of today, this Paprika serves to draw connections to our past while looking forward to what a future 'Urban Yale' might mean. We find ourselves at a critical moment: grassroots student energy has begun to clash with a hostile national political climate at the same time that leadership changeovers at the heads of our graduate schools provides a unique opportunity to rethink how we can work together, and to what end. This week, as students across campus are organizing against the assaults of the Trump administration, a discipline like planning, centered around the implementation of democracy, could offer a framework to work together effectively. Urban issues are necessarily multidisciplinary; complexity in the face of lasting inequality, climate change, and other difficult problems beg a new form of study supported by institutionalized platforms for collaboration.

As three joint degree students, we are critically aware of the practical, pedagogical, and cultural gaps between two of Yale's graduate and professional schools, but are also aware of a broad array of the University's strengths. Yale's current curriculum is bursting at the seams with students' desire to pursue urban interests, and both students and faculty across the University already contribute to the discipline in their own research. This issue of Paprika! shows just a fraction of student work on urban issues, while reflecting on some of the lessons from our past, and expressing opinions on the principles that a new urban center might embody. Even this small sampling elucidates the parallels to our 1960's predecessors, through both a desire for on-the-ground community engagement, and a need for formalized institutional support in order to remain relevant. Perhaps if there is something 'urban' Yale is primed to do better than any other University, it is working on new models of community driven planning and grounded urban study—inspired by the sixties Planning department's activist response to the local impacts of urban renewal.

Although the passion and initiative of students at Yale has been a driving force behind the university's engagement with public policy, advocacy, and community partnerships, access to institutional support and resources is imperative. To push this necessarily multidisciplinary work to a new level, we need "common turf:" foundational courses, a place for cross-departmental exchange, sources of funding, and a hub for rigorous criticism. On a practical level, we're also looking for more faculty, more classes, more institutional attention devoted to engagement with urbanism. Some of the clinics at the Schools of Law and Forestry are already doing this kind of work and are beginning to work across disciplines to effect real, collaborative change—change evaluated not by self-reflective accolades, but by the vitality of the places with which we interact through scholarship and service.

The purpose of this issue of Paprika! is to show evidence of a widespread desire across the University for President Salovey's administration to create a new hub for urban scholarship, and to express the urgency of this endeavor in the face of today's social, political, and environmental challenges.

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PAPRIKA! XIV FINDING NEW GROUND FOR COLLABORATIVE STUDY URBAN YALE

TOWARD A NEW NOSTALGIA

Luke Studebaker, YSOA M.Arch I 2019

1. Before getting on with the revival, let's first examine the death. As Rudolph Hall lore goes, the fiery demise of the Department of City Planning coincided with the real conflagration that ripped through the Art and Architecture Building on June 14th, 1969. In fact, the department was formally ended by Yale President Kingman Brewster in December of 1970, but the historical details of its dissolution are only slightly more prosaic than a structure fire. In the late sixties, the School of Art & Architecture was a site of intense activism, both in concert with the broader student activism of the day and specifically directed at reforms within the school. Students advocated for a more relevant and socially minded curriculum, as well as for greater student involvement in the process of reform. In November 1968 Yale students participated in a walk-out at the New England regional AIA meeting in protest of what they perceived as a "lack of moral and political concern within the design profession." The group of protesters quickly channeled their energy into a broadsheet, *Novum Organum*, a "new organ" of the student body. That same month, ten African-American students in the school formed the Black Workshop, which sought to increase diversity in the fields of architecture and planning and to teach students skills for working in disadvantaged communities of color. Within the School of Art & Architecture, students' calls for more participation in shaping their education increased. According to architectural historian Brian Goldstein, this was the cause of planning's downfall at Yale: the department's small size and sympathetic faculty led it to cede too much control to students, at least in the eyes of Brewster. After the school went through with the student proposal to admit a half-nonwhite city planning class for the 1969–70 school year, defying the university's directive (which the administration claimed was due to funding issues), the president moved to shut the department.

