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Prospectus

aims to foster such spirited and lived experiences and rigorous global responsibilities placed discipline. Rice Architecture collectively take stock of our upon our field, using diverse research methodologies to intentional discourse—

We embrace wholeheartedly the

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Rice Architecture

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2023 2024



Dean's Letter—Worldly (Re)construction

As I write this note. I hear the whirring and cacophony of the machines constructing our new building, the William T. Cannady Hall for Architecture. This facility, designed by Unal Karamuk and Jeannette Kuo, will expand the existing footprint of our school, adding world-class spaces for exhibitions, fabrication, and collaboration, for both students and faculty alike. This building is our chance to face outward, inviting the community to our spaces for discourse, discussion, and dialogue. It's also an aspirational building; it reaches into the future, focused on architectural research and knowledge production with eyes wide open.

This theme of construction extends beyond our physical footprint to the reconstruction of our curriculum, which is being redesigned to address more directly the most pressing, planetary issues of our time. Using the agency and beauty of design and its uniquely propositional nature, the new curriculum will work across scales and themes to connect the people and the planet through a variety of environments-from a single building or a city to a region and the globe.

As you will see in this prospectus, we embrace wholeheartedly the global responsibilities placed upon our field, using diverse lived experiences and rigorous research methodologies to collectively take stock of our discipline. Rice Architecture aims to foster such spirited and intentional discourse a discourse directed at the reconstruction not only of a single school or its curriculum, but that of the entire planet.

We know that design can change the way people live, think, and move. This responsibility to our future denizens is immense, and we meet this challenge every day with a great sense of joy and optimism.

Please join us as we celebrate these new possibilities, both here at Rice Architecture and in Houston, as well as further afield through the global reach of our faculty, alumni, and friends.

Igor Marjanović William Ward Watkin Dean

Rice Architecture



Staff Directory

2023 William T. Cannady Hall Construction. Photo by Jas

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During my first weeks in Houston, I underwent a complete reorientation. I forgot how many times I passed store entrances, circling until I finally spotted hints of the plain buildings through the lushness that hid them so well. This is one of the many ways the city gently resists you. The summer heat and humidity seem to put everything on hold besides the murmuring of AC units. The sudden cloudbursts make you keenly aware of the virtue of foresight. And Houston's ubiquitous near-identical strip malls frustrate even the most skilled navigators.

Nothing about Houston is quaint. The city forces us to acknowledge the mistakes and hubris of our built environment, whether it's the tunnels that remove white-collar workers from sweltering downtown streets, the concretized bayous whose waters every so often threaten to disregard their engineered banks, or the absence of zoning, which has led to a cityscape that offers no warning about what is coming on the next block. Living in Houston entails an idea of confrontation that is not always pleasant or avoidable, which is precisely why it is exactly the right place for a school of

architecture. Houston makes it impossible to exist in a vacuum and steers the focus of study toward issues that are pressing and present. Houston is real.

Though uncomfortable at times, Houston's need for reaction and resistance makes for unexpected moments of great beauty. Climb a few flights of stairs (topography is a foreign concept here) to any vantage point and you see a very different Houston—one that peeks through a blanket of greenness, not immediately visible, waiting to be uncovered and refusing to be understood at a glance. The fuzziness of this canopy is perhaps the best metaphor for a city of blurred boundaries and expectations. Under these trees, immigrants transformed even the most mundane oil-boom apartment complexes into communal havens. Strip malls, often uninspiring elsewhere, here become an unbiased backdrop for all peoples and activities. The abundance of sun and rain, combined with a relative lack of winter, allows plants and critters to quickly take over any bit of open terrain. Houston has a knack for claiming the mundane for its own interpretation, and this mundanity is exactly what makes the city approachable and comforting.

