

The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning

may 29, 2012

CRP Announces Faculty Promotion and Tenure-Track Hires

The Department of City and Regional Planning is pleased to announce the promotion of **Stephan Schmidt** to tenured associate professor, and the hires of two tenure-track faculty.

Schmidt's tenure comes after six years of service as an assistant professor at CRP, teaching courses in urban development, environmental planning, and GIS. His promotion was announced at the Cornell Board of Trustees meeting this past weekend.



Stephan Schmidt

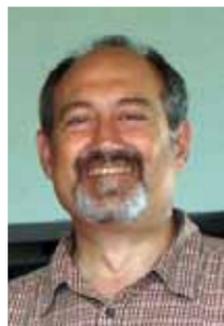
After an extensive faculty search during the Fall and Spring Semesters, CRP welcomes **Victoria Beard** and **Jeff Chusid** to its team of tenure-track faculty.

Beard, whose teaching focus will be in international development, has research interests which revolve around the relationship between community-level collective action and poverty alleviation in the context of international development planning. She plans to begin teaching next spring.



Victoria Beard

Chusid has taught in the Historic Preservation Planning program as an Associate Professor since 2005. His recently published book, *Saving Wright: The Freeman House and the Preservation of Meaning, Materials, and Modernity*, was awarded the 2012 Historic Preservation Book Prize by the Historic Preservation Center at Mary Washington University.



Jeff Chusid

CRP will continue its faculty search for land use and other positions this coming academic year.



See page 3 for more pictures of the CRP graduation reception.

Graduation 2012

At Friday and Sunday's commencement activities, CRP faculty, students, and staff said farewell to CRP's graduating students and wished them well. Over the years, the newly-minted alumni have made a great impression on the department with their efforts, energy, and talent, and will be missed.

A number of students were recognized for their outstanding achievements and service.

URS Academic Achievement Award

Tim Becker
Evan Preminger

AICP Outstanding Student Award

Rebecca Baran-Rees

URS Community Service Award

Marc Dominianni
Ryan Shedd

CRP Graduate Community Service Award

Cymone Bedford
Dhanya Elias
Thane Maxwell
Ariel Morales

Thomas W. Mackesey Award

Thane Maxwell
Zachary Patton

John W. Reps Award

Jonathon Rusch

Kermit C. Parsons & Janice I. Parsons Scholarship

Caitlin Vollmer
Rebecca Gershon

Peter B. Andrews Memorial Thesis Prize

Gregory Pritchard

Robert P. Liversidge III Memorial Book Award

Chris Hayes

Portman Graduate Student Award

Vidhee Garg

Pamela Mikus Graduate Fellowship

Rafia Usmani

URS Honors Students

Timothy Becker
Min Bu
Claire Douglass
Susanne Fortunato
Lindsay Hoolehan
Angela Sun
Caitlin Vollmer

New York Upstate Chapter of APA Award for Outstanding Student Project

Planning for Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale: What Communities Need To Know

Vera Bartolome Diaz (MRP '11)
Thomas Roger Knipe (MRP '11)
Christopher David Smith (MRP '11)
David Jeremiah West (MRP candidate)
Ethan Warsh (MRP '11)
Austin Zwick (MPA '12)

Congratulations to the Class of 2012! Keep in touch as you continue your journey into a bright future!

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CRPConnect

network with students, faculty, and alumni

RSERN

regional science and economic research network



Students Host Planners Network Forum

On May 18th and 19th, over 70 students and activists from across the Northeast came together for “Partnerships for Equity: A Planners Network Forum.” The conference was organized by a MRP student committee with representatives of the **Organization of Cornell Planners**, **Planning Students for Diversity**, **Women’s Planning Forum**, **Preservation Studies Student Organization**, the **Department of City and Regional Planning**, and the **Public Service Center**.

Chris Hayes (MRP ’12) reports that last year’s **Planners Network National Conference** in Memphis, TN inspired the Forum. “When the group who went to Memphis heard there’d be no national conference this year, we decided we had to put on one of our own.”

The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss partnerships and coalitions progressive planners can build to achieve social, economic, and environmental justice goals. Special guests included **Planners Network** founder **Chester Hartman**, infamous community planning expert-activist **Kenneth Reardon**, and 2012 *Cornell Civic Leader Fellow* **Kirby Edmonds**.

The conference began with a thanksgiving from **Cayuga Nation** subchief **Karl Hill**, followed by a lively panel discussion with **Edmonds**, **Ray Bromley** (SUNY Albany), and **Justin Woods** (Ticonderoga Revitalization Alliance), about the ethics of progressive planning and the need for building partnerships.

Forum attendee, **Amy Liu** (MRP ’12), commented, “[The talk] led me to realize that as a planner, I shouldn’t shy away from bringing politics to the workplace. Rather, by using progressive planning tactics, we can publicize social and environmental justice issues that citizens would not hear and learn about otherwise.”

