

PART II

PHD PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2023–24

A Year in Perspective

Curator: Çiçek Karataş, PhD Student +
PhD Program Administrative Assistant
Illinois Institute of Technology

In the dynamic landscape of the 2023–24 academic year, our PhD program undergoes a transformative evolution, breaking free from the constraints of past lockdowns to usher in a vibrant era of face-to-face interactions. These tangible connections, fundamental to our learning and collaborative ethos, have become non-negotiable components of our academic journey.

Amidst the relentless march of technological progress, with AI and virtual realms gaining prominence, we anchor our academic pursuits in the tangible, physical world. Our focus extends beyond the confines of Chicago, reaching into the enchanting tapestry of the Midwest landscape, where architectural wonders await exploration.

This year assumes heightened significance with the welcomed addition of distinguished visiting scholars:

Junko Taguchi: An architect and pedagogist specializing in advocacy, public dialogue, and youth education in the built environment. Trained in architecture preservation and education projects in Japan, she brings practical expertise to our program.

Davide Galleri: An architect and PhD student researcher focusing on architectural preservation. Galleri's dissertation examines preservation approaches to modern Chicago's heritage by renowned architects, comparing them with Italian conservation theory and practice.

Marta Silveira Peixoto: A full professor with a PhD in History and Theory of Architecture. Her expertise in Design and History of Architecture, along with her international involvement in committees like DOCOMOMO International and ICOMOS Brasil, enriches our academic milieu.

As our community enlarged, we collectively crafted incredible memories and forged academic developments, uniting as one big whole community. This unique year has offered us the opportunity to experience a wonderful academic, friendly and cultural exchange, naturally elevating our research endeavors. The richness of this communal experience enhances the significance of our academic pursuits, making this year truly exceptional.

The Bean, a glass reflective sculpture, commands attention as a captivating public monument. Photo courtesy of Pipin Kurniawan.

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ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

FALL 2023

Chicago Stories: Multidisciplinary Conversations About Chicago

Curated by Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino and Çiçek Karataş

1 – August 24 “Welcome Back & Introductory Lecture by Our Visiting Scholar Junko Taguchi”

Junko Taguchi, a practical and research-based architecture pedagogist, is dedicated to advocacy, public dialogue, and youth education in the built environment. Trained in architecture preservation and education projects during and after her PhD at the University of Tokyo, she made significant contributions, including developing a year-round education program for children in architect Toyo Ito's NPO.

2 – August 31 – DOUBLE FEATURE

“Welcome Back & Introductory Lecture by Our Visiting Scholar Davide Galleri”

Davide Galleri is an architect and a PhD student researcher in the field of architectural preservation. His PhD dissertation is about investigating the preservation approaches to modern Chicago's heritage by Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in a comparing view with Italian conservation theory and practice.

“Research Residency Program Insights”
Alejandro Saldaña Perales (PhD Candidate), 2023 Doctoral Research Residency Program at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, as he shares insights from his CCA experiences and their impact on his studies, focusing on Chicago's large-scale private developments.

3 – September 7 “Introductory Lecture ‘The PhD Dissertation Demystified’”

Hosted by Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino, Professor, and PhD Program Director at the College of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology

4 – September 14 “Mental Health Workshop”

Dr. Ewa Pluciennicka from PhD Success shared strategies on how to deal with stress during a PhD and leverage it as a positive force. PhD Success, a social benefit company, focuses on raising mental health awareness in academic institutions to enhance the well-being, productivity, and overall work-life satisfaction of early career researchers. In the past year, PhD Success has assisted over 5,000 PhD students through online webinars, training sessions, and individual consultations.

5 – September 21 “Introductory Lecture ‘PhD Comprehensive Exam’”

Hosted by Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino, Professor, and PhD Program Director at the College of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology

6 – September 28 “Sustainable Architectural Design, Building Technology, Energy Modeling”

Investigate sustainable architectural design, building technology, and energy modeling with Dr. Youngjin Hwang, an expert in the field.

7 – October 5 “Brazilian Literature, Literary Theory, Gender Theory, Modern Poetry”

Marta Silveira Peixoto is an architect (1985) with a PhD in History and Theory of Architecture from PROPAP (2006), the Architecture Research and Graduate Program of UFRGS, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Today, she is a full professor at the Department of Architecture and at PROPAP, UFRGS, where she teaches Design and History of Architecture.

8 – October 12 “Towards Biohybrid Design: Future Hospitals, Landscapes of Care, and Community Health”

Marya Demetra Kanakis, an architectural associate, editor, and researcher based in Chicago, was among the inaugural graduates of the Master of Design Studies in Ecology Program at Harvard University GSD. Her academic journey, spanning both undergraduate and graduate studies, involved a critical exploration of urban ecologies as a coexistence between humans and machines. Her work revealed new representations of nature through the lens of technology.

9 – October 19 “Exploring the Impact of Spaces in Universities, Labs, and Hospitals on Expertise”

We welcomed Joseph A. Renow, an Assistant Teaching Professor at IIT, whose research delves into the intersections of society, culture, and expertise. His focus lies in understanding how scientists, engineers, and physicians navigate their roles as experts. Renow's work often explores the environments where experts operate, including universities, labs, and hospitals, investigating the dynamics within these spaces and their contributions to the cultivation of expertise.

10 – October 26 “Introductory Lecture ‘PhD Comprehensive Exam’”

Hosted by Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino, Professor, and PhD Program Director at the College of Architecture
Illinois Institute of Technology

11 – November 4 “Free Discussion Week”

Professor Michelangelo Sabatino, the Director of the PhD Program at the IIT College of Architecture, hosts a session where PhD students collaborate, share perspectives on academic journeys, and discuss milestones like qualifying and comprehensive exams. This meeting aims to leverage diverse viewpoints and provide mutual support among PhD students.

