

# The Urban Studies Newsletter

Spring 2016



GIS map of Providence land parcels by Michael Caplan

## From the Director

As I am writing this, another rich and fast-paced semester is coming to an end. Again, it offered many opportunities for engagement with urban ideas, both new and long-established classes, and a series of engaging events.

Our Donald Saunders Fellow for Public Engagement and former director of the John Carter Brown Library Ted Widmer, taught a seminar on Brown's history and its place in the world, based on his book about Brown, "The History of an Idea." He also arranged a wonderful series of discussions with op-ed writers and editors from the New York Times, Boston Globe, and Boston Public Radio about "climbing down from the ivy tower." We had visits and lectures from world-famous urban artists and architects, such as Moshe Safdie, Dana Tang, and Charles Simonds. Cultural historian Eric Tang gave a lecture and research seminar based on his new book "Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto." Howard Chudacoff's book on College Sports appeared, Josh Pacevicz published an op-ed piece on Salon.com, and Stefano Bloch was interviewed on RI Television (Fox Providence: "Dan Yorke's State of Mind"), discussing his research on the assumed connection between crime and graffiti.

Our six bus tours, covered elsewhere in this newsletter, were once again all sold out and brought a mix of students and alums, faculty and emeriti, staff, and residents together on Friday afternoons to see "Providence through the eyes of an Urban Studies professor." We look forward to continuing the series next year. Many of our activities are supported by the Harriet David Goldberg '56 fund and we are most grateful for the Goldberg family's continued support. The program is strong and steadily expanding—as of last count, we have 86 concentrators and in a few weeks, a record number of 30 seniors will graduate at our ceremony at the Faculty Club. We hope to continue to stimulate interest in the Urban Studies program and attract members of the Brown community to participate in our many activities. All the best for a restful summer.

—Dietrich Neumann



BROWN

*Printed by TCI Press in Seekonk, MA  
Edited & Designed by Maya Sorabjee*

Stefano Bloch

Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow Stefano Bloch published an article, titled "Place-Based Elicitation: Interviewing Graffiti Writers at the Scene of the Crime," in the March 2016 edition of the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography.

Howard Chudacoff

At the beginning of 2016, Professor Howard Chudacoff’s new book, "Changing the Playbook: How Power, Profit, and Politics Transformed College Sports," was published by the University of Illinois Press. In the coming months, he will be participating in several speaking engagements related to the book. In early April, Professor Chudacoff published an op-ed, titled "Let’s Not Pay College Athletes," in the Wall Street Journal.

Patrick Malone

Professor Emeritus Patrick Malone is currently organizing a conference on tide mills and will be giving a presentation on tidal power in Boston’s Back Bay. The conference will be at the Waterworks Museum in Boston on November 12, 2016.

Josh Pacewicz

Assistant Professor Josh Pacewicz spent the semester teaching the urban fieldwork course, overseeing projects on topics ranging from community engagement by real estate developers to the roll out of Rhode Island’s Health Equity Zones. He has also tied up a myriad of loose ends on his forthcoming book, "Partisans and Partners: The Politics of the Post-Keynesian Society," which will be out this fall.

Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz

Visiting Lecturer Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz is currently working on two unrelated projects this semester. The first is a 2014 mortgage lending landscape analysis in Providence that investigates disparities in lending by race/ethnicity and neighborhoods. The second project involves creating online studios/labs for her course "Understanding the City Through Data." To that end, she will participate in the Summer Institute as a guest speaker, where she will talk about the best methods of integrating technology into college courses.

Kenneth Wong

Professor Kenneth Wong taught Education Policy Implementation this semester, a course that provides students with the opportunity to interact with practitioners at the RI Department of Education and Providence Public Schools. Early in the semester, youth organizers in Providence Public Schools visited the class and shared their experience as student advocates with the class. Professor Wong also led the planning for an international conference on federalism and education in Zaragoza, Spain. The conference was attended by researchers and government officials from ten countries and Professor Wong presented his research on federal-state relations in education in the US. He will put together the final version of the papers as an edited volume.

