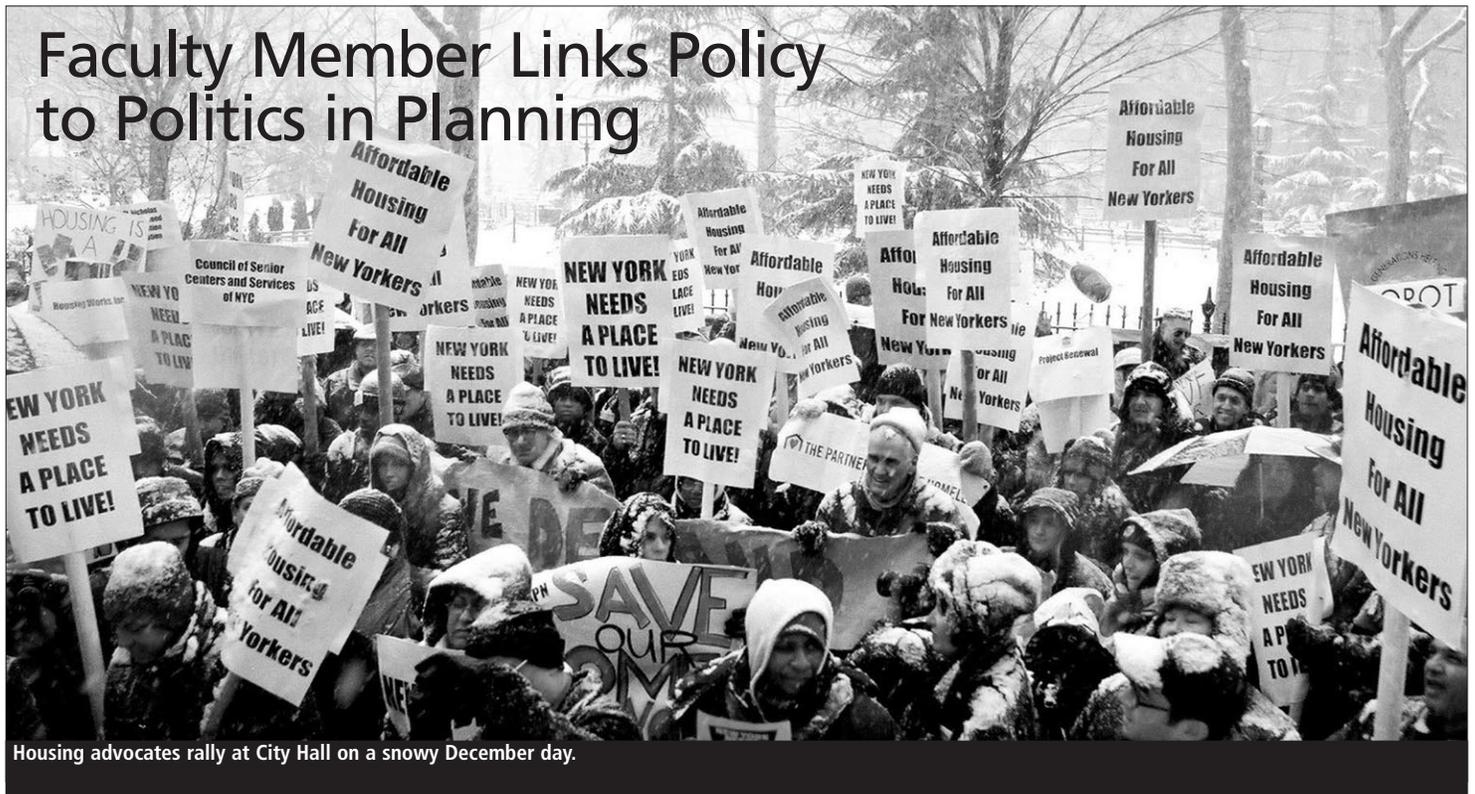


GCPE NEWS

GRADUATE CENTER FOR PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Faculty Member Links Policy to Politics in Planning



Housing advocates rally at City Hall on a snowy December day.