12 – November 9 “Special Feature: Pioneers of the Dutch Modern House”

We screened a special documentary by Natascha Drabbe, the Executive Director and Founder of the Iconic Houses Network. Natascha, with an architectural history degree from Utrecht University, The Netherlands, and a background in publishing and curation, set up the Mart van Schijndel Foundation in 2007. This foundation aimed to preserve the ideas of architect Mart van Schijndel and make his private house in Utrecht available for cultural activities. The initiative eventually led to the founding of the Iconic Houses Foundation in 2012, dedicated to sharing the legacy of architecturally significant houses from the 20th century.

13 – November 18 Thanksgiving Week (no classes)

14 – December 2 “PhD Comprehensive Exam”

In these last two weeks, our esteemed PhD students — Abdulmalik, Ahmed, Çiçek, and Sasha — were focused on their qualifying exams. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to them for success in their exams.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

[ASP] Why did you pursue a Fulbright Scholarship?

[DG] I decided to pursue a Fulbright Scholarship as soon as I started my PhD research and had clear what my topic was. My study is a critical interpretation of the most relevant restorations of Frank Lloyd Wright's works in the US under an Italian perspective. Since Fulbright's mission is to strengthen bonds between the US and each nation, I thought that I would have been a good candidate for that position, being my research a clear comparative work. I had already won two national competitions in the field of architecture in Italy and this proved to be providential for the success of my application. Fulbright has been a paramount improvement for my research, giving me a highly recognized research status in the many appointments with respected scholars in Chicago and in the US. I tried to carry out the task of being a Fulbrighter with as much discipline, rigor, and deference as I could, especially for the cultural ambassador role.

[ASP] Why are Chicago and IIT important to you?

[DG] Chicago is the epicenter of the modern architectural revolution that occurred between the late 19th century and the early 20th century. The reconstruction after the Great Fire of 1871 was necessarily aimed to improve building techniques and it brought to the growth of new architectural languages, interpreted by the then masters, above all Louis Henry Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and many other modern architects carried on this tradition of architectural centrality in Chicago over the 20th century, and for a scholar of modern architecture preservation Chicago is simply the place to be.

Therefore, I decided to focus on this city for picking my research study cases because I also wanted to demonstrate through that Chicago is also the place where the preservation attitude towards modernity aroused first in the world scenario, precisely as a reaction to the progressive loss of architectural masterpieces in the '60s.

IIT is the natural place to study the evolution of the protection of modern architecture in Chicago, since it is the university that over time gathered the main advocates of this priceless heritage in a unique architectural masterpiece like the Crown Hall, still inspiring its students that live it as their everyday home.

[ASP] How does your research benefit from being in this city and this institution?

[DG] IIT is an unmatched research environment and undoubtedly the most important for architecture in Chicago. The vibrant energy that comes from the campus designed by Mies is the perfect set to conduct research, and the presence of scholars from all over the world brings vitality and cultural enrichment. Through the many research trips, our team established strong bonds and sincere friendship outside the work environment.

Prof. Michelangelo Sabatino, the director of the IIT PhD program, who supervised my research in the US, was a constant reference and helped me with his precious advice. He wisely addressed my research connecting me to the main figures in the field of restoration in Chicago, and among them the most helpful and important figure for my research was Prof. Gunny Harboe, who spent a lot of time illustrating to me his works in engaging talks.

I am sure that the highly recognized importance and quality of this university will be profitable for my future career progression as a scholar in the field of history and restoration of modern architecture.

[ASP] What sort of advantage does multidisciplinary research bring to your work?

[DG] Research can only be a multidisciplinary effort. Even the most specialist field of knowledge, as restoration of architecture is, might require a profound understanding of the complexities that gravitate around it. For example, the quarrying of a certain stone rather than another to decorate a historic church might refer to political dominances over some territories of a previous population, the decay condition of a fabric, even if analyzed with diagnostic tools, might have causes related to environmental factors, that must be taken into account in a research study.

In my case, studying the restoration works on Wright heritage in Chicago, and in general, studying the differences in the attitudes and methodologies to preservation between Italy and the US, demonstrated a necessary multidisciplinary approach because most of the differences highlighted refer to political and sociological reasons.

DAVIDE GALLERI

Interview conducted by Alejandro Sabatino Perales, February 2024.



In this sense, the conference "In-Between" held at IIT on November 16-17, 2023, was a perfect symposium that aimed to stress these connections between architecture and other fields of studies. In my paper I talked about how the political fights to save the Robie House in 1957 influenced the attitude towards the restoration approaches on the house over the following years.

[ASP] What collaborations were you able to achieve during your time in Chicago and at IIT?

[DG] During my research period in Chicago at IIT I had the chance to meet many important figures in the field of history of architecture and restoration within the entire American context, and in particular in the city of Chicago. A great collaboration and connection was established with my colleagues at IIT. We spent a fantastic time together during the PhD lessons held by Prof. Sabatino at IIT, where we read our dissertation progression and defined a way to help each other with advice and tips to improve our works under the wise tutorship of the PhD director.

Another important collaboration was with Prof. Gunny Harboe. He illustrated to me a lot of his architectural restoration and introduced me to many influential figures in the US that I had the chance to meet and interview, including Prof. Frank G. Matero from the University of Pennsylvania and Susan MacDonald from the Getty Institute.

In his office, I had the chance also to meet Greg Maxwell, who is currently Co-Chair of the AIA Chicago chapter. He has been very helpful for my research especially for reading my dissertation prospectus and giving me advice for a theme that aroused his interest.

I also established connections with the main institutions that advocate for the stewardship and protection of the Frank Lloyd Wright properties. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation's director, Stuart Graaf, was very welcoming in hosting me in his properties, both in Taliesin, WI, and Taliesin West, AZ. And their directors of preservation, Ryan Hewson and Fred Prozzillo, guided me and my research group in explaining to us the ongoing restoration works. The same happened in Fallingwater with the help of Scott Perkins.

In Chicago, the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust helped me in having access to the Robie House and the Unity Temple on the closed days, in order to deeply inspect these two masterpieces and main case studies for my research.

In terms of archival research, a great collaboration was achieved between me and the archivists of the Art Institute of Chicago. The same happened with the New York Columbia University Avery Library Archive, which collects the Frank Lloyd Wright Papers, his most important archival collection.

[ASP] Did you find any surprising things during your time in Chicago and at IIT?

