

SoAD_ Selected Projects & Achievements in 2026

A. SoAD Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Partners in 2026:

1. Gyeonsang National University, Korea
2. Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia – IUAV, Italy
3. Polytechnic University of Tirana, Albania
4. Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE), Dominican Republic

B. SoAD Student Scholarships and Awards in 2026:

1. CFA Scholarship - Lillian Ayodele – (Profs. Trudy Brens & Evan Shieh)
2. AIA NY Scholarship - Emily Mejia – (Profs. Trudy Brens and Robert Cody)
3. AIA Scholarship - Bagdad Numi – (Prof. Giovanni Santamaria)
4. SARA NY Award - Sean Guadron - (Prof. Evan Shieh)
2. SARA NY Award - Dominic Marando – (Prof. Evan Shieh)
3. SARA NY Award - Aaron Kumpf – (Prof. Jeannette Sordi)
4. SARA NY Award - Chana Rhodes – (Prof. Jeannette Sordi)
6. Metropolis 100 Award - Khaoula El Jaabak (Prof. Jeannette Sordi)
7. Metropolis 100 Award - Sivapriya Janakiraman – (Prof. Farzana Gandhi)
8. MIT Hackathon 2026 - Digital Art and Design Department, students Megan Cortes, Sharodiya Dutta, Nazeli Sayra Kurtoglu, Casey Losinski, Roshan Pareira, Bryana Rodriguez – (Prof. Kevin Park)
9. NEXT GEN DESIGN 2026 “Futures Worth Living” - Kathrina Deicmane - (Prof. Farzana Gandhi)

C. SoAD Faculty Grants in 2026:

1. Methodologies for Action: A Collective Toolkit for Design Futures; NYIT-ISRC Grant, Period: 2026-2027; PI: Marcella del Signore & Co-PI: Evan Shieh; Description: This grant supports the development and production of an edited book and open-access repository that catalogues transferable design methodologies across architecture and allied disciplines, creating a shared toolkit for teaching, research, practice, and multi-scalar action.
2. A.L.L. H.U.M.A.N.S. are born equal; NEA Grants for Arts Projects; Location: Olga's El Gallo Community Garden, East Harlem, New York; Period: 2025-2026; PI: Alessandro Melis; Co-Is: Farzana Gandhi, Kevin Sung Park, Fadhil Fadhil; Faculty Collaborators: Brian Polgar; Additional collaborators: Michael Davis (university of Auckland), Alessandro Premier (University of Auckland), Filmmaker Pietro Mereu; Jury Assessor Luciano Scuderi, Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity, Italian Ministry of Culture; Partners: NYC GreenThumb/ NYC Parks, East Harlem community garden stakeholders; Description: The project supports a multidisciplinary public art installation, documentary, and book publication focused on community garden regeneration in East Harlem, developed through SoAD-led creative research, participatory engagement, and public-facing dissemination.
3. C.U.L.T.I.V.A.R.T.E. — Community Urban Landscapes Transforming through Interactive Vital Art and Therapeutic Engagement; NEA Our Town; Location: East Harlem, New York; Period: 2025 – 2026; PI: Alessandro Melis; Co-Is / Faculty Collaborators: Farzana Gandhi, Kevin Sung Park, Fadhil Fadhil; Additional collaborators: Filmmaker Pietro Mereu; Partners: NYC Parks GreenThumb / NYC Parks; Description: C.U.L.T.I.V.A.R.T.E. is a community co-creation and public art initiative in East Harlem that uses art, urban farming, biomaterials, digital fabrication, and generative AI to foster community participation, improve access to healthy food, enhance environmental quality, and strengthen social bonds.
4. BODYSCAPES: A Biosensory Exploration of Unlimited Design; National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) – Grants for Art Projects (GAP) – Design; Period: 2026; PI: Athina Papadopoulou; Co-PI: Florencia Vetcher; Collaborating Faculty: Lyla Wu, Ezio Blasetti, Brian Polgar, Fadhil, Fadhil; Accessibility Advisor: Peter Slatin; Partners: The Henry Viscardi School, NY; Inclusive Sports and Fitness (ISF) NY; Kidz Choice/SPARTA NY; New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC); Description: BODYSCAPES: A Biosensory Exploration of Unlimited Design is an interactive exhibition that challenges normative measurements and conventional design practices in support of disabled and neurodiverse users through adaptive products, immersive installations, and participatory educational practices.