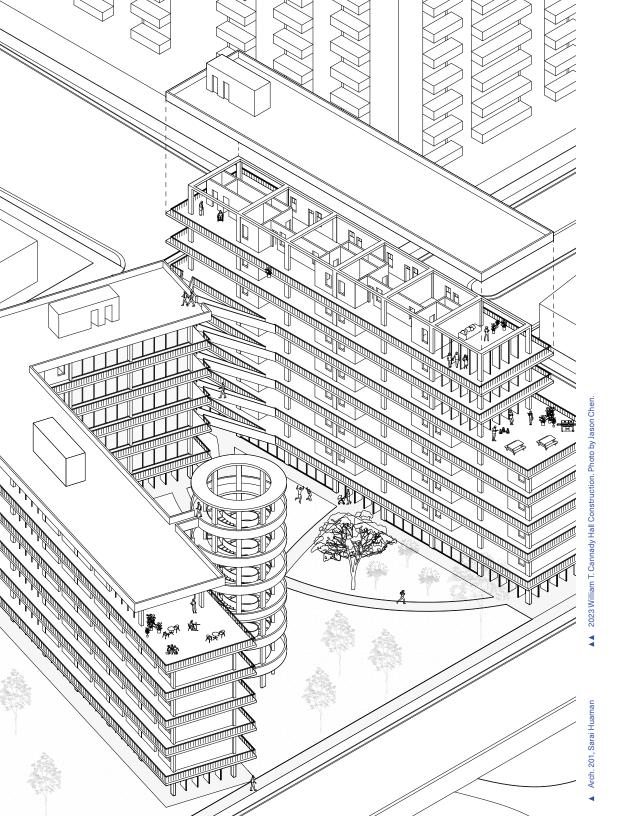
Houston is impossible to sum up in a few paragraphs. In part, this has to do with its sheer size, formlessness, and countless internal contradictions. But, most important, Houston's indescribable nature comes from the fact that the city is still working itself out. Yes, it bears the growing pains of flooding, congestion, and pollution, among other challenges, but it triumphs in its resilience, diversity, and willingness to adapt. The city lacks the arrogance to reject anyone who is curious enough to witness its growth and embraces those brave enough to help define it. Houston is at once ugly yet endearing, fantastic yet genuine, passionate yet unprejudiced.

It is easily home, if you allow it to be.



ouston. Photo by Tamara Lichtenstein





Undergraduate Program

Andrew Colopy **Associate Professor** Codirector of Undergraduate Studies

Reto Geiser **Associate Professor** Codirector of Undergraduate Studies

Preceptorship Program John J. Casbarian Harry K. & Albert K. Smith Professor **Director of External Programs**

Rice Architecture's top-ranked undergraduate program confers two degrees, which students earn consecutively over six years: the first four years of study result in a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture; subsequently, students obtain a Bachelor of Architecture professional degree (B.Arch.) after an additional two years, one of which includes the renowned Rice Architecture Preceptorship program. Preceptorship places B.Arch. students in notable offices around the world, where they gain a year's worth of mentored experience as paid employees.

Rice Architecture's B.Arch. degree exposes students to architecture's full breadth. The core curriculum coordinates courses in the history and theory of architecture, technology, and design, and it organizes required and elective courses to permit students to take advantage of course offerings across the university. The aim of this broad, liberal arts-focused scope is to ensure degree, requires fewer studios, that Rice Architecture graduates will be ideally positioned to become leaders in practice and other

endeavors. After their experience in the Preceptorship program, students continue to engage architectural practice in an advanced comprehensive design studio in the fall semester of their final year. This comprehensive program embeds distinguished consultants in the studio's design process, emphasizing design's intrinsic relationship to other fields, ranging from finance to fabrication. Finally, Rice Architecture emphasizes that architecture is a global practice—as significant an issue in Houston (the fourth largest city in the United States) as it is in our Rice Architecture Paris program, and in our many courses that incorporate travel.

Students who have been admitted to Rice Architecture can elect at the end of their second year, or any time thereafter, to pursue the Bachelor of Art in Architectural Studies major. This major does not lead to a professional and is designed to allow students to pursue other academic interests in greater depth.

The one-year Rice Architecture Preceptorship program was established in 1968 to provide a practicum between the penultimate and final years of the B.Arch. curriculum. Participating offices are selected by the school from among leading firms in the United States and abroad. Current firms include Kieran Timberlake in Philadelphia; Payette in Boston; Olson Kundig in Seattle; Johnston Marklee in Los Angeles; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro in New York: and Thomas Phifer & Partners in New York, among others.

At the end of their fourth year of study, students prepare a portfolio and apply to be placed with a preceptorship firm. Preceptees intern for a minimum of two academic semesters, participate in a variety of roles to gain a better understanding of the scope of professional practice, and are paid for their work. They submit two analytical progress reports per semester, and upon their return to Rice, they produce a portfolio which documents their practical experience. After successful completion of their preceptorship experience, students complete their final year of study in the B.Arch. program.

Graduate Program

Dawn Finley Professor **Director of Graduate Studies**

Rice Architecture is an intensive, top-ranked graduate program that foregrounds design, discourse, and practice. issues within architecture, We equip future architects with critical expertise and optimistic of historical, contemporary, sensibilities that position them to be leaders in a rapidly changing world. The exchange of knowledge and sharing of intellectual culture between faculty, students, and visitors at Rice Architecture (in studios, seminars, lectures, reviews) is essential to the continuous development of collective conversations and to the disciplinary debates that reverberate within the school and expand beyond.