[DG] Chicago did not surprise me. Before coming to the US, I spent two years studying the city and I was aware of its splendid heritage, about the polarity between the downtown and the residential neighborhoods. Also IIT had been a confirmation of my previous thoughts. It is a fantastic university, a place to conduct research peacefully surrounded by unique pieces of modern architecture.

I was surprised by Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, instead. I had the greatest expectations for it, but I was still surprised. His work is a revolutionary thought transformed in material expression. Architecture for Wright deals with materiality, light, and most of all space. You can never completely understand his architecture from the photos or drawings. It must be a spatial and temporal experience that involves human perception, as Bruno Zevi affirmed in his life-long research. I had the chance to spend a lot of time in many of Wright's masterpieces thanks to the connections provided by tutors, from the east to the west coast of the US. His architecture is always different and changing according to the context and functions. The architectural style doesn't mean anything for Wright. Form and function are one, and that's the reason why he can always integrate the natural and the built environment, also in dominating nature and creating a new harmonious condition.

These principles might be cliché or well-known by architectural scholars, but experiencing his works is really something superior that I have never felt for any other architect. I feel very lucky to be able to study his works over time in Chicago. I spent a lot of time in the Robie House and in the Unity Temple, trying to catch as much as possible of these incredible pieces.

Pompeo07

In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape

Alejandro Sabatino Perales

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DAVIDE GALLERI, CONT.

[ASP] What other research areas would you be interested in pursuing once you are done with your current work?

[DG] I have always been interested in the narration of the events and in the political factors that have repercussions on the built environment, and subsequently on the concept of public life. I hope to keep focusing on my work as an architect and as a researcher in the field of modern architecture preservation. However, this is also a political theme, because the scope of preserving modern architecture is to help the population recognize a complex heritage and conserve a revolutionary moment that shapes our contemporary identity and inspires future generations.

If I need to pick other career perspectives, I would say that they could be journalism or politics. In both cases my objective would still be connected to the aforementioned themes. The importance of understanding the beauty and relevance of architecture is the most political theme in the contemporary world. A bad book can be thrown away or can be forgotten, but bad architecture will have an impact over many generations, as well as the loss of an architectural masterpiece, or a bad restoration that could completely change the features and the values of a work of architecture. Social and environmental aspects, too, deal inextricably with architecture and the revolution towards a more equal and sane world can only start from a new centrality of architecture in contemporary societies.

It all starts with education, but as a journalist or a politician it would be interesting to spread the importance of architecture to a broader audience and to have impact in the legislation.

[ASP] How did being in Chicago and at IIT change you as a person and researcher?

[DG] I definitely feel more mature both as a person and as a scholar. This period has been so intense and full of experiences that I feel to have grown several years in a shorter time. I think that the most interesting aspect has been sharing ideas with people from different cultures and trying to get their points of view. It helped me to look differently at my country, Italy, both appreciating its best aspects, and both criticizing its worst.

In the US, the universities, in general terms, are a temple for knowledge and study. There is an unmatched respect and advocacy for research. Hierarchies are softer and the exchange between tutors and doctoral students is harmonious and sincere. After my experience, I think that Italy should make some adjustments and improvements in the relevance that is given to young scholars. At the same time, I think that the richness of the Italian heritage cannot be compared to anything, but, especially for modern architecture, there should be a revolution within the scientific environment because its impact within the resources spent by universities and research programs has been excessively downplayed over the years. I would definitely hope to bring this attitude within my Italian context in line with the scope and the mission of the Fulbright Scholarship.

Davide Galleri is an architect, PhD Candidate in Architecture, and Fulbright Scholar from the University of Naples, Federico II, Department of Architecture, Italy, who visited the Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture.



Davide Galleri (left) in conversation with Brian Oulsee (right), Sophia Hwang at the Chicago Botanic Garden, on the rooftop of the Wiggens Institute for Plant Conservation Science and Anna Dupig a site visit to the Institution's facilities in Glenview, Illinois. Photo courtesy of Alejandro Sabatino Perales.

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In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape

Alejandro Sabatino Perales

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ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS

Overview

The 7th International Graduate Student Symposium (IGSS) in 2023, hosted by the PhD program in Architecture at IIT Chicago, explored the theme "In Between" within the North American urban landscape. Selected abstracts underwent a double-blind peer review process, leading to a transformative two-day symposium in November 2023 at Crown Hall.

Beyond intellectual exchange, the symposium served as a curated platform, fostering the fusion of ideas and providing a nuanced understanding of contemporary urban challenges. Students involved in organizing (Aamena, Alejandro, Çiçek and Sasha) experienced a unique and valuable opportunity, contributing meaningfully to the ongoing dialogue on architecture's role in shaping urban futures.

This impactful endeavor extends into the 2023-2024 issue of *Prometheus*, the esteemed journal of the PhD Program in Architecture at IIT Chicago. The collective work showcased in the publication not only elevates academic discourse but also reflects the commitment of the program to provide an amazing and comprehensive experience for its students, reinforcing the transformative nature of their involvement in the entire process.

7th International Graduate Student Symposium
In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape
November 16-17, 2023

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

Opening Ceremony at Lower Center Crown Hall

- 1 PhD members (Steering Committee) and keynote speakers pose for a picture after the first day of the symposium.
- 2 Professor Vedran Hristov welcomes all speakers to the round table discussion on the symposium at Lower Center Crown Hall.
- 3-4 Round Table discussion. From the left: Isabella Corradi, Delia Lopez, Ameer Alshakr, Joo Donggi, Younglin Kwag, Rash Roach, and Junbo Tsouhqi.
- 5 Participants gather for refreshments during the symposium at Lower Center Crown Hall.
- 6 Christine May, Professor at Dalhousie University in Canada, joins the symposium through Zoom.
- 7 Professor Karen Woodcock, National Director of Urbanism Program at Monterey Tech and keynote speaker focusing on social themes, presents her research during the first day of the symposium.
- 8-10 Attendees engage with Professor Woodcock's presentation.

