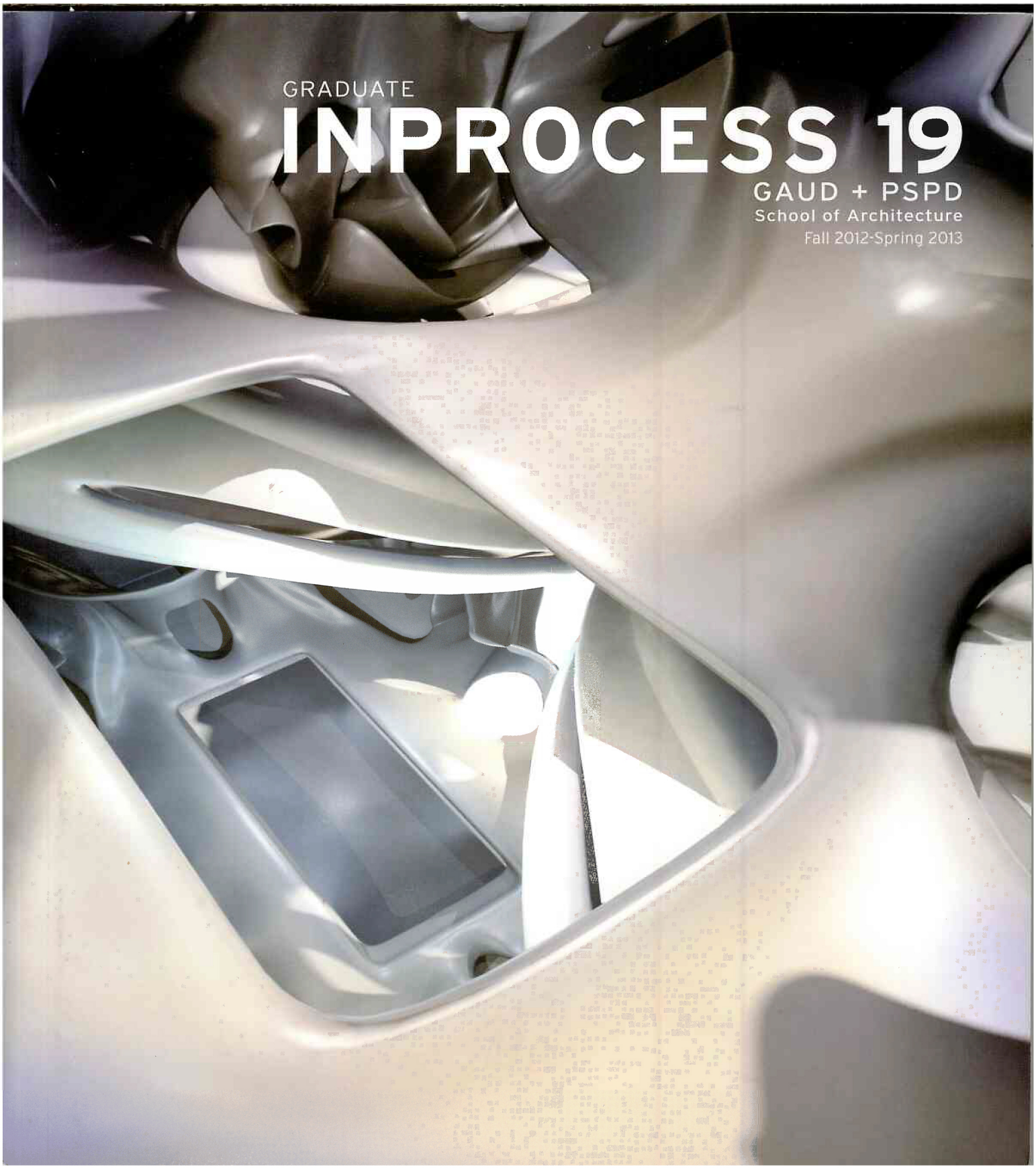

GRADUATE

INPROCESS 19

GAUD + PSPD

School of Architecture

Fall 2012-Spring 2013

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GAUD + PSPD

School of Architecture

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Pratt School of Architecture

DEAN'S FORWARD

Graduate In Process 19 celebrates the work of eight programs in the School of Architecture at Pratt Institute's Brooklyn and Manhattan campuses, a school embedded in the two most creative urban communities in the world. Three of these programs form the GAUD, or Graduate Architecture and Urban Design, known for advanced design methods and design research. Four other graduate programs, together with the undergraduate Construction Management Program, make up the PSPD - the Programs for Sustainable Planning and Development - distinguished by their progressive urban and ecological agenda. Together they comprise over 450 students focusing on virtually every aspect of the design, planning, building and ecological challenges facing cities today.