2. Back to that fire. Could it be that we prefer the story in which the planning department simply went up in smoke, leaving behind only a charred, empty husk? After all, better to project our nostalgia—a discontent with our present—for an imagined era onto an unexamined story. But the takeaway from the events of 1969–70 shouldn't be an elegy for planning as a formal department, or even a curriculum track. While the demise of the planning department is a cautionary tale of student attempts to engage the administration too directly that may (or may not!) be out of date today, the events at the school in the late sixties are more importantly a lesson about the power of an organized student body. The revival of planning advocated for in this issue of *Paprika* will be, of course, dependent on the administration. The urbanism and planning curriculum at Yale can and should be expanded to better address the issues we face as architects working in world that continues to urbanize. We should also recognize, however, our own power as students to promote ideas and shape conversations. In the present moment that spells a future of activism—much of it concerning "urban issues"—by many of us here at the School of Architecture, we will do well to look out for the ways such activism can inflect our work.

The views expressed in *Paprika!* do not represent those of the Yale School of Architecture. Please send all comments and corrections to paprika.ysoa@gmail.com. To read *Paprika!* online, please visit our website, yalepaprika.com. *Paprika!* receives no funding from the School of Architecture. We thank GPSS and the Yale University Art Gallery for their support.



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CRUDE BY RAIL: THE URBAN RISKS OF FOSSIL FUEL TRANSPORTATION
Katie McConnell, FES M.E.Sc. 2017

The urban impacts of fossil fuel consumption—primarily, air pollution—are well documented. Yet a recent shift in oil transportation poses new environmental and human health threats to cities across the country. Less attention has been paid to an existing infrastructure that is quietly taking on more and more oil, in so doing exposing both rural and urban communities to a significant risk—railroads.

Since 2011, the practice of "crude by rail" has grown significantly, with long chains of oil tankers winding their way alongside rivers, through reservations, and in all sizes of cities and towns across the United States and Canada. This new fossil fuel transportation mode has brought with it an increasing number of train derailments, in which highly combustible crude oil can spill, catch fire, and even explode. In the worst spill to date, the burning oil and explosions from a 63-car spill razed the downtown core of Lac Mégantic, Canada and killed 47 people.

Hundreds of municipalities with rail lines running through them—ranging from large urban centers to small towns—are now faced with serious planning and policy questions. How can municipalities protect newly vulnerable communities from oil spills?



SELECTIVELY GLOBAL, VIRTUALLY LOCAL: ASSESSING UNEQUAL KNOWLEDGE DIFFUSION IN INDONESIAN CITIES
Sam Geldin, FES M.E.Sc. 2017

New literature on urban climate change adaptation has begun to assess how the specific policies of government officials and influential practitioners actually transpire. Yet little, if any, work has examined the role that virtual knowledge-sharing platforms and city-to-city learning play in this process. My current research examines how digitally documented best practices shape local policy actions on-the-ground. Through nearly 40 semi-structured interviews, document analysis, and a social network analysis of virtual platform users, my study explores the factors influencing the spread of local policy action among more than half a dozen Indonesian member cities of the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), an eight-year Rockefeller Foundation initiative. Specifically, I tracked how the practice of community "waste banks" became popularized in Indonesia and how digital documentation by local, national, and intergovernmental organizations led to duplicative efforts. Since best practices promoted by most city knowledge networks (online and offline) are not selected, documented, replicated, or shared equally, it's important to recognize that medium-sized cities in particular have received less access to flows of knowledge and resources than large cities. Through this study, I hope to help direct practitioner efforts to build more technical capacity than virtual knowledge, form partnerships that avoid replicating existing work, and disseminate adaptation strategies with greater targeted impact.

ON THE GROUND

1/26

In his lecture on Thursday, David Erdman presented a colorful array of built work. Color, however, was not mentioned in the following Q&A, during which several audience members seemed to question whether the forms of the Louis I. Kahn Visiting Assistant Professor stood up to Kahn's legacy. But what's in an eponym?

Later, at the the after-afterparty at GPSCY, third years Ava Amirahmadi and Georgia Todd, aka TEKTONIX, played to a full house. Our Trump-weary bodies can't wait to lose control again at the duo's next gig, coming soon.

1/27

Donald Trump signed the fifth Executive Order of his presidency, a 90-day entry ban for citizens of Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, and 120-day suspension of the US Refugee Admissions Program.

National Security Memorandum #1: first of its kind in Oval Office history orders rebuilding of U.S. armed forces and a 30-day review of military readiness.

A fire alarm with no apparent cause forced an evacuation of the building on Friday night. OTG has only marginal sympathy for anyone who was trying to work on a Friday night so early in the semester.

1/28

Executive Order #6: imposes 5 year ban on administration officials from lobbying after leaving office, only for people who were previously lobbyists before joining the administration.