“When I teach, I’m always thinking about where planning options intersect with the political process,” says Joe Weisbord, a GCPE graduate who now teaches two courses in the program as a visiting faculty member. Weisbord’s passion is affordable housing, and for the last two years he has led Housing First!, a citywide coalition of groups campaigning to sway local political leaders to dedicate capital and energy to affordable housing production. “Inherent in the political process,” he says, “are both drivers of good policy and barriers to good policy. Planners have to recognize the opportunities and find their way around the barriers.”

Housing First’s strategy began during the months leading up to the 2001 mayoral election. The coalition’s “big ask,” as Weisbord puts it, was \$10 billion in new capital investment for housing production. But it also proposed reforms in building codes, zoning, land use planning, and brownfield clean-up. By the time of the election, all the major candidates had come out in support of some version of the group’s platform. After the election, the coalition kept pushing, and its work is widely considered to have prompted Mayor Bloomberg’s commitment of city resources last December to a comprehensive five-year affordable housing production and preservation initiative.

How did Housing First! help to put affordable housing on the political map and make it stick? “This was intentionally conceived as a mom and apple pie campaign,” says Weisbord. The message, transmitted through a major media strategy and through informal contacts with

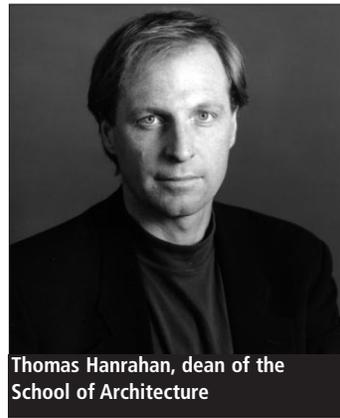
city opinion leaders, was that a shortage of affordable housing hurts all New Yorkers. Housing has been caricatured as a social welfare issue, but the campaign emphasized the impact of the housing crisis on middle-income people (such as firefighters and teachers) as well as low-income households. Announcing the city’s new commitment on December 10, the mayor delivered the Housing First! message himself, saying, “Affordable housing is fundamental to our long-term economic prosperity.” The campaign also succeeded by enlisting the support of a wide range of constituencies, from banks to religious congregations and human services groups.

There is still much to be done. According to the Housing First! website, “Mayor Bloomberg’s plan is a major step forward, but we must sustain and, over time, expand capital commitments.” Housing First! hopes to garner support from members of the city council to build on and expand the mayor’s plan. Weisbord says that his coalition’s ultimate goal is to institutionalize a commitment to addressing the city’s housing crisis. “It requires a very significant long-term investment to come to grips with the housing needs of the remarkably vibrant and diverse city that New York has become.”

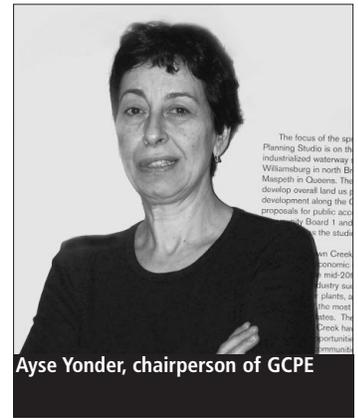
Joe Weisbord, with co-instructor Brad Lander (executive director of the Fifth Avenue Committee and also a GCPE alumnus), teaches Housing Policy and Markets and Housing Development Finance at GCPE. He can be reached at jwbord@earthlink.net. Learn more about Housing First! at www.housingfirst.net.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Faculty Member Links	
Policy to Politics in Planning	1
A Note from the Dean	
Thomas Hanrahan	2
A Note from the Chairperson	
Ayse Yonder	2
Public Participation and the Future of Lower Manhattan: GCPE Faculty and Alumni Take the Lead	3
“Imagine New York” and Faculty Member Hanhardt Honored by American Planning Association	4
Planners and Ground Zero	4
“New York to Europe” Planning Delegation Report	5
Lecture on Designing for Mixed Use Inspires Land Use Studio	5
GCPE Professor Helps Bring Olympic Planning to Queens	6
New Historic Preservation Program Approved	6
GCPE Honors for Graduate Planners	6
Thesis/Demonstration of Professional Competence 2003	6
GCPE Events During the 2002–2003 Academic Year	7
Planners Network Forums Explore Current Issues in the Profession	7
Architecture and Planning as Resistance: A Talk by Kyong Park	7
Coming Up in Fall 2003	7
May 28, 2003: PICCED Celebrates Ron Shiffman’s 40 Years of Service	8