FACULTY  
UPDATES

SENIOR  
CAPSTONE  
PROJECTS

Benjamin Berke — *Building Providence Place*

Katherine Bright — *The Berlin Museums after Reunification: Reconciling West Berlin and East Berlin’s Cultural Centers, Museumsinsel and the Kulturforum*

Danalynn Dominguez — *Insights from Los Angeles: An Urban Planning Perspective*

Anselmo Fuentes — *The Breakthrough Spirit: Insights on the Preservation of Breakthrough Providence’s Organizational Culture*

Grant Glovin — *Electric Zoning: Municipal Land Use Law and Distributed Generation*

Philip Heller — *Bloomberg: A One-Man Urban Regime*

Evert Justice Finger — *Brown University's New Engineering Building*

William Klein — *Skateboarding Urbanism*

Emily Maenner — *Chicago House Music: The City as Incubator and Collaborator*

Diane Schulze — *311 Data as a Quality of Life Indicator in Boston*

Sean Scott — *Large-Scale Development: Los Angeles Football Club Soccer Stadium, Los Angeles, CA*

Devika Seeraj — *A 2015 FSS Analysis in Providence Relative to National Benchmarks*

Edwin Silva — *Los Angles School Reform: Decision Making and Democracy*

Lloyd Soh — *The Providence Streetcar Plan: A Social Theoretical Perspective*

Maya Sorabjee — *Violent Blueprint: Tracing Imperial Control and Indigenous Resistance in Colonial Archives of Architecture and Urban Design*

Jessica Steans-Gail — *Welcome to “Chiraq”: The Rebranding of Branding*

Mae Stover — *Youth and Healthy Foods: Partnerships in Providence Parks*

Rachel Van Metre — *Enacting Sustainable Design through Governmental Policies in Philadelphia*

Daniel Wilhite — *Schuylkill Banks Park: Philadelphia Reclaims a Contested Waterfront*

Malikah Williams — *East Harlem Today: The Impact of Neoliberal Policies and Resident Activism*



## ALUMNI UPDATES

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Wale Adedokun is an investment consultant at Aon Hewitt and advises large state and city pension plans on their investment programs. He graduated from Brown with a BA in Urban Studies in 2009. Upon graduation, he was a Teach for America corps member in Milwaukee where he taught kindergarten. He then worked with institutional portfolio managers at Wellington Management LLP in Boston, Massachusetts. Much of his work at Wellington Management was focused on risk analysis and portfolio implementation amongst a diverse array of equity mutual funds and hedge funds. His current role at Aon Hewitt involves devising investment strategies for large government agencies and municipalities dealing with the solvency crisis facing state and municipal pension plans.



Theresa O'Neil, graduated from Brown with a BA in Urban Studies in 2010. As part of Sasaki's land use economics team in the Boston area, Theresa helps define the economic parameters for planning and urban design efforts to ensure both financial and social returns on investment. Her skill set includes market analysis, financial feasibility, fiscal/economic impact analysis, acquisitions/dispositions strategy, and development optimization. Prior to joining Sasaki, Theresa served as an associate in the San Francisco office of real estate advisory firm The Concord Group. She also worked in real estate finance and sales operations at sustainable home building technology company, Blu Homes. Theresa is a member of ULI.



Sonja Boet-Whitaker is a 2017 Masters in City Planning Candidate at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. She graduated from Brown with a BA in Urban Studies in 2011. Prior to attending MIT, Sonja worked at the NYC Department of Transportation, where she supported the agency's sustainability and safety initiatives as the PlaNYC Budget Coordinator. Her portfolio included bus rapid transit, plazas, bike lanes, and green infrastructure, as well as the city's Vision Zero campaign. At MIT, Sonja studies transportation policy and planning through the lens of resiliency and disaster management.

