

John David Wagner

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ARCHITECT

Sustainable Design | Architectural Team Leadership | Multidisciplinary Approaches | Project Management

A sustainability-focused architect offering 11+ years of experience in architectural design, project management, and team leadership for multimillion-dollar projects, from large-scale, state-of-the-art biotechnology and science centers to local community improvement initiatives. A strategic thinker, engaging with agility to serve complex multi-faceted contexts, relationships, and stakeholders. A passionate leader known for creating meaningfully involved teams and providing mentorship to position teams for success. Sets clear goals to enact positive solutions and inspire change in communities he serves. Loves a challenge and pursues objectives tirelessly, to ensure the best solutions for clients' requirements.

- ✓ Demonstrated success in leading hybrid teams and creating designs for on-site and remote environments.
- ✓ Engages cross-functional teams early in the project for holistic performance and sustainability.
- ✓ Uses informed analysis and multidisciplinary approaches to collect data and articulate recommendations.
- ✓ Past clients included MIT, Yale University, and the Broad Institute.

Core Competencies

- Client Development
- Architectural Team Leadership
- Recruitment & Mentoring
- Project Scoping & Management
- Sustainability Strategy
- Interdisciplinary Thinking
- Sustainable Design Guidelines
- Sustainability Technical Analysis
- Building Science
- Workflow Planning
- Construction Consulting
- Stakeholder Relations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

BRUNER COTT ARCHITECTS, Boston, MA

Lead Architect (2022 – 2023)

As Lead Design Architect, oversaw conceptual and technical delivery of two major projects. Led an internal team of design professionals, coordinated consulting teams, mentored junior architects, and worked closely with client representatives and stakeholders on project development.

Biotech Academy & Conference Center

- Hired as a Lead Architect for a \$74M LEED Platinum project aiming to renovate a 25,000 SF historic property and add 15,000 SF, including a state-of-the-art training laboratory and assembly space for 225 guests.
- Co-managed the project with the Project Manager. Supervised a team of three junior designers providing schematic design and design development.
- Worked closely with the executive representatives, lead finance researcher, and academic coordinator to define objectives. Interpreted client requirements for the architectural team.
- Produced architectural plans and priced the design with the Construction Manager; led value management reductions in project budget from \$74M to \$54M. Optimized the project for the evolving requirements and translated them into architectural solutions.
- During the final stages, produced detailed construction documentation. With the Technical Lead, developed the exterior scope of work and building envelope strategy incorporating passive environmental design; met with the manufacturers to understand product availability and cost; created visualizations for testing. Supervised the creation of 3D models and visualizations.

Sustainability Strategy:

- To ensure efficient and sustainable design development, worked closely with building envelope specialists, as well as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineering teams, to comply with stringent energy requirements adopted in the [Massachusetts 2023 Stretch Energy Code](#) expanding on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).
- Developed a design of an all-electric, fossil-fuel-free building. Reviewed LEED credits for the design plan and exceeded the Code's requirements. Integrated sustainability into every design decision and building system.

Project Outcomes:

- Met the \$54M budget; delivered 100% on the design development drawing set, on time and on schedule.

Boston Harbor Shipyard & Marina

- During a four-month project, worked directly for the Principal-in-Charge and led the conceptual design of a 70,000 SF space for marine vehicle repair and storage on the Boston waterfront.
- Provided historic research from a marine use perspective to create four buildings: a large maintenance shed, two smaller facilities, and a mixed-use office and marine repair facility. Created schematic designs and visualizations. Held meetings with the owners and facilities management teams.

Sustainability Strategy:

- For resiliency planning, conducted extensive research into the coastal regulatory requirements, including the climate adaptation plans by the City of Boston, the [Coastal Flood Resiliency Guidelines](#), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency regulations.

Project Outcomes:

- Delivered client conceptual design on schedule, utilizing less than 50% of design fee resources.
- The client signed a Design Development/Construction Documentation contract to proceed with the project.

ELLENZWEIG ARCHITECTS, Boston, MA
Architect (2020 – 2022)

Worked directly with the Principal on projects for next-generation life sciences facilities, laboratories, and academic spaces. Developed project concept, interior design, product specification, visualization, and construction documentation. Supervised a team of junior architects on projects valued from \$50M to \$100M, with net-zero carbon emissions goals.

Yale School of Medicine, Neuroscience Laboratory & Research Offices

- Oversaw a design of researcher offices, meeting spaces, and collaboration spaces within an adaptive reuse of a 50,000 SF space spanning three floors used by 21 principal researchers and their lab teams.
- Coordinated with the mechanical engineering teams to integrate the necessary technologies and services, while considering the needs of different researchers and facility visitors.