Thomas Hanrahan, dean of the School of Architecture



Ayse Yonder, chairperson of GCPE

A Note from the Dean

The Pratt Institute Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment has long been identified with community-based planning, and the foundations for this work have always been education and communication. The GCPE not only educates and motivates its own students in issues affecting communities; it also empowers communities by educating and informing community members themselves. This newsletter is a new and exciting manifestation of the GCPE’s mission to simultaneously educate a new generation of students and to keep communities informed about the critical issues affecting their future.

Perhaps the most extraordinary impression that comes out of these pages is that there are so many people that are affected by the efforts of the GCPE and its faculty. From the local constituencies of working communities contending with rapid urban change to the global impact of planning for the Olympics or the rebuilding of Ground Zero, Pratt faculty are involved in virtually every kind of project planners face today. Their activities, in turn, are models and opportunities for students as they enter the planning field.

Serving students, faculty and the ever-widening global communities of New York City and beyond, this newsletter fulfills and expands the educational mission of the Graduate Center. It is a remarkable achievement in itself, offering a review of the work of a remarkable faculty and student body. I hope you enjoy this first of many issues of the GCPE Newsletter.

A Note from the Chairperson

This is the first edition of an annual publication designed especially for alumni, friends, and prospective students in the programs of the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment (GCPE). In this issue, we celebrate the recent accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. Thanks go to new faculty member Laura Wolf-Powers for putting it together.

I hope you enjoy reading GCPE News and will send in comments, suggestions, and updates of your own! Please e-mail them to ayonder@pratt.edu or send them to the mailing address below.

*Ayse Yonder, Chairperson
Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment
School of Architecture
Pratt Institute
200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205*



Members of PICCED's European delegation examine a scale model of the city of Berlin.



An Imagine New York focus group deliberates about the proposed designs for the World Trade Center site in January 2003.

Public Participation and the Future of Lower Manhattan: GCPE Faculty and Alumni Take the Lead

In the tumultuous weeks following September 11, 2001, urban planners across the city joined with designers, architects, and community advocates to imagine a post-disaster future for Lower Manhattan. GCPE faculty members—particularly Environmental and Social Planning professors Eva Hanhardt and Ron Shiffman and Historic Preservation professor Eric Allison—played instrumental roles in the conversations that ensued.

The Roles of PICCED and the Municipal Art Society Planning Center From the outset, many stakeholders wanted their voices heard. Some of these were already established organizations and others were convened in the moment, including the Labor Community Advocacy Network (LCAN) and Rebuild with a Spotlight on the Poor. The Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PICCED) helped to develop and sharpen the message that rebuilding should help the thousands of people displaced from jobs throughout New York City and that it should adhere to the principles of sustainable design. The Civic Alliance to Rebuild Lower Manhattan, convened by the Regional Plan Association of New York and New Jersey in partnership with Pratt and other schools, produced a report in April 2002 that expressed many of these concerns. The “Social, Environmental and Economic Justice” section of the Civic Alliance statement calls for a new housing strategy downtown and for an effort to grow a more diverse economic base that makes

New York City less dependent on the finance sector.

Meanwhile, the Planning Center of the Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS) and its network of project partners (including PICCED) were organizing Imagine New York, a process that brought together members of the public to share their ideas and visions for rebuilding downtown, memorializing the World Trade Center tragedy and responding to the impact of September 11 on the metropolitan region. Led by GCPE faculty member Eva Hanhardt, Imagine New York conducted public workshops across the tri-state region and hosted an online gallery of ideas.