### Darrell Petit

Sculptor Darrell Petit graduated from Brown with a BA in Urban Studies in 1982. Since 1990, he has collaborated with quarries, including the Stony Creek Quarry in Connecticut and Lundhs in Norway, to create a myriad of monumental sculptures that are permanently situated around the world. He has received fellowships from the Japanese Government, The Egyptian Ministry of Culture, and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. His projects include: "Kiss" for the Storm King Art Center, "Event" for the Lyman Allyn Museum of Art, a site specific sculpture for the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, the Torosaurus pedestal for the Yale Peabody Museum, and a solo exhibition at Akira Ikeda Gallery, Japan. In 1997, he collaborated with Cesar Pelli and Associates and Diana Balmori and Associates to integrate the sculpture Contingent for the Chubu Museum and Cultural Center in Kurayoshi, Japan. His largest work to date is "Circle of Life," a 2014 collaboration with Dr. Jonathan M. Rothberg and astro-archeologist Dr. Anthony Aveni. Petit is influenced by sculptural events such as Abu Simbel, Ryoan-ji, Stone Henge, Fontana di Trevi and Crazy Horse. Noting the tension between monumentality and dynamism inherent in Petit's work, critic William Deresiewicz wrote, "Petit creates sculptures that seem to give life to massive rocks. He works in the most solid, massive, physically resistant medium, but paradoxically seeks to infuse it with movement, spontaneity, a sense of process and a potential for further change."

He is currently working in collaboration with landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and engineer Robert Silman on a sculptural composition comprised of more than 100 ton of totemic Stony Creek Granite elements for a new urban plaza at 50-60 Binney St. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.



*Kiss* (2010), Storm King Art Center

# Senior Spotlight / Anselmo Fuentes Cabellos



At Brown, Anselmo Fuentes Ceballos double-concentrates in Education (Human Development) and Urban Studies. Although his studies have given him the vocabulary and tools to articulate and analyze the difficulties that low-income students of color endure in the public education system, it was his own experience as a public school student that shed light on the personal nature of these challenges: food insecurity, neighborhood violence, learning English as a second language. His lived experiences inclined him to address these issues through the Brown curriculum, by exploring the intersection of space, cities, and the reproduction of geographical educational inequalities.

For many, the US-Mexico border is a necessary physical barrier meant to ensure national safety, but for Anselmo, Mexico never felt like a foreign country—it was always a quick 15-minute car ride away. Indeed, for most of the people he grew up with, the border functioned as the spatial manifestation of exclusion, inequality, and exploitation. By reading the streets of San Diego, California and critically comparing them to those of Tijuana, Mexico, Anselmo learnt first-hand the power of space and place-making. In the future, he hopes to apply his knowledge of human cognitive, social, and emotional development to advocate for greater accessibility to high-quality educational opportunities for all students, by informing education policy from the classroom perspective.

Anselmo is personally invested in reforming the public education system through community engagement with existing programs like Breakthrough Providence, a non-profit organization that prepares underserved public school students for high school. His role as a Breakthrough teacher inspired him to continue approaching the topic of education as a community project, one in which families, teachers, school administrators, and community members collaborate to ensure student achievement. Through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant position, he plans to further follow his passion for educational equity, and to actively work to address the issues of literacy and education in K-12 Mexican public schools.



above: Urban Studies seniors Maya Phil, Will, Katie & Maggie in front of Altes Museum

right: Professor Neumann out on Große Hamburger Straße

# Staff Spotlight / Meredith Paine

For years, Program Manager Meredith Paine has coordinated the Urban Studies program with incredible ease and efficiency, always eager to welcome students into her office and to brighten inboxes every morning with inter-departmental news and events. Urban Studies concentrators share their experiences with Meredith below:

Stopping by to chat in Meredith’s office is always a great pleasure in my day. The Urban Studies department would not be the same without her bright presence and invaluable contributions. Thank you so much, Meredith, for all the wonderful work you do for the Urban Studies program!

—Ethan Blake ’17

Meredith was a huge help in making sure we all got to take a brick from the Manning Walk Urban Studies building. Her efforts and passion for the project made it possible for me to keep a piece of the building. I am so appreciative of everything she has done for me and for the department.

—Jenna Davis ’16

I do not know the intricacies of other departments at Brown, but I think it is unique that Urban Studies has someone like Meredith who is so knowledgeable about all facets of the department and always available for guidance. Meredith has been so kind and helpful in all my Urban Studies endeavors, and she does an amazing job of keeping in touch with the students through department offerings and outside opportunities. She ties the whole department together and makes it feel like one big family.