Attendees then attended concurrent sessions that included over 20 speakers. Highlights included a joint talk about partnerships across race, place, and culture for food justice in **Tompkins County**, a panel of representatives from **Onondaga Nation** and community partners discussing efforts to clean **Onondaga Creek**, and a description by Reardon of **Vance Avenue’s** residents’ fight against City Hall in Memphis. The conference concluded on Saturday with tours of **Danby Land Bank** and the **Cayuga Waterfront Trail** and a discussion with Hartman about how progressive planning history can inform tomorrow’s campaigns.

The event marked 33 years since Cornell hosted an early conference integral to Planners Network formation, and CRP faculty **Pierre Clavel**, **John Forester**, and **Bill Goldsmith** celebrated the homecoming. Commented Goldsmith, “I... was enthused by the notion that progressive activities are alive in the Department, and am encouraged that still others may carry on... the meeting’s emphasis on race and poverty was a helpful reminder of how far we have to go.”

Thanks to Chris Hayes (MRP ’12) for contributing this article.



Ken Reardon presents at a Forum session.



Danby Land Bank Workshop participants.



Forum participants have dinner at the Finger Lakes Wine Center



a post-dinner guitar jam session with MRPs and other Forum participants.



Cayuga Waterfront tour.

MRPs Reach Out to Local High School

This week, eleven **Ithaca High School** seniors will present transportation improvement research and recommendations to the **Ithaca School Board** and the **Ithaca Board of Public Works**. The students are part of “**Grassroots Transportation Planning**,” a voluntary, five-part, after-school course led by **Dhanya Elias** (MRP ’12), **Chris Hayes** (MRP ’12), **Tracy Wax** (MRP ’12) and **Fanfan Zhao** (MRP ’13).

The MRP students, who were inspired by a comprehensive planning course taught by other MRPs in 2010, developed this year’s course with a transportation and grassroots focus after speaking with **Tim Logue**, an transportation engineer for Ithaca. He noted the City’s need for information on student transportation habits, including what influences student transportation choice and what needs to be fixed or changed to encourage biking and walking.

Following an overview on transportation planning terms and concepts, the high school students decided to focus on traffic congestion and safety problems near their school on **Cayuga Street**. The students then completed visual walkability surveys of surrounding streets, canvassed fellow students and pedestrians to learn about their transportation habits and garner support for infrastructure improvements, interviewed public officials, and researched alternative solutions.

Government teacher for the High School, **Sara Shenk**, commented, “We were very pleased that our students had the opportunity to work with Cornell graduate students on a real world application of the urban planning concepts they were studying in our class... The Cornell students... [encouraged] them to see themselves as agents of change.”

After analyzing the research, the students’ recommendations will include a reduced speed limit, parking lot redesigns, and improved bike lanes on Cayuga Street.

Ithaca High School student, **Frank West**, reflected on the experience, “...I learned that... a city or community project is not as easy as I think... I learned... this transportation project takes group effort and a lot of help... I would love to see the stuff that we plan in a few years.”

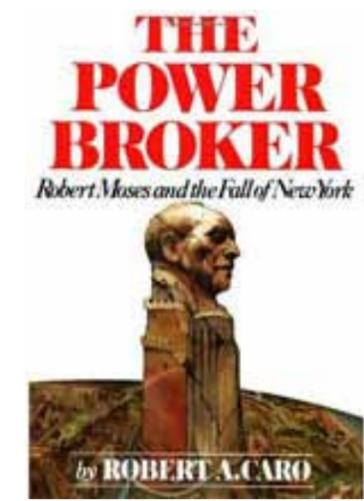
The project’s importance transcends transportation planning. Zhao explained, “What I learned from this process is the cooperative spirit of planning, which not only includes officials, professionals, but also people who will be involved... planners do need to respect the students’ demand for the city.”

Thanks to Chris Hayes (MRP ’12) and Fanfan Zhao (MRP ’13) for contributing this article.

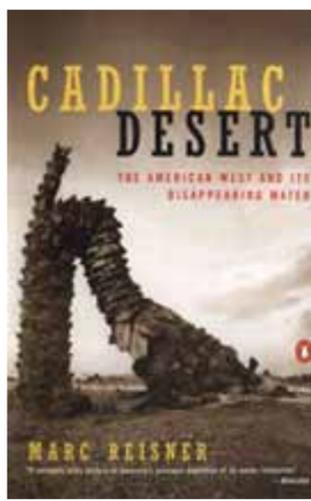
2012 Summer Reading List

Summer is a great time to catch up on all those books you've been hearing about, but just haven't had time to read. You won't want to miss the following recommendations from some of our faculty! For more recommendations, see Ann Forsyth's [list](#) of book lists on *Planetizen*.