PICCED and the MAS Planning Center, as part of the Civic Alliance, then orchestrated the massive “Listening to the City” event at the Jacob Javits Center last July 20 at which more than 4,000 people representing a wide cross-section of the region expressed their (largely negative) opinions of six existing plans set forward by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC). This participation, as documented in a report authored by GCPE alumna and PICCED staff member Katie Taylor (www.listeningtothecity.org/) had a major impact: it helped drive the LMDC’s decision to scrap the six original plans for the Ground Zero site and sponsor a new design competition. The LMDC’s recent selection of Daniel Libeskind’s design for the space is the fruition of the process that began with Listening to the City.

New York New Visions Historic Preservation instructor Eric Allison has been active with New York New Visions (NYNV), a coalition of architectural, design, planning, and engineering organizations focused on preparing recommendations for infrastructure, planning, and design in Lower Manhattan. As part of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association (which serves as NYNV’s base of operations), Allison heads NYNV’s Historical and Cultural Resources Committee and participates on its Plans Review Task Force. He reflects on these experiences in “Planners and Ground Zero” (see page 4).

PICCED Sponsors Planning Delegation to Europe In mid-November 2002, 52 planners, architects, city government representatives, family members of those killed on 9/11, and community leaders involved in rebuilding Lower Manhattan took a seven-day trip to four European cities to study and learn from rebuilding processes in those places. PICCED spearheaded the delegation, which included Pratt Architecture and GCPE faculty members Deborah Gans, Mannix Gordon, Eva Hanhardt, and Ron Shiffman; GCPE alumni Eddie Bautista, Jenifer Roth, and Katie Taylor; and current GCPE students and PICCED staff members Paula Crespo and Peg Fox. Members of the delegation visited Barcelona, Berlin, Bologna, Copenhagen, and Munich. Recommendations based on their findings are summarized on page 5 and were highlighted in a Planners Network/GCPE forum at Pratt’s Manhattan campus on March 14.

“Imagine New York” and Faculty Member Hanhardt Honored by American Planning Association

GCPE faculty member Eva Hanhardt, and her colleagues from the “Imagine New York” project team at the Municipal Art Society, have received a specially created award from the American Planning Association. They accepted the first-ever American Vision Award at the Association’s National Planning Conference March 29–April 2, 2003 in Denver.

“The 2003 APA awards jury was impressed by the unique way the Imagine New York project brought together people who would not normally think of themselves as planners in a collective effort to rebuild their community,” said APA Executive Director Paul Farmer. “So impressed, that they created the ‘American Vision Award’ to recognize how professional and citizen planners can work together to envision their future.”

“Imagine New York,” a project of the Planning Center at the Municipal Art Society (which Hanhardt co-directs) began in March of 2002. Its goal was to give voice to people’s visions for rebuilding the World Trade Center site, the city and the region. Through an outreach effort, which included facilitated workshops and a dedicated project website (www.imagenewyork.org), the project collected ideas from across the New York region, the country and the world. On January 8th and 9th of this year, the team launched “Imagine New York II: The People’s Response,” and held additional workshops to hear public comment on the plans of the nine architectural teams selected to redesign the World Trade Center site. Well over 4,000 people participated, many of them New York residents thinking in broad terms for the first time about the difference that planning interventions might make for their city. Their comments ranged from design concepts to ideas for regional economic development and suggestions for honoring those who died in and lived through the September 11th attacks.



Hanhardt (second from left) and the ‘Imagine New York’ team were honored at the 2003 Asian Americans for Equality Lunar New Year banquet on March 20.

“Imagine New York,” says Hanhardt, emblemizes the deliberative process whose importance she tries to impress on Pratt students. “The democratic process is messy,” she says, “but I happen to regard that as one of its virtues. If you reduce big decisions about the future of a place to two or three bullet points, you often deprive the issues being discussed of richness and nuance. Especially at the beginning stages of a planning process, public participation is so essential in order to identify both needs and opportunities.” Hanhardt teaches “Principles and Practice of Urban Planning” and several environmental planning courses at GCPE.

