Catalog 2019–2020
Propelled by our collective effort, we continue to challenge the boundaries of convention.

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Throughout its history Rice Architecture has achieved its record of excellence with a unique collaborative of distinguished faculty, the brightest and most talented students, and a truly dedicated staff. We are defined by the strength of our foundation built over time; we are innovators engaging globally and locally to elevate the built environment and improve lives in an ever-changing world.

Many decades of our award-winning programs have spanned leadership transitions and remain central to the school’s success. The bedrock of Rice Architecture includes the distinctive Preceptorship Program, a required nine-month internship for our undergraduates at a leading office in the US and abroad, established five decades ago; the Qualifying Graduate Workshop, now called Option One, one of the earliest beginning architecture graduate programs in the US; our Rice Design Alliance, the school’s community outreach arm dedicated to the advancement of architecture, urban design, and the built environment in the Houston region; an extension of our facility by James Stirling and Michael Wilford, their first completed US building; the Rice Building Workshop (now Construct), which provides students with design-build and social engagement experience; the Rice School of Architecture Paris (RSAP), an immersive architectural and cultural experience for our advanced undergraduate and graduate students; the capstone Senior Studio, a year-long research and design undergraduate project; our Totalization Program, a comprehensive design studio heavily based on applied research, which also includes travel and input from leading technical consultants; and finally Present Future, an intensive three-semester research program that culminates in a Master of Arts.

There are many new opportunities propelling us forward. We will search for brilliant and innovative faculty to complement our core. We will explore the potential of interdisciplinary curricular initiatives. And most immediately, we will launch pre-design for a new extension to our facility led by Karamuk Kuo of Zurich, Switzerland. Working together we are poised to accomplish exciting and meaningful changes in this year ahead.

We move forward as a tight-knit and caring school, situated in the most diverse city in America, with a shared ambition of making a difference in the world. We are in a unique position as the smallest of eight schools at Rice University to derive all the benefits a first-rate research institution affords, and we are unencumbered enough to both adjust our strategic goals as needed and implement them instantly and effectively. Ours is an optimistic conversation about how architecture can be the most effective agent for change and advancement in a rapidly evolving context of limited resources, climate change, social upheaval, and political uncertainty. Each of our faculty member’s research shapes the collective direction of our approach and every student contributes critical ideas to the collaborative enterprise. We continually balance an enlightened view of professional practice with speculative research that probes the boundaries of convention. Our common goal is to produce design leaders who have the transformational skills, means, and abilities to engage in their communities at the highest levels in shaping their environment for the benefit of society at large.

Join us as we continue to reshape our world.

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Amnesiac city. Ephemeral city. Space city — a moniker that could refer to the history of NASA or to the profound vacancy in the heart of this humid, low-slung, sprawled-out megalopolis, the most diverse and one of the largest in the U.S.

Just what is Houston? In fact, this city began as a fiction. Nineteenth-century real estate advertisements for the newly settled town showed mountains and boasted that Houston was “handsome and beautifully elevated, salubrious and well-watered.” We’ve been trying to get the story straight ever since.

No one really knows what Houston is. That’s its charm. Really, it’s all here. Houston’s home to serious architecture — you can see Renzo Piano’s Menil Collection, Mies’ Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Philip Johnson’s Pennzoil Place, not to mention the astonishing collection of world-class buildings at Rice — as well as serious urban challenges, rooted in decades of car-dominated development, a shrugging attitude about historic preservation, and an allergy to planning.

That’s why Houston’s such an exciting, interesting city, in the twenty-first century. A deep architectural and cultural history is met by an almost insurgent progressivism, as the city densifies and works to invest in public spaces, infrastructure, and transit (with three light rail lines, a new bus network, and an expanding bike-share system). It’s true: It’s all here, especially if you’re willing to go looking for it.
The one-year Rice Preceptorship Program was formally established in 1968 to provide a practicum between the fourth and fifth years of the Bachelor of Architecture curriculum. Participating offices are selected by the school from among the leading firms in the U.S. and abroad and appointed by the university for two-year terms. Current firms include Johnston Marklee in Los Angeles; Diller, Scofidio + Renfro in New York; Thomas Phifer & Partners in New York; and Renzo Piano Building Workshop in Paris, among others.