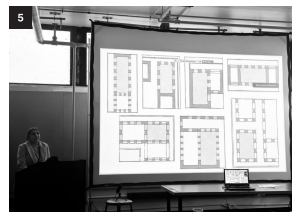
Prometheus 07

In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape



Çiçek Karatay

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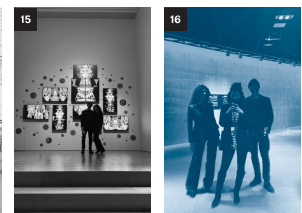
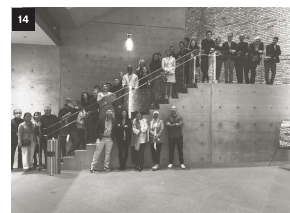
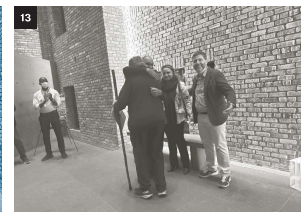
NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Papers

- 1-3 Symposium attendees gather in front of the registration table to obtain name badges and information on the second day of the symposium.
- 4 Vice Provost Fred J. Rickerson at the podium during his opening keynote speech for the symposium in S.R. Crown Hall.
- 5 Sibhan Husain Alsayid of Texas Tech University and PhD Symposium participant, presents her research titled "Improving Ventilation for Buildings in the Hot-Dryland Climate: A Research-Driven Design Approach."
- 6 Çiçek Karatay, PhD student and symposium co-organizer, presents her research about documenting the cultural significance of the post-disaster city of Antakya, Turkey.
- 7 Henny Wilgus, Master of Science in Architecture student and PhD Symposium participant, presents his research.
- 8 Abdullahi Mohammed, PhD student and PhD Symposium participant, presents his research.

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In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape



NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Closing Ceremony at Wrightwood 659

- 9 Best paper award goes to Hashika Redaunt, IIT OSA.
- 10 Best paper award goes to Tammam Harfi, PhD Candidate at The Pennsylvania State University.
- 11 Best paper award goes to Henny Wilgus, IIT OSA.
- 12-13 Dr. Maria Viliakidou, Alexander and Prof. Billig Hristov offer their gift to Prof. Ron Sanderson at the Indo-Auto-Designed Wrightwood659 exhibition space.
- 14 PhD Symposium attendees, friends, and organizers pose for a picture during the PhD Symposium closing ceremony at Wrightwood659.
- 15 Exploring exhibition space right after the closing ceremony, visiting scholar Davide Galleri and his partner Alessia Pilato immerse themselves in the artistic experience, capturing a moment of curiosity and connection during their visit.
- 16 Davide Galleri, Alessia Pilato, and Elyse Hering capture the moment on the top floor of Wrightwood, creating a timeless memory and the unique record-keeping.

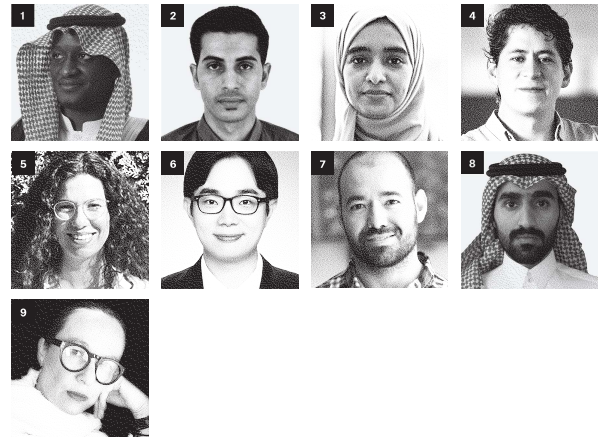
Çiçek Karatay

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STUDENT LIFE AND RESEARCH

Overview of Doctoral Research

The PhD students and candidates at IIT come from diverse backgrounds. Together, they compile decades of professional and academic experience which shape their research into unique and tailored academic experiences. Both as colleagues and friends, students are encouraged to spend leisure time in activities that help build strong ties with their peers as well as to contribute to their studies. Taking advantage of our privileged location, we love to take the initiative and explore. Chicago, a major global city and epicenter of architecture in North America, waits for us to wander through its streets, mingle in its neighborhoods, and linger at its parks. The city inspires us to address the contemporary dilemmas of urban environments and city life. Here, such inspiration and the students' experiences can lead them to specialize in the architectural and cultural, as well as the technological dimensions, of the discipline of architecture. The research done by our students fits well within the History, Theory, and Criticism (HTC) and the Technologies of the Built Environment (TBE) tracks. These provide our students with opportunities to work alongside highly experienced and trained faculty to better shape their work. Similarly, working close with peers has profound impressions on one's research, equally as powerful as the teachings brought forward by our faculty. Shaping an environment which fosters, encourages, and facilitates such interactions is of great importance to us. Finally, our students spend plenty of time together. They become part of each other's daily routines. They perform in a tight and supportive community.



- 1—Saeed Alkhorrah**
Assessing Ecological Landscape Capacity for Reversing Desertification in Arid Landscapes: A Case Study of Wadi Aluhmah (2023-4)
- 2—Ahmed Abdullah Ouali Ba is**
Alternative Challenges for Housing Global Refugees and Displaced People: A Comparative Analysis of Civil Disasters Refugees in Bangladesh and the Khazax Displaced Camp in Yemen (2022-4)
- 3—Amarna Mubarak Bakarmom**
Adapting Renewable Energy and Traditional Cooling Strategies to Provide Clean Energy for Residential Buildings in Hot-Dry Climate (2022-4)
- 4—Alexis Arias Betancourt**
Re-Designing the Crowded City: The Morphological Consequences of Transit Infrastructure, and the Social, Environmental, and Experiential Possibilities of Autonomous Vehicles (2023-4)
- 5—Çiçek Karataş**
Preserving Cultural Narratives: Exploring the Integration of Architecture, Culture, and Art in Addressing the Impact of Global Challenges (2022-4)
- 6—Donghyun Lee**
Climate-Adaptive Performance Evaluation of Two Way-Axis Kinetic Shading System for Enhanced Building Energy Efficiency and Visual Comfort (2020-4)
- 7—Alejandro Saldaña Perales**
Public Space Command: Public Space Command Design Frameworks for Chicago's Large-Scale Private Developments (2023-2024)
- 8—Abdulrahman Mohammad S. Saleh**
Develop with Nature: Legislative Strategies for Sustainable Development on the Assef Coast, Saudi Arabia (2022-4)
- 9—Sasha Zanko**
NCE (New Coastal Ecology): Toward an Alternate Model for the Future Architecture and Infrastructure of Mass Tourism Along the European Mediterranean Coast. Croatian Coast as a Case Study (2022-4)