Planners and Ground Zero by Eric W. Allison, AICP

One criticism that has been leveled at the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) is that it has failed to fully involve the public in its deliberations. This has not been for lack of prodding.

When Governor Pataki established the LMDC to oversee planning for the World Trade Center site, members of the design and planning communities realized that if they followed the normal pattern of each group coming up with its own ideas and criticisms, they would have little impact on the plans. Each would have different ideas and different approaches and they would cancel each other out. The result was New York New Visions (NYNV), a coalition of architecture, design, planning, and engineering organizations (nynv.aiga.org). The concept was to present a unified front, unified proposals, and unified criticism. The American Planning Association was one of the founders of NYNV and the Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) became the operational group.

In October 2001, I became the APA co-coordinator on one of the NYNV working groups, the Historical and Cultural Resources Committee. Then, as a representative of Metro APA’s Rebuild Downtown Task Force, I participated on the NYNV Plans Review Task Force, which analyzed and commented on the plans produced by NYNV and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Both groups continue to operate.

While the 21 groups that formed NYNV represented a diverse group of specialties, from the Design Trust for Public Space to the Structural Engineers Association of New York, the composition of the committees was and is weighted towards architects and designers. From a planner’s point of view, this created an interesting dynamic. The design professionals tended to move immediately to issues of design, while the planners found themselves continually working to make the process the first consideration. While the designers did not disagree with our insistence that NYNV should support an iterative, public process, the idea tended to get lost in the considerations of

form and function unless we reminded them of it.

As a result of APA involvement, NYNV consistently called for a public process, specifically the type of inclusive process many planners consider crucial. Although we have made a difference, the results have been disappointing. Most public participation has been orchestrated by coalitions similar to NYNV—the Civic Alliance, R.DOT, etc. — rather than by the LMDC.

What struck me throughout was how much we, as planners, are about process. Our concern was for public participation with feedback that would inform the land use and design, not only because this was the “right” thing to do, but also because the results of such a process are better and enjoy more public support. This realization was made more obvious by working with other professionals whose normal work leads to an immediate focus on the final product rather than on the means and methods of getting there.

Eric is co-coordinator of the Historic Preservation Program at Pratt and welcomes your comments at eallison@pratt.edu.

“New York to Europe” Planning Delegation Report

The world is watching what and how we rebuild in New York

What we build and how we build it will, more than anything else we do, communicate the essence of what New York City is about and the kind of society that we aspire to become.

Rebuilding takes vision and requires a sustained and inclusive effort over time, which in turn requires a broad range of political, civic, and private sector support.

The city should capitalize on the quality of civic engagement that emerged in the aftermath of September 11 and use that engagement to develop a consensus for longer term regional and community development.

Successful development reflects a city’s “genius loci”—its unique and idiosyncratic character

All of the cities and regions of Europe that we visited attempted to capitalize on their traditional patterns of development and to restore the character that made their region or area unique. The challenge for our redevelopment efforts is to create human-scale and dynamic development that draws from the “genius loci,” or character and spirit of the place and the city. How the proposed development at the WTC site connects to the historic center and with the financial district, Tribeca, Little Italy, the Lower East Side, Chinatown, and Battery Park City is crucial

Successful development demands public investment in the public realm that benefits the mass of the population and is built upon principles of equity, inclusion, and access.

Each of the cities we visited has invested heavily in its social and physical infrastructure. These investments in the public realm have been used to stimulate development and to meet the needs of their citizenry. For

example, the city of Copenhagen is pursuing an aggressive policy of attracting families to its core area by building more mixed income housing; providing better schools, child care, sports facilities, and cultural institutions; and by declaring that Copenhagen will be the environmental capital of Europe.

Read the entire report at www.picced.org



The PICCED European delegation poses on the steps of Berlin’s Reichstag.

Lecture on Designing for Mixed Use Inspires Land Use Studio



Rob Lane’s idea for breaking up industrial superblocks by promoting compatible retail uses and ‘clip-on’ housing.

