

## Graham Foundation

### Graham Foundation Announces 2025 Grants to Individuals

*Over \$385,000 awarded to individuals working globally on innovative ideas that further inquiry and understanding of architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society*

Chicago, June 26, 2025—The Graham Foundation is honored to announce the award of \$385,500 for 42 new grants to individuals. Selected from nearly 600 submissions made at the Foundation's annual application deadline in September 2024, the funded projects include exhibitions, films, publications, research, site-specific installations, and digital initiatives that contribute new interdisciplinary ideas on architecture and design to publics around the world.

The funded projects are led by 64 individuals that include established and emerging architects, artists, curators, designers, filmmakers, historians, scholars, and writers, from locations such as São Paulo, Brazil; Toronto, Canada; Quito, Ecuador; Paris, France; Berlin, Germany; Athens, Greece; Mexico City, Mexico; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Lagos and Warri, Nigeria; Edinburgh and London, United Kingdom; and from cities across the United States including Charlottesville, VA; Columbus, OH; Honolulu, HI; Hopewell, NJ; Houston, TX; Knoxville, TN; Lexington, KY; Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; New Orleans, LA; New York, NY; and Chicago, IL, where the Graham Foundation is based.

The 2025 grantees join a worldwide network of individuals and organizations that the Graham Foundation has supported over the past 69 years. In that time, the Foundation has awarded more than 45 million dollars in direct support to over 5,200 projects by individuals and organizations around the world. The 2025 grants to organizations will be announced later this summer.

The complete list of the 2025 individual grantees follows. Please find descriptions of the awarded projects beginning on page 3. To learn more about the new grants, click on any grantee name below to visit their online project page, or go to [grahamfoundation.org](https://www.grahamfoundation.org).

LIST OF 2025 INDIVIDUAL GRANTEES (42 awards)

EXHIBITIONS (8)

Tülay Atak  
 Erin Besler  
 Carlos H. Blanco  
 Jason Campbell  
 Maria Fernanda Cartagena, Paula Izurieta, Eduardo Kohn, Fabiano Kueva, Gabriel Moyer-Perez, and Manari Ushigua  
 Thuto Durkac-Somo, Jonathan González, and Mario Gooden  
 Richard-Allen Foster, Benjamin Pollak, and John L. Sanders  
 Departamento del Distrito: Nathan Friedman and Francisco Quiñones

FILMS (2)

Alice Arnold and Sharon Zukin  
 Malcolm St-Pierre

PUBLICATIONS (17)

Olivia Abrahão and Carla Juaçaba  
 KJ Abudu  
 Richard Anderson  
 Shantel Blakely  
 Thomas J. Campanella  
 Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley  
 Sheila Crane  
 Victor Deupi  
 Kevin Harrington and Michelangelo Sabatino

Nifemi Marcus-Bello  
 Mary Miss  
 Farshid Moussavi  
 Mohamad Nahleh  
 Ilaria Palmieri and Georgina Pantazopoulou  
 Łukasz Stanek  
 Camilo José Vergara  
 James Wines, Suzan Wines, and Phillip Denny

RESEARCH PROJECTS (15)

Anna Nnenna Abengowe  
 Farah Alkhoury and Ameneh Solati  
 Rebecca Choi  
 Sean Connelly  
 Jareh Das  
 La Liga de la Madera: Karina Flores, Mecky Reuss, Ana Paula Ruiz Galindo, and Jachen Schleich  
 Kandis Friesen  
 Noah Gotlib  
 Leen Katrib  
 Hamed Khosravi  
 Hojung Kim and Ha Nguyen  
 Ayala Levin  
 Noritaka Minami  
 Olga Touloumi  
 Padmini Unni

DESCRIPTIONS OF AWARDED PROJECTS—2025 GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

EXHIBITIONS (8 awards)