The GAUD is composed of three separate courses of study; a three-year professional Master of Architecture program and the three-semester post-professional programs of Master of Science in Architecture and Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design. The two post-professional degrees began as a single program in the 1960's, eventually reaching their current articulation in the 1980's. They now offer students with professional degrees the opportunity to re-think the disciplines of urban design and architecture and strike out in their own original research directions. The professional Master of Architecture was founded in 2000, and brings together students of all collegiate backgrounds. In recent years, the Master of Architecture has been recognized with high rankings, and now offers students a sophisticated and diverse range of design tools and experiences. The GAUD stresses advanced computation techniques, new collaborative teaching models and an emphasis on meeting the social and ecological challenges of the day. All GAUD students share advanced studios in the latter semesters, exploring research themes reflecting our rapidly changing urban culture and the particular interests of the design critics.

The PSPD (Programs for Planning and Sustainable Development) are a unique cluster of 4 graduate programs together with the single undergraduate program of Construction Management. The PSPD represents many interests, but has a common goal in advancing a vision of a just and ecologically responsible society while using the most advanced tools and techniques available in their respective field. Several of the PSPD programs have a highly developed research agenda with a strong record of sponsored research.

The Master of Science in City and Regional Planning is the oldest and largest of these programs, founded in the 1950's and now grown to 100 students. Graduate Planning attracts a diverse enrollment dedicated to an equitable, diverse and economically dynamic city. The Pratt Center grew out of this program and is a nationally recognized model for urban research. The Master of Science in Urban Environmental Systems Management also grew out of Graduate Planning, developing its special emphasis on green infrastructure for 21st century cities. This program is relatively new but already has developed impressive research initiatives.

The other three programs, the Master of Science in Historic Preservation, the Bachelor of Science in Construction Management and the Master of Science in Facilities Management are more focused on individual structures, but their emphasis on urban buildings and their understanding of management as an aspect of contemporary urban culture offers them many opportunities to share courses and professors with all of the other programs in the PSPD. Construction Management and Facilities Management are both several decades old and draw upon the expertise of New York City's building and construction industry leaders. Many of these leaders are graduates of these programs. The most recent addition to the PSPD is Graduate Historic Preservation, offering a unique perspective on preservation, emphasizing both conservation and community, culture and its context. Graduate Preservation benefits from a very diverse group of students sharing a passion for cities and their history.

All of these programs in this volume of Graduate In Process 19 share the same commitments to urban culture and a belief that their discipline can make a difference in meeting the challenges of the future through innovation, creativity and an ethical understanding of society. The following pages offer an extraordinary glimpse into that future.

Thomas Hanrahan, Dean

Graduate Architecture and Urban Design

CHAIR'S FORWARD

InProcess 19 Graduate Architecture publication introduces Graduate Architecture and Urban Design's (GAUD) progressive design environment for advanced architectural research. The GAUD proposes speculative debate and experimental architectural production based on a relational construct among theoretical inquiry, computational research, digital design, and technological investigation. To this end, GAUD seeks to formulate a contemporary approach to architecture that is "ecological" in the sense that it provides collective exchanges which are both trans-disciplinary and trans-categorical. This ecological approach encourages feedback relationships among architecture, landscape, urbanism, technology, software programming, industry, manufacturing, political agencies, theoretical studies, as well as categories and disciplines that are newly emerging in contemporary culture. This approach seeks to productively intensify heterogeneous interests and agencies through an integrative model of education.

Students in all three GAUD programs, Master of Architecture, first professional degree; Master of Science in Architecture and Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design, post professional degrees, are immersed in an exploratory design studio culture. The three distinct degrees in two programs - Architecture and Urban Design - resonate through shared coursework, students, faculty, and events, intensifying the School of Architecture's unique position within an art and design institute. This mix supports the ability to integrate diverse theoretical and technical knowledge in speculative design work while emphasizing critical thinking and critical making. Students and faculty are engaged in the design of contemporary experimental architectural projects and the integration of academically rigorous history and theory, computer media, and technology seminar courses.

The program understands innovation, in both architectural theory and practice, as inextricably interconnected with phenomena out of which it emerges. Recent courses in GAUD have investigated such topics as iterative processes, fluid systems, emergent phenomena, logics of organization, complex urbanisms, globalization and politics, computational logics, material performance, and speculative fabrication.

