

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

## Professional Experience

- 2026 - **CommonGround | Co-Founder + Head of Design** *Boston, MA*  
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** *Phoenix, AZ*  
Solo practice providing design + permitting for commercial projects
- 2025 **Foster + Partners | Urban Design Intern** *London, United Kingdom*  
- 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** *Phoenix, AZ + Tucson, AZ*  
Design lead on commercial work from wine bars to master planning
- 2022-2024 **Gemelo Design Co. | Co-Founder** *Tucson, AZ*  
Co-founder of AZ-based graphic design practice

## Awards + Honors

- 2024-2026 **Architecture Departmental Fellowship | MIT** *Cambridge, MA*  
Faculty nomination for top thesis project
- 2022 **The Capstone Award | University of Arizona** *Tucson, AZ*  
Faculty nomination for top thesis project
- 2022 **Faculty Commendation | University of Arizona** *Tucson, AZ*  
Honor for top students of graduating class
- 2022 **Stream Award | University of Arizona** *Tucson, AZ*  
Category: Professional Practice
- 2020 **AIAS In-Studio Model Competition** *Nationwide*  
1st place in national competition
- 2018-2022 **College of Architecture Design Excellence Awards** *Tucson, AZ*  
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