Rice Architecture's primary graduate program is the Master of Architecture (M.Arch.), a nationally accredited professional degree with two possible tracks of study. Option 1, a seven-semester track, is for applicants with a limited background in architecture. Option 2, a five-semester track, is for those applicants who hold a four-year undergraduate degree in architecture from a national or international school and have been approved for advanced standing. The Option 1 and Option 2 tracks merge in the third semester, generating a dynamic context for design.

The core courses of the program expose students to fundamental disciplinary while establishing a shared set and emerging references, questions, and speculations. The required core sequence includes design studios and courses in history and theory, technology, and professional practice. These four areas overlap and intersect in a productive feedback loopdemanding that students synthetically engage the world of architecture and all that it implies.

Following the core studios, advanced options take up specialized topics (urban, environmental, political, material) that range in scale and technique. These research-driven design studios situate pressing contemporary questions, asking students to synthesize their expertise through plausible, provocative proposals. One semester of advanced studios includes Research Platforms, a unique format that inserts nationally recognized architecture and engineering consultants into the studios, positing that architectural innovation emerges from collaboration and adept anticipation of technical contingencies. In the

final semester, M.Arch. students develop an independent thesis project. Thesis enables each student to situate their architectural ambitions in relation to the field, defining and claiming a position about architecture in the world. (See page 21.)

A broad selection of elective courses within the architecture school and across the university provide extended contexts for disciplinary debate, architectural activism, material experimentation, and innovations.





Research Platforms Option Studios

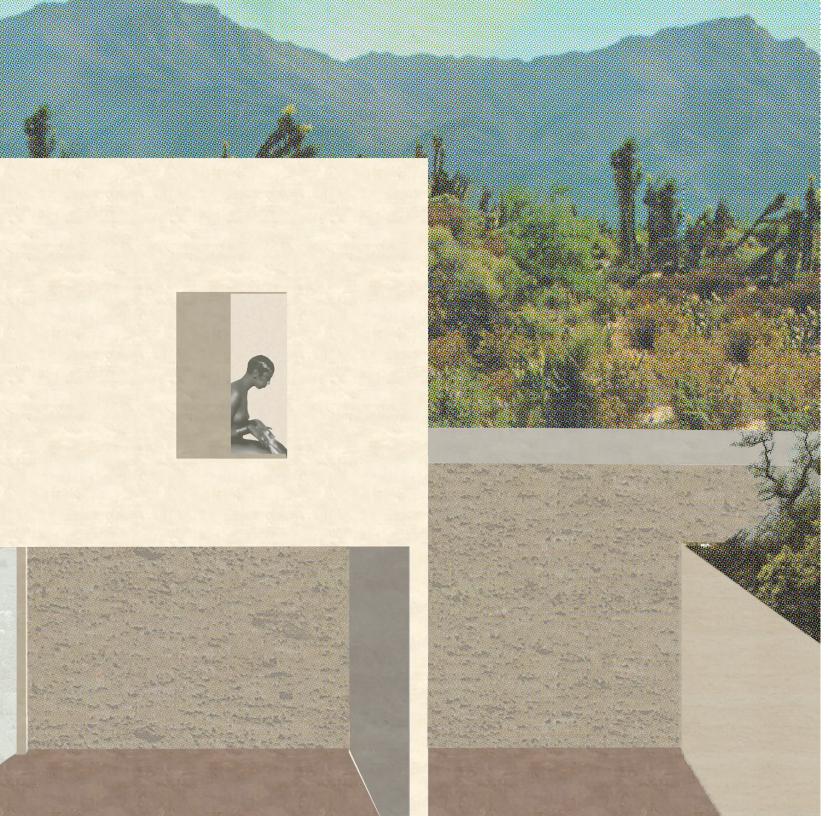
Research is the foundation of an architectural project and, by extension, of practice itself.
Structured as the culmination of our design studio sequence, research platforms provide an opportunity for an in-depth, advanced study of a subject matter—be it theoretical, material, or formal—as a way of engaging a broad range of methodologies, constituents, and futures.

Research platforms are rooted in the wide-reaching and generalist character of our discipline, engendering new forms of experimentation and collaboration, including conversations with a broad range of voices from within and outside the field.