**Tülay Atak**

New York, NY

*Making Energy Visible*

Center for Architecture (New York), opens October 2025

This exhibition investigates the interpretations, representations, and visualizations of energy in architecture across history, and in various scales, from building details to landscapes, with a focus on New York. [learn more](#)

**Erin Besler**

Hopewell, NJ

*Staging Area: A Barn Raising in Two Parts (Part 2)*

Art Omi (Ghent, NY), opens July 2025

Embodying a narrative of community and collectivity, this architectural barn raising, participatory performance, and installation at Art Omi Sculpture & Architecture Park amplifies the social, pedagogical, and cultural rituals rehearsed at the construction site with community participants and the public. [learn more](#)

**Carlos H. Blanco**

New York, NY

*Casas de Cartón—Rural Memories of the Dry Corridor*

Citygroup (New York), opens Spring/Summer 2026

Weaving a compelling storyline of rural memory in the Central American Dry Corridor—across El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua—this exhibition explores architectural investigations of impoverished agricultural communities, rural domestic lives, and entangled territories in the backdrop of the region’s economic instability and changing climate. [learn more](#)

**Jason Campbell**

Chicago, IL

*The Society for Care and Maintenance*

Design Museum of Chicago (Chicago), opens January 2026

The exhibition offers a unique perspective on urban detritus as a medium for architectural inquiry, challenging visitors to consider the invisible forces that influence urban design and social interaction. [learn more](#)

**Maria Fernanda Cartagena, Paula Izurieta, Eduardo Kohn, Fabiano Kueva, Gabriel Moyer-Perez, and Manari Ushigua**

Montreal, Canada; New York, NY; and Quito, Ecuador

*Animismo Animado*

Centro Cultural Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (Quito), opens May 2026

Growing out of a forest-based alliance between Sapara communities from the Ecuadorian Amazon, anthropologists, architects, and artists, this exhibition deploys shamanic, spatial, and multisensory curation—animating shapeshifting pre-Hispanic figures—to expand audiences’ ecopolitical and territorial consciousness in the face of the human-driven environmental crisis. [learn more](#)

**Thuto Durkac-Somo, Jonathan González, and Mario Gooden**

New York, NY

*Black Holes Ain't So Black*

EMPAC, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY), April 2026

Pioneer Works (New York, NY), 2027

Through the production of a three-channel video installation and a choreographic performance with an architecturally transformable kinespheric scaffolding, this project explores Black spaces of marronage and liberation in Black artistic production, architecture, and spatial practices in the American South. [learn more](#)

**Richard-Allen Foster, Benjamin Pollak, and John L. Sanders**

Knoxville, TN

*The Seeds of Regionalism in the South: An Investigation into the Work of Alfred Clauss and Jane West Clauss in Knoxville, Tennessee*

Knoxville Museum of Art (Knoxville, TN), opens September 2025

This exhibition rediscovers the largely forgotten contributions of architects Alfred Clauss (1906–1998) and Jane West Clauss (1907–2003) exploring how their mentorship by Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier influenced the Clauss’ design and development of the Little Switzerland community in Knoxville from 1939–45, sowing the seeds of regional modernism in the Appalachian South. [learn more](#)

**Departamento del Distrito: Nathan Friedman and Francisco Quiñones**

Mexico City, Mexico

*Light Gauge*

Materials & Applications with Craft Contemporary (Los Angeles), open through October 2025

Two photovoltaic space frames float over the M&A x Craft Contemporary Courtyard and create a zone of performance, encounter, and cooling that attends to disciplinary questions of infrastructure, aesthetics, urban policy, and community energy provision through this outdoor public installation. [learn more](#)

FILMS (2 awards)

**Alice Arnold and Sharon Zukin**

New York, NY

*SoHo in Flux: Art, Real Estate and the Housing Crisis*

Going behind the battlelines of a contentious rezoning, this documentary film reveals how the storied artists' community of SoHo became a neighborhood of luxury lofts and launched a "Yes In My Backyard"/"Not In My Backyard" (YIMBY/NIMBY) conflict. [learn more](#)

