



Skylar Bisom-Rapp

Senior Associate

Skylar Bisom-Rapp is a Senior Associate at Practice for Architecture and Urbanism (PAU) where he has worked on projects ranging from storefront cultural spaces to neighborhood-scale masterplans. His work is informed by the belief that design and development are both inherently synthetic disciplines and must be approached holistically, with an eye towards context in the broadest sense: local culture, politics, history, social justice and the environment.

At PAU, Skylar project managed the design and engineering teams for the 180 acre Sunnyside Yard Master Plan in Queens, NY, leading the integration of work from 14 different sub-consultants and serving as the lead author and editor for the final planning documents. His other work at PAU has included a programming exercise for the planned Lowline underground park on the Lower East Side, analysis of the East Midtown Rezoning's effects on mid-block development sites as well as master planning and feasibility studies for large-scale, mixed-use projects such as a 2,000 unit affordable housing project in East New York and a 1.5 million SF transit oriented, laboratory, office and residential development in Philadelphia. Skylar has also participated in PAU's advocacy work, developing design concepts, coordinating with transportation engineers and leading the animation and illustration team that collaborated with New York Times columnist, Farhad Manjoo on his much-discussed editorial "I've Seen a Future Without Cars, and It's Amazing" as well as providing demographic analysis for a letter to Mayor de Blasio about spaces of public protest.

Skylar was formerly a member of the adjunct faculty at Columbia University's Graduate School for Architecture, Planning and Preservation where he taught courses with PAU founder Vishaan Chakrabarti including a seminar on theories of city form and an interdisciplinary workshop on urban development. Skylar is also an alumnus of GSAPP, where he received dual masters degrees in Architecture and Real Estate Development, with a coursework emphasis on affordable housing finance and policy. Skylar was the inaugural recipient of the Glascock and van Buren Graduate Fellowship at Columbia's Center for Urban Real Estate (CURE). Skylar also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture with High Honors from the University of California, Berkeley. Skylar's scholarly work focusses on architecture fits within larger political economic structures including a paper on how the flexibility of the legal definition of property ownership can benefit socially conscious architects that was published in the fifth issue of the Applied Research Practices in Architecture Journal.

Experience

Practice for Architecture & Urbanism

- New York, NY
Senior Associate | Mar 2020 - Present
Senior Strategist | Jan 2017 - Mar 2020
Strategic Analyst | Nov 2015 - Jan 2017
- *Greater Legacy Planning*
Tustin, CA (2020 - on going)
 - *Downtown Niagara Falls*
Niagara Falls, NY (2020 - on going)
 - *Corktown Master Plan*,
Detroit, MI (2019 - on going)
 - *Sunnyside Yard Master Plan*
Queens, NY (2018-2020)
 - *East New York Affordable Housing*
Brooklyn, NY (2017 - on going)
 - *JFK Towers at Schuylkill Yards*
Philadelphia, PA (2017 - on going)
 - *Gowanus Office Building*
Brooklyn, NY 2016 (on going)
 - *Lowline Visioning Plan*
New York, NY (2016-2017)
 - *East Midtown Rezoning Analysis*
New York, NY (2016)
 - *Newark Bears and Eagles Stadium*
Redevelopment Master Plan
Newark, NJ (2016-17)
 - *PG&E Hunters Point Power Plant*
Redevelopment Master Plan and Analysis
San Francisco, CA (2016)

Pollen Architecture & Design

- Austin, TX | Design & Development Analyst
Summer 2015
- *Next Door Creative Offices, Austin, TX*
Performed market and zoning analysis, built the proforma and participated in concept design for a 25,000 sf creative office development. Guided the Pollen team on real estate metrics for the office's first design/development project.

JCHousing: Mayor's Housing Taskforce

- Jersey City, NJ | Team Member
Nov 2014 - May 2015
- *Maps and geospatial analysis for a policy brief.*

Estudio Teddy Cruz

- San Diego, CA | Research Intern
2011 - 2012
- *Research on border neighborhoods*
 - *"Political Equator III" conference organization*

Florman Architects

San Diego, CA | Intern, 2005 - 2008

Education

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture Planning & Preservation
New York, NY | Master of Architecture & Master of Science in Real Estate Development
02/2016

University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design

Berkeley, CA | Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, High Honors, Minor in Global Poverty & Practice
05/2012

Academic Appointments

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture Planning & Preservation
New York, NY

- Adjunct Associate | Sept. 2016 - Dec. 2019
- Theories of City Form (Fall Semesters 2016-2019)
Theories of City Form is a survey course that examines the myriad forces and factors which directly govern or indirectly influence the size, shape and nature of cities.
 - Design, Density + Delirium: The New York Alternatives Workshop (Spring Semester 2018)
A workshop that asked students to consider Bloomberg era large scale, public/private redevelopment projects from a de Blasio era political perspective.

Glascock & van Buren Graduate Fellow |
Jun 2014 - Dec 2015

- *Literature review of office design and metrics.*
- *Research memo on the history of the Mexican housing policy.*

Teaching Assistant | Sept 2013 - May 2014

- *Architectural Drawing and Representation I & II*

Department of Architecture, UC Berkeley
Berkeley, CA

Research & Curriculum Development | May - July 2012

- *Research on the history of community design.*

Awards

William Kinne Traveling Fellowship | 2015
CURE Award for Transdisciplinary Work | 2015
Glascock & van Buren Graduate Fellowship | 2014
UC Berkeley CED Undergraduate Thesis Prize | 2012

Publications & Public Appearances

"I've Seen a Future Without Cars, and It's Amazing,"
The New York Times, July 9, 2020
(Team lead for concept, animation and illustrations)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/09/opinion/sunday/ban-cars-manhattan-cities.html>

"Displacement, Development & Driverless Vehicles:
Issues at the Intersection of Equity, Transit Oriented
Development and the Advent of A.V.s"
The Politics of Public Space Panel, FLOW Festival
The Van Allen Institute | New York, NY
June 18, 2018
www.vanallen.org/events/the-politics-of-mobility/

"Ownership Unpacked: Escaping the false binary
between public and private property regimes."
Issue 05: Conflicts of Interest
Advanced Research Practices in Architecture Journal
May 24, 2018
www.arpajournal.net/ownership-unpacked/

"Unpacking Ownership: Escaping the False Binary
Between Public and Private Property Regimes to
Achieve Progressive Outcomes in Architecture"
Inclusive City Panel, Regenerative City Conference
University of Oregon/ University of San Francisco
October 29, 2016

The Underdome Guide to Energy Reform
Princeton Architectural Press | Princeton, NJ
2015 (Contributed illustrations)