Each studio focuses on a single, closely-defined research topic that is culled from a variety of scales and contexts—from local to global, from theoretical to material explorations, from formal and cultural investigations of architecture to cities and environments. Like all other modes of scholarly inquiry, research platforms thrive on criticality, discourse, and public dissemination of new knowledge. Yet, design research also engages the imagination and creative practices of making, providing a unique interplay of curiosity and conversation.







Thesis
Carlos Jiménez
Professor
Coordinator of Graduate Thesis

Graduate thesis is an opportunity for students to reflect on their education, reconsider their designs, figure out what really interests them in architecture, and begin to explore that interest before they step out of the academy to engage and make decisions in the world.

All Master of Architecture students are required to develop a thesis proposal during their penultimate semester in a one-credit-hour course that is taken alongside the final course in the history and theory sequence, Contemporary Practices. These courses, which consider current and emerging issues in and approaches to architecture and urbanism, encourage students to understand the implications of their interests for architecture and the environment and are designed

to assist students to articulate where and to what extent those interests are relevant, preferably pressing, and why. They provide a setting in which students can independently formulate and develop a proposal for a semester of design work that will adequately articulate, situate, and investigate the relevance and approach to design.

Students admitted to thesis further develop and pursue their proposals under the direction of a faculty advisor in a semester of intense creative research. Thesis concludes in a final public review of this work with distinguished guests that engages the entire school. Successful theses and the discussion they foster stimulate future activity at Rice Architecture and beyond.

Course Travel The Casbarian Fund Carlos Jiménez Professor

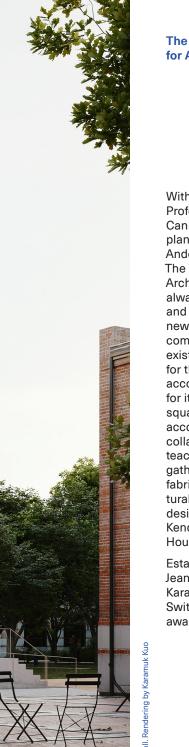
Made possible by a generous lead gift and matched by other donors, an endowment for Rice Architecture Course Travel was created to honor Harry K. and Albert K. Smith Professor John J. Casbarian, who founded the Paris program and has long championed the importance of travel in the education of architects. Thanks to The Casbarian Fund, the school sends students to locations across the globe with their design studios. Each spring more than one hundred Rice Architecture students travel to locations around the world. Prior destinations have included Barcelona, Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Marfa.

As an example of this experience, during the Spring 2020 semester, the junior studio traveled to Madrid, along with two nearby cities, Córdoba and Segovia. The trip exposed students to a variety of ancient, medieval, and contemporary works of architecture, from Madrid's Muslim foundations to Segovia's Roman infrastructure, from Córdoba's magnificent mosque to the city's recently completed Center for Contemporary Art. The students also met and interacted with key figures in Spanish architecture, such as Luís Fernández Galiano and

Juan Herreros. Other highlights included visits to works of architecture by Herreros, Rafael Moneo, Fernando Higueras, Paredes Pedrosa, Jean Nouvel, and Nieto Sobejano, among others, as well as a detailed tour of the Museo Nacional del Prado, CaixaForum Madrid, and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía. Other visits included guided tours of the IE School of Architecture and Design in Segovia and of Madrid's renowned ETSAM, Spain's premier school of architecture.

As the world becomes more connected, architects must address the pressing architectural and urban demands that result from this globalization. The intense course trips made possible by The Casbarian Fund reflect Rice Architecture's commitment to understanding architecture as a discipline that shapes public space around the world.





The William T. Cannady Hall for Architecture

With a generous lead gift from Professor Emeritus William T. Cannady, Rice Architecture is planning an extension to MD Anderson Hall, to be named The William T. Cannady Hall for Architecture. The school has always been focused on design and design research, and this new world-class space will complement the school's existing home as a makerspace for the production of work with accompanying gallery space for its display. The 20,000 square-foot building will accommodate spaces for collaborative research, flexible teaching, exhibitions, public gatherings, and an expanded fabrication lab. Swiss architectural firm Karamuk Kuo has designed the building with Kendall/Heaton Associates in Houston as architect of record.

Established in 2010 by Jeannette Kuo and Ünal Karamuk and based in Switzerland, Karamuk Kuo is an award-winning firm that brings

diverse building experience to the design process. Known for creatively working within constraints and with extensive backgrounds in architectural education and the design of academic buildings, they are especially well situated to consider the spatial concepts and logistical needs of Rice Architecture. The building is expected to be completed in 2024.