Sustainability Strategy:

- To retrofit an unoccupied floor in a tower, coordinated actively with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing engineers to redesign all the services for a state-of-the-art office space for hybrid and remote work in biotechnology research.
- Worked to design and specify low-carbon products and ensured a holistic design approach where every decision had a cascading effect on the overall facility performance.

DIGITAL READY, Boston, MA
Co-manager of Curriculum (2021)

Took on this part-time project in addition to a full-time workload in architecture to advance community goals in design. Co-designed, budgeted, organized, and taught a four-week immersive architecture workshop and curriculum for *It Takes a Village: Imagining Collective Housing in Boston*, a hands-on event for BIPOC high-school students. Put in place a successful program with a budget of \$29,000 for 40 students and 8 staff.

- Recruited, interviewed, and managed staff who delivered inclusive design curriculum to help students discover architecture, construction, and engineering concepts through co-creating a model of an inclusive city.
- Inspired students to explore the concept of “home” collaboratively, by creating models of spaces using digital tools and 3D printers to simulate a manufacturing workshop. Led tours of cultural sites around Boston and discussions of critical reading materials on urbanism, design, and urban economics.

- Developed strategic partnerships with the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics, YouthBuild Boston, and members of the AEC community, enabling students to engage in short-term apprenticeships.
 - Students produced a large-scale collaborative model exhibited at the Boston Society for Architecture (BSA) and a public installation for Jackson Square, Roxbury and the BSA Congress Street Gallery.
 - Several students gained scholarships to attend Yale University and Northeastern University.

WAGNER MURRAY ARCHITECTS, Charlotte, NC
Architect (2013 – Present)

Worked with the Principal on projects including public space transit with a large pedestrian tunnel, real estate feasibility studies, commercial offices, arts and culture spaces, retail buildings, restaurants, and sports facilities valued from \$100K to \$250M. Participated in client meetings, regulatory reviews, contract negotiations, project documentation, and design development.

ARTIST MATTHEW MAZZOTTA & LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT, Louisville, KY
GSD Community Service Design Fellow (2018)

Collaborated with Matthew Mazzotta on a social impact venture to facilitate access to fresh food in the community. Held meetings with executive directors of non-profit organizations, city officials, food retailers, and local businesses to create a public art project for a community food hub. Planned schedules; produced and delivered presentations.

- On a budget of \$100,000, developed a public art installation concept – a space in the form of front porches, around which a food truck would sell locally produced, affordable food.

BRIAN HEALY ARCHITECTS, Somerville, MA
Architect (2017)

Single-handedly strategized the redesign of an early 20th-century masonry commercial building into condominiums. Provided full schematic, design development, and construction documentation of building details and envelope design. Produced complete working drawing sets for the project valued at \$2M.

ANN BEHA ARCHITECTS, Boston, MA
Design Architect (2016 – 2017)

In collaboration with the project team, strategized the design and renovation of academic and cultural facilities, including for Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Saint Paul School, Peterborough Public Library, Yale University, and Brooks School. Project budgets ranged from \$10M to \$120M. Provided design development and construction documentation of building details, envelope design, and finishes. Produced visualizations for marketing material. Participated in and contributed to client meetings and presentations.

STUDIO JANET ECHELMAN, Brookline, MA
Designer, Project Manager (2015 – 2016)

With an internationally renowned sculptor, worked on creating massive textile net sculptures for urban contexts worldwide. Coordinated with structural engineers to facilitate installation and hanging systems. Coordinated with production manufacturers to sequence custom color-stranded industrial-scale fishing nets. In collaboration with studio designers, produced digital models (for visualization and design), scale mock-up models (for real-world tests to correct imprecisions in digital models), and construction documents (for manufacture).

ROGERS BUILDERS, Charlotte, NC | HEARD-RATZLAFF, Charlotte, NC
Assistant Site Supervisor (summer 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011)

Worked on-site with construction management companies. Assisted General Supervisor by monitoring project progress, ensuring safety, tracking schedules, and supervising construction workers. Confirmed bonding and insurance qualifications of sub-contractors. Assisted Lead BIM manager in the translation of blueprints into 3D Revit models.