New initiatives in the GAUD have resulted in enhancing the International Study Abroad Programs [ISAP] in the contexts of both Rome and Istanbul. The Istanbul program, in particular, has strategically partnered with Bilgi University in Turkey. This collaboration provides one example of our investment in investigating shared ecological issues confronting architecture and urbanism internationally. These 'watered' venues construct a parallel case study for the examination, analyses, and proposed design for New York City and Istanbul, as 'world cities'. Initially, working with New York City and Istanbul, eCODE, the Ecology and Design Research Center, supported by an Innovation Grant at Pratt Institute, is dedicated to initiating a new discourse in ecological thinking. eCODE will situate new research models at the evolving nexus between architecture, design, and technological innovation in urban and media ecology. This hybrid research model proposes cogent alternatives to what have become anachronistic approaches in many current practices of 'sustainability'. This research emphasizes new more aggregative forms and projective methods of practice where collaboration occurs across levels and regions of different expertise towards a generative open-ended systems of architectural and urban production relative to time. Establishing a relation between design and education, our new RAD_K-12 [Rising Architects and Designers K-12] Program provides an opportunity for GAUD students to examine the role of contemporary design education across three generations. The production of new learning environments is explored through the collaboration between the students and faculties of GAUD and several Elementary Schools in New York City, Battery Park City School [PS/IS 276] ; Brooklyn School of Inquiry [PS 646]; Blue School, William Penn School [PS 321], along with New Dorp High School.

William J. Mac Donald, Graduate Chair

Asli Agirbas
Sulan Kolatan, critic

Master of Architecture +
Master of Science in Architecture

ADVANCED OPTION DESIGN STUDIO

The Graduate Architecture and Urban Design program's option studios create a progressive environment for (upper-level) first-professional and post-professional students to engage in advanced design research through a number of specially formulated themes in contemporary architectural design research, practice and discourse. For first-professional students, they act as a vehicle to push capabilities accrued throughout the core curriculum through advanced design scenarios. They bring post CAP-studio skills into more speculative venues that are further intensified in relation to advanced electives accessible at this point in the program. For post-professional students they are opportunities to confront new territories and emerging questions in architecture culture in the ascent towards a thesis formulation.

For both sets of students, the option studios are an environment in which the important challenges of advanced studio culture may intensify both collectively and individually emerging positions on contemporary design thinking, intelligence and execution. Accomplished instructors with diverse and progressive interests are invited to lead these intense and exploratory studios that contribute deeply to the evolving identity of the program. Themes explored in the option studios this year included: elegant formations and digital techniques, synthetic ecologies and architectural innovation, new buildings for changing populations, cultural centers and urban transformation, urban and ecological interfaces, provocative relationships between street and tower, architectural protagonists in world-cultural events, the radicalization of scale, vertical farming and systemic design, digital techniques and complex organizational logics.

Jason Vigneri-Beane, coordinator

ADVANCED OPTION DESIGN STUDIO FACULTY

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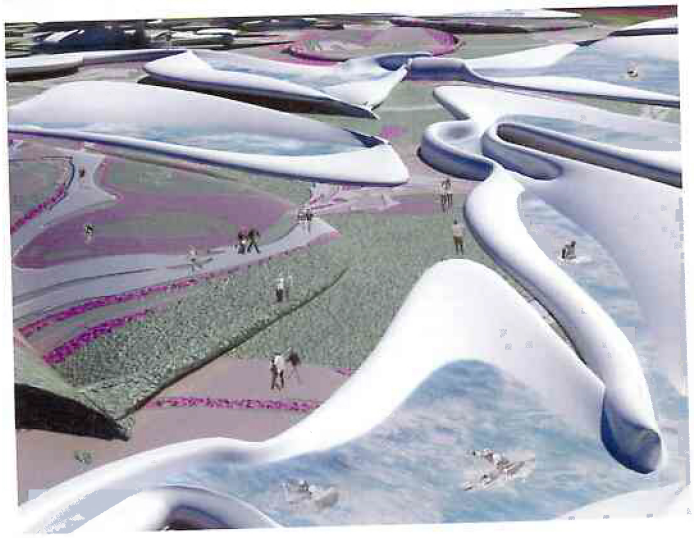

