

SCI-FI: The Southern California Institute for Future Initiatives

Post-Graduate Studies Program

Master of Architecture Degree

Jeffrey Inaba and Paul Nakazawa, Program Coordinators

To influence the built environment after the “New Economy,” the architect must re-tool with new knowledge and skills sensitive to our period of cultural and economic leveling. SCI-FI, the Post-Graduate Studies program at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, continues the school’s commitment to experimentation by establishing a think tank to examine the conceptual territory between architecture and economic development. In the studio-intensive program students are introduced to contemporary urban ideas and real estate economics to develop creative ways to realistically shape cities. Based in Los Angeles, SCI-FI also believes in the power of movies. SCI-FI’s students are trained to communicate proposals through popular forms of media, with special emphasis on motion graphics, video, broadcasting and publications.

SCI-FI provides a context for fresh thinking about the discipline’s future direction. The program offers students new skills to influence urban life under the pressures of economic globalization, environmental change, and the world’s exploding informal sector. SCI-FI renews SCI-Arc’s track record of making by encouraging students to produce a highly refined product for publication and public display to complete their period of study.

To understand firsthand the emerging relationships between architecture and economic development, SCI-FI students will travel with faculty to cities throughout the world. All admitted candidates receive a stipend covering travel costs.

Eligibility

The program aims to prepare students wishing to pursue decision-making roles in architecture, urban planning and strategic planning. SCI-FI is primarily intended for students who have already completed a professional degree in architecture (BArch, MArch, or equivalent), and have fulfilled the educational requirements for professional licensing in the country that the degree was granted. However, those holding a Bachelor degree in any field wishing to pursue a non-traditional career in urbanism are also encouraged to apply. Exchange students and non-degree candidates are welcome on a case-by-case basis.

Admissions

Applications are accepted for the fall term only. The deadline to submit an application is January 15. For application requirements, go to: <http://www.sciarc.edu/v5/apply/index.php>

Program Structure

SCI-FI is a three-consecutive semester program that centers on the studio experience. The studio course serves as the primary platform for learning and discussions. Each semester the studio is complemented by a series of workshops led by visiting architects, urban thinkers, economists, and media designers from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

First Semester/Fall

SCI-FI Studio + 3 Workshops (9 units)

SCI-FI Seminar (3 units)

Elective: HTH, Hardtech, or Softech seminar (3 units)

Second Semester/Spring

SCI-FI Studio + 3 Workshops (9 units)

SCI-FI Seminar (3 units)

Elective: HTH, Hardtech, or Softech seminar (3 units)

Third Semester/Summer

SCI-FI Studio + 3 Workshops (9 units)

SCI-FI Seminar (3 units)

Elective: HTH, Hardtech, or Softech seminar (3 units)

Seminar Workshop Faculty

Visiting Faculty will provide intensive one to two seminar workshops on specific topics and applications including animation software technology, advanced video production, book design, contemporary art practices, land-use development, and web broadcasting. An important feature and priority of the program is to actively engage 'young-ish' experimental figures in each of these fields to share their ideas and sensibilities with SCI-FI students.

Biographies

Jeffrey Inaba, Program Coordinator

Jeffrey Inaba is a partner of HOLA, a creative research and planning firm based in Los Angeles and New York. Together with his partner, Heather Flood, HOLA has worked on a variety of projects ranging from urban plans to scented hair-clips. It's clients include Coca Cola, Nissan Infiniti, Samsung, Calvin Klein, Yogini, Greater State Street Council Chicago, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, Berlin Cameron Red Cell, and TBWA / Chiat / Day. His writings have appeared in Archis, Content, Assemblage and A+U. Currently, he and Peter Zellner are completing a book documenting the irrepressible attraction of suburban culture, entitled, Culture? Suburbia and the Systematic Rejection of Taste. He is the co-editor of the Harvard Project on the City's urban research publications, The Harvard Design School Guide To Shopping, Great Leap Forward (Taschen, 2002), and the forthcoming book on African urbanization, Lagos Handbook.

From 2000-2003 he was a principal of AMO Inc., a research think-tank based in New York and Rotterdam founded by the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. The firm's resumé of commissions includes strategic development and in-store technology for the Milan-based fashion house Prada, a long-range plan for Harvard University, editorial consulting for Condé Nast Publications, Condé Nast Media Group and for Wired Magazine, and planning strategies for the European Union, as well as for the governments of Shanghai and Beijing.

He is a PhD candidate in Architectural History and Theory at Harvard University. He received a Master of Architecture degree and a Master in Design Studies degree from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Art degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Paul Nakazawa, Program Coordinator

Paul Nakazawa works internationally as an advisor and strategist to practitioners in architecture, engineering, landscape architecture as well as to businesses in various other fields. Prior to forming his practice in 1993, Nakazawa served as managing principal for design firms in Boston, Chicago, and New York. His expertise encompasses business and practice strategy, marketing, practice management, finance, organizational development, pricing and terms for complex service agreements, and large-scale project mobilization.

Nakazawa's academic work focuses on the economic, programmatic and spatial impacts of globalization on cities. His research includes the study of economic "super-clusters" (highly concentrated capital investment and talent pools in delimited urban geographies), and the co evolution of formal and informal economic sectors in urbanization.

Nakazawa is a founding member and director of AMO, Inc., New York, the research and development arm of the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, launched in 2000 by Pritzker Prize laureate Rem Koolhaas as an enterprise focused on the investigation of matters involving contemporary organization, identity and culture.

In the public sector, Nakazawa served as chairman of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Designer Selection Board and on designer selection panels for other agencies of the Commonwealth. He serves as a professional advisor to selection committees for major institutional projects in the US and UK, and has participated in designer selections for over \$2 billion of construction. Nakazawa is a member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, an economic development agency of the Commonwealth for knowledge and innovation.

Nakazawa received his BA and MBA degrees from the University of Chicago, and a Master in Architecture from Harvard University. His built project experience includes high-rise structures, civic and cultural facilities, college/university buildings, specialized research and laboratory facilities, airport facilities, and heavy industrial construction.

Nakazawa is a registered architect in seven states. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, American Association for Artificial Intelligence, American Physical Society (American Institute of Physics), Boston Society of Architects, Boston Architectural Center Board of Overseers, and New York Academy of Sciences.