

# SCI-ARC

## *Future Initiatives*

### SCIFI

#### Master of Design Research Degree

#### Core Faculty

## David Bergman

Principal, MR+E; SCIFI Program Coordinator

## Hsinming Fung

Co-director, Hodgetts + Fung

## Wes Jones

Principal, Jones, Partners: Architecture

## Eric Kahn

Principal, IDEA Office

## Andrew Zago

Principal, Zago Architecture

## Peter Zellner

Principal, ZELLNERPLUS

#### Global Network

## Stan Allen

Dean, Princeton University School of Architecture, and Principal, Stan Allen Architect, Brooklyn

## Odile Decq

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

## Neil M. Denari

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

## Jeffrey Kipnis

Professor, Ohio State University

## Laurie D. Olin

Founder and Partner, OLIN, Philadelphia and Los Angeles

## Alexander Lehnerer

Assistant Professor and Director, Department of Urban Speculation, School of Architecture, UIC, Chicago

## Sam Lubell

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

## Michael Maltzan

Founder and Principal, Michael Maltzan Architecture, Los Angeles

## Neville Mars

Architect and Founder of the Dynamic City Foundation, Beijing

## Thom Mayne

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

## René Peralta

Architect and Founder, Generica, Tijuana, and Participating Adjunct Faculty, Woodbury University School of Architecture, San Diego

## Wolf Prix

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

## Michel Rojkind

Principal, Rojkind Arquitectos, Mexico City

## Peter Trummer

Head of the Institute, Univ. Prof. Arch. DI. MSc. Institute for Urbanism, University of Innsbruck, Austria

**Applications for 2011–2012 are due on or before March 1, 2011.**

**Future Initiatives at SCI-Arc is an intensive research-based, post-professional degree program and think tank dedicated to generating pertinent examinations of contemporary civic design, city formulation, and urban regulation.**

For more information, please visit [sciarc.edu](http://sciarc.edu)

#### Administration and Coordination

Eric Owen Moss  
SCI-Arc Director

Hsinming Fung  
SCI-Arc Director of Academic Affairs

Hernan Diaz Alonso  
SCI-Arc Graduate Programs Chair

Peter Zellner  
Program Coordinator

David Bergman  
Program Coordinator

#### Program Overview

The Southern California Institute of Architecture's Future Initiatives program (SCIFI) is a post-professional degree course of study that leads 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. 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. This program is a one-year (three-term) program that requires attendance for the fall, spring, and summer terms. Established in 2005 to complement other programs offered at SCI-Arc, Future Initiatives draws on the resources of the school, its faculty, and the surrounding community.

#### 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 digital 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. The SCIFI program is open to students who hold a professional degree in Architecture or a bachelor's degree or equivalent in any field.

#### 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 jumps 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-scaled 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. Working individually with SCIFI's core and visiting faculty, 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-making process.

#### Public Events, Competitions, and Global Network

The Future Initiatives program promotes and extends its academic mission nationally and internationally via its publications, public forums, exhibitions, and competitions. Additionally, it draws on the expertise of an extensive global network of peers established to support its mission.

#### Applying

Applications for 2011–2012 are due on or before March 1, 2011.

March 1, 2011, 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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