

MINGJIA CHEN

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Academic Interests

Cultural institution as place and as infrastructure; the collapsing social safety net; history of civic activism against highway planning and market housing development; queer affect and embodied experiences

Education

September 2021 - January 2025 (Expected)

M.Arch (Professional). Department of Architecture, **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA.

Current Studio Research: Building for emerging practices of small-scale, regenerative aqua farming in Maine; Material reuse potential for decommissioned highway structures.

Instructor: Sheila Kennedy

Academic Advisor: Cristina Parreño Alonso

September 2015 - April 2019

Hons. B. En.D (with Distinction). School of Architecture, **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Pre-professional degree with an emphasis on Landscape Design.

UBC Alma Mater Society Design Student Club (2019)

UBC School of Architecture Summer Research Semester in Japan (2018)

Project Topic: Mental-mapping the Tokaido Megalopolis

Project Advisor: Mari Fujita

Design Experience

July 2019 - June 2021

Landscape Designer. Hapa Collaborative Landscape Architecture & Urban Design, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Work with Landscape and Urban Design projects at different scales. Engage in project management and coordination in SD and DD phases. Produce evocative and technical drawings. Participate in community urban design workshops. Assist with office administration and communication with consultants and clients.

Projects:

Elmwood Mixed-Housing Development, City of Coquitlam, BC (project management)

West 42nd and Alberta St. High Rise Development, City of Vancouver, BC (project management)

UBC Landscape Annex Building Renovation, UBC Campus Planning (project management)

Pitt Meadows Overpass Urban Design Guidelines, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (graphics support)

Bentall Centre Plaza, Hudson Pacific Properties in consultancy with KPF (research and graphics support)

Editorial & Curatorial Experience

August 2022 - Current

Editor-In-Chief. *Out of Frame*, MIT Department of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.

2022-2023 Editor for [MIT Department of Architecture's online student publication, Out of Frame](#). Work with contributors for submissions. Design, setup and maintain new contents on the website. Curate new contents for monthly newsletters and physical exhibition at Architecture HQ office.

June 2022 - August 2022

Gallery Intern. OR Gallery Chinatown (non-profit), Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Work with coordinators to maintain [Or Gallery](#)'s daily operations over the summer. Migrate contents for new websites, index invoices for book/zine consignments and set up inventory for the gallery bookstore.

December 2021 - February 2022

Residency. "How To...?" Canadian Centre For Architecture, Montréal, QC, Canada.

One of the eight participants (selected from over 200 applications) of the [2022 Winter Residency](#) led by CCA's public program curator. Conduct interviews with practicing architects who develop their own projects. Work collaboratively to create an online publication and an opening event.

Curator: Lev Bratishenko (CCA) and Joseph Zeal-Henry (Sound Advice / Greater London Authority)

September 2021 - November 2021, November 2022 - Current

Student Columnist. *Out of Frame*, MIT Department of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.

Fall 2021 Column: [Ready Player 77](#). Collaborators: Soala Ajenka, Nikita Klimenko.

Fall 2022 Column: [Signage](#). Collaborator: Simone Lassar.

October 2021 - December 2021

Radio Co-Host. [WAWD? \(What Are We Doing\) Radio](#), MIT Department of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.

Fall 2021 Show Program: *Settling In - A conversation about moving as an international Student.*

Co-Host: Ina Yi En Wu

Academic Experience

June 2022 - October 2023

Researcher. Queer Space Lab, MIT Department of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.

Research Project Title: "[Minor Presence: \[Un\]accountable history of Harvard's Lamont Library - Part 1.](#)"

Co-Author: Tejumola Bayowa

March 2021

Guest Critic. Landscape Option Studio, UBC School of Architecture and Landscape, Vancouver, BC.

Studio Instructor: Annie Liang

September 2018 - April 2019

Undergraduate Academic Assistant. UBC School of Architecture and Landscape, Vancouver, BC.

Work under the direction of UBC School of Architecture's facilities manager Nick Scott to maintain a safe and clean studio space and provide safety & well-being sessions to fellow students.