STUDENT LIFE AND RESEARCH

Our PhD Community

With changing rules to tackle the pandemic, COVID-19 is becoming less of a threat and more of an inconvenience in 2023. Now, we have more chances to meet up with friends, family, and colleagues. This change has been warmly welcomed by the PhD Community at the College of Architecture.

After two years of keeping our distance, coming back to campus brings a lot of happiness. We enjoy being together in person and taking a break from virtual life. Whether we're attending academic events, enjoying free time, or exploring Chicago's urban area, the PhD Community regularly grabs these opportunities to meet face-to-face. This return to real-life interactions marks a significant shift, adding a tangible layer to our shared experiences and fostering a lively community within our scholarly environment.

Photos courtesy of Amarna Bakarmom, Çiçek Karataş, Alejandro Saldaña Perales, and Sasha Zanko.



MARCH 24, 2023
Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (MCHAP) Symposium, S. R. Crown Hall

1-3 Mauricio Rocha of Taller I Bauzilio Rocha engages in a round table discussion during the MCHAP 2023 Symposium, agents of excellence, with MCHAP 2023 Finalists: Susana Cavillo from Mexico, Jose Cubilla from Paraguay, and Edgar Man and Sebastian Mujic from Colombia.

MAY 13, 2023
Graduation

2 The MCHAP 2023 Winner: Ashkanelli Borum in Mexico City by Taller I Bauzilio Rocha. It is an exceptional work of architecture that creates a sensitive, open dialogue with the existing context, celebrating the unique heritage of the pre-Hispanic site and offering new public space and opportunities to encounter Rivera's collection of pre-Hispanic art.

MAY 16, 2023
Game Night

4-7 Congratulations to our outstanding graduates - Anjel Ahmed, Cecilia Ong, and Liang Kang - honored in a symbolic "hoisting" ceremony at McCormick Place Convention Center, marking a momentous occasion.

8 PhD Community members enjoyed a fantastic evening of baseball at Guaranteed Rate Field, where the Chicago White Sox played against the Cleveland Guardians.

9 Gathering for an end-of-year outing at the White Sox game! The atmosphere couldn't be more lively, cheer, as shared laughter and the joyous spirit of the game make it an unforgettable experience.



JUNE 26, 2023

The Modernism Road Rally – Tour of Homes

1 Clock Karataş and Annam Pakkanon, supported by the 2013 Parsons House, joined the Modernism Road Rally tour.

AUGUST 21, 2023

Administrative Assistant Role Transition – Çiçek Karataş

2 We're announcing an upcoming change in the administrative assistant role. Effective immediately, Alexandru Baldaş Paraske will step down from this position. We extend sincere appreciation to Alexandru for his dedicated service and contributions during his tenure. We are pleased to welcome Çiçek Karataş, our second-year PhD student, as the incoming administrative assistant.

AUGUST 2023

Çiçek Karataş After Completing Her First Year at IIT – Post-Earthquake Site Visit to Turkey

3 Çiçek, supported by the ACPF grant, honors the cultural significance of Antalya's religious buildings post the 2023 earthquake. Her project involves 3D scans, restoration, and an unexpected discovery – an ancient wall in Antalya. The finding, covered by a national TV network, signals hope for the city's revival.

4 This poignant image captures the ruins of the Greek Orthodox Church in Antalya. A silent testament to seismic force, it reflects the destructive aftermath of the earthquake on this sacred space.

5 The dome of the historic Şahin Nevresin Mosque in Antalya collapsed after the seismic activity, marking a significant loss in the city's rich history.



AUGUST 24, 2023

Welcome Back Fall

6 The Architectural Research Force lunch gathering marks the first week of the academic year.

7 Dr. Julio Naguchi, Visiting Associate Professor, Nello University Faculty of Urban Planning, Japan, introducing his work.

8 Introduction by Dr. Marta Prioste, Visiting Professor, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Exhibition Opening, Riverside

9 David Galzeri, visiting PhD student, Department of Architecture, University of Naples Federico II, Italy, introducing his studies.

10 The PhD community and Prof. Michelangelo Sabatino welcomed our beloved visiting scholars – Dr. Julio Naguchi, Marta Prioste, and Dr. Marta Prioste – with small gifts from IIT.

11 PhD community members engaged in discussing Riverside's architectural evolution at the Riverside Arts Center's "Outside the Box: Modern and Contemporary Houses in Riverside" exhibition. A co-curation effort by Kim Freeman and Michelangelo Sabatino.

12-13 After the exhibition, an enjoyable reception followed at Sabatino's home in Riverside. A late dinner residence recently restored with partner Serge Anisov.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Mental Health Workshop by Ewa Plucienicka

14-15 During our Architectural Research Forum, we learned how to deal with PhD stress and thrive like our mental health.



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Chicago Botanical Garden Trip

1-4 Embracing the serenity of a Sunday, those escapees from our Chicago Botanical Garden trip savor the tranquility of a day immersed in nature, shared laughter, and the exciting memories of our delightful outing.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Dr. Youngjin Hwang Lecture

5 Captured in the midst of his engaging research presentation, our new Assistant Professor Youngjin Hwang shares insights at the intersection of architectural design, technology, and building technology, showcasing his wealth of experience and commitment to sustainability.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Edith Farnsworth House Tour by Alejandro Saldaña Perales

6 To honor National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Edith Farnsworth House launched its first Spanish-language tour on September 30. Led by Alejandro Saldaña Perales, PhD Candidate in Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology, the tour explored the history and legacy of the house with meticulous attention to detail, marking a unique cultural experience.