People construct buildings, and, in turn, physical structures build people's lives and communities. Our hope is that such will be the legacy of our extraordinary new building where new knowledge will be generated in light-filled collaborative spaces and produced through cutting-edge fabrication technology. With its welcoming, multi-story gallery spaces, the building will not only enhance our reputation as a world-class, top-ranked program, but also act as a public amenity for our campus and our global, diverse city.

Rice Architecture Paris John J. Casbarian

Harry K. & Albert K. Smith Professor
Director of External Programs

The great patron of the arts, and king of France, François I once said that Paris is not a city, it's a world. As in no other city, the very foundations of Paris are there to see and touch. From the vestiges of its earliest Roman encampment, to the medieval city, through the nineteenth-century radical, urban fabric created by Baron Haussmann, to the innovations of the twenty-first-century urban center, this world provides one of the greatest opportunities to learn from the past, present, and future. Accordingly, in 2002 Rice Architecture chose Paris as the site of its first foreign study program.

Rice Architecture Paris provides a semester-long opportunity to explore advanced topics in architecture. Located in the 12ème arrondissement, near La Bastille, the program operates in both the fall and spring

semesters. Course offerings include a design studio; seminars in history/theory, technology, and representation; and classes in French language and culture.
Organized study trips to other cities in France and Europe are a major component of the curriculum.

Taught by faculty drawn from Rice and leading architecture and art-history programs in Europe, Rice Architecture Paris is a nimble think tank, taking advantage of the city's extraordinary offerings, as well as its role as a cultural nexus for the world.

Rice Architecture Paris is also open, on a limited basis, to qualified students and graduates from other architecture programs who have taken at least seven semesters of undergraduate studios or four graduate studios.





Construct Andrew Colopy Associate Professor

Director of Construct

For twenty-five years, Rice Architecture has engaged the world and our Houston community by challenging students to contribute directly to the built environment. Construct students design and build projects that produce lasting effects, working with local community groups to create enduring resources for underserved neighborhoods, while building knowledge through research and experience.

Working at various scales and in diverse situations, students engage all facets of the creative process—from conception through construction. Expanding their knowledge in the pursuit of novel solutions to real-world challenges, students work together to test concepts against the practical realities of budget and schedule, explore innovative means of analysis and fabrication, and translate forward-thinking designs into built works.

Rice Design Alliance (RDA) is the public programs and outreach arm of Rice Architecture. Based within the school, RDA believes that multidisciplinary, research-based design can improve our cities and the way we live in them. Our educational mission as part of Rice Architecture is to curate programs and disseminate ideas that are accessible to all citizens interested in learning more about architecture, design, and urbanism.

RDA was established within Rice Architecture in 1972 by the school's first dean, David Crane, together with alumni and other civic-minded community members who believed that quality design thinking should be available to all in our community. We believe that Houston's citizens—experts and nonexperts alike—should be informed and feel empowered to act and transform our city through design.

The Spotlight Award was founded in 2009 under the leadership of Lonnie Hoogeboom with John J. Casbarian, Carlos Jiménez, and Rafael Longoria.

Every year, the Spotlight Award committee, formed by architects, academics, and design practitioners, convenes to consider local, national, and international architects within the first 15 years of their professional practice who have demonstrated design excellence and curiosity through their body of work.

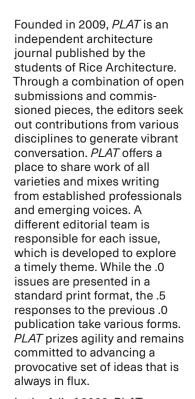
Past Spotlight Award recipients include Antón García-Abril, Ensamble Studio (2009); Sou Fouilmoto (2010): Grace La and James Dallman, LA DALLMAN (2011); Pezo von Ellrichshausen (2012); Georgeen Theodore, Interboro Partners (2013): 5468796 (2014); Tarik Oualalou and Linna Choi, Oualalou+Choi (2015); Cadaval & Solá-Morales (2016); and Anssi Lassila, OOPEAA (2017); DUST (2019); Fala Atelier (2020); AD-WO (2021); Tropical Space (2022); and Kwong Von Glinow (2023).

At the core of Rice Design Alliance is Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston, which has been in circulation since 1982. Cite features a wide variety of thought-provoking content, including reviews, architectural news, opinion pieces, interviews, and photo essays, and aims to provide an independent forum for reflection, analysis, and action.

The most recent issue, Cite 104, considers the legacy of Rice Design Alliance with interviews of some of the founding members and early contributors to Cite. Guest edited by Reto Geiser, Cite 104 examines Houston in its glory and its folly. Essays highlight proposed projects never built, the establishment of the Johnson Space Center, the Houston punk rock scene in the 1980s, the problem of housing, and more. New photography as well as art by Houston-area artists round out the issue.