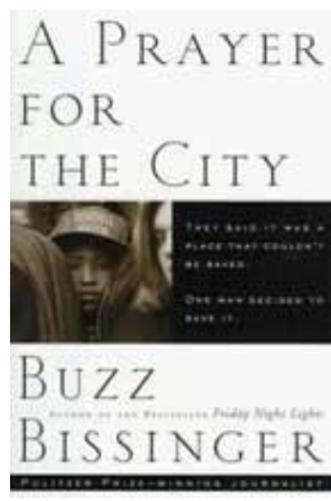
Dick Booth



The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York
by Robert Caro

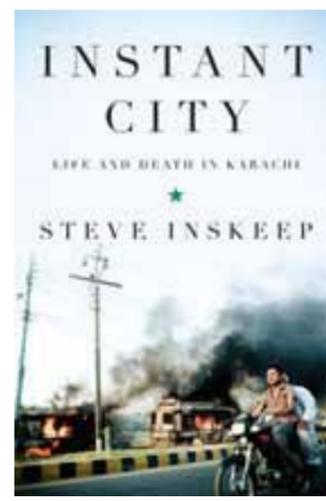


Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water
by Marc Reisner



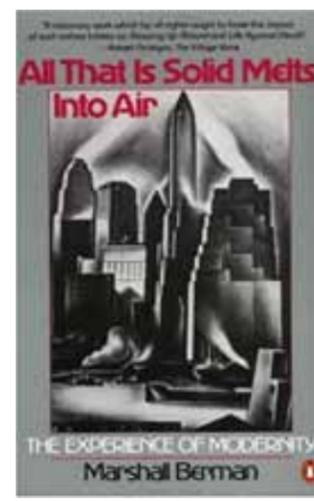
A Prayer for the City
by Buzz Bissinger

Nancy Brooks



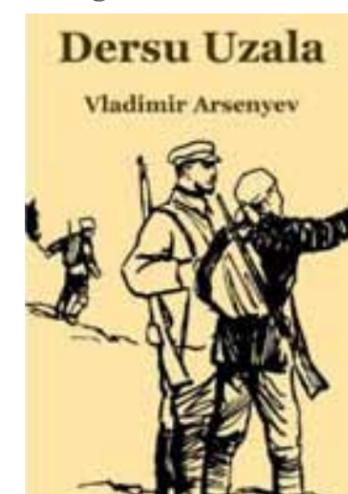
Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi
by Steve Inskeep

Bill Goldsmith



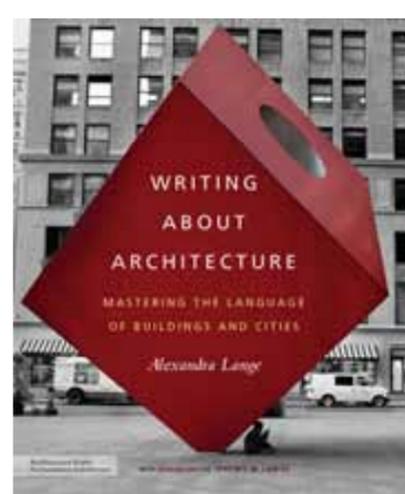
All That Is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity
by Marshall Berman

George Frantz

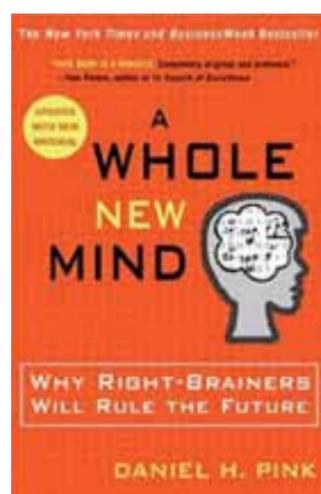


Dersu Uzala
by Vladimir Arsenyev

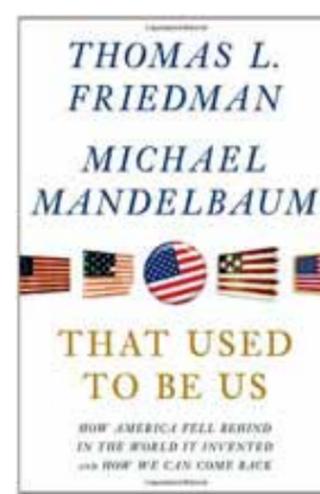
Pike Oliver



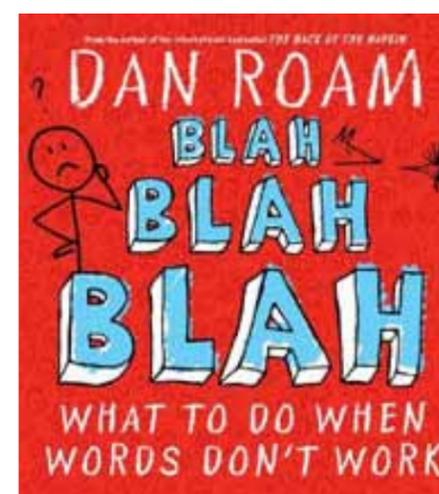
Writing About Architecture: Mastering the Language of Buildings and Cities
by Alexandra Lange



A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future
by Daniel H. Pink



That Used to Be Us
by Thomas L. Friedman & Michael Mandelbaum



Blah Blah Blah: What to do when words don't work
by Dan Roam

CRP Graduation Reception

