

# ANEESHA DHARWADKER

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Chicago Design Office LLC  
[www.chicagodesignoffice.com](http://www.chicagodesignoffice.com)

Department of Landscape Architecture  
College of Fine and Applied Arts  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[www.landarch.illinois.edu](http://www.landarch.illinois.edu)

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## EDUCATION

- 2012 **Harvard University Graduate School of Design**  
Master in Design Studies (History and Philosophy of Design), Cambridge MA
- 2009 **Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning**  
Bachelor of Architecture, Ithaca NY

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017- **Founder and Design Principal**  
Chicago Design Office LLC
- 2014-16 **Associate**  
Booth Hansen, Chicago IL
- 2012-14 **Junior Architect**  
Safdie Architects, Somerville MA
- 2010 **Junior Architect**  
CS & P Architects Inc., Toronto ON
- 2008 **Intern Architect**  
Skidmore Owings and Merrill LLP, Chicago IL
- 2006 **Intern Architect**  
Brink Kolberg and Associates LLC, Madison WI

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016- **Designer-in-Residence**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Landscape Architecture, Champaign IL
- 2013-14 **Adjunct Faculty**  
Boston Architectural College, Boston MA
- 2011-12 **Research Associate**  
Urban India Initiative, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA
- 2010 **Teaching Assistant**  
Urban Design Proseminar, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2016-17 **List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL  
Outstanding ratings for LA 335 Community and Open Space Design, Fall 2016; LA 343 Site Construction, Spring 2017; LA 390 Empire of Extraction Seminar, Spring 2017
- 2015 **Merit Award for Planning**  
American Society of Landscape Architects Colorado Chapter, Denver CO  
For "Multi-Grid: Redefining the Spaces Between"  
With Mike Albert, Fadi Masoud, Conor O'Shea, Victor Perez-Amado
- 2013 **Burnham Prize, Third Place**  
Chicago Architecture Club and Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago IL  
For "Bus Transit Authority," with Conor O'Shea

- 2013 **Jury Finalist, People's Choice Award Finalist, and Honorable Mention**  
AIA Utah Young Architects Forum  
For "Multi-Grid: Redefining the Spaces Between"  
With Mike Albert, Fadi Masoud, Conor O'Shea, Victor Perez-Amado
- 2012 **Thesis Distinction**  
Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA  
For "Delhi: The City of Edges," completed with advisor K. Michael Hays
- 2010-12 **Merit Scholarship**  
Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA  
\$18,000 annually
- 2007 **Merit Scholarship**  
Cornell Club of Wisconsin  
\$1,800
- 2006 **H. Roy Kelley Scholarship**  
Cornell University Department of Architecture, Ithaca NY  
\$1,700
- 2005 **James E. Rice Jr. Award for Freshman Writing, First Place**  
Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
For "The Nature of Truth and Time," an essay on "Pierre Menard, Author of the *Quixote*" by J. L. Borges, written in the required first-year composition course
- 2004-09 **Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholarship**  
The Cornell Commitment, Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
\$10,000 travel and work-study grant and \$2,000 annual tuition stipend  
Awarded to 55 incoming freshmen university-wide each year
- Floyd and Muriel W. Mundy Merit Scholarship**  
Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
\$10,000 annually

#### INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 **Empire of Extraction**  
Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL (April 18)
- 2016 **The Agency of Design**  
Illinois School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL (March 16)
- City of Edges: Discourses on Delhi**  
College of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago IL (February 9)
- 2014 **City of Edges: A History of Spatial Paradigms in Delhi**  
"Critical Conversations Beyond the GSD" Lecture Series, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA (March 6)
- 2013 **NEXT STOP: Designing Chicago's BRT Stations**  
2013 Burnham Prize Winners' Panel, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago IL (June 6)
- City of Edges**  
Annual South Asia Workshop, Yale University Macmillan Center, New Haven CT (March 30)
- 2012 **Liquid Limitations**  
Writing Cities: Limits and the Urban, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge MA (May 12)