**Malcolm St-Pierre**

Montreal, Canada

*Mr. Adams*

This film explores the life of architectural historian and activist Michael Henry Adams tracing his personal journey from Ohio to New York—drawn by the legend of the Harlem Renaissance—focusing on his decades-long fight to save Harlem's historic buildings from demolition and his efforts to call attention to systemic racism within the world of historic preservation. [learn more](#)

PUBLICATIONS (17 awards)

**Olivia Abrahão and Carla Juaçaba**

Paris, France and São Paulo, Brazil

*Infinite Because It Mirrors [Infinito Porque Espelha]*

Park Books (2026)

Developed through the eponymous experimental exhibition in 2024, showcasing a site-specific intervention by Brazilian architect Carla Juaçaba within a brutalist house designed by Sidonio Porto in São Paulo in 1976, this publication features drawings, visual essays, and critical analyses to reimagine the relationship between historical and contemporary contexts in São Paulo. [learn more](#)

**KJ Abudu**

New York, NY

*Traces of Ecstasy: Modelling Decolonial, Queer, and Anarchic African futures for the 21st Century*  
Mousse Publishing (2026)

Departing from a transatlantic curatorial project that occurred in Nigeria and the United States, this publication gathers a global, multidisciplinary constellation of artists, theorists, and writers to explore queer, decolonial, and anarchic models, as well as technological conditions, of pan-African collectivity for the twenty-first century. [learn more](#)

**Richard Anderson**

Edinburgh, United Kingdom

*El Lissitzky: Writings on Architecture and the City*

gta Verlag (2026)

Assembling the definitive collection of writing on architecture and the city by El Lissitzky (1890–1941) in English, this book presents the substance and international perspective of his contributions to theory and criticism. [learn more](#)

**Shantel Blakely**

Houston, TX

*Appartamento Aperto: At Home with Marco Zanuso*

MIT Press (2026)

This monographic study of one apartment by Marco Zanuso (1916–2001) takes the architect's home as a point of departure for understanding his approach to architecture and design during the industrialization of Italy following World War II. [learn more](#)

**Thomas J. Campanella**

Ithaca, NY

*Designing the American Century: The Public Landscapes of Clarke and Rapuano, 1915–1965*

Princeton University Press (2025)

The first book to look at the lives and work of innovative, prolific American landscape architects Gilmore D. Clarke (1892–1982) and Michael Rapuano (1904–1975) and their important contributions to shaping American public spaces during the early to mid-twentieth century. [learn more](#)

**Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley**

New York, NY

*We the Bacteria: Notes Towards Biotic Architecture*

Lars Müller Publishers (2025)

This publication rethinks the ancient intimate relationship between bacteria and buildings to propose a more biotic and symbiotic architecture that partners with bacteria, and reconnects with soil, plants, and other species. [learn more](#)

**Sheila Crane**

Charlottesville, VA

*The City in the Shadow of the Shantytown: A Critical History of the Bidonville*

University of Pittsburgh Press (2026)

Offering a new account of colonial urbanism and its continuing afterlives in North Africa, this book excavates the sedimented histories and multi-vocal lives of the bidonville, the Francophone equivalent to the shantytown. [learn more](#)

**Victor Deupi**

Miami, FL

*Crossroads of the Americas: A History of Cuban Architecture*

Birkhäuser (2026)

A new book that covers Cuban architecture, landscape, and urban design from before the 15th century Spanish colonization of the island to the present, including works by Cuban architects throughout the world. [learn more](#)

**Kevin Harrington and Michelangelo Sabatino**

Chicago, IL

*Building, Breaking, Rebuilding. The Illinois Institute of Technology Campus and Chicago's South Side*

University of Minnesota Press (2025)