National Security Memorandum #2 and #3: adds chief political strategist Stephen Bannon to National Security Council and calls for plan, within 30 days, to defeat Islamic State.

1/29

Executive Order #7: "One In, Two Out" requires agencies to rescind two regulations for every new regulation and sets an annual quota of regulations for each agency.

Over 1000 people attended a university-wide vigil in front of Sterling Memorial Library on Sunday evening to protest Trump's executive order on immigration.

Another fire alarm put students temporarily out on the street, this time definitively due to fumes released by a Visualization III project on the 6th floor.

1/30

Students and faculty came together in the 4th-floor pit for an all school meeting in the wake of Trump's immigration ban. After opening the floor to student discussion and being met by a heavy moment of silence, Dean Berke captured the collective disbelief/anger/worry/fear/heartache: "I feel the same way, too." The hastily called meeting was supportive in tone, if not specifics, and we look forward to the coming actions of a galvanized student body and administration.

ARTICLES:

Bill McKibben: Trump spells "the steady demolition of 50 years' worth of environmental protection."
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/a-bad-day-for-the-environment-with-many-more-to-come>

Blair Kamin on architects standing up to Trump: "Kudos for showing that architects can have a moral compass and an ethical backbone," but "should they go further?"
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-donald-trump-and-architects-kamin-met-0126-20170126-column.html>

A report by the Kresge Foundation evaluates climate change education of urban focused professional societies in the United States: "few have adopted a holistic approach that includes adaptation, mitigation and the explicit consideration of social justice."
<http://kresge.org/library/report-professional-societies-and-climate-change>

GTFO

Go protest.

PS Watch this space. Tell us about your thoughts, upcoming actions, etc.



Kassandra Leiva, YSOA M.Arch I, 2019 "Look out the window"

TWO CONVERSATIONS: PERSPECTIVES ON THE CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Margaret Marsh, YSOA M.Arch I '18 and Alexandra Thompson, YSOA M.Arch I '18

The City Planning Department at Yale offered an undergraduate major and a graduate degree until it was abruptly dissolved in 1969 following a period of tense student activism and strain with the university administration. *Perspecta 29* has in-depth coverage of the department's final years, but we were interested in hearing from students and faculty who experienced the department firsthand. In thinking about the future of urbanism at Yale, we wanted to take this opportunity to look back on the activities of the City Planning Department, in order to gain insight for the present. We heard from Harry Wexler, the interim director during the break up of the program, and Tom Carey, an architecture graduate student at the time:

HARRY WEXLER (City Planning Department Professor 1963-68, Chairman 1968-69)

AT: Can you tell us about the ethos of the Yale City Planning Department while you were there, and what happened at its end?

HW: This was a period in which advocacy planning was being endorsed in response to urban renewal. Advocacy planning is the recognition of conflicting interests in a neighborhood. Advocacy planning suggested that this conflict could be put to good use, provided the neighborhood had good representation. These neighborhoods lacked that, because they were low-income areas of New Haven. We decided to add an advocacy component to the curriculum of the Planning Department, in which students would go out to help organize a group to advocate for the neighborhood's interests. I thought it was going well, as did most of the department, until one of the students, who was one of the only Black students in the program, met with me and told me that the residents tended to look to him, the one minority student, as the person they could best respond to and expect to represent them. I was very angry with myself for putting him in that position. What do you do about that? Do you give up the program fieldwork? Or do you somehow get additional minority students in the program? We decided to increase minority representation in the incoming class. The University communicated that they were against this but did not give us a reason why, other than the sense that they assumed that the students would require more loans than the University wanted to allocate. The question now was whether we should send the letters of admission out anyway. We were reckless, and sent the letters out, admitting the students. The powers that be responded by terminating the program.

The students came anyway and were absorbed into the architecture school. The students felt rightfully neglected and one of them said to me 'Harry, we're not here for the curriculum now, we're here for the credential.' Most of them joined together and created what they called The Black Workshop, wherein they would run their own program, with the idea being that they knew best what they needed and how to get it. There were people in the architecture program—the junior faculty especially—who got excited at first by the thought of minority students coming into the department. But what happened was that these students had come to the University without anybody really having given thought to why they were there. The faculty wasn't prepared for a group of bright, young Black architects telling them that they didn't understand what minority planning was all about. It was a very sad time. There was a fire in the A&A Building that you're probably familiar with. Everyone thought it was the response of the recruited Planning students to their differences with the administration - and that wasn't true. If there was some relationship, then nobody could find or prove it. But there was a general belief that there were revolutionaries loose in the City Planning program.