Students in GCPE’s Spring Land Use Studio picked up on concepts introduced by Robert Lane, director of design programs for the Regional Plan Association, during a March 6 talk at Pratt. Lane discussed examples of and ideas for urban mixed-use districts where design-intensive manufacturers are collocated with residents and retail firms, increasing industrial competitiveness and creating vital, eclectic living and working environments. The students formulated policy and design recommendations for Long Island City, Queens, geared toward strengthening the area’s manufacturing base while accommodating arts-related development and integrating a growing residential population.



An example of students’ ideas for strengthening mixed use development on Vernon Boulevard, near Borden Avenue Long Island City, Queens. Image: Jane Meconi

GCPE Professor Helps Bring Olympic Planning to Queens

The Borough of Queens figures heavily in the NYC 2012 bid (www.nyc2012.com), which outlines the logistics for bringing the 2012 Summer Olympic Games to New York City. Arturo Ignacio Sanchez, a GCPE faculty member and a long-time member of Queens Community Board 3, has been tapped to lead a new committee that will assess the short- and long-term impacts of the proposed games on the different neighborhoods that make up Queens County. "A significant number of the planned venues for the 2012 games are in Queens, and many of them are sited within the Corona Flushing Meadows Park," says Sanchez. "Community Board 3 realized that it was essential to respond to the fast-changing situation immediately and start asking the right questions."

For Sanchez, many of the right questions have to do with the economic opportunities that the games may bring to the community's diverse population. "Queens Community Board 3 is ground zero for immigration in New York City," he emphasized. "We're particularly interested in how this important event may restructure local labor markets in Queens and the rest of the city." Sanchez and the members of the committee are looking at other U.S. cities' Olympic experiences, determining whether projected economic multipliers were accurate and whether the Games helped create long-term job opportunities and sustainable growth. The committee is paying special attention to the lessons learned from the Olympics held in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and Atlanta.

Queens Community Board 3 is listening closely to Manhattan Community Board 4, many of whose members oppose the siting of the Olympic Stadium in their west side neighborhood. Sanchez's committee believes that a site in northwestern Queens may ultimately be chosen for the stadium facility. For him, this is just one example of where good bottom-up planning, coupled with political advocacy, can make a difference. Says Sanchez, "We want to ensure that if New York wins the Olympic bid, the projected tide of economic development will truly lift all boats. In effect, we want the costs and benefits of the 2012 Games to be distributed equitably."

New Historic Preservation Program Approved

The School of Architecture has received provisional approval from Pratt's administration to initiate a new two-year, 44-credit professional program in historic preservation. The program, if approved by state education officials, will reside within the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.

Because ideas about what to preserve, how to interpret, and whose stories we are telling are continuously evolving, historic preservation has undergone tremendous change since being established as a professional field four decades ago. The purpose of the Pratt program will be not only to provide students with an understanding of the theory and practice of historic preservation but also to foster the critical thinking that will enable graduates to lead the way as the field continues to transform.

The program will follow four parallel themes: concepts of preservation, the practice of preservation, the built environment, and the history of space. Students will have the opportunity to interact with distinguished faculty members who write about, work in, and guide historic preservation efforts. A summer internship will provide hands-on learning in not for profit, government, or private sector preservation organizations. Coordinating the program are GCPE faculty members Eric Allison and Ned Kaufman.

Thesis/Demonstration of Professional Competence

GCPE students who graduated this May explored a variety of planning topics in fulfillment of their thesis/demonstration of professional competence (DPC) requirement. The students and their topics are listed below.

Paula Crespo (DPC): The 2001 New York City Manufacturing Land Use and Zoning Initiative: A Critical Reflection on a Collaborative, Action-Oriented Study

Lauren Gallagher (thesis): Redeveloping Greenpoint's Waterfront Brownfields: A Tool for Communities

Nigel Hall (DPC): Linking Community Design Centers Using the Internet: An On-Line Planning Tool Prototype

Vanessa Irizarry (thesis): Decision-Making in a Regional Agency: A

Case Study of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Paul Proulx (thesis): Evaluating Performance Zoning as a Tool for Encouraging Sustainable Design

Tom Putmann (thesis): Siting Energy Facilities in Oregon: Will Current Practices Achieve State Sustainability Goals?