#### INVITED DESIGN JURIES

- 2017 Spring **Figuring Future Nature (Midterm Review)**  
Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*David Hays, Associate Professor*
- A Corridor for Design (Midterm Review)**  
Illinois School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Sara Bartumeus Ferre, Associate Professor*

- 2017 Spring **The Nonstandard Studio (Midterm Review)**  
 Illinois School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Aaron Brakke, Assistant Professor*
- LA 234 Site Design (Project 1 Review)**  
 Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Conor O'Shea, Assistant Professor*
- 2016 Fall **City Amplified (Final Review)**  
 Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO), School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Paola Aguirre, Lecturer*
- LA 342 Site Engineering (Final Review)**  
 Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Katherine Kraszewska, Designer-in-Residence*
- Landscape Strategies for 2079 (Final Review)**  
 Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*M. Elen Deming, Professor*
- Designing the Operational Landscape (Topography + Projection Workshop Review)**  
 Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Conor O'Shea, Assistant Professor*
- Propositions Studio (Design Review)**  
 Illinois School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Kevin Erickson, Associate Professor*
- Megastructures (Midterm Review)**  
 Illinois School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
*Therese Tierney, Associate Professor*
- 2016 Spring **Interior Architecture Undergraduate Studio (Final Review)**  
 Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO), School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Carl Ray Miller, Associate Professor*
- 2015 Fall **Arch/InArch Design Communications Section 1 (Final Review)**  
 Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO), School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Ann L. Lui, Artist-in-Residence*
- Arch/InArch Design Communications Section 2 (Final Review)**  
 Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO), School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
*John S. Clark, Adjunct Faculty*
- Dynamics and Processes of Place (Midterm Review)**  
 Program of Landscape Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology  
*Conor O'Shea, Visiting Assistant Professor*
- 2014 Fall **Dynamics and Processes of Place (Midterm Review)**  
 Program of Landscape Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology  
*Conor O'Shea, Visiting Assistant Professor*
- 2013 Summer **Landscape Architecture Studio (Midterm and Final Reviews)**  
 Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program  
*Conor O'Shea, Instructor*
- 2012 Summer **Architecture Studio (Final Review)**  
 Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program  
*Aviva Rubin, Instructor*
- Landscape Architecture Studio (Final Review)**  
 Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program  
*Conor O'Shea, Instructor*
- Urban Planning Studio (Final Review)**  
 Graduate School of Design Career Discovery Program  
*Justin Stern, Instructor*
- 2009 Summer **Architecture Studio (Final Review)**  
 Cornell University Intro to Architecture Program  
*Gabriel Hohag, Instructor*

## EDITORSHIPS OF JOURNALS

- 2017- **Founding Editor, *Transect***  
Issue 1, Spring 2017: WE  
*Contributors* Paola Aguirre, Christopher Alton, Keefer Dunn  
Issue 2, Fall 2017: PARTITIONS  
*Contributors* Dongsei Kim, D.N. Bhargava

## GRANTS RECEIVED

- 2012 **Con-temporary Urbanism: Mapping India's Kumbh Mela**  
Mehrotra, Rahul, and Eck, Diana (P.I.), Dharwadker, A., and Dharia, N. (Co-P.I.)  
Provost Fund for Interfaculty Collaboration, Office of the Provost, Harvard University  
\$25,000 awarded for field research in Allahabad, India
- 2011 **Shifting Grounds: Urban Morphologies in the Yamuna Riverbed**  
Dharwadker, Aneesha (P.I.)  
Penny White Travel Award, Department of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Design  
\$2,200 awarded for field research in New Delhi, India
- 2007 **Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholarship Travel Grant**  
Dharwadker, Aneesha (P.I.)  
The Cornell Commitment, Cornell University  
\$3000 awarded for field research in New Delhi, India
- 2005 **Rawlings Cornell Presidential Research Scholarship Travel Grant**  
Dharwadker, Aneesha (P.I.)  
The Cornell Commitment, Cornell University  
\$2000 awarded for field research in Chandigarh, India

## ARTICLES IN JOURNALS (\*\*Peer-reviewed)

- 2017 Dharwadker, Aneesha. "Editor's Note," *TRANSECT* iss. 1 (Spring 2017): pp. 6-9.
- 2014 Dharwadker, Aneesha. "City of Edges," *Writing Cities Vol. 3: Limits and the Urban* (2014): pp. 58-67.\*\*
- 2006 Dharwadker, Aneesha. "The Nature of Truth and Time," *Discoveries* #7 (2006): pp. 59-63.