This multi-authored and multidisciplinary book offers a critical assessment of Illinois Institute of Technology's role in transforming the historic Bronzeville neighborhood on Chicago's South Side with a modern campus conceived by German émigré architect Mies van der Rohe. [learn more](#)

**Nifemi Marcus-Bello**

Lagos, Nigeria

*Oríkì Design Series*

Apartamento Publishing (2025)

This publication celebrates the traditional concept of Oríkì—the multi-generational practice of praise poetry and spoken affirmation amongst the Yoruba people of West Africa—within community and individual histories as a metaphor to explore the cultural significance of materials in the Western and South-South regions of Nigeria. [learn more](#)

**Mary Miss**

New York, NY

*City as Living Laboratory: Artists + Scientists + Communities Creating a Resilient and Equitable Public Realm*

ORO Editions (2026)

In this book, Mary Miss—who works between sculpture, architecture, landscape design, and installation art—offers a visionary pathway for the future of urban design by presenting transformative ideas about the nature of public space and the function of artistic practices in catalyzing community engagement to solve local environmental challenges. [learn more](#)

**Farshid Moussavi**

London, United Kingdom

*Architecture as an Instruction-Based Art*

Harvard Design Press (2026)

Highlighting architecture as the grandest form of instruction-based art, this publication explores the unique position of architects in contemporary practice and their role distinct from all the specialists involved in the design process by recognizing construction coordination drawings as conceptual tools. [learn more](#)

**Mohamad Nahleh**

Columbus, OH

*Nightrise*

Columbia Books on Architecture and the City (2026)

This book engages the fields of environmental history, cultural anthropology, and postcolonial literature in expanding the role and imagination of the night in architecture. [learn more](#)

**Ilaria Palmieri and Georgina Pantazopoulou**

Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Athens, Greece

*They asked me to design a house, I asked them to design a home*

Set Margins' (2025)

Through the cultivation of an alternative educational setup, where spatial design acknowledges domesticity in a multidisciplinary approach, this publication explores new architectural tools with a critical, inclusive, and intersectional feminist framework. [learn more](#)

**Lukasz Stanek**

Ann Arbor, MI

*The Gift: Spaces of Global Socialism and Their Afterlives*

Jovis Publishers (2026)

This book shows how the gifting of buildings between socialist and decolonizing countries during the Cold War shaped cities and landscapes across Africa and Asia. [learn more](#)

**Camilo José Vergara**

New York, NY

*Tracking Newark, N.J., 1977–2024*

Rutgers University Press (2026)

A comprehensive presentation of the work of Camilo Jose Vergara, this book highlights photographs and interviews that tell the story of the evolution of Newark from 1977, when it thrived as an industrial city, to the present postindustrial city. [learn more](#)



**James Wines, Suzan Wines, and Phillip Denny**

New York, NY

*What Else Could It Mean? Drawings and Writings by James Wines/SITE*

Skira International (2025)

This book comprises fifty years of work by James Wines—American artist, architect, and founder of SITE, an environmental arts organization chartered in New York City in 1970—on a wide range of topics including art, design, environment, and education. [learn more](#)

RESEARCH (15 awards)

**Anna Nnenna Abengowe**

Birmingham, United Kingdom

*Africaland! Surface of Massive Change*

Provoking architecture's response to climate instability through mobilizing field-specific intelligence to probe the complex materiality of the Great Green Wall, this project globally extends architecture's disciplinary relevance and scope, and reveals provocative entanglements of geopolitics, economics, culture, land, and ecology under climate turn, positioning Africa as a transformative site of nuanced multiplicities in climate knowledge production. [learn more](#)

**Farah Alkhoury and Ameneh Solati**

New York, NY and Rotterdam, the Netherlands

*Against the Denial of Wetland: Environmental Stewardship in the Hawizeh Marsh*

This research counteracts hegemonic frameworks behind environmental violence in Iraq's Hawizeh Marsh through spatial analysis and archival research conducted in collaboration with the Indigenous Ahwari communities. [learn more](#)