EDUCATION

Mittal South Asia Institute Fellow • Harvard University, 2021-2022
Irving Innovation Fellow • Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2020-2021
Master of Architecture II, with distinction • Harvard Graduate School of Design, 2017-2019
Fellow • Ecoles d'Art Américaines de Fontainebleau, 2015
Bachelor of Architecture, magna cum laude • Virginia Polytechnic University, 2008-2013
First-year Diploma Exchange • Accademia di Architettura, Mendrisio, Switzerland, 2010-2011
Foreign Residency • Virginia Tech Center of European Study, Riva San Vitale, Switzerland, 2010

LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

Massachusetts #952320-AR-R, 2017 – current • Michigan #3101072110, 2012 – current
North Carolina #13723, 2017 – current • NCARB Certified, 2017 – current • LEED Green Associate, 2022 – current
Passive House Certification, In progress • LEED AP BD+C, In progress

AWARDS

Shortlisted Proposal for Russian Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale: Living Room: Domain Under Construction, 2020
Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute at Harvard University, Fellow, 2020
Harvard iLab, Presidents Innovation Challenge Semi-Finalist, co-venture Save Identity, 2020
Irving Innovation Fellow, HGSD Department of Architecture, 2019
Patreonicity Grant & Massachusetts TDI Development, Activate Millstreet Fitchburg Urban Renewal, 2019
Harvard Arts First Grant Recipient, 2019 • HGSD Community Service Fellowship Grant, 2018
Fontainebleau School of Architecture Scholarship, 2015 • Center of European Studies in Architecture Scholarship, 2011

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Co-founder, **Hire Ukrainian Designers**, 2022 – Present

Initiated a [volunteer organization](#) (with Alina Nazmeeva, Alina Plyusnina, and Angelina Stelmakh) that placed 50+ Ukrainian candidates with 12 US-based AEC Firms.

Co-organizer, **Beyond Encampment Conference: Alternative Responses to Forced Migration**, 2021

Building from the 2018 Option Studio at Harvard GSD, and subsequent research, exhibition at Harvard Arts First, and fieldwork in Bangladesh studying forms of social infrastructures and collaborative construction in the emergency context of the Rohingya Refugee Camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh, convened the Beyond Encampment Conference and invited practitioners and designers worldwide to share their work and advocacy at Harvard University.

Alumni & Facilitator, **Harvard Graduate School Leadership Institute (HGSLI)**, 2019 – 2023

Selected among 30 finalists for a leadership development program for graduate students across Harvard. Served on the leadership committee to assist in the recruitment, interviewing, and selection of HGSLI members in 2021 and 2022.

Co-founder, **MASS ENGAGE Student Club**, 2019

Designed and built winning proposals; helped secure a matched grant of \$90,000 for the activation of public space, designing and creating Activate Millstreet! Fitchburg, MA, in collaboration with James Carrico, the City of Fitchburg Director of Public Planning, Massachusetts Transit Development Initiative and North of Main CDC.

ADDENDUM: ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning**, Intermittent Lecturer in Architecture, Fall 2022

- Systems Studio: Un-coding and re-constructing the code through the design of social housing in midtown Detroit.

Rhode Island School of Design: STUDIO POST-OFFICE, Adjunct Co-Faculty, Spring 2022

- Advanced Studio: Analyzing the future use of towers in post-office spaces, with Alina Nazmeeva.

Boston Architectural College: STUDIO HIGH-RISE, Adjunct Co-Faculty, Spring 2022

- Graduate Architecture Studio 3: Analyzing the future use of towers [...], with Alina Nazmeeva.

Digital Ready + BSA: Imagining Collective Housing in Boston Studio, Studio Co-Manager, Summer 2021

- Co-curated and instructed with Nadyeli Quiroz. Students explored the development of space and cities in the United States through the lenses of identity, race, and economic inequality. Students learned basic 3D modeling with Rhino, 3D Printing, and model-making.

Wentworth Institute of Technology: Integrated Design Studio, Adjunct Faculty, Spring 2021

- Arch 3500 Studio 06: Comprehensive Integrated Architectural design studio designing a 40,000 SF maker space in Lowell, MA. 8 students.

Field Research Expedition | Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Co-Organizer, Winter 2020

- Scheduled and conducted a one-month research expedition with colleagues of GSD. Investigated indigenous craft and vernacular typologies; surveyed participatory co-design methodologies of leading Bangladeshi social architectural practices with the intent of practical application in the refugee camps.
- Destinations included Kutupalong Refugee Camp, Cox's Bazar, Jhenaidah, Dhaka, with field excursions to regional villages.

Digital Ready & WIT: It Takes a Village Studio, Studio Co-Manager, Fall 2020

- Arch 1000 Studio (Year 13 pilot project), with Nadyeli Quiroz, hosted at Wentworth Institute of Technology.
- An inclusive pathway studio for BIPOC high school scholars to discover a career in architectural design.