TOM CAREY (M.Arch, Yale School of Architecture 1970)

MM: Maybe before we touch on the Planning Department at Yale, you can tell us a bit about your background and your time at Yale.

TC: The thing that is really important is that after first year I went down to Appalachia and decided to stay for the next year. That made a huge impression on me and it probably informed the work I have done since then. My friends who were working in Appalachia with me (Bob Swenson and Steve Edwins) were the ones who went back to Yale to propose Yale's involvement in what

became the first Yale Building Project. I remained in Kentucky and acted as a liaison between the first year class and the community. Charles Moore was very open to the idea—it accorded with his views of user input—and took a risk in initiating the project. It wouldn't have happened without him.

AT: Was the housing project the main focus of your time in Appalachia?

TC: A lot of what drove me to activism were my experiences down there. We formed Group Nine during that year and operated the next summer ('67) out of an abandoned storefront in Eastern Kentucky. We proposed prototype housing, some of which got built. We also organized against the Army Corps of Engineers who were displacing people (and paying them little or nothing for their homes) for a huge dam project. We were unsuccessful in stopping it, but hopefully helped a few get a fairer deal. We also worked to organize self-help housing groups where a group of six families would build each other's houses in turn. I came back to New Haven after that year and then I was in the Architecture program.

AT: What was student activism like when you returned to Yale?

TC: As a full time student, it was hard to fit in a lot of full time activism. It was easier in Kentucky. But upon return to New Haven I was certainly looking for ways to keep involved. Topper Carew's course, dealing with the failings of the profession, was the vehicle for many of us who felt the need to change. I wrote a statement and led a walkout (I felt having written it, I should stand up and read it). At the meeting after the walkout, we (activist students and professionals especially from Columbia and MIT as well as Yale) wrote and signed a manifesto defining our opposition to many of the current practices of architecture. This led to the formation of a group called the Architect's Resistance; Henry Stone was instrumental in this. We issued a number of position papers on architecture and racism, architecture and the nuclear arms race, and designing with the users as our real clients.

MM: We understand that the City Planning students were also very active.

Was there overlap?

TC: I stress that I wasn't part of the Planning Department and was not involved in their community/advocacy planning, although I certainly agreed with what they were doing. We knew each other, but people tended to live in their own worlds. I did get involved with a Ford funded organization set up by Mike Deasy and others called the Student Community Housing Corporation, whose goal was to purchase and renovate structures for subsidized housing among other things. The planning department was actually out in the community a lot, which was what led to conflict with the administration and the disbanding of the department. As the department got involved in advocacy planning, in the context of major urban riots, they felt that there was really a need to get out of the ivory tower and into the community. They wanted to get more black students involved in the Department. So they brought that to the administration and the administration said well, 'one more', and the students said, 'well that's not good enough.'

AT: In terms of personal experience, were there any instances where a project you were a part of was highly effective.

TC: I don't think any of it was effective enough. We were only able to provide band-aid solutions to much more holistic problems. All you're doing is addressing immediate needs, so it can be frustrating in that way. It was also difficult that the cities were so tense at that time. The summer of '68 after King's assassination, there were a hundred cities that rioted—they were sending in troops and lots of people were getting killed. It wasn't just the systemic problems then, it was also the tenor of the times. It's coming back too, it's building up. Communication gets difficult, people are tense, on-edge, suspicious, which makes it difficult to intervene. With planning, in a way, you're messing with people's lives. It certainly doesn't look hopeful with someone like Trump in charge who seems incapable of even seeing his own reality let alone that of vast sections of both urban and rural America, and the world, who've gotten left behind.



BUILDING A DIFFERENT KIND OF WALL
Emily Wier, FES M.E.M. 2017

It used to be a bare wall, the color of a muddy river. Nondescript, it smelled like urine and stale beer. People would walk quickly by to go dancing in Plaza Foch, a district in Quito well known for its nightlife.

Over two days in October, men arrived at the wall with spray paint and ladders. They began painting the wall periwinkle, a color of violets and new beginnings. Life began to emerge on the wall, evoking the magic and opportunity that can take root in a city. A bird 20 feet tall with antlers, an alien creature exposed its heart to care for its friends. Although unlike any creature found in the depths of Ecuador's rainforest or elsewhere on the planet for that matter, these animals were filled with warmth, community, and love. The wall changed the block, and changed the people who experienced the city.