In the fall of 2022, PLAT published *PLAT* 11: *Soft* which wonders about separations, the limits of architecture, and the materials used to create structures. This issue searches for softness in architecture,

engages with the ground and atmosphere to question its mass, its mark, its permanence. *Soft* looks at efforts to redefine the boundaries of buildings and to push back against easy claims of permanence.

To push its content further, *PLAT* sometimes hosts roundtable discussions and collaborates with other Rice organizations to bring greater depth and coherence to the conversations that unfold within each issue.

PLAT Journal is supported by the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. Follow the work online at platjournal.com and on Instagram @platjournal.

Tête-à-Tête is a studentproduced podcast series that highlights architectural discourse both within Rice Architecture and the global architecture community. Each episode is intended to keep architecture enthusiasts, professionals, academics, and students informed of relevant issues. The easily accessible digital format allows conversations to be distilled and circulated quickly. Defined as a private conversation between two people, Tête-à-Tête is an effort to record cutting-edge knowledge about architecture and reveal it to a wide audience.

The podcast team curates exciting conversations with a range of featured guests, including lecturers, faculty members, alumni, students, and professionals. Conversations with notable architects like Deborah Berke, Jack Self, Frida Escobedo, Peggy Deamer, Frank Barkow, and fala atelier have been featured on *Tête-à-Tête*, in addition to many others.

All episodes are available on the Rice Architecture website, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Stitcher, and SoundCloud. Rice Architecture Society Valerie Elizondo (B.A. '24) Society President Rice Architecture Mentorship Nikola Kolarov (B.A. '25) Stuti Mehta (B.A. '25) Amber Wang (B.A. '24) Mentorship Coordinators National Organization of Minority Architecture Students Rice Chapter Razella Freeman (B.A. '25) Prea Davis (B.A. '25) NOMAS Rice Copresidents

Rice Architecture Society aims to increase student discourse and connect the school to the broader university. As a group of committed students, Society focuses on peripheral aspects of an architectural education that shape the culture of the school.

Society's main social and educational events include weekly open studios: late-night studio gatherings for the exchange of snacks and ideas; mini-charrettes (weekend-long design competitions); Archi-tectronica and ArchiArts (university-wide parties held in the fall and spring terms, respectively); and post-final review open houses for the display of semester work.

In addition to these events, Society creates the student directory, curates student exhibitions, and organizes conversations with the dean. Its members act as the voice of the student body and keep students informed about events and opportunities at Rice Architecture.

Rice Architecture Mentorship is a program within Rice Architecture's Society organization. Mentorship empowers students at Rice Architecture to translate their studies into possible future trajectories in architecture or allied practices.

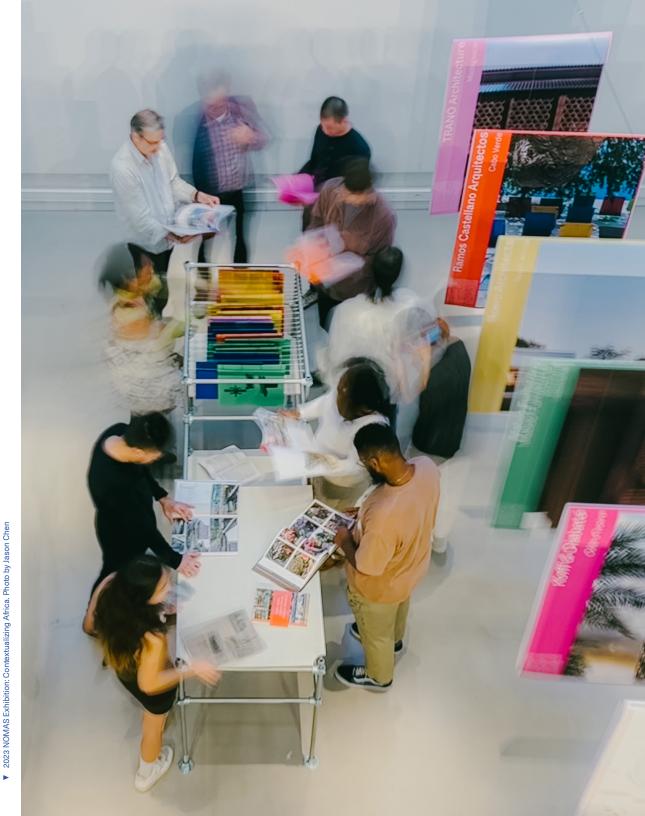
Mentorship connects Rice Architecture alumni and friends with the current student body, providing students with opportunities to build professional relationships and the resources to learn about a broad range of career options.