—Philip Heller ’16

Meredith is one of the best parts of the Urban Studies department! She is caring and kind and without a doubt one of the best resources for anything Urban Studies related. I would go as far to say that she is definitely the heart of the department.

—Geetanjali Gunanathan ’17

Coming back from abroad, Meredith made my transition seamless. As an advocate, advisor and friendly face she’s never disappointed. Thanks for always being exactly what I’ve needed.

—Marisa Kolokotronis ’17

Meredith has been tremendously significant to my four years in the Urban Studies program. She is not only helpful with course selection and keeping student on track with academic deadlines, but her kindness and genuine concern for her students’ success is unmatched. I know I speak for all the graduating seniors when I say I will miss her.

—Katie Bright ’16

Meredith supports us in every way, not just academically but personally as well. Popping into her office is always a highlight of my week—she kept me sane through internship recruiting season. Her endless advice, guidance and chocolates are hugely appreciated; thank you Meredith!

—Robert Lee ’17

In the few times I’ve met with Meredith, she’s been incredibly kind and made me feel very comfortable about my late switch to Urban Studies. I’m really thankful she made me feel so welcome!

—Caroline Morant ’17





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# Berlin: Architecture, Politics & Memory

At the end of March, six Urban Studies senior concentrators traveled to Berlin over spring break as part of Urban Studies Program Director Dietrich Neumann's architectural history class, which spent the weeks leading up to the trip examining the memorial culture, architecture, and political timeline of Berlin. Over the course of eight days, the students looked at some of the city's many memorial sites and post-reunification restoration projects. The trip included visits to Norman Foster's glass dome atop the Reichstag building, Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum, the legendary Brandenburg Gate, David Chipperfield's restoration of the Neues Museum, and the construction site of Frank Gehry's new concert hall, the Barenboim–Said Akademie building.

## In Conversation With / Jill Desimini

Jill Desimini graduated from Brown's Urban Studies program in 1998. She is now an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Her latest book, "Cartographic Grounds: Projecting the Landscape Imaginary," comes out in June.

**Did the curriculum you pursued through Brown's Urban Studies program shape your current research interests? Do any classes stand out in your memory?**

My Brown Urban Studies work is fundamental to my current research, and I remember many courses very well. Professor Neumann's 19th Century Architecture class peaked my interest in the way cities are built and its relationship to social practice. Professor Morone's City Politics class helped me understand the complexities of urban governance—something I then experienced in practice, working with municipal clients to construct public landscapes. Even more directly, since taking Professor Silver's senior seminar, I have been inspired to do research that addresses disenfranchised communities, in places with large swaths of abandoned urban land where both the landscape and the citizenry are undervalued and underserved. And then in some ways, I like to think that I am most directly extending my work with Professor Malone on homesteads and abandoned industrial spaces as I investigate ways to claim, define, and value fallow urban lands for the contemporary and future city.

**What path did your career take after graduating from Brown?**

When I graduated from Brown, my interests were definitely leaning towards a career in architecture and the design of the urban environment. But right after graduation, I took a job with the New York City Office of Management and Budget, overseeing the expenditures of the Departments of City Planning and Buildings. I love cities and I love making things and design, so this experience helped me see that what I really wanted to was be involved with the design and construction of public space in the city. After OMB, I worked for an architecture firm in Philadelphia for two years and then headed off to graduate school in architecture and landscape architecture. I fell in love with landscape architecture as a broad field capable of imagining, defining, and building civic space. I worked on largely public and institutional projects for five years in private practice and have been teaching and researching full-time for the past six years.

**Architecture and urban planning are known for having less-than-ideal gender ratios in professional practice. What have your perceptions of this imbalance been during your education and work?**

In my personal experience, the gender balance, overall, has been good. I have had as many female colleagues as male colleagues. The issue, though, is in the distribution in senior roles and roles of leadership. There is a still lot of work to be done here, in terms of gender, and even more, in terms of racial diversity. Fortunately, these issues are getting more air, and our students, here at the GSD, are wonderfully active in promoting greater equality. The Women in Design student group recently pushed for Pritzker recognition for Denise Scott Brown. The African American Student Union organized the fantastic Black in Design conference. I believe there is change, but it is slow. The architecture schools at Columbia, Princeton, Yale, University of Virginia, Rice, and University of New Mexico all have women deans. And there are increasing numbers of female principals of design firms. But given

that we are training more women in the design fields than men, there is still much room for increased gender equality. In the meantime, we are hoping to design spaces that gestate equality.