Greg Watson (DPC): The Politics of Inner-City Supermarket Development: Bringing a Pathmark to West Harlem

Copies of thesis/DPC manuscripts are available in the graduate planning office at 101 Higgins Hall North. Congratulations to our Spring 2003 graduates!

GCPE Honors Four Graduate Planners



Lauren Gallagher and Nigel Hall, two of the 2003 student award winners.

Paula Crespo, Lauren Gallagher, Nigel Hall, Vanessa Irizarry and Tom Putmann are the winners of this year's GCPE student awards. Paula, a staff planner at PICCED, shares the APA Metro Chapter award with Nigel, a web designer who works closely with the Association for Community Design, a network of community-based design centers. Lauren, who is pursuing a position in environmental planning, received the AICP award. Vanessa, who works as a staff planner with the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, took the annual departmental award for dedication to the profession. And Tom, an environmental engineer in private practice, received the departmental award for academic excellence. Congratulations to all the winners, who exemplify the GCPE's mission to train professional planners capable of fostering comprehensive and equitable development in urban neighborhoods and metropolitan regions.

GCPE Events During the 2002–2003 Academic Year

December 3, 2002

Panel discussion on Manufacturing Preservation in Chicago and New York featuring **Donna Ducharme**, New York Urban Center, and moderated by **Laura Wolf-Powers**. Co-coordinated with the Municipal Art Society Planning Center.

Planners Network Forums:

1. February 7, 2003

New York City's Changing Immigrant Landscape.

2. February 28, 2003

NYC Electoral Redistricting and Immigrant Political Empowerment.

3. March 14, 2003

Rebuilding Lessons from Europe, Featuring PICCED European Delegation.

4. April 11, 2003

Implications of 2012 Olympics on Economic Development, Infrastructure and Community-Based Planning in NYC.

All events held at Pratt Manhattan Campus.

Spring 2003

Lecture series, Affordable Housing Issues Facing New York City, organized as part of **Brad Lander**

and **Joe Weisbord's** Housing Policy & Markets course and open to the public.

March 4, 2003

Lecture on Iranian Urbanism by **Maria Westerstahl**, organized as part of **Bill Menking's** Contemporary Urban Form course and open to the public.

March 5, 2003

Lecture on Promoting Equitable Waterfront Brownfields Development by **Nancey Green Leigh** of Georgia Tech, organized as part of **Laura Wolf-Powers'** Economic Development course and open to the public.

March 6, 2003

Lecture on The Machine Next Door: The Industrial District Reconsidered by **Rob Lane**, director of design programs at the Regional Plan Association, presented as part of the Graduate Architecture and Urban Design Lunchtime Lecture series.

March 24, 2003

Lecture on Nomadic Laboratory for Future Cities, by **Kyong Park**, presented as part of the Pratt School of Architecture Evening Lecture Series. *(See story at right.)*

Planners Network Forums Explore Current Issues in the Profession

Planners Network, which GCPE coordinates with the planning program at Hunter College, held three evening forums at Pratt's Manhattan campus this spring. The first, on February 7th, focused on New York City's changing immigrant landscape and featured demographers from the New York City Department of City Planning as well as SUNY professor Nancy Foner. The second, titled Rebuilding Lessons from Europe, featured Joan Byron, Ron Shiffman and other members of PICCED's European Delegation (see pages 3 and 5). A third panel on April 11th brought together Hunter College's Tom Angotti, Columbia professor Susan S. Fainstein and Pratt faculty member Arturo Sanchez to discuss the implications of the proposed 2012 Olympic Games on economic development, infrastructure and community-based planning in New York City.