**Rebecca Choi**

New Orleans, LA

*Black Architectures: Race, Pedagogy, and Practice, 1957–68*

Counter to historical narratives that frame architecture as politically disengaged during the racial uprisings of the 1960s, this research shows how Black architects strategically deployed architectural thinking to challenge institutional power and advance community control. [learn more](#)

**Sean Connelly**

Honolulu, HI

*Building Native Liberation: Advancing Architecture and Geography with King Kalākaua, 1874–1887*

Reframing King Kalākaua's contributions to architecture by rethinking his approach to statecraft as a visionary patron of design—revisiting how his role as a Native architect and geographer, including his rebuilding of 'Iolani Palace and revival of the Hale Nauā society—this research reveals how Indigenous architecture asserted Hawaiian sovereignty amid the foreign imperial pressures of his time. [learn more](#)

**Jareh Das**

Warri, Nigeria

*Niger Consultants and Modern Architecture in Nigeria*

A research project that follows the evolution of modern architecture in Nigeria through projects completed by the country's first post-independence Indigenous architecture firm, Niger Consultants, established in Lagos in 1970. [learn more](#)

**La Liga de la Madera: Karina Flores, Mecky Reuss, Ana Paula Ruiz Galindo, and Jachen Schleich**

Mexico City, Mexico

*A Forest, a Tree, a Log, a Building*

A portrait of the Mexican forests and the cycle of cultivation, extraction, transformation, distribution, assembly, and disassembly as a system of care. [learn more](#)

**Kandis Friesen**

Berlin, Germany

*Karaganda, Karaganda*

This site-based research project works to develop an expanded video essay, anchored in the slow dissolution of Karlag, a massive former Soviet gulag in Karaganda, Kazakhstan, that was active between 1931–59. [learn more](#)

**Noah Gotlib**

Toronto, Canada

*Crumbling Land*

A research project studying the impact of climate migration on property and sovereignty in North America. [learn more](#)

**Leen Katrib**

Lexington, KY

*From Denver to Chicago: Racial Geographies and the Enduring Underside of Miesian Modernism*

This project uncovers the expansion of Denver's Auraria Campus into a Chicano community in the 1970s and the instrumental role of Mies van der Rohe's disciples from the Illinois Institute of Technology as they coalesced to explicitly cite and adapt Miesian principles onto a Hispanic context. [learn more](#)

**Hamed Khosravi**

London, United Kingdom

*The Architecture of Dreams: The Work of Rita Wolff*

Archival and curatorial research that investigates the work of self-taught surrealist painter Rita Wolff, whose architectural paintings dominated the intellectual and cultural scene of architecture since the early 1980s. [learn more](#)

**Hojung Kim and Ha Nguyen**

Hanoi, Vietnam and Knoxville, TN

*Dichotomy of Heritage and Industrialization in Mang Thít's Sustainable Development*

The Mekong Delta, with its extensive history of exploitation and environmental degradation, faces new challenges as political policies aimed at sustainable development paradoxically threaten the survival of traditional crafts and practices in Mang Thít, Vietnam, where an active consortium is urgently working to implement an alternative development strategy to transform the village's cultural and architectural heritage. [learn more](#)

**Ayala Levin**

Los Angeles, CA

*How to be Rural? American Planning in Africa and the Global Project of Modern Rurality, 1960s–1970s*

This project explores how planners in the United States sought to refashion the countryside in post-independence African states to curb urban migration in the 1960s and 70s. [learn more](#)

**Noritaka Minami**

Chicago, IL

*Aesthetics of Disappearance: Concrete Pillboxes of Hokkaido*

Examining the concrete pillboxes that the Imperial Japanese Army constructed during World War II, this photographic research project highlights their gradual disappearance from the landscape. [learn more](#)