**Your research focuses on abandoned industrial spaces and shrinking urban landscapes. Is this a circumstance unique to the American urban condition? Have you found parallels elsewhere in the world?**

The situation is not unique to North America. There is a wonderful atlas and two volume expose on Shrinking Cities edited by Philip Oswalt from 2005 and 2006 that looks at the condition globally, touching on over 350 large cities that have markedly shrunk in the past 60 years. They are mostly in North America, in Europe and in Asia making it an urban condition primarily confined to the global north, at least to date. In my own research, I have been looking at projects in Germany and Portugal, where both governmental action and design innovation have resulted in exemplary urban design initiatives that deal with abandoned landscapes in provocative ways.

**What, in your opinion, is the most crucial thing to keep in mind when redesigning vacant land or fallow urban spaces?**

The most crucial consideration is for the people who remain living in areas of depopulation. So much is made of the population that has left when really a substantial number of people still live in places like Detroit, Cleveland, Saint Louis, Buffalo, and Baltimore. There are 48 US cities—including Providence—that the Legacy City Design initiative ([legacycitydesign.org](http://legacycitydesign.org)) includes in their definition of a legacy city. As of 2010, 10,545,952 people, or 34% of the US population, live in these cities. In addition to the people, it is important to consider how projects can address both the imminent needs of the community and the long-term restructuring of the city, how they can reframe fallow land as an ecological and economic asset, and how limited resources can achieve maximum impact. Lastly, it is important to remember that it will take many different kinds of projects to make an impact and that the projects need to be rooted in the cultural and physical particularities of the place where they are happening. As much as we want one global answer, the reality is that transformation is slow, incremental and geographically specific.

**Where is your research headed from here?**

In the short term, I am finishing two book projects. One looks at four case studies of excellent initiatives that address the hydrological, vegetative, agronomic and recreational potentials of fallow land, across scales, integrating ecological and social concerns. The second is a compilation of drawings of 101 ideas for fallow lands. It is based on real projects and geographic sites, but is also projective and imaginary. From here, I would like to further develop my research on the role of the common and wild spaces in design and would like to focus more heavily on a particular city and region. I have been looking broadly across many cities and regions and I now want to dive into one in order to really understand the role of landscape architecture in the context of widespread abandonment. Finally, I am interested in becoming more involved with projects and practice, to bridge academic pursuits with real-world initiatives. I am a designer at heart and want to get back to designing public space, now, in a more informed, critical and equitable way.