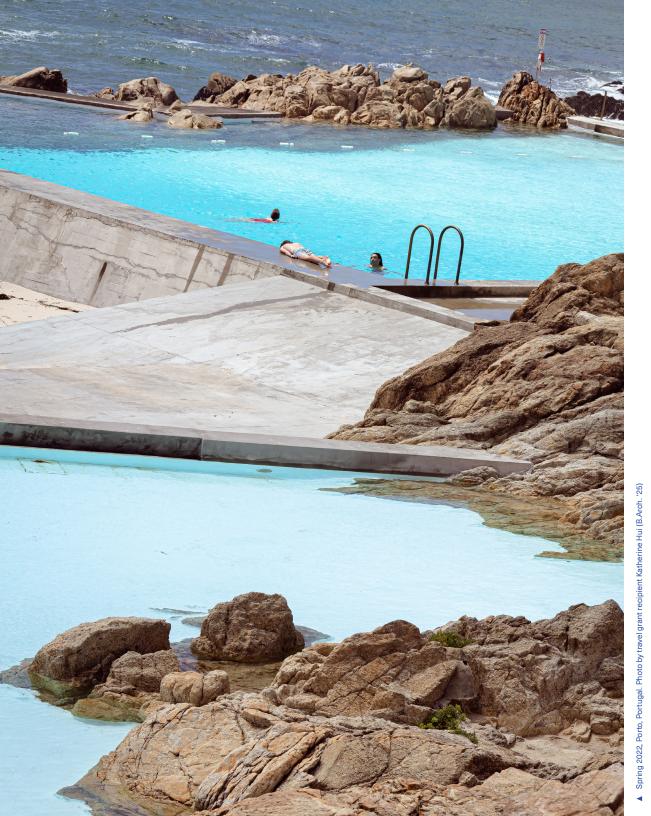
The Mentorship coordinating team organizes these opportunities through five main avenues: a speed mentorship event; a curated lecture series; external programs, including interviews, externships, Recess (Rice Architecture's public school outreach program), and a career fair; professionalism and technology workshops; and field trips to cultural, historical, and commercial sites.

Mentorship coordinates its programming with Rice Architecture's Career and Alumni Specialist. NOMAS Rice is a student chapter of the larger professional organization that is the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), consisting of a vast network of student and professional chapters from all over the country.

NOMAS Rice is an inclusive collective of students of all racial, ethnic, national, religious, and gender identities. Their mission is to collaborate, learn, and share ideas to elicit success in individual and group endeavors. As a member, students get access to a wider network of professionals and students through NOMA who have an invested interest in students' success.

NOMAS Rice aims to empower minority architecture students to foster justice and equity in communities of color through outreach, community advocacy, professional development, and design excellence.





Rice Architecture teaches architects to be leaders in the conversations and practices that shape our world. We recognize students for outstanding academic achievements that range from inspiring travel proposals to stellar GPAs to projects that fuel extraordinary discussions during our review week. We also recognize our generous alumni and friends who have given these awards to the school. Their generosity provides our students with the time and resources to see the worlds that will shape them and that they, in turn, will shape.

The Margaret Everson-Fossi Traveling Fellowship

Established in memory of Rice Architecture student Margaret Everson-Fossi, this award goes to fifth-year or graduate students with the best design projects developed during the current academic year's option studios.

The William Ward Watkin Traveling Fellowship

This award for foreign travel honors the memory of the first chairman of the Department of Architecture.

The Rosemary Watkin Barrick Traveling Fellowship

This fellowship is awarded (on the basis of faculty evaluations of student proposals) to talented architecture students for travel while still enrolled at Rice.

The Morris R. Pitman Award in Architecture

Earmarked for travel expenses and based on merit and strength of a proposal, this award goes to returning architecture graduate students who show outstanding potential to the profession.

The H. Russell Pitman Graduate Fellowship in Architecture

This fellowship provides travel assistance to graduate students in architecture and is awarded based on merit and strength of a proposal.

The Mary Ellen Hale Lovett Traveling Fellowship

Awarded based on submitted travel proposals and academic performance, these annual fellowships go to talented graduate and undergraduate students in architecture for travel while still enrolled at Rice.

