office of si_architecture
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STEFFEN & IGOR

Rethinking Cities and Space
for the Age of Global Warming

Urbanisation is one of the defining challenges of our times. Our understanding of the urban, whether in theory or in practice, has reached a turning point, with cities across the world facing new, complex and challenging conditions that require resilience and adaptation to the impacts of environmental, economic and social change.

TEACHING AGENDA AND PHILOSOPHY

si_architecture's interdisciplinary studio teaching and lecturing activities, together with a highly focussed research expertise and practice, are centered on their long-standing interest in:

• Future Low-Carbon Cities
• Sustainable High-Performance Architecture and Urban Form
• The Changing Role of Public Buildings and Public Space
• The next Generation of Smart Mixed-use Neighbourhoods
• Principles of Sustainable Uban Design
• Transformation: The Workplace of the Future
• Future Interdisciplinary Practice of Architecture
• Green Campus Planning and Mobility
• Urban Infill, Resilience and Mass-Timber Construction

Both partners, Steffen and Igor have a deep commitment to teaching, inspiring and educating the next generation of architects. The design studios they lead are always research-informed.

Steffen and Igor are particularly interested in how the PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE intersects with their RESEARCH and TEACHING agendas. The nexus between teaching, research and practice is an area of growing importance, with research and teaching themes being closely integrated into the practice program of si_architecture.

While our teaching philosophy and pedagogical goals continually evolve, they include the following pillars:

• Creating new knowledge through rigorous individual discovery and a collaborative teaching-research-nexus
• Embracing the principles of lifelong learning and continuous enhancement of our methods, skills and ways of engagement
• Offering meaningful opportunities to students for engaged learning, research and application
• Integrating cutting-edge design computing technology and research methods

Our design studios focus on the methods and tools to design and produce sustainable architecture and urban spaces. Architecture is understood as a tool to intensify our experience of the world and its spatial articulations. Students are expected to build up a large collection of potential ideas, like a personal "repository of architectural ideas" that gives them the confidence to become future-ready architects.

The results of our studio teaching have been published and exhibited nationally and internationally.

LECTURES

To request a lecture, please send a request to:
press@si-architecture.com

Professor Steffen Lehmann, Ph.D., Assoc. AIA, RIBA, has dedicated a significant part of his 30-year long distinguished career as an educator in architecture for social impact through the improvement of cities' ecosystem and public spaces, most recently as the Founding Director of the Urban Futures Lab.

Steffen is a tenured full Professor of Architecture & Urbanism, and former Director of schools of architecture, including the UNLV School of Architecture in Las Vegas (USA), and the large School of Design & Built Environment in Perth (Australia); and Chair of the Department of Architecture at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane (Australia). Steffen is currently CEO of the Future Cities Leadership Lab, where he is translating a strategic outlook into programmatic initiatives and impact.

Steffen is an award-winning educator; he has taught, practiced and researched architecture for a long time and defines all three domains as one activity. Since 1991, he has taught urban and architectural design studios and research methods in six countries, and developed effective design teaching methods for which he received the Award for Teaching Excellence and the Top 100 Global Leaders in Education Award.

Steffen is internationally known for the vital role he has played in advancing higher education in sustainable architecture and urbanism, research and innovation, student opportunities and success, and industry collaboration. He has experience in every aspect of university administration including strategic planning, program accreditation, curriculum reform, research strategy, recruitment, international partnerships and research collaborations.

Over the last 30 years, he was invited as Design Critic to studios at over 50 universities worldwide, and gave public lectures at the best architecture schools, including Harvard, Delft, Oxford, Tsinghua, Berkeley, AA School, Milan Polytechnic, TU-Munich, KTH Stockholm, Sydney University, TU-Vienna, etc.

An ambassador of sustainable design principles, Steffen has been called a "global academic nomad" who is always interested in new challenges, enjoying working in different cultural contexts to experience a variety of cities and cultures. In 2018, he was invited to join UNLV in Las Vegas to reform its school and curriculum through principles of sustainable design.

His thinking is deeply influenced by, first, studying at the Architectural Association in London in the 1980s; second, by British and Japanese modernism and the years he spent working as a young architect with James Stirling in London and Arata Isozaki in Tokyo; and third, the privilege to have been able to make significant urban and architectural contributions to the centre of the city of Berlin after the fall of the Wall.

Since 1990, he regularly travelled to China and the Middle East, and has witnessed the enormous urban transformation of cities in Asia and the Arabic region.

Steffen has held prestigious visiting positions: He was invited as Visiting Professor at the University of California Berkeley, TU Munich (DAAD Professor), TU Berlin, NUS Singapore, Tongji University Shanghai; Tianjin University in China, and in 2018-20 he was the Distinguished Visiting Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University in China; and a Visiting Professor at the University of Portsmouth (UK).

Strategic leadership: Steffen has led and transformed schools of architecture and established research centers in the U.S. and in Australia:

- Director of the School of Architecture, University of Nevada Las Vegas (USA)

- Head of School of Design & the Built Environment, Perth (Australia)

- Chair, Department of Architecture, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane (Australia)

S T E F F E N
L E H M A N N

Steffen has **trained** and coached *thousands of students,* **some have** become **successful architects** *or* **professors**

Ph.D. Supervision: Since 2003, Steffen has been registered as Primary Ph.D. Supervisor, and has successfully advised numerous Ph.D. students and postdoctoral Research Fellows as Primary Supervisor (12 Ph.D. students and 3 post- doctoral fellows), in the US, the UK, and in Australia. Furthermore, he has been appointed as External Ph.D. Examiner by top universities, including the University of Sydney, Univ. of Western Australia, Bond University, Univ. of Salford, KTH Stockholm, Hong Kong Poly University, University of Portsmouth, and the University of Greenwich.