Harvard College, Head Teaching Fellow, Fall 2020

- GENED1011: Contemporary Developing Countries, Entrepreneurial Solutions for Intractable Problems.
- Coordinated a team of 4 TFs for a course of 90 undergraduate and graduate students.
- Provided weekly long-form written feedback and grading of assignments. Developed and independently conducted weekly sections. Coordinated multiple online events across international time zones.

Harvard College, Teaching Fellow, Spring 2020

- GENED 1102: Making Change When Change is Hard: The Law, Politics, and Policy of Social Change. Independently conducted weekly review sections with 10 students.

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Teaching Fellow, Spring 2020

- PRO 7448: Products of Practice: From Code to Plan to Code. Assisted in the development of course curriculum including research, synthesis, and content. 8 student assignments.

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Teaching Fellow, Fall 2019

- PRO 7445: Elements of the Urban Stack. 31 student assignments.

Harvard College, Teaching Mentor, Fall 2019

- GENED 1011: Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Intractable Problems. Mentored and advised 4 student venture teams.

Harvard Graduate School of Design, Teaching Assistant, Spring 2019

- VIS-2351 - AI and Computer Simulation in Landscape Design. 8 student assignments.

Boston Architectural College, Course Instructor, 2015-2017

- ART2003: Freehand Drawing • FND1005: Design Representation • DME2001: Observation and Imagination Drawing • FND3033: Foundational Drawing • DME2022/DME2023: Photoshop: Digital Imaging, Editing I & II • DME2000: Spatial Thinking

GUEST CRITIC & PRESENTATIONS

In Other Worlds, Thesis Studio, University of Michigan, Guest Critic & Facilitator, Prof. Alina Nazmeeva, Winter 2024
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Guest Critic, Fall 2023
Rohingya Refugee Studio, Harvard GSD, Prof. Fuad Mallick, Guest Critic, Fall 2023
Foregrounding Background, Taubman Mellon Option Studio, Cornell AAP, Guest Critic, Fall 2022
Holistic Sustainable Design Integration, WIT, Prof. Shirine Anderson Boulos, Guest Critic, Spring 2022
Superabsorbed Studio, RISD, Prof. Ana Gabriela Loayza, Guest Critic, Spring 2022
Lifeways Studio, UBC, Prof. Annie Liang, Guest Critic, Fall 2021
Public Space as a Catalyst for Change, Harvard GSD, Prof. Belinda Tato, Guest Speaker, Spring 2020
Affordability Now!, HGSD, Prof. Dan D'Oca, Guest Critic, Fall 2019

SELECTED PUBLIC SPEAKING, PRESS & EXHIBITIONS

Wagner, John D. "Architecture, Capital, & Sustainability." Ann Arbor City Club, February 21, 2024

Rafique, Maaha. "Volunteer Collective Teams up to Help Ukrainian Design Professionals." Boston Society for Architecture, May 17, 2022.

Quiroz, Nadyeli and John D Wagner. "Beyond Encampment." Diecisiete.org, Mexico City, Mexico, 2023.

John Wagner, John D. "Asking Who Designs the City? Teaching Inclusive Architecture to Young Adults." [Common Edge](#), November 17, 2021.

Wagner, John D and Nadyeli Quiroz. "It Takes a Village: Imagining Collective Housing in Boston." *Design as a Collective Improvisation Conference*. School of Design, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso & Catholic University of Louvain. Virtual, 2021.

Wagner, John D and Nadyeli Quiroz. *Beyond Encampment: Alternative Responses to Forced Migration*. Harvard Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA. Conference, 2021.

Wagner, John D, Nadyeli Quiroz, and Nusrat Mim. "Emergen-City: Architecture in the Age of Migration." School of Architecture and Design, BRAC University. Lecture, January 25, 2020.

Wagner, John D. "Living City." In *The Impossibility of Mapping (Urban Asia)*, edited by Ute Meta Bauer, Khim Ong, and Roger Nelson, 192–197. World Scientific Publishing, 2020.

Wagner, John D and Nadyeli Quiroz. "Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Can Architecture Create a Place to Heal?" Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Article, May 13, 2019.

Wagner, John D and Nadyeli Quiroz. "Sunshade for the Rohingya." Harvard Arts First Festival, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Installation, May 2–6, 2019.

Wagner, John D. "This Can Happen, This Must Happen." In *Dirty Words: A Space for Dialogue, Solidarity, Resistance and Creation*, edited by Victoria Brunetta and Kate O'Shea, 330–331. Piquant, 2018.

Mazzotta, Matthew and John D Wagner. "Artebella on the Radio Interview." Louisville Visual Arts Artbella Radio WXOX 97.1. Interview, August 2, 2018.