The City of Quito implemented the project to support the city's hosting of the United Nations conference on sustainable urban settlements, Habitat III. On the last day of the conference, a DJ set up his turntables next to the wall. A crowd gathered of Quienitos, UN diplomats, and conference attendees to enjoy their 'right to the city'—one of the fundamental conference outcomes. We enjoyed the beautiful fall night, dancing under the moonlit sky.

The transformation of this wall shows that slight changes in urban form can quickly create a community. In an era of increasing mistrust and populism, Quito used a wall to bring people together. This sharply contrasts with the wall proposed by the Trump Administration, which would permanently scar

families, border communities, and cross-country peace and prosperity. There are better ways to build a wall, Mr. Trump, that do more to allow communities to blossom and thrive.

SITE VISIT
Maggie Tsang, YSOA M.Arch I 2017

If you bike thirty minutes east of Berlin's Alexanderplatz, past swathes of anonymous housing blocks, you'll find the Dong Xuan outpost. Four nondescript warehouses sitting in a landscape of asphalt form this unassuming hub of international traders. Virtually indistinguishable from one another on the outside, each building's dense interior flaunts a unique variation of unmitigated chaos. Posters offering a menu of neat hairstyles hang on the doors of closet-sized rooms. Inside, barbers gossip with a gaggle of friends while mindlessly coiffing a customer's hair. On the other side of the thin partition, headless mannequins sporting cheap sequined halter tops swing from the ceiling jostling against each other in an awkward disco. A glance in the next room reveals cuts of beef, tanks of fish, and piles of cabbage on display. Entire stores are wallpapered in technicolor iPhone cases. Ms. Nguyen uses broken English to tell me she only speaks Vietnamese and German. And Mr. Demir tells me he's from Turkey and brags that he knows some Chinese. Next door, a young travel agent peers from behind a window plastered with flight deals "€332 ROUNDTRIP DUBAI." He says he can fulfill all of my transportation needs. But really, why travel when the world converges here.

BALTIMORE VIGNETTES
Will Klein, FES M.E.M. 2017

Will Klein spent his summer asking Baltimore residents where they enjoy spending time outdoors. This research was funded by the Hixon Center and the Jubitz Family Endowment.

Finding refuge in and from the city:

Jo¹ discovered what would become her refuge by accident. While on the wrong bus to see her doctor, she saw a trail along the Middle Branch waterfront. A ten-minute walk from her home in southwest Baltimore, it ended up saving her life. 'I couldn't even breathe, because the tumor was pushing on my lungs,

they had me on steroids and asthma pumps...

[I would] spend every day at the park, sit by the water, let [my dog, Prince] run around, that's when he got to know what a fish was. After that, I got better and better. [In 2011], they only gave me a year to live. It's 2016.'

Today, she doesn't feel comfortable leaving her home for fear of a break-in. There's a bullet hole in her living room window. She has to shoo drug dealers off her porch. This contrasts with her waterfront refuge. If 'I could have a tent with running water and all my appliances, I would live [in the woods] before I live [where I do today].

For Jo, access to the waterfront is limited not by physical distance, but by her surrounding neighborhood context.

Neutral space, the barrier of emptiness: Wallace² is a veteran who comes to the Middle Branch waterfront to practice the 'picture imagery' taught to him by the Veteran Affairs Hospital to help him with his health issues. He tends to sit on a bench and fish, joined by anywhere from 3 to 15 people.

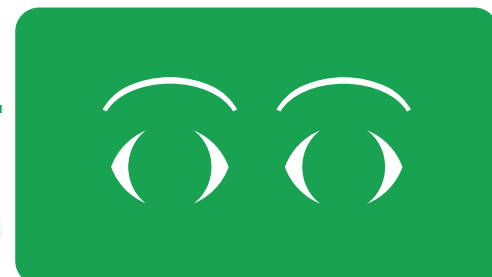
Despite the popularity of the Middle Branch for fishing, it has vast fields of unused manicured grass. When asked if anybody uses these fields, Wallace responded that 'people don't lounge on the grass because they think it's off limits. You don't ever see anybody on the grass. Even when people barbeque down by the boathouse, they do so in the parking lot.'

