

**GSAPP Columbia University Fall 2012  
Joint Studio in Architecture and Development**

Critics:

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**THE SPECULATION STUDIO + SEMINAR  
Incubating Work + Live - Long Island City**

***After Yearlong Competition, Mayor Is Said to Pick Cornell for Science School***

The New York Times

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

Published: December 19, 2011

*"Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg ...announced that he has chosen Cornell University to create a new science graduate school on Roosevelt Island, capping an intense yearlong competition in his ambitious bid to spur a boom in New York City's high-tech sector. For the mayor, it is a chance to leave a lasting legacy that he hopes will make the city a world leader in computer engineering and transform the city's economy. For Cornell, it could mean a chance to be the kind of incubator for new businesses — and the lucrative patents that come with them — that Stanford University has been in California and M.I.T. in Massachusetts, and to elevate its already-prestigious engineering and computer science programs to the uppermost ranks..."*

The Roosevelt Islander Online Reader, Wednesday August 22, 2012

*"Today's announcement is yet another major milestone in the City's groundbreaking initiative to dramatically increase applied science and engineering talent here in New York City," ..... "Before long, this 'beta' class at Cornell NYC Tech will begin developing cutting-edge technologies and new spin-off companies that will strengthen the City's economy and ensure that we continue to establish ourselves as a global hub of innovation for the future."*

**Introduction**

With the advent of this new Applied Science Campus on Roosevelt Island located across the East River from midtown Manhattan accessible by a 5-minute subway or ferry ride; Long Island City's potential for New York City seems limitless.

The agenda for this studio is to produce possible real design proposals for these *new professionals\** envisioning incubating work and live space for future Long Island City dwellers. Students will speculate utilizing potential large-scale or small-scale development drivers that may enable new forms of energy production, public policy, engineering and transportation, marine ecology and agroecology.

This studio will be joined by Vishaan Chakrabarti, Jesse Keenan and ten Development students; in a weekly seminar on Wednesdays 4-6 PM, where together, we will speculate on this new future for Long Island City.

Concurrent with The Speculation Studio; Laura Kurgan, Director, Advanced Data Visualization Project, and Spatial Information Design Lab, GSAPP and Mark Hansen, Director Brown Center for Media Innovation, School of Journalism will lead a parallel studio and seminar entitled "*The Narrative and Spatial Practices of the New Professional*", at GSAPP and the School of Journalism. Our Studios will share information and research, attend each other's midterm and final, and if it is possible, some projects from the two studios may wish to combine in some form for the second half of the semester and final project reviews.

## On Incubating Work + Life

Given the new tools and the new ways in which *these new professionals\** are working and will work in the future; this studio will investigate, research, speculate and design for their physical space and urban life. (Refer: “*The Narrative and Spatial Practices of the New Professional*”, Kurgan Syllabus Fall 2012).

### Life (+Work)

The studio will consider the work being done under “adapt NYC” for new smaller housing units (300 SF Micro units) as well as co-housing models for the new professional\* in Long Island City. (Refer: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/hpd/html/developers/HPD-adAPT-NYC-RFP.shtml>).

### Incubator\*:

1. An apparatus in which environmental conditions, such as temperature and humidity can be controlled, often used for growing bacterial cultures, hatching eggs artificially, or providing suitable conditions for a chemical or biological reaction.
2. *Medicine* An apparatus for maintaining an infant, especially a premature infant, in an environment of controlled temperature, humidity, and oxygen concentration.
3. A place or situation that permits or encourages the formation and development, as of new ideas. \*(definition: Webster’s Dictionary)

## On Speculation

Speculation will frame the work this semester as we consider the nature of ***taking a very large risk***.

Speculation by definition is both the process of thinking or meditating on a subject, a judgment, conclusion, *opinion*, or *theory* reached by conjecture – as well as – an investment involving higher than normal risk in order to obtain a higher than normal return (not strictly monetarily).

Speculation may involve taking large risks especially with respect to trying to predict the future, and gambling, in the hopes of making huge gains (again, not strictly monetary).

## Format

The studio will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2-6 PM, and will be joined by GSAPP Development students on Wednesdays 4-6 PM for the weekly seminar.

The seminar is the opportunity to meet and discuss with the Development students along with invited guests; topics over the course of the semester – on specific issues relevant to Long Island City, on incubating, and on new types of living models among other issues.