D. SoAD_ Community Design Studio (Arch 402) in the Bronx– Spring 2026

Our 4th year Arch 402 Urban/Community Design Exhibition / Competition end-of-semester event brought together both of our Manhattan and Long Island campuses for a year-end showcase that exhibited the entire 4th year B.Arch cohort of work from the New York Institute of Technology-School of Architecture and Design at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community Center in the Bronx. Their urban design project this semester took on the capping of the Cross Bronx Expressway to imagine new urban futures for the Bronx.

Congratulations to the 5x student group Winners and 3x Honorable Mentions awarded! These 8x projects were selected by a super-jury panel made up of external academics, community members, and local stakeholders for excellence in urban & community design.

Arch 402 Coordinators: Edgar Papazian, Paul Ruppert

Arch 402 Faculty: Edgar Papazian, Paul Ruppert, Evan Shieh, Tom Verebes, John DeFazio, Inanc Eray, Laura del Pino, and David Wallance

Semester: Spring 2026

Winners:

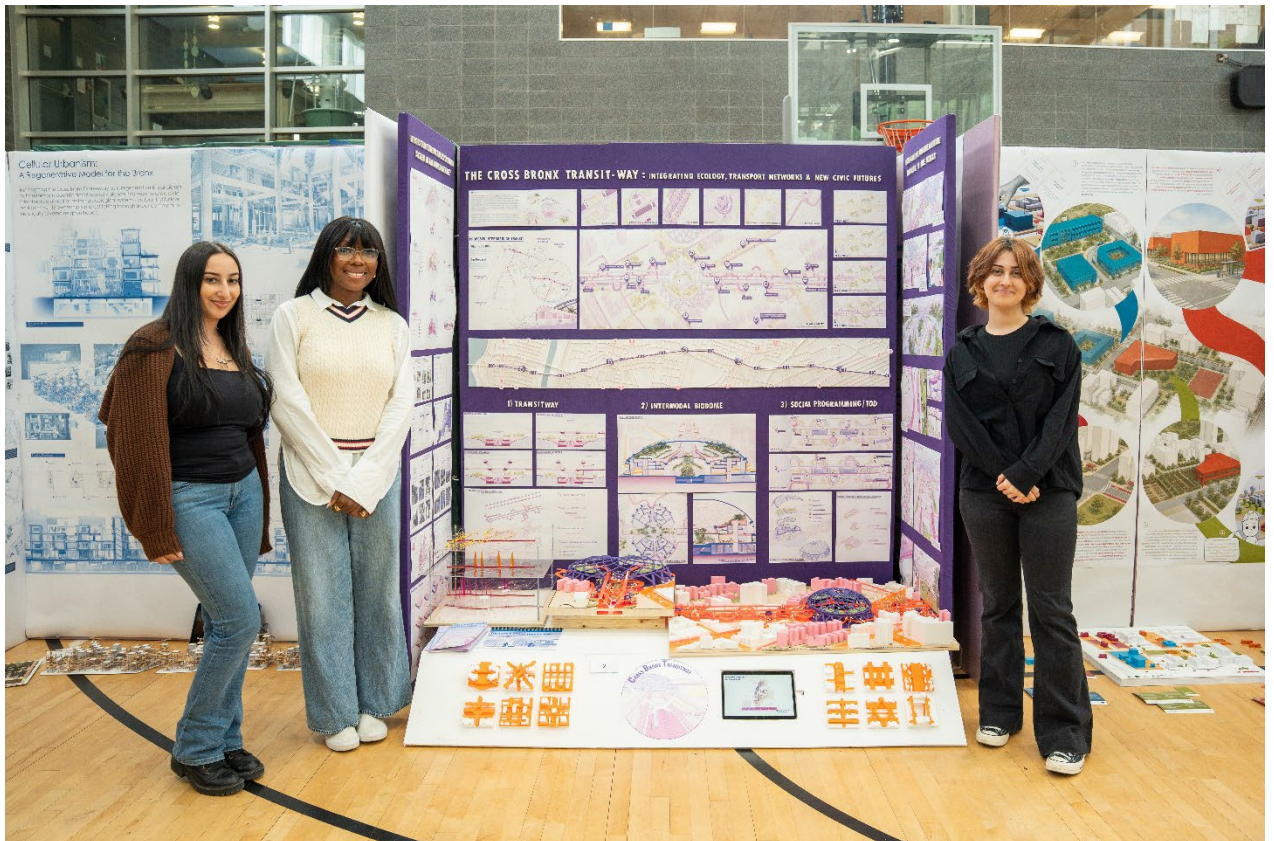
- + The Cross Bronx Transit-Way: Integrating Ecology, Transport Networks & New Civic Futures by Lillian Ayodele, Maggie Viti, Melisa Ramlogan
- + Power Blocks by Sonika Acharya, Vidissha Nikam, Aneibys Nivar
- + Nexus by Emily Clukies, Osvaldo Bravo, Yulissa Luciano
- + The Hydro-Ecological Stitch by Bianca Hernandez, Madison Erbelding, Aleina Sabu
- + The Connected City By Sarah Mounessa, Maha Bukhari, Liam Geoghegan