**Olga Touloumi**

Tivoli, NY

*Building Worlds: A Feminist Biography of Postwar Architecture*

Through a feminist biography of postwar architectural practice in the United States, this research follows the life and works of one of its workers, the Afro-French architect, adjunct professor, and crocheter Christine Benglia-Bevington (1936–2020). [learn more](#)

**Padmini Unni**

New York, NY

*Dams as Temples: The Spatial Politics of Infrastructure Sacralization in India*

The research examines the sacralization of colonial-era infrastructure across India as a political project that attempts to preserve the ecologically detrimental practices of dam building as a nation-building mechanism. [learn more](#)

## ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts fosters the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture and society. The Graham realizes this vision through making project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and by producing exhibitions, events and publications.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect and protégé of Daniel Burnham.

## UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

**2026 Grants to Individuals inquiry form deadline:** September 15, 2025

Application available: July 15, 2025

**2026 Carter Manny Award deadline:** November 15, 2025

Application available: September 15, 2025

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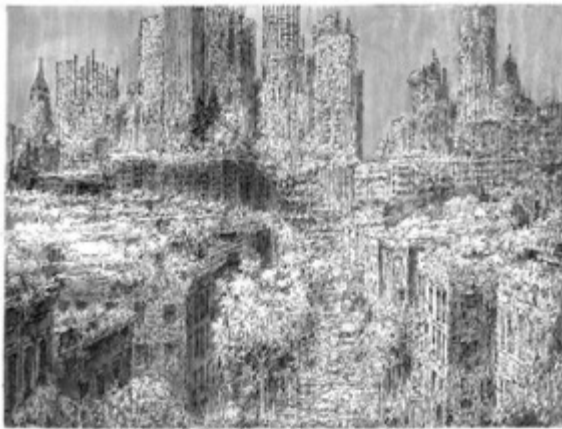
In addition to the high-resolution images that are available on the press section of our website, please let us know if you are interested in any of the images from the grantee profile pages. To access our [website's press section](#) or to request any other images, email [abarrett@grahamfoundation.org](mailto:abarrett@grahamfoundation.org) for the login information.



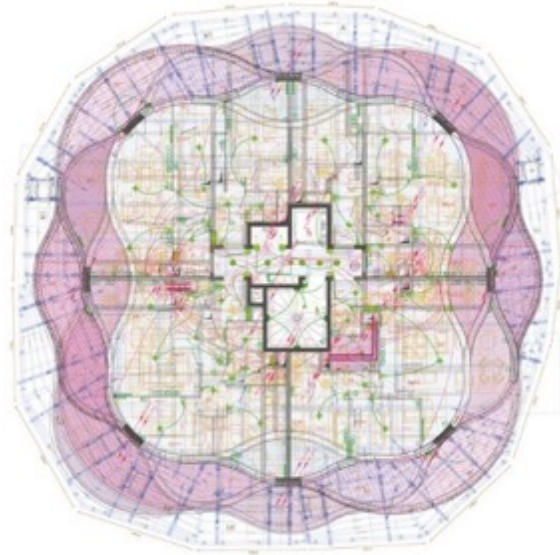
Carla Juaçaba, *Leques*, installation view, *Infinite Because It Mirrors*, exhibited in house designed by Sidonio Porto, São Paulo, 2024. Digital photograph. Photo: Camila Alba. From the 2025 grant to Olivia Abrahão and Carla Juaçaba for the publication *Infinite Because It Mirrors [Infinito Porque Espelha]*