Preceptees intern for a minimum nine-month period, participate in a variety of roles that provide a better understanding of the scope of professional practice, and are paid normal wages. Seniors apply by portfolio first to the Fifth Year Program, which is comprised of Preceptorship followed by a final fifth year of academic study. Two analytical reports per semester are required of preceptees in addition to submission, upon their return, of a portfolio of work produced.
Rice Architecture is an intensive, top-ranked graduate program that foregrounds design, discourse, and practice. We equip future architects with critical expertise and optimistic 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 to influence our collective futures.

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

The core courses of the program expose all students to fundamental disciplinary issues within architecture while establishing a shared set of historical, contemporary, or emerging references, questions, and speculations. The required core sequence includes design studio and courses in history and theory, technology, and professional practice. These four areas deliberately overlap and intersect in a productive feedback loop – demanding 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 decisively synthesize their expertise through plausible, provocative architectural proposals. One semester of advanced studios includes Totalization, 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.)

Rice Architecture’s second graduate program, known as Present Future, leads to the Master of Arts in Architecture degree. Present Future is a three-semester, post-graduate, special-topic research project directed by a Rice Architecture faculty member. This non-professional degree program gathers a diverse group of students to work precisely and collectively on focused, disciplinary research that culminates in an exhibition, book, or symposium. Topics are selected by the faculty director for their current relevance to architectural practice. (See page 16.)

In both the M.Arch. and M.A. programs, 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 unanticipated innovations.
Totalization recognizes that architecture is generalist, collaborative, and unpredictable, and that architectural innovation only happens when that messy totality is nimble enough to accommodate contingencies. Totalization sees the architect as the negotiator at the center of a diverse team of collaborators. Projects are understood to be contingent and evolving—a totaling up that is never fixed or finite.

The Totalization studio semester coordinates all of the advanced fall studios in order to emphasize design’s intrinsic relationship to other fields, ranging from finance to fabrication. Nationally recognized consultants (Robert Heintges, Nat Oppenheimer, Mark Malekshahi, among others) are embedded in the studios, advising students on facades, structure, MEP, and other factors.

Each studio focuses in-depth upon a single, fundamental research topic engaging materials, techniques, technologies, elements, or markets.

For example, what is the structural and symbolic role of the roof today? Exposure to additional critical realms takes place in required seminars and lectures attended by all Totalization studios and addresses further considerations, such as accessibility, fire safety, environmental controls, construction document delivery, and development financing.

Depth and breadth: Totalization’s unique organization, which coordinates and synthesizes its multiple studios and multiple consultants, means that the specific research topic in question is developed within architecture’s broader scope.
Present Future is equal parts education, research, think tank, and soapbox. Urbanization, media, globalization, the environment, and technology, are just a few of the issues that press in on us as never before. Architecture can, and will, play a role in the most urgent questions facing us today.

Rice Architecture offers an intensive, three-semester research-based program of advanced architectural studies: Present Future. The program’s aim is to reconceptualize the role of the architect from within the complex sets of relationships in which we live today. We are interested in how the discipline constructs new possibilities from never before seen political, economic, and environmental circumstances—by shaping new publics in support of new institutions, by forming new architectural and urban models, and by asserting new ambitions and optimisms. In short, Present Future is a forum through which we can rethink the nature of the architect’s social contract.

Present Future is a concentrated undertaking culminating in a Master of Arts in Architecture degree. The program is structured around an exploration of a topic led by a Rice School of Architecture faculty member and advertised in advance of the application process. A select group of students forms the core: a collective intelligence responsible for developing a discourse that synthesizes theoretical, historical, and design ambitions. Subjects are of contemporary importance and are framed by a three-credit seminar in the first and third term and a 12-credit collective thesis in the second term. In addition to free electives, each semester includes additional required credits that are deemed appropriate to the research topic. The program’s student body will include those with backgrounds in architecture as well as other fields; individuals with B.A., B.S., equivalent, or more advanced degrees in architecture or other disciplines are invited to apply.

Present Future is decidedly proposition-oriented. To that end, each three-semester sequence culminates in a book, exhibition, or symposium. The program is intended to be at once intensely focused and enthusiastically extroverted.
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 limitations of their attitude and approach to architectural and urban 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.
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 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. This past spring, we sent over 100 students to cities around the globe, including Barcelona, Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Mexico City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Marfa, TX.

The junior studio traveled to Portugal’s two main cities, Porto and Lisbon, to see Lisbon’s impressive and recently completed Cruise Terminal guided by its architect João Luís Carrilho da Graca. The students also met other significant Portuguese architects such as Gonzalo Byrne and Manuel Aires Mateus, who also provided insightful tours of their respective works. Other visits included Eduardo Souto de Moura’s Casas das Historias Paula Rego in Cascais, Álvaro Siza’s Serralves Foundation, the School of Architecture at the University of Porto, OMA’s iconic Casa da Musica, and Siza’s legendary Boa Nova Tea House in Matosinhos.