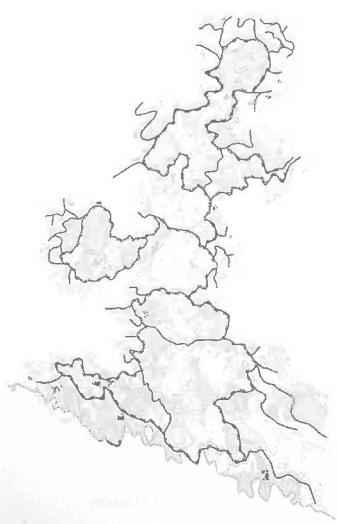

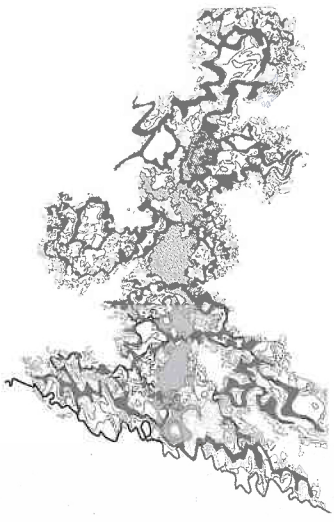

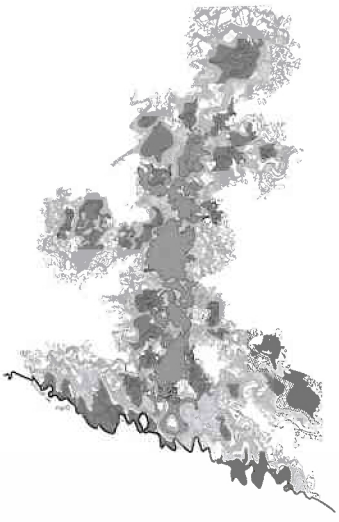

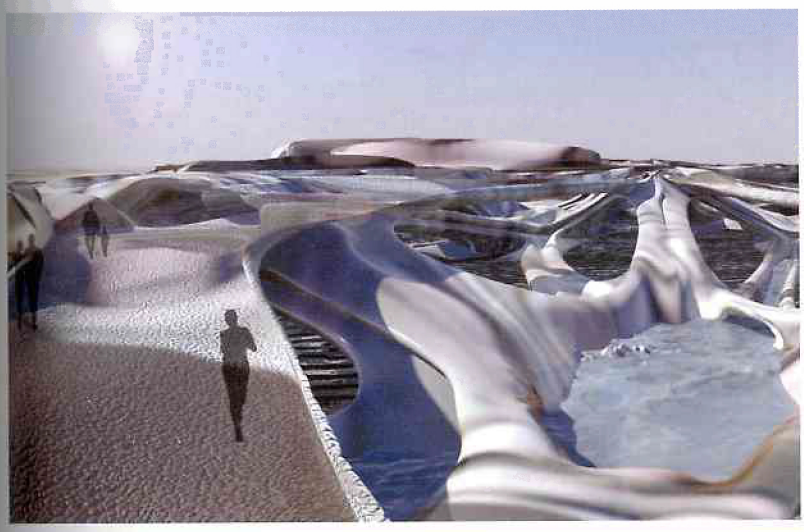

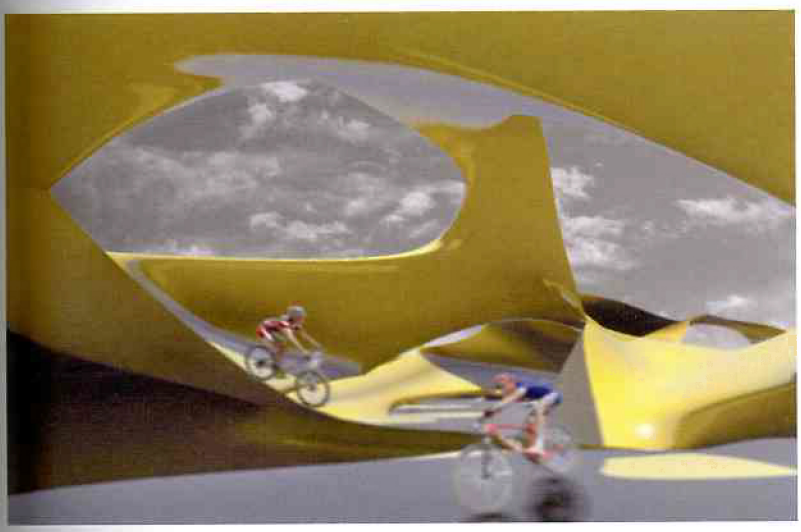

Championing Architecture in Olympic Cities: 2020
Istanbul, Turkey

With the memory of the London Olympics still fresh in our minds, it was timely to think about the event as an opportunity for matching the highest aspirations of the human body and spirit with their counterparts in architecture. In spite of the games' fleeting nature, each host city makes enormous investments in infrastructure, facilities and housing with large-scale buildings and structures remaining as physical reminders long after the event has passed. The studio examined the games' potential as a catalyst for lasting urban transformation beyond the event and beyond the mundane.

The studio worked simultaneously at the macro and micro-scales to design patterns for urban transformation while creating a single building. Students used the capacities of the digital tools to develop top-down and bottom-up strategies corresponding to these scales. The emphasis was on the micro-scale of the building itself and the manner in which it "emerged" from the macro-scale of the urban field. This methodology distinguished itself from traditional master-planning still deployed in designs for Olympic Cities in that it does not follow a linear scale trajectory; in that it does not view the city as fixed; and in that it privileges situational differences over universal norms.

Sulan Kolatan, critic

a	a	a
b	c	
a		

a. Asli Agirbas
b. Katia Loizou
c. Maurizio Huaylla