OCTOBER 14, 2023

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Lecture

7 Exploring the legacy of Modern Chicago through a lecture by Michelangelo Sabatino and Serge Anisov at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture.



OCTOBER 15-16, 2023

Exploring Frank Lloyd Wright's Architectural Masterpieces

8 Led by Professor Michelangelo Sabatino, the PhD community had the privilege of visiting iconic Frank Lloyd Wright buildings, including the Jacobs House. Here is a photo capturing the essence of our enriching experience at this architectural masterpiece.

9-10 Our journey continued to the renowned Taliesin, where Kim Seonjo, Director of Preservation at Taliesin, guided us through the awe-inspiring landscape and design, creating lasting memories within our vibrant PhD community.

11 Posing for a cool group photo in the inspiring surroundings of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpieces in Wisconsin near Spring Green, we are captivated by the breathtaking natural scene unfolding behind us.

12 A joyful gathering, savoring the simplicity of a group dinner with plans, fostering connections and shared laughter among our community.



OCTOBER 26, 2023

Maurice Cox in Conversation

1 Kenneth Christensen, Provost and Deane Vice President of Academic Affairs, initiated the two-hour discussion, setting the tone for engaging insights from Maurice Cox.

2 Giovanna Dall'ora, architect and wife of Maurice Cox, shared cherished memories in Florence, where Cox practiced architecture for a decade, offering a glimpse into their meaningful journey together.

Prometheus 07

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

SAH Celebrates

3 Co-chaired by Michelangelo Sabatino and Quincy Harboe.

4 Capturing the insightful conversation at "Maurice in Conversation" at P. H. Orem Hall with Maurice Cox and architecture professors Mark Villalobos-Hernandez and Michelangelo Sabatino. They discussed Cox's impactful career and shared insights from their ongoing biography project on Cox.

5 Co-chaired by Michelangelo Sabatino and Quincy Harboe.

6 SAH Celebrates, held at the Embassy in Chicago. PhD community members Daniele Galleri, Michelangelo Sabatino (also co-chaired of the event), Julio Sagasti, Vicki Karatay, and her partner Ines Villalobos are captured beautifully through the lens of Ana Brava.

In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape



NOVEMBER 11, 2023

Storytelling Session at Bronzeville Historical Society

7 Filmmakers Carlos Ortiz Javier and Ashley Isaacks, along with professor Sabatino, participated in an enlightening session at Bronzeville Historical Society.

8 This event is part of ongoing research for films about IIT and the Bronzeville neighborhood. Heartfelt thanks to all who attended and to Henry Williams, President of Bronzeville Historical Society.

Ciolek Karatay

DECEMBER 2, 2023

Mod & Merry Party at Edith Farnsworth House

9 PhD students and visitors came together for the Mod & Merry party hosted by the Edith Farnsworth House. Heartfelt thanks to all who attended and to Henry Williams, President of Bronzeville Historical Society.

10 PhD students and visitors came together for the Mod & Merry party hosted by the Edith Farnsworth House. Heartfelt thanks to all who attended and to Henry Williams, President of Bronzeville Historical Society.

11-13 Members of the EBD Community gathered for an enlightening visit to the historic Farnsworth House, marveling at the architectural brilliance designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

Ciolek Karatay

DECEMBER 12, 2023

End-of-Semester Dinner

11-13 These snapshots capture the festive moments and delicious dishes from our End-of-Semester Holiday Party, marking a flavorful conclusion to a semester filled with shared laughter and cherished memories within the PhD community.

Ciolek Karatay

STUDENT LIFE AND RESEARCH

Driehaus Foundation Grant Brings Local History Exhibit to Mies Gallery

Visitors to campus next year will get a taste of the multifaceted history of the Illinois Institute of Technology campus and its relationship to the surrounding Bronzeville neighborhood thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation based in Chicago.

A Living Room for Bronzeville: Stories about the Illinois Institute of Technology's Campus and Chicago's South Side is a storytelling initiative centered on an exhibit that will be installed next summer on the ground floor of Michael Paul Galvin Tower at 35th and State Streets. Short films and an upcoming book will further enhance the initiative, spearheaded by IIT College of Architecture faculty Michelangelo Sabatino, professor of architectural history and preservation.



Prof. Sabatino and Devin Huntington are collaborating on a book about Bronzeville titled Building, Breaking, Rebuilding: The IIT Campus and Chicago's South Side (University of Missouri Press, 2024). In April 2023, a fragment from the demolished Meeks Place in Bronzeville, representing the complex history, was donated by the Illinois Institute of Technology to the Art Institute of Chicago's new architectural fragments gallery.

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In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape

Ciolek Karatay

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PHD DEFENDED DISSERTATION ABSTRACT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BENEFITS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF URBAN GREEN SPACES (UGS): A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF COMMUNITIES IN CHICAGO, US



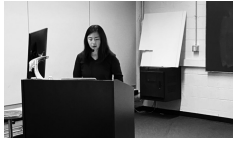
Liwen Kang
Thesis Defense (S. R. Crown Hall and Virtual)
April 10, 2023

There are three main interrelated areas of focus in this doctoral research related to urban green spaces (UGS): general well-being, mental health, and physical health. In this study, these three different health aspects were analyzed separately. The data of these three health outcomes were collected from the Healthy Chicago Survey (HCS), an annual telephone survey that interviewed adults in Chicago, US, based on randomly selected addresses.

Urban green spaces have been associated with better health and well-being. They provide sites for physical activity, buffer air and noise pollution, and alleviate thermal discomfort. Urban green spaces also promote social interaction and increase social cohesion. However, research is limited to the health benefits of different types of UGS exposure. This research aimed to reveal the associations between the provision of different UGS types and urban residents' general, mental, and physical health in Chicago, the largest-city in the US.