This response extends to other fields. When shown a picture of a field in Cherry Hill, Tina³ responded that 'there's nothing there, the only thing you see is trees and grass.' These neutral spaces are orderly, but lack a sense of purpose. People are content to walk along these spaces, but the value to them is largely aesthetic, if they see any value at all.

¹Jo lives in Cherry Hill, is 30-60, black, female

²Wallace lives in Baltimore, but comes to Middle Branch to find peace. He is aged 50+, black, male

³Tina lives in Cherry Hill, is aged 30-60, black, female



PLANNING AND DEMOCRACY

John Ehrett, YLS J.D. 2017

Yale University proudly—and justifiably—celebrates its history of training world leaders. This heritage, however, comes at a price: the University's broad emphasis on national and global challenges often substitutes for engagement with the immediate realities of the modern built environment.

Increasingly, the controversies that loom largest in public life—economic inequality, religious freedom, and criminal justice reform, just to name a few—arise from decisions made by local policymakers and planners. These controversies, however, are inevitably filtered through a prism of national polarization unmoored from real faces and real identities. Accordingly, it becomes easy to view the world as an abstracted war between rival cultural visions, rather than as a landscape that individual citizens have a duty to help cultivate.

For its part, Yale brilliantly succeeds at probing the stakes and consequences of broad ideological conflict, but devotes little attention to the daily realities of municipal governance. How many Yalies could name the mayor, the city planner, or the city councilpersons of their respective hometowns?

In some ways the failure rests with us, Yale's students: upon graduation, most of us law students will concentrate in Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, or San Francisco, and many others across the University will do likewise. These cities, however, are not the only places where the need for creative solutions to urban challenges is keenly felt.

The need is felt in Midwestern communities experiencing structural upheaval in the wake of outsourcing and factory closures. The need is felt in Appalachian towns where residents find themselves forced to choose between environmental protection and economic survival. The need is felt in minority communities still experiencing the toxic effects of redlining and persistent discrimination. And Yale's own experience, as an enclave of affluence within a community racked by widespread poverty, is perhaps the most obvious testament to this need.

Yale should resist the temptation to avert its institutional gaze from these issues. Local communities are the foundation upon which every other political structure rests, and thoughtful urban planning is essential to a healthy city culture.

Effective urban planning impacts issues critically important to democracy—the construction of public spaces where individuals can gather for discussion or demonstration, the accessibility of polling places, transit systems connecting workers to employment opportunities, zoning decisions allowing Muslim Americans to build mosques and community centers, and much more. These issues are enormously vital to lawyers and law students, but our own power to address them is limited by our discipline. Lawyers can help facilitate development processes and challenge entrenched opposition, but urban planners (and architects) must provide the requisite creative spark. The urban world requires builders and designers, not just critics and consultants.

The educational opportunities Yale provides should reflect that reality. Few universities have the cultural power and financial capital to push back against the widespread atomization and alienation present throughout contemporary communities... but Yale is one of them, and it ought to do so. Yale has already explored many ways of giving back to its host city—through scholarship grants, legal clinics, medical partnerships, community organizing, and so forth—and consistently encourages students to participate in New Haven community life. Embracing urban planning as a formal discipline is a logical next step.

The challenges of contemporary city life are quite literally on Yale's doorstep, and they will undoubtedly persist across decades to come. Reinstating an urban planning department would be an excellent way to begin addressing them—both in New Haven and in the larger world.

Looking to the future, Yale's students are ideally poised to advance a modern vision of urban localism. Such a vision might meld traditional considerations of growth and sustainability with efforts to build lives of intentional community. These efforts could include building green spaces that unite people from all walks of life, designing police beats that foster trust between officers and residents, and structuring healthcare resources to be accessible to residents living far from city centers.

America needs this vision now more than ever, and Yale's future urban planning students can help bring it to life.

2017

BIOSWALES
Kevin Dahms, FES M.E.Sc. 2018

As I am climbing into manholes and maneuvering bulky sampling equipment, I am often approached by the community members of Newhallville. Since June 2016, I have been working with Yale's Urban Resources Initiative (URI) and Hixon Center for Urban Ecology to study seven bioswales in this neighborhood of New Haven. Bioswales, a type of green infrastructure, are small curbside gardens that purify stormwater runoff and reduce flooding through infiltration, storage in the soil, and evapotranspiration from the plants. Even though the bioswales are clearly visible to the public, their functional purpose

was generally unknown to most residents. Therefore, through my field work and with the help of URI staff, it has been extremely rewarding to inform the community that these gardens serve much more of a purpose than a standard beautification project.