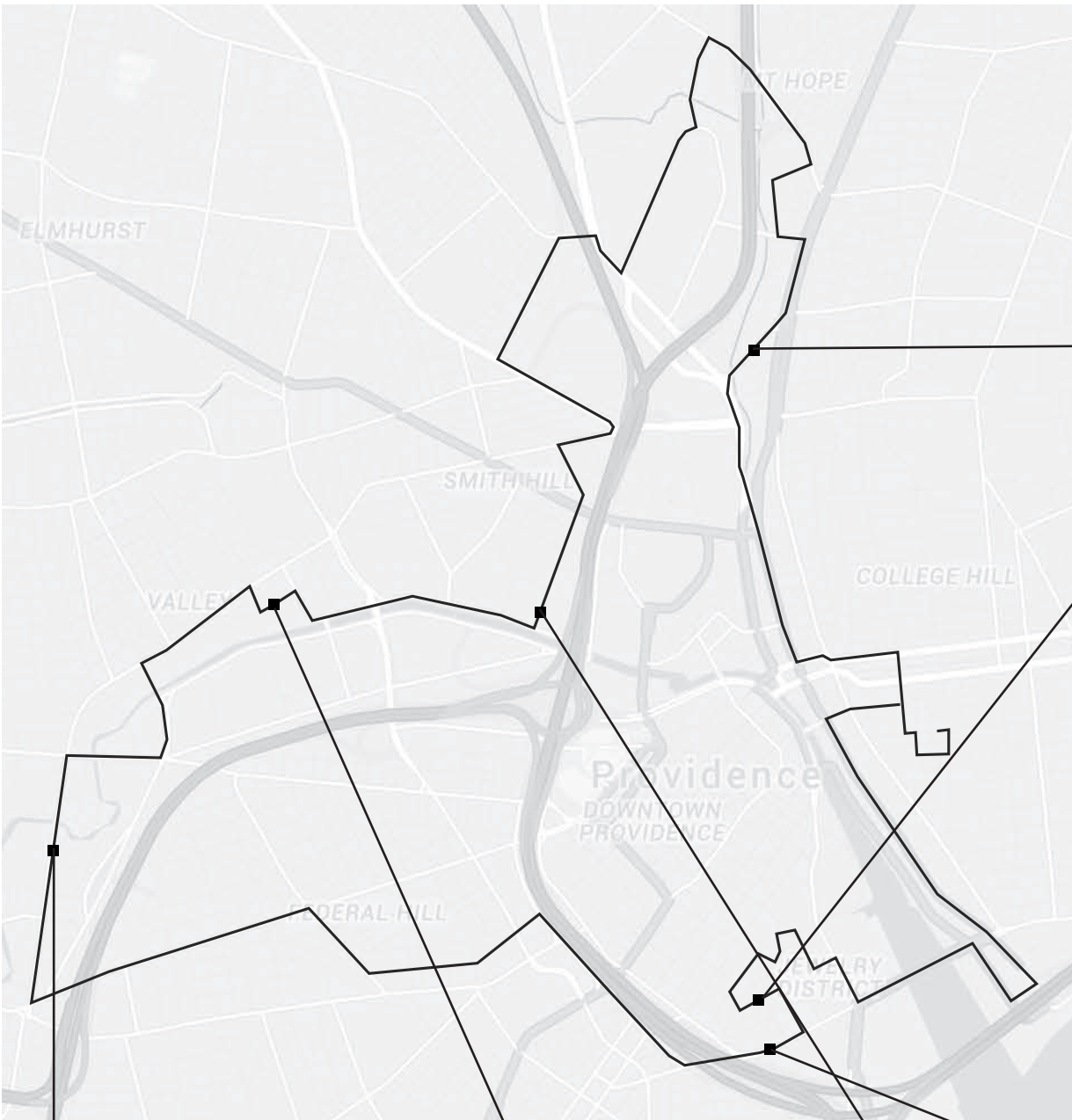
# SPRING BUS TOURS

Patrick Malone & Ned Connors

## Providence: The Industrial City Transformed

The March 11 installment of the Urban Studies bus tour series pointed out some of the sites of extensive industrial development in Providence in the 19th and early 20th century (textiles, textile machinery, steam engines, boilers, machine tools, hardware, locomotives, bicycles, automobiles, screws, files, firearms, jewelry, silverware, pocket knives, rubber goods, electrical equipment, paper products, beer, etc.) and discussed deindustrialization, clearance, and adaptive reuse.

The urban transformations observed on the tour included the shift in focus from mercantile port activities of the 18th century to industry, the growth of a great manufacturing center by the late 19th century, the decline of manufacturing that began in the 1920s and is still underway today, and the increasingly common reuse of industrial property for other purposes.



Eagle Screw Company (1838) and New England Screw Company (1840) merged to form the **American Screw Company** in 1860, the largest maker of wood screws anywhere. It was the largest base metal employer, with 600 employees in 1860.

**Elm Street Machine Shop** (1848), of the **Phenix Foundry** (1830), manufactured textile finishing machinery. It was the last building of the company that closed in 1903. Most of the complex was torn down by Narragansett Electric Co., and was later converted to offices for Brown University's Division of Advancement.