Urban green spaces data were collected from the National Land Cover Database (NLCD), the Meter-Scale Urban Land Cover (MULC), and the Chicago Park District (CPD). Different types of UGS were obtained, namely 1) the percent tree canopy cover (TCC) from the first database; 2) the percentage of trees and the percentage of grass from the second database; and 3) the number of parks, park areas, and percentage of park areas from the third database. Using hierarchical and logistic regression models that controlled for a range of confounding factors (age, gender, race, education level, employment status, and poverty level), this study assessed which type of UGS affects general well-being, mental health, and physical health, respectively. The results

indicated that increased park area was significantly associated with better perceived general health; a higher percent of TCC was significantly associated with a lower level of psychological distress (PD); and an increased percentage of park areas and increased number of parks were associated with lower odds of being obese. Two micro-scaled on-site observations were conducted in the Avalon Park community and the Loop community to analyze some other UGS characteristics besides quantity and availability. Other characteristics of UGS, such as quality of facilities, attractiveness, and maintenance, are suggested to be taken into consideration for future studies. The study highlights that different UGS types have various impacts on the general, mental, and physical health of urban residents. By providing scientific evidence, this study may help policymakers, urban planners, landscape architects, and other related professionals to make informed decisions on maximizing the health benefits of UGS and to achieve social equity. The findings of this study may be applied to other metropolitan cities.



Liwen Kang during her dissertation defense.

In Between Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape

Pomtreau 07

PHD DEFENDED DISSERTATION ABSTRACT PARKS TAKE COMMAND: PUBLIC SPACE CENTERED DESIGN FRAMEWORKS FOR CHICAGO'S LARGE-SCALE PRIVATE DEVELOPMENTS



Alejandro Saldaña Perales
Thesis Defense (S. R. Crown Hall and Virtual)
January 19, 2024

New challenges are shaping the contemporary North American urban landscape. Accelerating social transformations and environmental threats unfold in most major cities, whilst coping with their growth and expansion. In Chicago, a new wave of large-scale private developments are being introduced as a powerful force towards addressing these new challenges. Therefore, by employing comprehensive design frameworks, parks can be designed as tools to tackle these threats.

Chicago attracts new residents to its Central Area, one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the US. Limited availability of land in this district is pushing new urban developments to its boundaries towards the city's historical neighborhoods. Several large-scale projects are being developed adjacent to historical Black American communities. These actions face serious consequences to Chicago's currently fragile urban landscape. Like the Bronzeville Lakefront development, large-scale private developments are seen as feasible alternatives in meeting the growing demand for new urban landscapes in Chicago's Central Area. The city's large number of abandoned industrial yards, legacy of Chicago's industrial past, supply large and attractive sites for private capital to invest and develop. Considering the scale of these interventions, local city authorities have tightened reviewing processes for new developments. However, no concrete objective design and assessment standards have been established so far. Through current assessment mechanisms, local authorities focus on the building stock, overlooking parks and public spaces. Parks are critical for optimal social and environmental development of Chicago.

My research introduces seven public-space centered frameworks aimed at assessing and designing parks in these developments. These frameworks are constructed through a case study analysis of a selection of parks currently performing as agents of positive impact whilst managing the challenges and threats seen in growing North American cities. My work aims to harness Chicago's urban growth to better address the context of local social and urban crisis, as well as a global climate emergency. It argues the processes of shaping these developments should focus on the design of their park landscapes. Ultimately, it expresses faith in the ability of private capital to collaborate with city authorities, communities, and designers in shaping the future urban landscape.



PhD candidate Alejandro Saldaña Perales defending his dissertation.

Çiçek Karataş

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This is a summary of PhD student and PhD alumni accomplishments throughout the 2023–24 academic year:

AWARDS, EVENTS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INVITATIONS

Azari Rahman, Session Chair for the PhD Discussion Panel at the ARCC 2023 International Conference in Dallas, Texas, Associate Professor of Architecture and Director of REE Lab at the Pennsylvania State University, Former Program Director of the PhD Program at the College of Architecture, UT 2023.

Henderson, Ron, Prof. Henderson was the 2023 John H. Hoover Award Recipient for "Silabus Orion," a project that began in 2018 and continued despite a pandemic-induced break. It showcases fifteen short stories capturing the beauty of urban illnesses.

Henderson, Ron, Villobos, Maria, These professors have been granted an award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their project titled "SAR: Stormwater Resilience in Urban Areas."

Joong Hyun, Assistant Professor in the School of Planning and Urban Design and Co-Director of the Simpson Center for Urban Futures, and also member of our PhD community. Dr. Joong was featured in a video titled Sustainable Cities and the Intersection of Social Sciences and Urban Design, part of a series revealing the institutions' most recent research. According to the video, "It highlights and clarifies how Hyslop's research focuses on sustainable cities and the intersection of social sciences and urban design."

Karataş, Çiçek, Awarded the 2023 Lindsay Jones Memorial Research Fund grant from the Architects, Culture and Sustainability Forum (ACSF) in May 2023 for her project, "Dissecting the Cultural Significance of Religious Buildings Damaged by the Hazy Earthquake," focusing on preserving heritage and advancing spiritual and environmental sustainability.

Karataş, Çiçek, Invited to be the critical reviewer for 2-year Design Studio III for the midterm and final.

Khanam, Pooja, Dr. Khanam has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Texas Tech University.

Khan, Zahid, After a year as a visiting professor, Dr. Khan is now a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Ball State University.

PUBLICATIONS

Ariaa Benacourt, Aqila, "The Unbroken City: The Urban Possibilities of Autonomous Vehicles and Navigation Safety," *The Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture*, June (2023).

Abbassadi, Najmeh, Ashayer, Mehdi, Dr. Abbassadi and Dr. Ashayer authored "Multi-Objective Optimization for Designing Kinetic Shading Patterns" and "LEED V4 Certifications and Indoor Air Quality Evaluation During the Covid-19 Stay-at-home" with Samir Kamalipour and Somayeh Giv, Presented at the ARCC International Conference, Dallas, Texas (2023).

Fardouli, Saad, Haniotis, Samir, Hoderjanz, Mohamed, Mikes, Lobos, Stephens, Brent, "Design and Demonstration of a Bioclimatic Thermally Active Student Desk in a Modern Landmark for Personalized Cooling, Heating, Science and Technology for the Built Environment (D024).