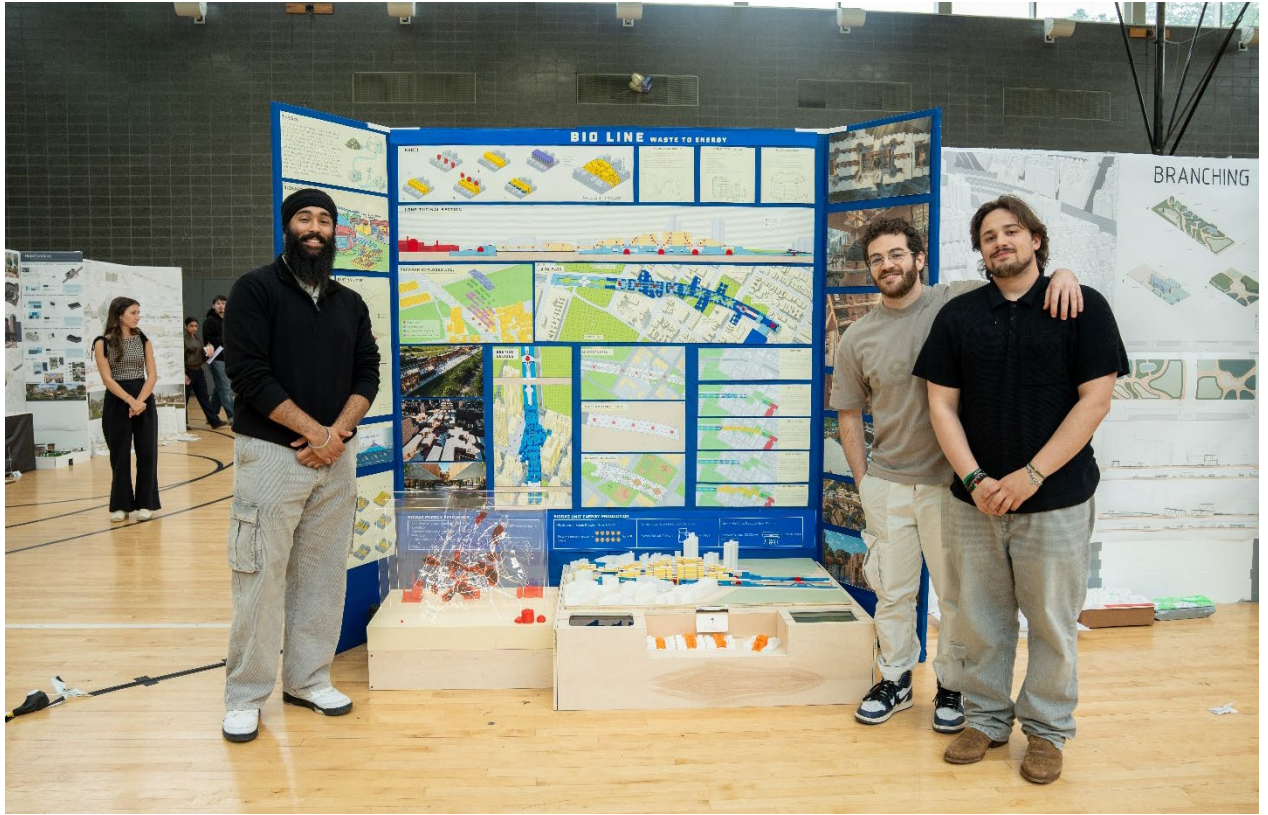
Honorable Mentions:

- + Cellular Urbanism by Jayson Haxhari, Dylan Phillips, Taesean Austin
- + Block Party by Gerardo Ruiz, Natalie Vega, Sabrina Akbarally
- + Cross-Bronx Bio-line by Benjamin Gutmenstein, Harsahib Singh, Giovanni Calo









E. SoAD_ Community Build Design –Material Tectonics (Arch 724) Spring-Summer 2026

This spring we're building a nesting structure for NYRP Programs and Herb Garden in East Harlem with students from the M.Arch Program at NYIT-School of Architecture and Design to create nests that will house sparrows, mourning doves, carpenter bees, roses and humans. The structure will be created from cedar and woven willow reeds. This is the 7th year we have built a permanent structure for community spaces around NYC, thank you Dean Maria R. Perbellini and M.Arch Director Robert Cody for your continuing support of this initiative that gives young architecture students the opportunity to focus on civic-minded architectural contributions to local communities.

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) is a non-profit conservancy that transforms neglected public spaces into green community hubs across all five boroughs.



**NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

School of Architecture
& Design

Design x Intelligence symposium investigates the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and the design disciplines. As AI becomes increasingly capable of generating visual concepts and analyzing information and complex systems, it transforms not just the tools designers use but the nature of design agency itself. What happens to creativity, authorship, and decision-making when intelligent systems can initiate design solutions, learn user needs, predict results, and intervene in the design process?

AI



THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

1 P.M. – 7 P.M.

16 W. 61st STREET, 11th FLOOR

CRITICAL

FUTURES

speakers

By engaging scholars, technology experts, architecture and design practitioners, the symposium positions design as a critical actor in shaping AI's trajectory. Rather than reacting to technological change, designers are invited to actively negotiate what ethical, imaginative, and humane forms of intelligence we want to cultivate—and how these will reshape the creative professions of the future.

All SoAD events are hosted
and supported by Dean Maria Perbellini

SoAD Lectures and Events Chairs:
Athina Papadopoulou and Nadar Vossoughian

Visual Design: Rozina Vavetsi

**design x
intelligence
symposium**

Introduction

MARIA PERBELLINI

Dean, Professor
New York Tech, SoAD

Symposium chair & moderator

ATHINA PAPADOPOULOU

Assistant Professor, Co-director ReMEDialab
New York Tech, SoAD

Symposium co-moderator

ALESSANDRO MELIS

Professor, IDC Foundation Endowed Chair
Interim Director of M.S. Architecture,
Computational Technology
New York Tech, SoAD

ALEXANDROS HARIDIS

Lecturer in Design Computing
Harvard University

DIEGO PINOCHET

Computational Designer

HEATHER LIGLER

Assistant Professor
Florida Atlantic University

LOUKIA TSAFOULIA

Associate Professor & Co-director
Synesthetic Research & Design Lab
Thomas Jefferson University

CHARLES PORTELLI

Digital Innovation Strategist
& Computational Designer
Perkins & Will

SEVERINO ALFONSO

Assistant Professor & Co-director
Synesthetic Research & Design Lab
Thomas Jefferson University

ONUR YÜCE GÜN

Director of Computational Design
New Balance

G. SoAD_ Urban Hackathon 2026 - SoAD, NYIT & CUSP, NYU



Center for Urban
Science + Progress

NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

School of Architecture
& Design

NYU TANDON

Urban Futures Hackathon

Co-hosted by NYIT School of Architecture & Design — Urban Design Program and CUSP at NYU Tandon

Collaborate with
designers, urban scientists,
data analysts, & policy
thinkers to co-create
solutions for New York
City's most pressing
challenges—culminating in
a March 2026 showcase
and exhibition!