As Head of School in Perth, Australia, he oversaw a cohort of 85 Ph.D. students. Steffen is mentoring early career researchers, providing them with opportunities within his research groups and ongoing projects. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of his own research and practice, students and Ph.D. candidates actively seek him out as advisor. Over the last 30 years, Steffen has trained and coached thousands of students, and some of his former students have themselves become successful architects or professors.

Public speaking: He is an engaging speaker, and over the last 30 years, Steffen has presented his research and design work publicly over 600 times at conferences, symposia and important international events, in 40 countries, including delivering over 100 invited keynote addresses.

In 2003, he founded the "Global Studio" series, and since then coordinated Global Studios at: TU-Berlin, TU-Munich, Tongji Shanghai, NUS Singapore, Iberoamericana Mexico City, ANU Ahmedabad India, and Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

As Head of School in Perth, Australia, he was responsible for over 3,000 students and 150 academic, professional and casual staff, with offshore programs in Malaysia and Hong Kong, and an annual operational budget of $42m. He led significant teaching reforms that improved student outcomes and increased research output by over +35% per year; and enhanced quality and impact by building on existing areas of strength. Steffen is an experienced leader and his focus as Director was on strategic growth, developing new graduate programs, establishing the Global Studio study abroad programs, and restructuring the schools' research to enable relevant innovation and impact.

Education:

After completing the German Abitur in Stuttgart in 1983, and a Master's degree in Mainz, Germany in 1988, Steffen graduated with the AA Diploma from the Architectural Association School in London (1991, enabled by a DAAD scholarship), and later completed a Ph.D. in Architecture and Urbanism at the Technical University in Berlin (conferred in April 2003).

In 2019, he became a member, Assoc. AIA, of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and was appointed to the Board of Directors of the AIA Las Vegas Chapter. In 2016, he was appointed to the UK Academy of Urbanism, and became a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). In 2003, he joined the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA). In 1995, he was appointed Freier Architekt

BDA in Berlin. In recognition of the international significance of his work, he was appointed in 2008 as chair holder of the inaugural UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific.

Links:

Future Cities Leadership Lab:
http://city-leadership.com/

Food-Water-Energy Nexus:
http://www.fwe-nexus.eu/

Cluster for Sustainable Cities:
http://city-futures.org.uk/

Google Scholar Profile:
https://scholar.google.co.uk/

Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steffen_Lehmann

UNLV, Las Vegas: Recent Publications:
https://www.unlv.edu/people/

steffen-lehmann:
http://city-leadership.com/

si_architecture:
http://si-architecture.com/

Professor Igor Peraza, Ph.D., is Professor of Architecture Practice at the American University of Sharjah, UAE. His 30-year long distinguished career as a practicing architect has always included a strong interest in education. He is an active educator in architecture and his field of teaching includes architectural and urban design studio, and technical detailing and materials.

Over the last 30 years, he was invited as Design Critic to studios and gave lectures at universities worldwide. An ambassador of sustainable design principles, Igor enjoys working in different cultural contexts to experience a variety of cities and cultures. Since 2000, he is a licensed architect with the Architecture Association of Catalonia COAC, Spain.

Education:

After completing the Bachelor of Science at the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas (1983), Igor graduated with an M.Arch. at Hokkaido University in Japan (1987, enabled by a scholarship), and subsequently completed a Ph.D. in Architecture at the University of Kumamoto, Japan (conferred in 1990).

Academic appointments:

• 2017-to date: American University of Sharjah, AUS, College of Architecture, Arts and Design (CAAD), Professor of Practice, Sharjah, UAE

• 2019: International Summer Workshop on Sustainable Urbanism, Igor & Steffen, UNLV Global Studio Mexico City, with Iberoamericano University, Mexico

• 2016-2018: RCR International Workshop on Architecture and Landscape, RCR Dream and Nature Workshop Instructor, La Vila, Olot, Spain (RCR Architects are the 2017 Pritzker Prize awardees)

• 2015-2017: American University of Sharjah, AUS, College of Architecture, Arts and Design (CAAD), Visiting Professor of Architecture, Sharjah, UAE

• 2013-2015: Lebanese American University, LAU, Department of Architecture and Interior Design. Visiting Assistant Professor, Beirut, Lebanon

• 2013: Tongji University, College of Architecture & Urban Planning (CAUP), Studio Instructor, Architectural Design Studio, Shanghai, China

• 2013-14: While working at EMBT in Barcelona, he additionally conducted academic activities as Guest Professor for the Master's courses "Projects" at the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), School of Architecture.

• 2013-14: European Institute of Design, EID, Program Director of the Masters of Interior Design: Ephemeral Architecture Design Studio, Lecturer, Barcelona, Spain

In 2020, Igor co-founded si_architecture with headquarters in Dubai (in partnership with Prof. Steffen Lehmann). As Founding Principals and thought leaders of the practice, Steffen and Igor provide the overall vision and project leadership to the firm.

IGOR PERAZA

Links:

Personal website:
http://igorperaza.com/

Cluster for Sustainable Cities:
http://city-futures.org.uk/

American University of Sharjah, UAE
https://www.aus.edu/faculty/dr-igor-peraza

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