

SCI-Arc Future Initiatives Master of Design Research Degree

SCIFI at SCI-Arc

is an intensive research-based, post-professional degree program and think tank dedicated to generating pertinent examinations of contemporary city design, city formulation, and urban regulation.

For more information, please visit www.sciarc.edu

SCIFI Faculty and Global Network Members

Core Faculty

David Bergman

SCIFI Coordinator | Principal, MR+E

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Eric Kahn

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SCI-Arc Visiting Faculty | Professor, Ohio State University

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Founders and Principals, WORKac, New York | Adjunct Faculty, Princeton University School of Architecture

Jose Castillo

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Odile Decq

D.P.L.G. and D.E.S.S.-Urbanist | Founder and Principal, ODBC, Paris | Director, Ecole Special d'Architecture, Paris

Neil M. Denari

Principal, Neil M. Denari Architects, Los Angeles | Professor, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design

Joshua Decter

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Jeffrey Johnson

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Sam Lubell

Editor, *The Architect's Newspaper* — California Edition, Los Angeles

Qingyun Ma

Dean, USC School of Architecture | Principal, MADA s.p.a.m., Shanghai / Beijing

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Thom Mayne

Founder and Principal, Morphosis, Los Angeles and New York | Professor, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design

Rene Peralta

Architect and Founder, Generica, Tijuana | Associate Professor, Woodbury University School of Architecture, San Diego

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Founder and Principal, Coop Himmelb(l)au, Los Angeles and Vienna

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Principal, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, Boston | Design Critic in Landscape Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design

Michel Rojkind

Principal, Rojkind Arquitectos, Mexico City

Peter Trummer

Head, Associative Design Program, Berlage Institute, Rotterdam

Peter Zellner, Program Coordinator
David Bergman, Program Coordinator

The Southern California Institute of Architecture's Future Initiatives is a post-professional degree program leading to a Master of Design Research in City Design, Planning and Policy. The program is open to students with a professional degree in Architecture or a Bachelor degree or equivalent in any field. This program is a one-year (three-term) program that requires attendance for the Fall, Spring and Summer terms.

Overview

Led by Peter Zellner and David Bergman, SCI-Arc's Future Initiatives program is focused on promoting innovation within design, policy, and planning responses to the economic, social and ecological futures of global cities and regions. In particular, SCIFI is dedicated to supporting

investigations into the impacts of urban and planning policy, transnational financial markets, real estate speculation, and socio-economic globalization on the evolution of local urban fabrics.

Curriculum

The Future Initiatives program provides an integrated curricular focus on urban scale issues. It is positioned as a center for the discussion of urban futures, contingent and variable planning strategies and the development of new tools for urban research and design. Combining intensive research into the near term future of cities with the use of new open-source design tools, SCIFI aims to invent new ways of modeling and testing variable urban design scenarios.

Program Sequence

SCI-Arc's Future Initiatives program seeks to establish and follow a particular logic in

addressing the city each year. Working over three sequenced terms, SCIFI students develop solution-seeking urban research and urban design grounded in the study of the history of the city, urban and regional development methods, city planning and city management tools. In the fall term, the SCIFI program begins by introducing students to fundamental urban planning problems by operating at the scale of the parcel. In the spring term our research and design work quickly jump up in scale to encompass a series of complex issues associated with work within the urban district. Finally, in the summer term the program investigates the wide variety of issues associated with regional urban planning. By moving from the unique, local and particular to the large, global and generic, SCIFI students gain expertise in the subject of city making through a comprehensive, nuanced understanding of the city's history and design at all scales.

Skills and Knowledge Integration

SCIFI students integrate skills from across SCI-Arc's programs including design technologies, cultural studies and hard technology applications. The SCIFI program is calibrated to incrementally build research skills, urban design expertise and unique strategic thinking about cities and urban regions. The careful sequencing of context and city-scale based teaching and intensive workshop based learning is intended to inculcate an increasing control over the subject of city formation, paralleled by a growing mastery of new urban research methodologies and urban design tools.

Final Projects and Research

The Future Initiatives program culminates in the production of directed design or research projects in the final semester of the SCIFI program. Working individually with SCIFI's core and visiting faculty,

SCIFI students generate deliverables, both individually and as part of a group, that form the basis of a dissertation-quality research portfolio. It is envisioned that students will be able to apply these experiences as part of an ongoing dialogue with the city formation process.

March 1 is the postmark deadline; late applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

To apply, please contact SCI-Arc's Admissions Office.

SCI-Arc Admissions Office
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