Hoderjanz, Mohamed, Mikes, Lobos, Stephens, Brent, Assessment of Indoor Environmental Conditions and Perceived Occupant Thermal Comfort in Media Modern S.R. Crown Hall, *Building Research & Information* (2024)

Sabatino, Michela, PhD, IT College of Architecture professor. Dr. Sabatino is the author of "The Formative Architecture and Culture annual international symposium in Istanbul, Turkey, June 2024. The event's theme is "Resurgence of the Past, Spirit of the Future: Exploring Transcendent Unity in a World of Multiculturalism." She is presenting her paper "Spiritual and Cultural Sustainability: Preserving Heritage in Antalya, Turkey, After the Earthquake," and conducting a workshop named "Hermony Unveiled: Exploring the Symbiotic Dance of Architecture, Spirituality, and the Living Earth."

Karataş, Çiçek, Second-year PhD student Karataş' paper, "Spiritual and Cultural Sustainability: Preserving Heritage in Antalya, Turkey, After the Earthquake," has been accepted for presentation at the ConQuest PhD Symposium 2024. The event is set to take place April 14-16, 2024, at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Karataş, Çiçek, Second-year PhD student Karataş' applications have been selected for "The Formative Architecture and Culture annual international symposium in Istanbul, Turkey, June 2024. The event's theme is "Resurgence of the Past, Spirit of the Future: Exploring Transcendent Unity in a World of Multiculturalism." She is presenting her paper "Spiritual and Cultural Sustainability: Preserving Heritage in Antalya, Turkey, After the Earthquake," and conducting a workshop named "Hermony Unveiled: Exploring the Symbiotic Dance of Architecture, Spirituality, and the Living Earth."

Karataş, Çiçek, Second-year PhD student Karataş' paper, "Resurgence of the Past, Spirit of the Future: Exploring Transcendent Unity in a World of Multiculturalism," has been accepted for presentation at the European Research on Architecture and Urbanism International Conference – RARE-URBAN, The conference, themed "The Role of Cooperativity in the Era of Verticalization," is scheduled for June 12-14, 2024, in Milan, Italy.

position of acts for rich experience, forward-thinking ideas, and steadfast commitment to the field.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Feng, Di, Presented two posters at the ARCC 2023 International Conference in Dallas, Texas. The first, co-authored with E. Labadie, Lundquist and Victoria Merrim, focused on "Environmental Justice: A Case Study into the Heat Vulnerable Neighborhoods of Philadelphia" for the Planning, Policy, and Resilience session. The second paper, co-authored with Nitesh Chandra Kulkarni and Yanyu Yang, titled "Reimagine Downtown Philadelphia: A Generative Urban Design Workflow Integrating Real-World Transportation, Zoning, and Performance" was presented at the Technology and Architecture session.

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In Between Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape

Sabatino, Michela, PhD, Sabatino participated at the opening of the "Living with Heat" exhibition on September 17, 2023. He shed light on the intersection of architecture and daily life and contributed an essay titled "Wired and the Energy" to the exhibition's forthcoming catalog.

Sabatino, Michela, PhD, Sabatino has been invited to present his research at the ARCC 2023 International Conference in Dallas, Texas, in April 2023. The paper titled "Parks Take Command: A Framework for Public Space Centered Design Frameworks for Chicago's Large-Scale Private Developments" will be presented at the Planning, Policy, and Resilience session.

Sabatino, Michela, PhD, Sabatino and Ambrose delivered into the legacy of modern Chicago houses, offering an insightful presentation on October 31, 2023, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus.

Sabatino Perales, Alejandro, PhD Candidate Sabatino Perales presented his paper at the ARCC 2023 International Conference in Dallas, Texas, in April 2023. The paper titled "Parks Take Command: A Framework for Public Space Centered Design Frameworks for Chicago's Large-Scale Private Developments in the Bronzeville Suburban Community during the Planning, Policy, & Resilience second session."

DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS

During this past year, two students successfully defended their dissertations:

Kang, Liwen, "Health and Well-Being Benefits of Different Types of Urban Green Spaces (UGS): A Cross-Sectional Study of Communities in Chicago, US (2019-2023)," Illinois Institute of Technology, December 2023, Committee: Dr. Michela Sabatino (IT CoA), Dr. Howard (IT Lewis College) Science and Letters, Ron Henderson (IT CoA), Dr. Maria Villobos (Hender IT CoA), and Nitesh Chandra (IT Lewis College of Science and Letters).

Sabatino Perales, Alejandro, "Parks Take Command: Public Space Centered Design Frameworks for Chicago's Large-Scale Private Developments (2020-2024)," PhD thesis, Illinois Institute of Technology, May 2024, Committee: Prof. Vedra Mims (IT CoA), Dr. Maria Villobos (Hender IT CoA), Dr. Daniel Biles (IT Lewis College of Science and Letters), Prof. Paul Massimo (University of Toronto), John A. Daniels (Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design), Dr. Michela Sabatino (IT CoA), and Dr. Daniel Biles (IT Lewis College of Science and Letters).

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Karataş, Çiçek, 2023-2024 Vinci Fellowship Tuition Scholarship – Cultural and Heritage preservation and digital innovation amidst rising global crises: Exploring the transformative potential and interdisciplinary dynamics shaping our understanding and conservation efforts in the 21st century.



Sabatino Perales, Alejandro, 2023-2024 Vinci Fellowship Tuition Scholarship – Parks Take Command: Public Space Centered Design Frameworks for Chicago's Large-Scale Private Developments.



Mubarak Bakarrum, Amma, 2023-2024 PhD Program Spirit Award – Awarded to a graduating PhD student and selected by the PhD students and PhD Candidates in recognition of outstanding contributions to building community spirit.

2023–24 Vinci Fellowship Tuition Scholarships

Congratulations to the recipients: Çiçek Karataş and Alejandro Saldaña Perales

2023–24 CoA – PhD Program End-of-Year Awards

Every year graduating students receive three awards: the ARCC King Student Medal, the Best Defended Dissertation Award, and the Spirit Award.

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