As the world becomes more connected, architects must address the pressing architectural and urban demands that result; these intense course trips reflect Rice Architecture’s commitment across the global public sphere.
With a generous lead gift from Professor Emeritus William T. Cannady, Rice Architecture is planning the imminent construction of the William T. Cannady Hall for Architecture, adjacent to its current home, Anderson Hall, with ground-breaking tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2020. The 20,000 square-foot hall will be geared toward collaborative research space, dedicated exhibition space, flexible teaching spaces, fabrication space, and faculty offices.

The Swiss architecture firm, Karamuk Kuo, has been selected to design the building. Established in 2010 by Jeannette Kuo and Unal Karamuk, the award-winning firm brings an international background and diverse building experiences to their design process. The principles are renowned for “creative problem-solving engendered by limits,” and with extensive backgrounds in teaching and in doing academic buildings, they are especially well situated to consider the spatial concepts and logistical needs of Rice Architecture.

The William T. Cannady Hall for Architecture will mark a significant step toward achieving the goals of Rice Architecture and Rice University’s strategic plan, the Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade (V2C2), paving the way for top-tier teaching and learning, preeminent research, and engagement with the city of Houston.

For more information, contact Emily Stein, director of development, at ems12@rice.edu or (713) 348-3424.
The great patron of the arts and King of France, François I, once said that Paris is not a city, it’s a world, and in this special world we established our foreign study program in 2002. Like no other city, Paris’ very foundations 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 and now the innovations of a 21st century urban center, this world provides one of the greatest opportunities to learn from the past, present, and future.

As the only satellite campus of Rice University, 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; as well as French language and culture classes. Organized study trips to other cities in France and Europe are a major component of the curriculum. Taught by faculty drawn from Rice and the leading architecture and art history programs in Europe, Rice Architecture Paris is a nimble think tank, taking advantage of the extraordinary offerings that Paris provides, as well as the city’s role as a cultural nexus for the world.

Rice Architecture Paris is also open, on a very 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.
For more than twenty years, Rice Architecture Construct has engaged the world by challenging students to contribute directly to the built environment. Construct students design and build projects that produce lasting effects, creating resources for the communities they serve while building knowledge through research and experience.

Working at various scales and in diverse situations, students engage all facets of the creative process—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 new means of analysis and fabrication, and translate forward-thinking designs into built works.

Rice Architecture Construct students framing +House, an accessory dwelling in the Third Ward of Houston, Texas, 2018

Construct
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Andrew Colopy
Professor in the Practice
Danny Samuels
Co-Directors
Rice Design Alliance is the public programs and outreach arm of Rice Architecture. We are based and work from within the school as an advocacy group that believes that multidisciplinary and research-based design can improve our cities and the way we live in them.

RDA was established within Rice Architecture in 1972 by a group of faculty and civic-minded community members who believed that quality design thinking should be available to all in our community and that Houston’s citizens – experts and non-experts alike – should feel empowered to act and transform our city through design.

Throughout the academic year, RDA works closely with students and faculty, as well as with local, national, and international civic leaders and organizations, to curate a variety of programs that look at how cities and people interact through the lens of design. Our programs include lectures, civic forums, design competitions, architecture tours, and studio visits to some of the key architecture, design, and artist studios in town – all of them aim to connect the core research and experimental values of Rice Architecture with the larger community of architectural and design practitioners. RDA also offers a yearly grant to students and faculty from across the country, the Houston Design Research Grant, which promotes research around urban topics that are not only of some urgency to Houston, but also have national and international relevance.

For over thirty-five years, RDA has published Cite magazine – an annual printed publication with an accompanying digital platform – with the belief in the impact that architecture and design writing can have in elevating the conversation about our built environment. Cite’s articles, interviews, and features all focus on the most pressing urban issues happening in Houston and globally.

We like to think that all of our programs push design boundaries forward, pose provocative questions, and critically engage our local, national, and international audiences by communicating the importance of design in our everyday lives. Overall, our projects and initiatives take the complex urban condition of Houston as a starting point from which to question our relationship with our cities and propose an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach that brings practitioners, researchers, interested citizens, industry leaders, and public officials together to envision what the most inspiring – and sometimes unconventional - solutions to urban problems can be.