The class will analyze and share information on this complex and extra-large-scale environment, looking at it from many trajectories: historical, economic, technological, political, cultural, geological and topographical.

The goal of the Architecture studio in working together with the Development students will be to propose qualitative concepts, strategies and physical proposals that might also generate revenue.

Teamwork is encouraged; and each project is viewed as a kind of thesis where Architecture students together with their Development partners will ask directed questions about the potential for development strategies in Long Island City.

## Background and Site

The island\* (Long Island) of course, cannot be separated from its context of the East River, the New York Harbor, its close neighbors – Manhattan, Brooklyn Queens, Long Island and the larger region of the Palisade Bay.

Suggested specific sites for review and consideration:

1. The edge between Roosevelt Island and LIC
2. Sunnyside Yards
3. Jackson Avenue
4. Court Square
5. F Train / Queensboro Bridge / NYCHA Housing
6. Silver Cup

\*In considering the “island condition” in *About the Creation of the Island of Utopia* (based on Thomas More’s *Utopia*), Louis Marin theorizes the following:

*“... such as its connection with the city and its necessary interruption from the city (the passage); the separation between land and island - the idea that the separation provides the interval where before (the isthmus) there was continuity, the issues of nature/culture - the cutting of the isthmus and the naming of the island, the strange topological condition of the island - it’s edge and center.”*

## History

A background document on *Long Island City*, by Jesse Keenan will be made available to studio participants

## Partial Bibliography

Guy Nordenson, Catherine Seavitt, and Adam Yarinsky. “On the Water: Palisade Bay”. Ostifidern: Hatje Cantz, 2010. Print.

“Mapping New York”, Ed. Duncan McCorquodale London, Black Dog Publishing (October 20, 2009)

“Combinatory Urbanism: The Complex Behavior of Collective Form” Ed. Stephanie Rigolot, Stray Dog Café / Morphosis Architects (2011)

Solomon, Jonathan D. (2004), “13 Projects for the Sheridan Expressway a.k.a. Jump, Slump, Hump, Bump – Guide Specifications for a Post-Fordist Infrastructure”, Pamphlet Architecture 26. New York: Princeton Arch Press.

Ecological Urbanism, (ed) Moshen Mostafavi and Gareth Doherty  
Mostafavi, Moshen; Doherty, Gareth (2010). Ecological Urbanism. Harvard University, Graduate School of Design: Lars Muller Publishers

*Light-ness*, Adrian Beukers and Ed van Hinte Beukers, (1998), Light-ness. Rotterdam: 010 Publishers

## Other Links

Incubators and Workspaces, NYCEDC

<http://www.nycedc.com/service/incubators-workspaces>

Cornell's High-Tech Campus Will Have a Temporary Home at Google, NY Times, May 21, 2012

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/21/cornells-high-tech-campus-will-have-a-temporary-home-at-google/>

Noguchi Museum and Socrates Sculpture Park Present "Civic Action: A Vision for Long Island City"

<http://inhabitat.com/nyc/noguchi-museum-and-socrates-sculpture-park-present-civic-action-a-vision-for-long-island-city/noguchi-museum-civic-action-002/>

The Noguchi Museum

<http://www.noguchi.org/>

Newtown Creek Alliance, Mitch Waxman

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/17/nyregion/mitch-waxman-tour-guide-to-decay.html?pagewanted=all>

Applied Sciences NYC RFEI, NYCEDC, December 2010

[http://66.228.35.41/AppliedSciencesNYC/AppliedSciencesRFP\\_low\\_2011-07-19.pdf](http://66.228.35.41/AppliedSciencesNYC/AppliedSciencesRFP_low_2011-07-19.pdf)

Cornell Technion Israel – Institute

NY Times

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/26/education/in-cornell-deal-for-roosevelt-island-campus-an-unlikely-partnership.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/26/education/in-cornell-deal-for-roosevelt-island-campus-an-unlikely-partnership.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/20/nyregion/cornell-and-technion-israel-chosen-to-build-science-school-in-new-york-city.html>

Cornell University Website

<http://www.cornell.edu/nyc/#news>

Cornell Chronicle

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/Oct11/NYCtechNetZero.html>

Arch Newspaper

<http://blog.archpaper.com/wordpress/archives/29778>

Cornell Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future

<http://www.sustainablefuture.cornell.edu/index.php>