## COLLABORATIVE ARCHITECTURE MONOGRAPHS

- 2014 **Safdie**  
Victoria, Australia: Images Publishing, 820 pp.  
With Safdie Architects, Pentagram  
Role: Content Editor and Project Manager
- 2013 **Reaching for the Sky: The Marina Bay Sands Singapore**  
Singapore: ORO Editions, 287 pp.  
With Safdie Architects, Pentagram  
Role: Copy and Design Drawing Editor

## FEATURED DESIGN WORK

- 2015 **Bus Transit Authority**  
Aneesha Dharwadker and Conor O'Shea  
*Association Vol. 7*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (2015).  
[www.association.aap.cornell.edu](http://www.association.aap.cornell.edu)
- 2011 **New Geographies: Imagining a City-World Beyond Cosmopolis**  
Nicholas Croft, Aneesha Dharwadker, Mariusz Klemens, Elizabeth MacWillie, William Quattlebaum, Trude Renwick, Mary Grace Verges, and Clementina Vinals  
*GSD Platform 4*. Cambridge MA: Actar, 2011. p. 275-277.  
[www.gsd.harvard.edu](http://www.gsd.harvard.edu)
- 2011 **An Archaeology of Perspective: Tempietto Underground**  
Aneesha Dharwadker, Aviva Rubin, Michail Vlasopoulos  
*Abitare* Harvard Logbook  
[www.abitare.it](http://www.abitare.it)

2010 **MisReading the City: An Urban Proposal**  
Anesha Dharwadker  
*Association Vol. 4.* Ithaca NY: Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning (2011).  
[www.association.aap.cornell.edu](http://www.association.aap.cornell.edu)

## CREATIVE WORKS

### EXHIBITIONS

2017 **Claiming Ground**  
Designer-in-Residence Exhibition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign IL  
I-Hotel and Conference Center, May 3  
Temple Hoyne Buell Hall Architecture Gallery, May 5-30

2016 **Wasteland**  
50 Designers, 50 Ideas, 50 Wards, Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago IL  
Exhibition for the CAF 50th Anniversary curated by Urban Lab, June-December  
In collaboration with Hinterlands Urbanism + Landscape

2013-14 **Global Citizen: The Architecture of Moshe Safdie**  
Touring exhibition of Moshe Safdie's work at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA  
and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR  
Role: Exhibition designer

### BUILT ARCHITECTURAL WORK

2017 **Just Like New Retail**  
*Chicago Design Office*  
Location Hyderabad, India  
Client JustLikeNew.in  
Role Design Principal

2016 **Skokie Country Club Swimming Complex**  
*Booth Hansen*  
Location Glencoe IL  
Client Skokie Country Club  
Role Project Designer

**Palmolive Storefront Renovation**  
*Booth Hansen*  
Location Chicago IL  
Client Draper and Kramer  
Role Project Designer

### COMPETITIONS (\*\*Prize awarded)

2015 **Center for Architecture, Design, and Education**  
With Brett Horin, Michael Prince, Noel Turgeon, Erica Wannemacher, Mekael Wesley-Rosa  
Submission title: "CADE: An Urban Assemblage"  
Open call hosted by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago IL

**Lakefront Kiosk Competition**  
Submission title: "K+: A Public Project for 21st-Century Chicago"  
Open call hosted by the Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago IL

2014 **Hellinikon Master Plan**  
With Safdie Architects  
Invited competition hosted by Elbit Cochin Island Ltd., Athens Greece

