

Graham Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graham Foundation Announces 2023 Carter Manny Awards

Honoring outstanding doctoral dissertations and innovative research that explores critical ideas in architecture and design

Chicago, September 7, 2023—The Graham Foundation is honored to announce the 2023 Carter Manny Awards for doctoral dissertations and research by emerging scholars. Through this annual program, the Graham supports work that contributes to new narratives in contemporary understanding of architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

The winner of the 2023 Carter Manny Writing Award is **Aaron Tobey** and the winner of the 2023 Carter Manny Research Award is **Jia Weng**. Both are history and theory of architecture doctoral candidates at Yale University School of Architecture. These projects, along with eight citations of special recognition, were selected by an external panel of scholars.

Tobey's dissertation, "Drawing Management: Corporate Organization, International Practice, and the Making of Computer Aided Design," details how computer aided design software and practices common today were coconstructed with transformations in the internal organization and international geography of architectural production at several large American architectural firms around information management and the design of design processes from the mid-1960s to the early 1990s.

Weng's dissertation, "Environmental Conduits in China: Pipe Politics, Fluid Management, and the Rise of the Global Airscape," investigates the evolution of heating and cooling conduits in China through three episodes in the twentieth century and examines how information-controlled material flows gave rise to a global airscape that generated thermal inequalities between kinetic elites and migrant workers through architecture.

The Carter Manny Award program—named for architect Carter H. Manny (1918–2017) in recognition of his contributions to the Graham Foundation, as founding trustee in 1956, director from 1971–93, and as director emeritus—has granted 45 awards and 139 citations representing over \$1 million in support of this important student work since its establishment in 1996.

The 2023 Carter Many Awards panel included: Eva Díaz (Associate Professor of Contemporary Art History, Pratt); Ginger Nolan (Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, University of Southern California); and Adedoyin Teriba (Assistant Professor of Art History, Dartmouth).

Below is the full list of the 2023 Carter Manny Award winners and citations of special recognition. Learn more about the history of the award and browse a selection of past winners on the Foundation's [website](#).

2023 CARTER MANNY WRITING AWARD

Aaron Tobey

Drawing Management: Corporate Organization, International Practice, and the Making of Computer Aided Design

Yale University, School of Architecture

2023 CARTER MANNY RESEARCH AWARD

Jia Weng

Environmental Conduits in China: Pipe Politics, Fluid Management, and the Rise of the Global Airscape

Yale University, School of Architecture

2023 CARTER MANNY WRITING AWARD CITATIONS OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

An Tairan

The Incidental Artifactuality of the Observational Sciences in Italy, c. 1840–1880

Princeton University, School of Architecture

This project investigates the erratic media byproducts and unintended artifactual consequences both triggered and revealed by a group of research institutions established for the scientific observation of nature in mid-to-late nineteenth-century Italy.

Deepthi Bathala

Famine crops, Plantations, and Environmental Imaginaries: Botanical gardens in colonial and contemporary India

University of Michigan, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

The genealogy of the earliest colonial botanical gardens in India illustrates a contingent colonial project of improvement, that of constructing regional climate imaginaries corresponding to ephemeral agricultural landscapes, contested, mediated and negotiated by human and non-human actors.

Michael Moynihan

Aggregative Expertise: A Global History of Housing, Information Science, and the Deprofessionalization of the Architect, 1973–82

Cornell University, Department of Architecture

This dissertation focuses on three projects funded by national governments (Mexico, Argentina, and Spain) to demonstrate that in the 1970s, expertise related to housing shifted from professional architects to aggregate experts working in entrepreneurial/consultancy groups, governmental research institutions, and international development aid agencies.

Chelsea Spencer

The Contract, the Contractor, and the Capitalization of American Building, 1870–1930
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture + Planning

At once a media history of the construction industry and a shadow history of modern architecture, this dissertation traces the rise of general contracting in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Sylvia Wu

Mosques on the Edge: Tale and Survival of Muslim Monuments in Coastal China
University of Chicago, Department of Art History

The dissertation is a close study of the Qingjing Mosque complex in Quanzhou, China, whose medieval and contemporary sections have distinct histories but are made to conform to a coherent historical narrative that subsequently allows the site's newly constructed architectural profile to eclipse that of its premodern past.

2023 CARTER MANNY RESEARCH AWARD CITATIONS OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Angelika Joseph

Red Power Takeover: Native American Activists, Colonial Landscapes, and the Design of Sovereignty
Princeton University, Humanities Council and School of Architecture

This dissertation examines the strategies by which Red Power Movement activists designed social, cultural, and political transformations, weaponizing landscapes shaped by their oppressors against the state and creating new worlds within old architectural forms.

Adam Longenbach

Stagecraft / Warcraft: The Rise of the Military Mock Village in the American West, 1942–1953
Harvard University, Graduate School of Design

This dissertation investigates the mid-twentieth century rise of the military "mock village," experimental sites where novel ways of seeing and constructing architecture coincided with the production of new forms of violence and destruction.

Qiran Shang

"It's Only Dancing...": Urban Spaces, Pleasure, and Resistance in Berlin, San Francisco, and Shanghai, 1924–1989
University of Pennsylvania, Weitzman School of Design

Analyzing how people have historically made spaces of popular dance into sites of resistance, this dissertation illuminates gay and lesbian dance venues in 1920s Berlin, countercultural landscapes of dance in 1960s San Francisco, and students' spontaneous dance parties and queer ballrooms in 1980s Shanghai by studying rare films and photographs, memoirs, oral testimonies, as well as maps and building plans.

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 DEADLINES

2024 Grants to Individuals: application due September 15, 2023

2024 Carter Manny Award: application available September 15; due November 15, 2023

2024 Grants to Organizations: application available January 15, 2024; due February 25, 2024

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In addition to the high-resolution images that are available on the press section of the Foundation's website, alternate images from the grantee project pages may be available. To access the [press section](#), or to request any other images, email abarrett@grahamfoundation.org for the login information.