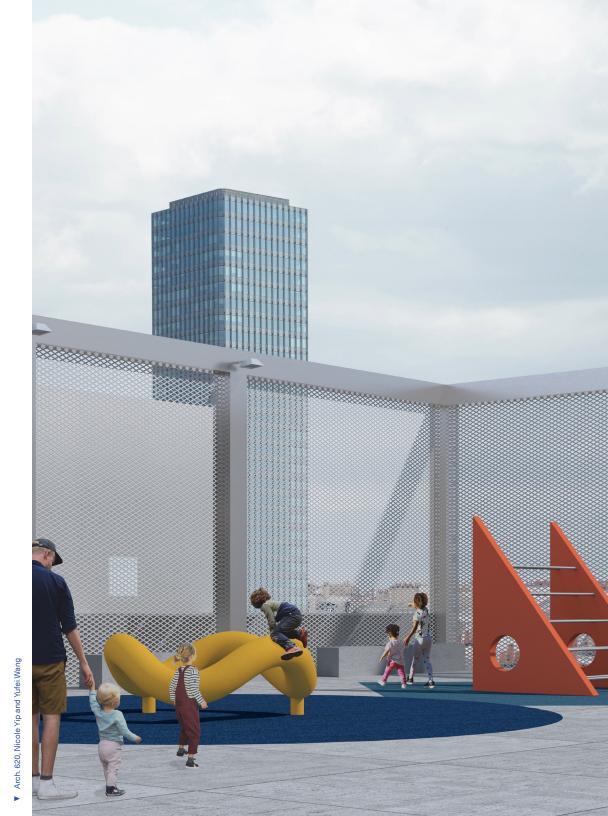
The John Crowder Traveling Fellowship

Established in memory of John Crowder, a 1963 alumnus of Rice Architecture, this fellowship supports the broadening of an individual's experience through travel and is awarded, based on merit and strength of a proposal, to a returning student or students in the graduate program.

The John T. Mitchell Traveling Fellowship

Established in memory of John T. Mitchell Jr., a 1972 alumnus of Rice Architecture, this fellowship is awarded, based on merit and strength of a proposal, to returning graduate students for independent study or travel related to the topic of urbanism.



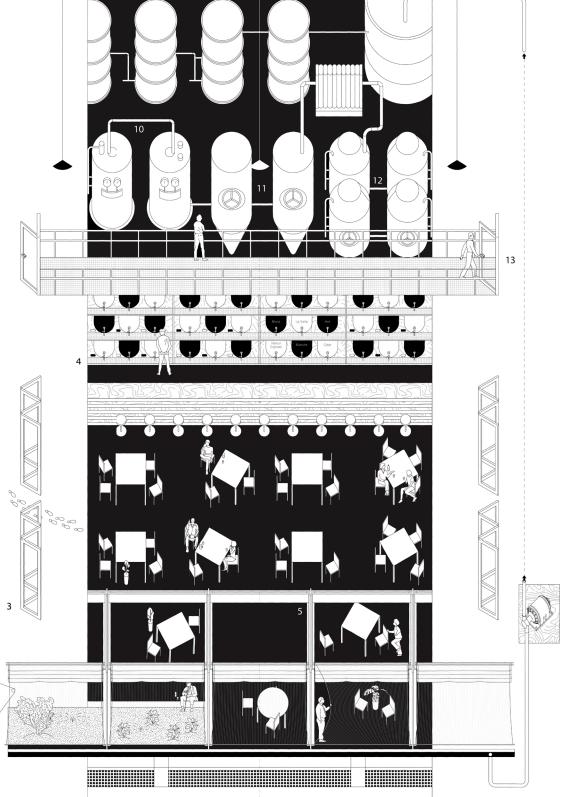




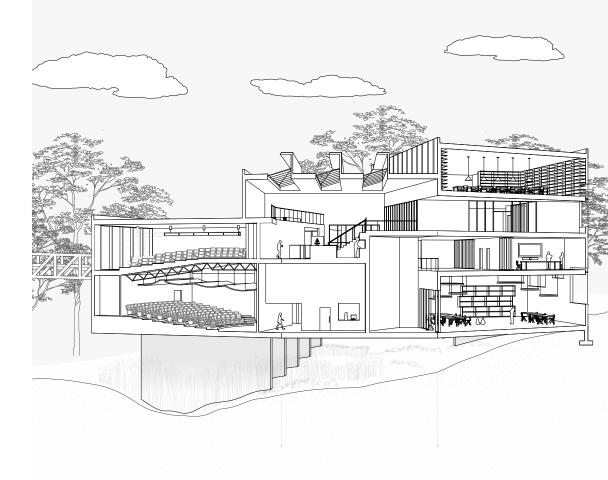












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