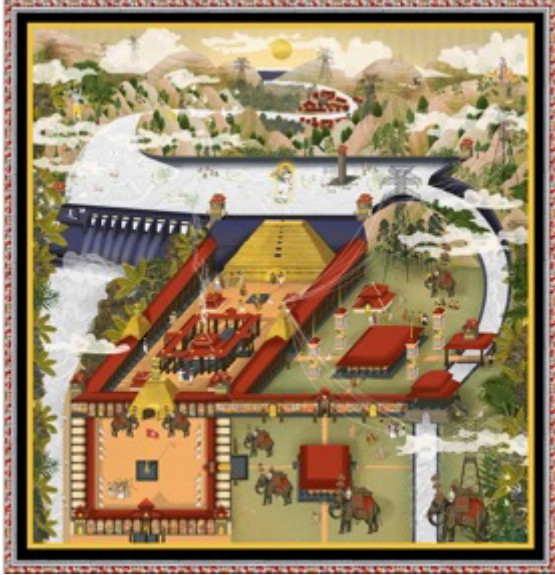
Rita Wolff, *L'utilité Publique*, 1977. Watercolor on card, 7 x 5 1/4 in. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Lydia Evans. From the 2025 grant to Hamed Khosravi for the research project *The Architecture of Dreams: The Work of Rita Wolff*



James Wines, *Nature's Revenge: NYC 2050, View from Lower East Side*, 2022. Pen and brush and black ink and wash with white glossy opaque paint over graphite on white wove paper, 18 1/2 x 24 in. Courtesy The Art Institute of Chicago, purchased with funds provided by Dirk Denison. Photo: SITE. From the 2025 grant to James Wines, Suzan Wines, and Phillip Denny for the publication *What Else Could It Mean? Drawings and Writings by James Wines/SITE*



Farshid Moussavi Architecture (FMA), Plan construction coordination drawing of Folie Divine Residential Tower, Montpellier, France, 2017. Courtesy FMA. From the 2025 grant to Farshid Moussavi for the publication *Architecture as an Instruction-Based Art*



Padmini Unni, *Dam becomes Temple*, 2022. Digital drawing, 24 x 24 in. Courtesy the author. From the 2025 grant to Padmini Unni for the research project *Dams as Temples: The Spatial Politics of Infrastructure Sacralization in India*



Niger Consultants, *Radiotherapy Block, University of Lagos Teaching Hospital (LUTH)*, 2021. Digital photograph. Photo: Jareh Das. From the 2025 grant to Jareh Das for the research project *Niger Consultants and Modern Architecture in Nigeria*



Noritaka Minami, *Aesthetics of Disappearance (43°18'58.0"N 145°37'01.0"E)*, 2024. Archival pigment print, 35 x 49 in. Courtesy the artist. From the 2025 grant to Noritaka Minami for the research project *Aesthetics of Disappearance: Concrete Pillboxes of Hokkaido*



Noah Gotlib, *Main Street of Old Shawneetown, Illinois, the first town in the United States relocated with federal funds*, 2024. Digital photograph. Courtesy Noah Gotlib. From the 2025 grant to Noah Gotlib for the research project *Crumbling Land*





Georgina Pantazopoulou, *Traces*, 2024. Digital drawing, 5 × 7 in. Courtesy Common Ground Practice. From the 2025 grant to Ilaria Palmieri and Georgina Pantazopoulou for the publication *They asked me to design a house, I asked them to design a home*



Erin Besler, *Staging Area: A Barn Raising in Two Parts (Part 2)*, *Build Day*, 2025. Digital rendering. Courtesy Erin Besler. Rendering: Rob Williams. From the 2025 grant to Erin Besler for the exhibition *Staging Area: A Barn Raising in Two Parts (Part 2)*



Nifemi Marcus-Bello, *Oriki (Act I): Friction Ridge, Friction Ridge Bench*, 2023. Lost-wax casting process. Digital photograph. Courtesy Nmbello Studio and Marta Los Angeles. Photo: Olájidé Ayeni. From the 2025 grant to Nifemi Marcus-Bello for the publication *Oriki Design Series*



Hojung Kim and Ha Nguyen, *Mang Thit Brick Kilns*, Mang Thit, Vinh Long, Vietnam, 2024. Digital photograph. Photo: Hojung Kim. From the 2025 grant to Hojung Kim and Ha Nguyen for the research project *Dichotomy of Heritage and Industrialization in Mang Thit's Sustainable Development*