When approached by a community member, I describe how stormwater runoff can cause flooding and contains pollutants that reduce water quality in Long Island Sound. After explaining why I am studying the bioswales and the purpose they serve, it is encouraging to see how excited residents are that these green management strategies are in their neighborhood. Generally, the feedback from the community has been supportive, which is crucial since the residents will play a key role in maintaining the bioswales and ensuring their longevity.

ADAPTIVE FINANCING
Katy Mixer, SOM M.B.A./FES M.E.M. 2017

In today's rapidly changing world, there are many challenges facing organizations that finance and reconstruct communities after a disaster. In our work, we ask: what do key players in this space have to learn from each other? How can design and innovation processes catalyze new and actionable ideas that can improve the currently complex and often ad hoc financing processes for this space? How can these ideas enable better results in the process of recovery and redevelopment after disasters?

We posit that the answer lies in bringing stakeholders together in the design-phase of financial product development. By moving conversations about constraints and solutions for different actors in the value chain from the "iteration" stage to the up-front design phase, more efficiency can be achieved when dealing with complex social issues like disaster reconstruction.

Small businesses are critical to short-term relief and long-term redevelopment after a disaster as they provide goods, services and employment that communities need to survive and recover from shocks. However, small businesses often can't survive after disasters, given 1) the cost of disrupted business, and 2) their inability to compete with free goods and services offered during emergency relief, like medical aid, tools, food, etc. We will test our proposed design process by hosting a workshop at Yale where banks, funds and other financial organizations tackle the challenge of creating financial products that mobilize private-capital to support small businesses after disasters.



Oak Street Historical Society

Jason Kurzweil, YSOA M.Arch II 2016
Jeremy Leonard, YSOA M.Arch II 2017
Hannah Novack, YSOA M.Arch I 2017
Madison Sembler, YSOA M.Arch I 2017
Matthew Zuckerman, YSOA M.Arch I 2017

HABITAT III AND THE QUESTION OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "GLOCAL"
Laura M. Hammett, FES M.E.M. 2017

In mid-October 2016, over 40,000 urban leaders from all over the world gathered at the United Nations' Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, Ecuador. The conference, known as "Habitat III," was the first conference of its kind in 20 years, and the outcomes from this gathering aim to shape the future of cities for decades to come.

As an urban planner studying climate risk and cities, I was part of a small group of Yale School of Forestry students participating in the conference. We prepared for months—planning presentations on urban energy and water systems research, liaising with organizing committees, and studying the draft New Urban Agenda text. Attending was arguably a career-defining opportunity of a lifetime; in the conference center halls, panel sessions, and at happy hours I met inspiring urbanists from around the globe and engaged with peers working in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

However, as is often the case, deliberations at a large UN conference are more a catalyst for questions than a panacea for global problems. For me, attending Habitat III highlighted the tensions between local, national and global capacities and priorities that are now increasingly evident in our political processes.

Ours is a world where the nature of the nation state (the very cornerstone of the UN itself) is questioned by globalization trends. In this context, do cities have the autonomy or responsibility to serve as innovators in political, socio-economic, and environmental action both within their own country and on the global stage? How can the diverse nature of all cities—big or small, well-resourced or budget-strapped—be accounted for by policies deliberated at a global conference that is both expensive to attend and highlights case studies from a few, large cities like New York and Singapore over and over again? And how can cities connect with the increasingly complex resource footprints that extend far beyond their borders to help further global environmental sustainability?

In the aftermath of the conference, I'm not convinced the answers to these questions will ever be clear, but they provide an enhanced framing for my work in climate risk management moving forward. They have highlighted the ever-critical importance of integrated stakeholder engagement in planning processes, the necessity of thinking beyond a specific jurisdiction, and the increasingly complex and networked nature of urban environmental challenges. There is so much work to be done to make our cities safer, healthier, and more efficient, and I am grateful for the reminder that while no nation is homogenous, no city is an island.