Virtual Information Session
WED • 01.28.26 • 1-2 PM

Registration Deadline
FRI • 02.13.26 • 11:59 PM

Hackathon Day 1
FRI • 02.20.26 • NYU Tandon

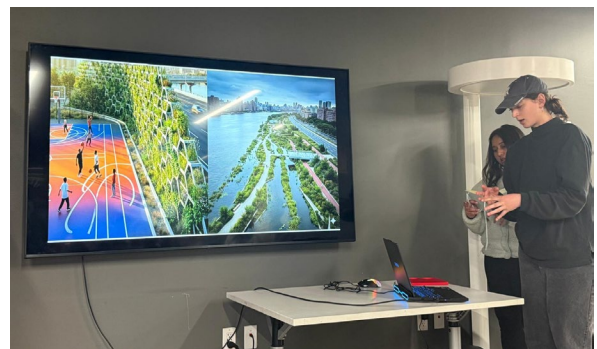
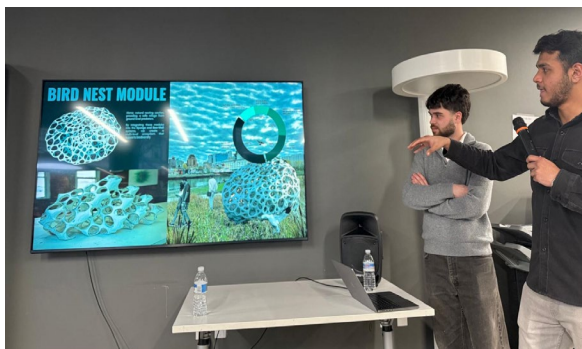
Hackathon Day 2
SAT • 02.21.26 • NYIT

Final Presentation & Exhibit
March 2026



RSVP on Luma





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International Design Workshop

Venice, Italy July 1st -17th , 2026

Open to 3rd & 4th year NYIT B.Arch Students

*Interested in spending two weeks this summer in Italy immersed in an international design workshop? Rising upper-level NYIT SoAD B.Arch students are invited to apply and join NYIT faculty to participate in this collaborative summer design workshop at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia (IUAV), working alongside students and faculty of other universities from around the world to develop new design skills, ideas, and projects centered on the 2026 theme: **Balance**.*

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding between NYIT-SoAD and IUAV, there will be no workshop fees for our selected students, and an SoAD Dean's Scholarship (\$1,000-\$1,500) will be offered to assist each student with the program costs including discounted lodging (\$2,000). Students will register and pay tuition for a 3-credit Architecture Elective Class—Arch 381 (\$4,840 tuition + \$580 college fees) that will count towards their B.Arch Program's degree requirements. Additional costs will be budgeted by each student for airfare and meals.

*Students interested in applying for this exciting opportunity should email:
Associate Dean & Professor Giovanni Santamaria (gsantama@nyit.edu)
Assistant Professor Evan Shieh (eshieh@nyit.edu)*

This workshop is made possible thanks to the institutional partnerships, funding, and generous support provided by NYIT-SoAD Dean's office & Dean Maria Perbellini.

Istituto
Universitario
di Architettura
di Venezia

NEW YORK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

School of Architecture
& Design

SoAD_ Semester Abroad Fall 26 – Peccioli, Italy



**The NYIT School of Architecture and Design
Inaugural Fall 2026 Semester Abroad in Peccioli, Tuscany, Italy
Enrolls 16 Bachelor of Architecture students in
a full semester program which includes 3 courses in Architecture:**

ARCH 501 Architectural Design VII	5 credits
ARCH 531 Thesis Topical Research Seminar	3 credits
ARCH 481 Professional Practice – hybrid remote	3 credits

This live and study in Peccioli academic semester, includes field trips traveling to Pisa, Siena, San Gimignano, Florence, Venice and Rome.

L. SoAD_ Participation at the 2026 NYCxDDesign Event

On May 14, 2026 New York Tech School of Architecture and Design (SoAD) celebrated the culmination of the Bachelor of Architecture Thesis Studio (Arch 501 & Arch 502) work from the 2025-2026 Academic Year from our New York City and Long Island campuses with the exhibition and opening event "Worlds Un/Designed", hosted jointly with NYCxDDesign as part of their event festival calendar!

The event & exhibition was held on our Manhattan campus at 1855 Broadway and the work will be on display until the end of May. Select stellar thesis work is exhibited, and several students presented their accomplished graduating design thesis. The event also showcased the diverse array of final Thesis Books produced by our thesis students as a culmination of their final degree projects. Congratulations to all our graduated B.Arch thesis students and their faculty!

The exhibition is curated by School of Architecture & Design Dean Maria Perbellini, co-curated by Associate Deans Anthony Caradonna, Giovanni Santamaria, Prof. Alessandro Melis, Architecture Department Chairs Trudy Brens & Dongsei Kim, along with Thesis Studio co-coordinators Farzana Gandhi & Evan Shieh.

Participating thesis faculty advisors / studio instructors: Trudy Brens, Dongsei Kim, Farzana Gandhi, Evan Shieh, Jeanette Sordi, John Bermudez, and Victoria Vuono.