**Corro Company** (1929), with a 1947 expansion to West. The building consisted of a concrete frame with brick spandrel and large glass windows. It had concrete floor slabs and mushroom columns, with Art Deco designs on its piers and parapets. Corro was the largest manufacturer of costume jewelry in a city that was the center of the industry. It closed 1979, was rehabbed for a health care firm in 1990s, and is now the site of Lifespan offices.

**Brown and Sharpe Manufacturing Company** was America's most renowned producer of machine tools and measuring devices. In 1872, the firm moved to this site near the railroad from 115 South Main Street. Although not in the original plan, the factory became noted for its hollow square plan, which made good use of natural light for bench work. The buildings were iron- and steel-framed, brick-vaulted, fire-proof constructions, and used roof drains through hollow columns in some buildings.

**Providence and National Worsted Mills** is one of the earliest surviving mills, dating from 1881. Charles Fletcher started with his Providence Worsted Mill for worsted yarn in 1875 and added the National Worsted Mill for weaving worsted fabric in 1889. By 1893, 750 workers were making 900,000 yards of worsted cloth a year. The mills used waterpower from the dam and once had 8 Corliss steam engines. It was eventually redeveloped for residential and commercial use as **Rising Sun Mills** by Struever Brothers and Armory Revival Company.



Photos from artinruins.com



Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz

# Can Urban and Agriculture Coexist?

The April 8 installment of the Urban Studies bus tour series visited three urban agriculture sites that highlight different land tenure models and showcase how urban agriculture can be spatially integrated into urban areas on both temporary and permanent levels.



Images and information from:  
backyardfarmscsa.wordpress.com  
foodsolutionsne.org  
sidewalkendsfarm.com  
outhsideclt.org

**The former Front Step Farm (Almy Stret & Slocum Street)** was first created in the Spring of 2009 by a farmer Nathaniel Wood on a long abandoned vacant lot on Westminster St. Unfortunately, in June of the third season the landowner sold the property to a neighboring nonprofit, which kicked Nathaniel off the farm. After gaining ownership, the non-profit approached the city for grant money to create an “urban farm on a vacant lot.” Community activism ensured that the non-profit did not receive public money, and the City of Providence worked with Nathaniel to find another site. Nathaniel entered into a first-of-its-kind urban farm lease with the city on a new property.



**Sidewalk Ends Farm (47 Harrison Street)** was founded by three women in the Spring of 2011 on a 5000-square foot vacant lot in Providence’s Armory Park neighborhood. The three farmers run the farm as an educational space, focus on organic practices without the use of chemical fertilizers, celebrate a woman-powered farming culture, and have aother farm in Seekonk.



**Southside Community Land Trust (109 Somerset Street)** runs comprehensive urban agriculture programs that have made meaningful and lasting impacts on Greater Providence for nearly three decades. Today, the organization has grown to serve over 8,500 residents each year with community gardens, youth education programs, workshops, farmland, community events such as the Plant Sale and City Fest, and city-wide urban agriculture initiatives. Partnerships between individuals from diverse backgrounds have been at the core of Southside Community Land Trust’s history, from the organization’s beginning to their work today. Currently, over 75% of program participants are people of color. Many of those who participate in community gardening programs are first- or second-generation immigrants from Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam, with others coming from a variety of African and Central American countries such as Liberia, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.



Dietrich Neumann

# Secrets of Providence

On Friday, April 22, the last bus tour went to see four "secrets of Providence" (see the accompanying booklet on the Urban Studies website). The bus—filled with the usual mix of students, staff, faculty, emeriti and residents—first went downtown to see the Bajnotti Fountain at Burnside Park and to hear the tragic story of Paul Bajnotti’s love for his wife Carrie Mathilde Brown who died much too young, and whom he tried to commemorate through a stipend for virtuous young women in Providence, a sculpture in Roger Williams Park, the Bajnotti Fountain by Enid Yandell (a student of Auguste Rodin in Paris and the first major female sculptor of major recognition in the US), and finally the Carrie Tower on Brown’s Campus.