Exhibitions

September 2021 - December 2021

MIT Keller Art Gallery. "Desktop: A Material History of MIT Architecture A Year Apart (Group), Cambridge, MA.

Exhibited Project: "The Mug: Attending Pre-Orientation Workshop while driving across Canada."

Found objects (Porcelain Mug, Receipts, Border Slips) with digital collage printed on cardstock.

January 2021 - February 2021

Harvard GSD Druker Gallery. "Projection Series on the Gund Hall Exterior," Public Art Installation, Cambridge, MA.

Exhibited Project: "[Haiku of an Information Processing Machine #5](#)"

Media art video projected over GSD's Gund Hall facade.

Co-author: Diana Dian Xi Guo

December 2020

GSD Kirkland Student Gallery. "[Floating Between Borders Or Perhaps A World Without Borders](#)," Cambridge, MA.

Room Installation with found objects (Hazmat suits, stamps, curtain and mannequins) and video projection and live performance art broadcasted over zoom.

Co-author: Diana Dian Xi Guo

May 2019

UBC Hatch Art Gallery . "Environmental Design Graduation Exhibition" (Group), Vancouver, BC.

Exhibited Project: "After School: Daylighting the creek at King Edward High." Design Proposal.

Publications

December 2022

Chen, Mingjia and Lassar, Simone. "[PED-X-ING](#)" in "Signage," *Out of Frame* Student Journal, MIT Department of Architecture

September 2022

Chen, Mingjia and Bayowa, Tejumola. "[Minor Presence: An \[Un\]accountable History of Harvard's Lamont Library.](#)" MIT Queer Space Lab.

January 2022

Bratishenko, Lev, **Chen, Mingjia**, Effiom, Eva, Grozdanoska, Melanija, Hirschberg, Rebekka, Powell, Harriet,

Renyong, Thea, Steele, Duncan, Tin, CoCo, and Zeal-Henry, Joseph. "[How To: Not Become A Developer.](#)" Canadian Centre for Architecture.

September 2021

Chen, Mingjia. "[A Brief Attempt to Diagram Homes in Open World Games](#)" in "Ready Player 77," *Out of Frame* Student Journal, MIT Department of Architecture

June 2021

Chen, Mingjia, Guo, Diana. "[Floating Between Borders.](#)" *Harvard Urban Review*, "Issue 03: Sick Space."

March 2021

Chen, Mingjia, Guo, Diana. "Floating Between Borders." *On Site Review*, Issue 38: "[Lines, Borders and Breaches.](#)" Edited by Stephanie White. 14-19.

Selected Graphics in Publications

April 2022

Thresholds Journal, Issue 50: "Before | After," Edited by Jola Idowu, Ardalan SadeghiKivi, Meriam Soltan and Antonio Pacheco. Image produced for "The Problem of The Angels and The Way of The Night," written by Hashim Sarkis and Mohamad Nahleh.

February 2022

Roehr, Daniel. ***Multisensory Landscape Design: A Designer's Guide for Seeing.*** Routledge (London, UK: 2022). *A series of hand drawings, photos of models and collages (8 images) produced over Daniel Roehrer's Seminar I took at UBC in 2018.*

Awards

September 2021

Graduate Full Tuition Fellowship (7 Semesters). MIT Department of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.

January, 2021

Shortlist Finalist. Reimagining Museums for Climate Action, 26th UN Climate Change Conference, Glasgow. Project Title: "[Disassembling the Museum for Public Transit](#)"

Extracurricular Experience

November 2019

Rally Co-Driver (Navigator). [Totem Rally](#), British Columbia Regularity Rally Championship, Cache Creek, BC
Navigate across 900 kilometers of BC interior's forest service roads in a stock vehicle under extreme snow and mud conditions. Provide route guidance to the driver. Calculate average times for each stage of the competition and work with the driver to maintain required interval speed averages.
[Final Position: #14/17](#)

June 2019 - November 2019

Volunteer. Kitsilano Fairview Community Policing Centre, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver, BC.
Assist with office work and communicate with local residents. File lost and found, vandalism and other non-emergency reports.

Languages

English (Bilingual Proficiency)

Mandarin Chinese (Bilingual Proficiency)