Learn more about Rice Design Alliance at www.ricedesignalliance.org.
PLAT Journal

Tête-à-Tête Podcast

Founded in 2009, PLAT is an independent architecture journal published by the students of Rice Architecture. Through a combination of open submissions and commissioned pieces, the editors seek out contributions from various disciplines to generate a vibrant conversation. PLAT offers a place to share work of all varieties and mixes writing from established professionals and emerging voices. Each new editorial team develops a unique and timely theme to explore in their issue. While the .0 issues are presented in a standard print format, the .5 responses to the previous .0 publication take various forms. PLAT prizes agility and remains committed to advancing a provocative set of ideas that are always in flux.

Last year, following its issue “7.0 Sharing,” PLAT collaborated with the Rice Design Alliance for the 2018 Fall Lecture Series. Its responsive issue “7.5 Oversharing” featured only interviews and was published online. Last spring, PLAT co-edited an issue of Paprika!, a weekly student publication from the Yale School of Architecture. Recently, PLAT was awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2019 Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals by AIA New York’s Center for Architecture. Additionally, PLAT 7.0 Sharing will participate in the 2019 Oslo Triennale.

PLAT 8.0 Simplicity investigates how issues of simplicity influence aesthetic and ethical agendas.

Follow the work online at platjournal.com and on Instagram @platjournal.

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Tête-à-Tête is a student-produced podcast series that strives to highlight 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 platform 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 works to foster and curate exciting conversations with a range of featured guests including lecturers, faculty members, alumni, students and professionals. Past guests have included Doug Allard, Aaron Betsky, Lieven De Boeck, Dana Cuff, Peggy Deamer, Tom Emerson, Cade Manning Hayes, Carlos Jimenez, Scott Key, Lars Lerup, Nat Oppenheimer, Jesus Robles Jr., Danny Samuels, Troy Schaum, Jack Selig, and Christof Spieler.

Tête-à-Tête was developed over the course of several months prior to its Fall 2018 premier. The student team began as two graduate students, currently expanded to four. Tête-à-Tête is Aylin Nazli, Rose Wilkowski, Carrie Li, and Takudzwa Tapfuma, with assistance from Career and Alumni Specialist Jacki Schaefer and Staff Advisor and Digital Communications Specialist Shawna Forney. All episodes are available on the Rice Architecture website, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Music, Spotify, Stitcher, and SoundCloud.
Rice Architecture Mentorship is a subset of Society that empowers students at Rice Architecture to translate their studies into possible future trajectories in architecture as well as allied practices.

To accomplish this vision, 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, and a career fair; professionalism and technology workshops; and field trips to cultural, historical, and commercial sites.

Mentorship coordinates its programming with an internal/external advisory board and Jacki Schaefer, Rice Architecture’s Career and Alumni Specialist.

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 the 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; Architactronica (fall) and ArchiArts (spring); university-wide parties; and open houses: post-final review events 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 teaches architects to be leaders in the conversations and practices that shape our worlds. We recognize students for outstanding academic achievements that range from inspiring travel proposals to stellar GPAs and to projects that fuel extraordinary discussions across our review week. We also recognize our generous alumni and friends who have given these awards to the school, offering our students 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 on the basis of the best design projects for the options studios during this academic year.

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 to talented students in architecture for travel while still enrolled at Rice, based on proposals evaluated by the faculty.

The Morris R. Pitman Award in Architecture
Awarded to returning architecture graduate students showing outstanding potential to the profession, earmarked for travel, and awarded based on merit and strength of a proposal.

The John Crowder Traveling Fellowship
Established in memory of John Crowder, a 1963 alumnus of Rice Architecture, this award is to be used for broadening an individual’s experience through travel and is awarded to a returning student or students in the graduate program, based on merit and strength of proposal.

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 to talented students in architecture for travel while still enrolled at Rice, based on proposals evaluated by the faculty.

The Morris R. Pitman Award in Architecture
Awarded to returning architecture graduate students showing outstanding potential to the profession, earmarked for travel, and awarded based on merit and strength of a proposal.

The H. Russell Pitman Graduate Fellowship in Architecture
This award provides traveling fellowship assistance to graduate students in architecture and is awarded based on merit and strength of proposal.

The Mary Ellen Hale Lovett Traveling Fellowship
Based upon submitted travel proposals and academic performance, these fellowships are awarded each year to talented graduate and undergraduate students in architecture for travel while still enrolled at Rice.

The K2LD Singapore Travel Award and Summer Internship
Awarded to a rising senior or graduate student who demonstrates outstanding leadership and scholastic achievement.