The group then went to see the oldest continuously-operating small theater in the US, The Players at Barker’s Playhouse on the southern end of Benefit Street. The building housing them since 1932 is the former 1840s home of St. Stephen’s Congregational Church, whose next house of worship was built in 1860 by architect Richard Upjohn in the middle of Brown’s Campus. The interior of this wonderful amateur theatre was surprisingly spacious and had all the technical equipment, dressing rooms, and downstairs rehearsal space of a professional theatre. The tour then visited the site of Sabin’s Tavern,

where Providence citizens in 1772 hatched the plot to attack British schooner The Gaspee, and fired the first shot of the American Revolution—an event vastly more important than the Boston Tea Party a year-and-half later, but much less well-known. The panels of the room in which the Providence men sat (among them two members of the Brown family) were safeguarded by the Daughters of the American Revolution when Sabin’s Tavern was demolished in 1891.

The next stop was a visit to the former home of famous African American painter Edward Bannister, who had lived in Providence in the 1880s. His house at 93 Benevolent Street, currently owned by Brown, has just been returned to the outside look it had when Bannister lived in it. The inside was thoroughly modernized and it has just been sold to a Brown faculty member. The tour ended at the home of another Brown faculty member, Prof. Fred Jodry of the Music Department, in whose house at the corner of Williams and East Street the daughters of the American Revolution had installed the panels from the above-mentioned Sabin Tavern. The living room and its bay window contain the birthplace of the American Revolution!

# SPRING 2016 COURSES

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## URBN1000: Fieldwork in the Urban Community

Josh Pacewicz

A fieldwork course with limited enrollment. Each student undertakes a fieldwork project in close collaboration with a government agency, a nonprofit association, or a planning firm. In weekly seminar meetings, the class examines a series of urban issues and discusses fieldwork methodology.

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## URBN1500: Understanding the City through Data

Yesim Sungu-Eryilmaz

Cities are complex systems, but luckily there are many data and analysis techniques that can be used to make sense of them. In this project-based course, students learn to conduct a variety of data analysis techniques that are commonly used and essential in urban studies. The case studies will be selected from humanities, social sciences, and real-life urban problems.

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## URBN1870J: The Politics of Community

### Organization

Marion E. Orr

This seminar introduces key issues concerning community organizing. It focuses on the life, skills, and tactics of Saul Alinsky and the national organization he founded, the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). The course analyzes the work of the IAF in a number of urban settings and seeks to develop theories and models for studying community mobilization in urban America.

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## URBN1870T: Transportation: An Urban Planning Perspective

Robert E. Azar

This seminar explores how urban planners in the US plan for and around various transportation networks. It examines how these networks are designed and funded, which modes get priority over others, and ultimately how transportation shapes the built environment. Real-world examples of plans and projects from Providence and Rhode Island are used throughout the course. Important concepts are illustrated through field trips and guest speakers.

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## URBN1870U: Critical Urban Theory

Stephano Bloch

In this seminar, students closely read and apply critical theory to thinking about urban formations and inherent socio-spatial inequalities and forms of everyday representation in a contemporary US context. More broadly, students become familiar with geographical thought coming out of the social sciences and humanities, which advances the decidedly spatial perspective of the majority of social, economic, political, and environmental problems and their potential urban-based solutions.

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## URBN1930: Brown in Providence

Edward L. Widmer

This course explores the long relationship between Brown University and the city it calls home. Through guided readings, independent research, and spirited conversation, it traces the many ways in which Brown’s urban setting has defined the university over its 250 years. The course considers Rhode Island’s unique history as a refuge for the persecuted, the transformations of the Industrial Revolution, and the ways in which immense political and demographic changes of the 19th and 20th centuries left their mark on Brown.

Stephano Bloch

## Breaking Broken Windows: Graffiti / Violent Crime Correlation in Providence

April 14

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Renata Stih & Frieder Schnock

## Berlin: Art & Memory

March 17

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Eric Tang

## Unsettled: The Refugee in the Hyperghetto

March 17 | Public Lecture & Book Signing

March 18 | Research Seminar

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Clay Risen /

Alex Kingsbury /

Stephen Kinzer

## Climbing Down from the Ivy Tower: A Series of Conversations with Ted Widmer

March 1, 8, 15, 22

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Charles Simonds

## Dwelling

February 4

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# SPRING 2016 EVENTS

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