2013 **2013 Burnham Prize\*\***  
With Conor O'Shea  
Submission title: "Bus Transit Authority"  
Open call hosted by the Chicago Architecture Club and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Chicago IL

**Sixty Nine Seventy: An Urban Ideas Competition\*\***  
With Mike Albert, Fadi Masoud, Conor O'Shea, Victor Perez-Amado  
Submission title: "Multi-Grid: Redefining the Spaces Between"  
Open call hosted by the AIA Utah Young Architects Forum, Salt Lake City UT

- 2013 **Tengah New Town**  
With Safdie Architects  
Invited competition hosted by the Housing and Development Board of Singapore, Singapore
- Atlantis Resort Hainan**  
With Safdie Architects  
Invited competition hosted by Kerzner International, Hainan China
- 2012 **Xiqu Centre**  
With Safdie Architects  
Invited competition hosted by the West Kowloon Cultural District, Hong Kong

## SUMMARY OF RECENT RESEARCH

2016- **Cultivating Power: Colonialism as Urbanism in a New Global Context**

*UIUC Department of Landscape Architecture*

European colonialism was a global-scale reordering of world systems—including geopolitics, agriculture, labor, mechanical production, urban growth, commodities trade, and capitalism—within which we are still embedded today. Significant bodies of scholarly and artistic discourse trace the effects of these shifts on colonized territories, but the reverse—the effects of colonialism on the spatial and economic development of colonizers’ urban “metropolises”—has gone comparatively under-examined. This project examines the case of Manchester, England through the lenses of colonialism and the cotton trade, mapping the urban growth of the mill town as parallel to the global-scale flows of raw cotton, textiles, capital, and labor generated by the British footprint on South Asia. In this way, colonial processes and exploitations—often missing from larger narratives on modern globalization—are reintroduced as underlying drivers of contemporary urbanism.

In a Spring 2017 seminar, Aneesha Dharwadker and University of Illinois students investigated agricultural commodities during British and Portuguese colonialism in India, mapping the continental-scale flows of goods and capital that help us understand today’s globalized environment. The results of this seminar were included in “Claiming Ground,” the 2016-2017 Designer-in-Residence Exhibition at UIUC.

2011-12

**City of Edges**

*Graduate School of Design Master in Design Studies Thesis*

*Faculty Advisor: K. Michael Hays*

*City of Edges* establishes the wall as a structuring paradigm in contemporary Delhi. Walled cities have a long and tumultuous history in India’s capital, but this thesis argues that they are not merely historical relics. Rather, Delhi has, both consciously and otherwise, emerged as a unique urban case study where walls, thresholds, and edges dominate the modern urban experience. Through mapping, drawing, and experimental writing forms, this project challenges the linearity of historical writing on India and suggests that urban space, with its ability to represent different eras simultaneously, is a form of history that can be “read” and “written.”

**Kumbh Mela: Mapping the Ephemeral Mega-City**

*Graduate School of Design Urban India Initiative*

*Faculty Advisor: Rahul Mehrotra; Role: Lead Research Associate*

The Kumbh Mela, a Hindu religious festival that occurs every twelve years at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers in the city of Allahabad, is a prototype for a concept we call the “pop-up mega-city.” An in-depth study of this typological model yields potential deployment in crisis situations, like in refugee camps and sites of natural disasters.

**The Urban India Atlas**

*Graduate School of Design Urban India Initiative*

*Faculty Advisor: Rahul Mehrotra; Role: Research Assistant*

This project is a long-term critical assessment of emergent patterns of urban growth in India today. The investigation applies a range of spatial analysis techniques to better understand the logic behind urban, regional, and national development, and arrive at conclusions regarding future patterns of growth.

**Shifting Grounds: Urban Morphologies in the Yamuna Riverbed**

*Graduate School of Design Penny White Travel Award*

*Shifting Grounds* investigates the fertile strip of land between Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) and the current location of the Yamuna River, a river that is constantly shifting eastward across the Indo-Gangetic Plain. The project maps the strip through a grid system, identifying and analyzing the relationships between water, land, large-scale transportation infrastructure, and agriculture.