

Samuel Owen

Candidate, Master of Science in Architecture Studies,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Education

2024-2026 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** Cambridge, MA
Master of Science in Architecture Studies (SMArchS) Urbanism Candidate Thesis (in progress): *A Time Traveler's Guide to the West After Water*

2017-2022 **The University of Arizona** Tucson, AZ
Bachelor of Architecture + Honors College
Graduation with Distinction for Thesis: *Barcelona 5.0: Altra Volta*
Honors: Magna Cum Laude, Capstone Award, Faculty Commendation, Stream Award (Professional Practice)

Academic Involvements

2026 **Priscilla King Gray (PKG) Center | MIT** Cambridge, MA
Participant in PKG IDEAS for Social Impact Accelerator program
- Project: CommonGround

2026 **Sandbox | MIT** Cambridge, MA
Participant in 2026 seed funding + mentorship program
- Project: CommonGround

2024-2026 **Applicant Mentorship Program (AMP) | MIT** Cambridge, MA
Academic mentor to prospective applicants

2025 **MIT International Science + Technology Initiative (MISTI) | MIT** Cambridge, MA
Participated in internship program through MISTI UK

2021-2023 **Research Assistant | University of Arizona** Cambridge, MA
- Using AR to model the invisibilities of a Parisian internment camp
- Design co-lead for grant-funded parametric campus installation

2022 **Study Abroad Program | University of Arizona** Barcelona, Spain
Program hosted by Institute for American Universities

2020-2022 **Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society (ΤΣΔ) | University of Arizona** Tucson, AZ
Member of architectural honors society for top 20% of class

2017-2022 **American Institute of Architects | University of Arizona** Tucson, AZ
Member + mentor to 1st year B. Arch students

2018-2019 **Honors College Alternative Spring Break | University of Arizona** Whiteriver, AZ
Trip leader to study food sovereignty on Apache-run reservation farm

Teaching Experience

2026	Worlding + Wilding Workshop MIT <i>Cambridge, MA</i> 3-day Climate Future Workshop
2026	Worlding + Wilding Workshop University of Arizona <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Lecture + 1-day Climate Future Workshop
2025	Territory as Interior MIT <i>Cambridge, MA Santiago de Compostela, Spain</i> Teaching Assistant - 4.154 Graduate Option Studio: "Territory as Interior - Economies and Ecologies in the Barbanza Peninsula"
2021	Techne III University of Arizona <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Teaching Assistant - ARC341 Advanced Digital Fabrication

Professional Experience

2026 -	CommonGround Co-Founder + Head of Design <i>Boston, MA</i> Digital climate platform that offers a healthy social network alternative, connecting users to local climate actions which foster hope and collective resilience. - Head of design, prototyping, and market research (ongoing)
2022 -	Sam Owen Design Founder <i>Phoenix, AZ</i> Solo practice providing design + permitting for commercial projects
2025	Foster + Partners Urban Design Intern <i>London, United Kingdom</i> - Manchester United Football Club - Master Plan - California High Speed Rail - Station Master Plan for Fresno, Merced, and Bakersfield
2022-2024	desertWORKS Studio Architect-in-Training <i>Phoenix, AZ + Tucson, AZ</i> Design lead on commercial work from wine bars to master planning
2022-2024	Gemelo Design Co. Co-Founder <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Co-founder of AZ-based graphic design practice

Awards + Honors

2024-2026	Architecture Departmental Fellowship MIT <i>Cambridge, MA</i> Faculty nomination for top thesis project
2022	The Capstone Award University of Arizona <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Faculty nomination for top thesis project
2022	Faculty Commendation University of Arizona <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Honor for top students of graduating class
2022	Stream Award University of Arizona <i>Tucson, AZ</i> Category: Professional Practice
2020	AIAS In-Studio Model Competition <i>Nationwide</i> 1st place in national competition
2018-2022	College of Architecture Design Excellence Awards <i>Tucson, AZ</i> 5-time exhibitee (2018-2022), 1-time citation winner (2021)

Publications + Presentations

2026 **Owen, S.** “The West After Water: Narratives and Dissonance in the Desert Southwest.” Harvard Urban Review (publication forthcoming)

2025 **Owen, S.** “The West After Water.” The Conference for the Constructed Environment, Berlin, Germany
Poster Session

2022 Davila, C., Dickinson, S., Hyatt, J. and **Owen, S.** “Optimized Design and Fabrication of Economical Curved Metal Facades.” Conference Proceedings of The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, ACSA 110th Annual Meeting EMPOWER 2022.
25% co-author

2022 Weinstein, Beth, **Owen, S** (key contributor). “Forensics and Fora: Reconstructing and Re-membering the Centre d’Identification de Vincennes.” Conference Proceedings of The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, ACSA 110th Annual Meeting EMPOWER 2022.
Key contributor

Exhibitions

2026 **“Worlding + Wilding” | Curator** Cambridge, MA
Solo curator of exhibit on climate visions at MIT ACT Gallery (forthcoming)

2023 **“A Phoenix Reborn” | Exhibitor** Phoenix, AZ
Exhibitor at AIA Metro PHX Excellence Exhibition

2022 **“Altra Volta” | Exhibitor** Phoenix, AZ
Student work exhibition at AIA Arizona State Conference

2021 **“Designing Tucson’s Food Future” | Co-Curator** Tucson, AZ
Co-coordinated a public exhibition on local food systems

2018-2022 **Design Excellence | Exhibitor** Tucson, AZ
5-time University of Arizona Student Exhibitor

Media

2025 **“NYC Walks + Sidewalk Ballet” | Film for Venice Biennale**
Self-Produced film developed with the MIT City Form Lab

2022 **“Hyper-Density is What Makes New York, New York” | Documentary**
Self-Produced Documentary funded by scholarship

Languages

English Native Proficiency

Spanish Advanced Proficiency