NO ES FACIL (IT'S NOT EASY)
Cat Garcia Menocal, YSOA M.Arch I 2017

Perhaps the most definitive stance on culture in post-revolutionary Cuba is a near-complete shift of all new cultural institutions outside of Havana city center and into Vedado. The 19th century neighborhood began as a residential suburb of Havana centro and is a strictly right-angled grid, characterized by wide streets, large blocks and generous greenery. The parceling was planned to progressively diversify, however, the remnants of the City Beautiful movement and associations with middle class elitism persist in the urban fabric. The 1950's vision of a great metropolis and tourist center were at odds with the ideals of the Revolution, which sought to reclaim the capitalist visions of the garden city. Today, Vedado remains a diverse extension of Havana's historical urban fabric, one that combines local scale and metropolitan opportunities, now with a heritage of social diversity. Vedado's pastiche of microeconomies and microtourism are caused, in part, by the range of architectural scale. Exquisite villas (now retrofitted) give way to the likes of massive, modernist condominiums. The neighborhood is largely characterized by these two architectural types: stylistically eclectic single-family homes and full-on concrete citadels. Each architectural object creates its own urbanism and distribution of density. After all, private property and the buying and selling of property was only made legal in 2009.

The progressive energy of modernism is still evident in Vedado and speaks to the ideological role that modernism and urbanism played in forging Cuba's national identity, even immediately after the Revolution. The two case studies, the Galeria Habana and Museo Organico Romerillo, look at attempts to build cultural institutions that adhere to the values of Castrismo at its ideological inception and today, respectively. Both buildings assert the cultural and artistic power of the state without any of the typical material hallmarks of cultural architecture; rather, their existence relies on urban systems and forms as well as parallel markets outside the Cuban state.



'ARCHITECTURE AS STORYTELLING' AT NEW HAVEN'S COLD SPRING SCHOOL

Caitlin Baiada, YSOA M.Arch I 2018

What does it mean to think architecturally and how can we encourage authenticity? Young minds are unburdened, free to imagine realities far outside the realms of practical convention. It is safe to say that throughout the four week 'Architecture as Storytelling' course, there was never a lack of imagination or enthusiasm. The critical challenge, however, was in teaching students how to analyze and apply real world criteria to design solutions.

Working with curriculum coordinator, Laura Sheinkopf, we aimed to integrate architectural lessons into student's existing investigations of Native American storytelling, an ancient tool of cultural exchange. Using architecture from different climatic regions, we positioned indigenous structures as forms of nonverbal storytelling, just as capable of expressing cultural tradition and environmental information as the familiar verbal/written stories. The following weeks focused on development of team proposals for a small pavilion sited in the school's Pear Tree Yard (a space for outdoor education, events, and play). Each team of four to five students was paired with a YSOA architecture coach who aided the development of their proposal. In many ways, it was Cold Spring's fast paced version of the Building Project.

The children's initial impulses to design based on individual desires and preconceived notions of 'fort' typologies (treehouse, tipi) are also reflected in the inclinations of mature designers. Individual intuition is an essential component of architectural 'genius,' but must be deployed within the contexts of real world constraints. Thus, the primary goal of the curriculum was to equip students with the skills necessary to produce responsive, not reactive architecture.

A final review was held in December, for which Turner Brooks and Mark Peterson (YSOA '15), joined as visiting critics. The ten final projects ranged from the natural to the practical to the imaginary. Teams used sloped roofs in a variety of ways: to address issues of rain/snow, to function as a playground slide, and to create an interior gradient of intimacy. The 'Sunflower Pavilion', presented as both a functional space and community ritual, featured walls of sunflower stalks and a roof trellis of vines intended to be planted by students each spring. In the fall, students would return to a structure that not only filtered light in dynamic ways, but empowered students as a symbol of Cold Spring's community innovation.

"The projects all had a wonderfully direct ceremonial grace about them relating directly to the haptic sense and bodily movement through space. [It would] be fun to have them present to the graduate students at YSOA. Might teach them a thing or two..." —Turner Brooks, Critic, M.Arch I 1970

Extending architectural investigations to a community outside of the walls of Rudolph allowed us to confront backgrounded notions of architecture and representation. While Cold Spring students gained an understanding of the latent possibilities within design thinking, we internalized the deep value of dialog across scales and age groups.

YSOA Student Teachers: Caitlin Baiada, Francesca Carney, Kate Fisher, Claire Haugh, Jeremy Leonard, Suzie Marchlewicz, Meghan Royster, Miguel Sanchez-Enkerlin, Georgia Todd, Christopher Tritt, Alison Zuccaro