Architecture and Planning as Resistance

On March 24, architect **Kyong Park**, the director of the International Center for Urban Ecology at the University of Detroit/Mercy, spoke at Pratt. In Detroit, a city that Park says "demonstrates the terminal stages of twentieth century urbanism," Park and his colleagues have undertaken "to construct a sustainable condition for the current citizens...and design a long-term alternative to the mainstream urban policy." They work closely with community entrepreneurs and organizations on small-scale projects that represent alternatives to the violent, modernist paradigm still dominating urban development. These include everything from transforming dilapidated buildings into community centers to conducting art workshops for children to pursuing plans to grow mushrooms in the cellars of abandoned houses. Faculty member **Bill Menking** organized Park's talk.

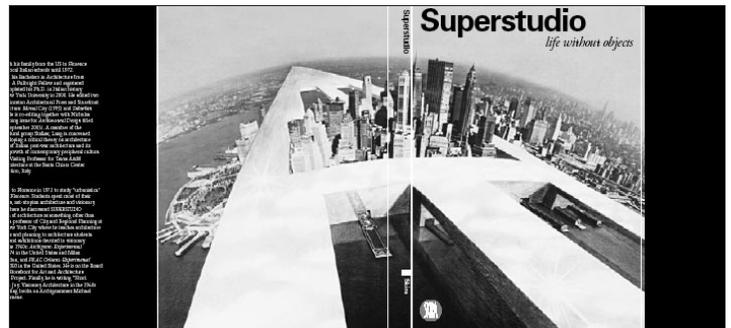


An abandoned house from Detroit which Park dismantled and reassembled for an exhibition in Orleans, France.

Coming up in Fall 2003

This fall, GCPE faculty member **Laura Wolf-Powers** and graduate architecture faculty member **Maria Sieira** will co-curate an evening film series whose theme is the multiple ways people inhabit contemporary urban landscapes. Featured in the series will be **Michael Haneke's** Code Unknown (2000), **David Riker's** La Ciudad (1998), and **Stacy Peralta's** Dog Town and Z Boyz (2002).

In November and December, faculty member **Bill Menking** curates Superstudio: Life Without Objects, an exhibition on the legendary experimental architecture movement known as Superstudio. The exhibit, which opened at London's Design Museum in February and which will be shown at Pratt's Manhattan Gallery, features collages, films, and furniture taken from the group's archive in Florence, Italy.



The catalog from the forthcoming Superstudio exhibition, Life Without Objects, appearing in November at Pratt Manhattan

May 28, 2003: PICCED Celebrates Ron Shiffman's 40 Years of Service



Ron Shiffman first worked at what is now the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development (PICCED) as a Pratt architecture student in the late 1950s. During his time at PICCED—the oldest university-based advocacy planning organization in the country—he helped to start some of the nation's first community development corporations and was one of the driving forces behind

a Community Economic Development Internship which trained over 250 leaders of community-based organizations in housing and economic development. He also served on the New York City Planning Commission from 1990 to 1996. This June, Ron will leave the director post at PICCED to throw his considerable energy more fully into projects from Lower Manhattan rebuilding to affordable housing to exchanges between European and American planners and designers. Ron will remain on the faculty, so his immense store of knowledge about such topics as green architecture, social planning and New York City's endlessly fascinating communities will continue to be available to his GCPE students and colleagues. Ron's many accomplishments at PICCED were celebrated at a dinner at TriBeCa Rooftop on May 28th.



Apply to GCPE for 2004!

Beginning in fall 2003, GCPE will be accepting applications to the program for the 2004 spring and fall semesters. The programs offered—the Master of Science in City and Regional Planning (MCRP) and the Master of Science in Environmental Planning (MEP)—equip students with the theory, techniques and skills to foster comprehensive and equitable physical, social and economic development within urban communities and across metropolitan regions. Pratt's unique community-based perspective helps students prepare for a variety of professional challenges in community development, physical planning, environmental planning and preservation planning. For more information about applying to the program, contact Ayse Yonder at ayonder@pratt.edu or access our website, <http://pratt.edu/~gradplan/as> of September 1, 2003.