

# JAMES PIACENTINI

james.piacentini@gmail.com

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

### **Master of Architecture (M.Arch)**

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
New York City, NY  
May 2020

### **Master of Science in Urban Planning (Ms.UP)**

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
New York City, NY  
May 2020

### **Bachelor of Arts in Architecture**

University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA  
May 2014

## EXPERIENCE

### **Senior Map Designer**

Mapbox  
Jun 2024 - Present

- Design and implement style and performance improvements to the Mapbox Standard basemap
- Design UI/UX improvements for Mapbox Studio and related products
- Direct research and analysis for Maps products improvements and priorities
- Work with primary customers to explore and design unique styles and maps for their use cases

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor**

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation (GSAPP)  
Sep 2023 - Present

- Educator, Advisor, and Critic for the Urban Planning, Architecture, and Computational Design graduate programs
- Courses: Geographic Information Systems; Prototyping in Urban Tech

### **Product Manager - Information Technology**

NYC Department of City Planning  
Jan 2022 - Jun 2024

- Direct the prioritization of product portfolio and application modernization
- Coordinate team of designers and engineers to maintain agency's digital portfolio of map applications
- Oversee full life-cycle product builds from user research and analysis through product design, development and launch
- Manage improvements on mapping tools for zoning and land use, capital projects, racial equity, and open data

### **Fellow: Civic Leadership Program**

AIA New York | Center for Architecture  
Jun 2022 - Dec 2022

- 2022 Fellow of the AIANY Civic Leadership Program (CLP), a six-month mentorship and skills development program that fosters a class of emerging architectural professionals into civic leaders by refining the critical skills that design professionals need to better represent the people that they serve
- Co-facilitated two professional panels on contemporary issues in the built environment and published two accompanying articles

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## **Cartographer / Data Analyst**

Apple

Oct 2020 - Oct 2021

- Curated and visualized customer-facing transit systems designs for existing and new markets
- Researched and managed global transit systems data for current and future product features
- Coordinated the curation of styles, iconography, colors, density, POI and other UI elements
- Oversaw the development of internal protocols, metrics and documentation for cartographic design

## **Design Manager**

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

Mar 2019 - Mar 2020

- Provided In-house design and analysis on \$500M+ David Geffen Hall historic renovation
- Analyzes and reported on neighborhood- and city-wide opportunities for community engagement
- Coordinated with design / management teams on campus-wide developments and programming

## **University Senator**

Columbia University

Sep 2017 - May 2019

- Representative of Columbia GSAPP to the University Senate
- Vice-Chair of Student Affairs Committee
- Member of Campus Planning & Development Committee and Public Relations Committee

## **Architecture Intern**

Montroy DeMarco Architecture

Jun 2018 - Aug 2018

- Worked with senior architecture team on 1M+ SF of renovation and new construction
- Zoning analysis, ZRD-1, square foot analysis, site review, and schematic design
- Construction detail drawings, and construction documentation package preparation/review

## **Design, Visualization, and Planning Fellow**

MKThink

Jun 2017 - Aug 2017

- Worked across MKThink's architecture and strategy teams
- Produced and edit film content for competition work
- Visualized performance and occupancy data in floor plans and other drawings
- Conducted GIS-based spatial analytics research on global innovation planning/design strategies

## **Research Assistant to Professor Leah Meisterlin**

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation (GSAPP)

Mar 2017 - Aug 2017

- Assisted Urban Planning GIS/Data Analytics Professor Leah Meisterlin's on-going research projects
- GeoCoding, GeoReferencing, Spatialization, Data Collection and Analysis

## **Fulbright Researcher / Academic Contributor**

University of Rome "La Sapienza" University of Rome "La Sapienza"

Oct 2015 - Jun 2016

- Project Title: "Rome: Eternal City or Evolving Metropolis?"

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- Constructed dozens of maps documenting planning strategies and urban growth in the Fori-EUR district in Rome from 1870 to present
- Synthesized archival research, historical maps, and digital assets into project report
- Conducted primary archival research and on-site documentation of historic and contemporary planning projects throughout the city
  
- Course title: "Corso di Laurea Specialistica UE: Laboratorio di Progettazione Urbanistica AA 2015-2016"
- Course leader: Professoressa Laura Ricci, Department of Planning, Design and Architectural Technology
- Affiliated Supervisors: Chiara Ravagnan and Irene Poli

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Papers

Piacentini, J. (2014). "The Building Environment: A Brief Study of Architecture's Influences on Human Survival." Berkeley Undergraduate Journal, Vol. 27, Issue 1

### Press Coverage

AIA NY "The ArchiTECH: Who Are The New Designers?" - Oct 11, 2023 - by Ivan Himanen, Tiana Howell

The Best New Architects "Criss-Cross City" - Dec 7, 2020

Columbia Climate School "13 Proposals to Boost Resilience in Vieques, Puerto Rico" - Dec 6, 2019 - by Sarah Fecht

Beyer Blinder Belle "2019 John Belle Travel Fellowship - Riace Reborn" - Nov 4, 2019

Columbia Climate School "Building Resilience in Vieques, Puerto Rico" - Sep 9, 2019

Radio Vieques - "Robert Rabin Seigel Interviews GSAPP Designers on Rebuilding Vieques Post-Maria" - Mar 12, 2019

### Blog Posts and Articles

Majekodunmi, I., Nalavade, A., Provine, H., Piacentini, J., Sherburne, B. (2022) "Biking in NYC Now: CLP Explores the Future of Biking Infrastructure in NYC." AIA NY

Piacentini, J., Savvides, N. (2022). "Inside Out: CLP Explores Models for Community Engagement." AIA NY

Piacentini, J. (2016). "Somewhere under Somewhere, Somewhere in the City." URBAN Magazine

### Exhibitions and Published Design Work

Piacentini, J. (2021). Selected Architecture drawings. In Columbia University GSAPP Abstract 2020. Columbia GSAPP, New York

Piacentini, J. (2020). Selected Architecture drawings. In Columbia University GSAPP Abstract 2019. Columbia GSAPP, New York

Piacentini, J. (2019). "Hacer Vieques." In New Paradigms for a Resilient Vieques. Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute, New York

Piacentini, J. (2019). Selected Architecture drawings. In Columbia University GSAPP Abstract 2018. Columbia GSAPP, New York

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Piacentini, J. (2018). Selected Urban Planning drawings. In Columbia University GSAPP Abstract 2017. Columbia GSAPP, New York

Piacentini, J., Indrakesuma, F. (2017). "Praça Pedregulho." In Design Thinking for Healthy Urban Environments: A Case Study of the Social Housing Project: Pedregulho. Columbia GSAPP, New York

## Lectures and Presentations

Piacentini, J. "The ArchiTECH: The Equitable Development Data Explorer." AIA NY Civic Leadership Program Development Session, Sep 15, 2023, New York City

Piacentini, J., Matteo, T., Shen, W., "The Equitable Development Data Explorer." NYC School of Data (Open Data Week), Mar 18, 2023, New York City

Majekodunmi, I., Nalavade, A., Provine, H., Piacentini, J., Sherburne, B., "Biking in NYC Now: CLP Explores the Future of Biking Infrastructure in NYC." AIA NY Civic Leadership Program Public Session, Nov 14, 2022, New York City

Piacentini, J., Pietraszkiewicz, E., "TREE.3." GSAPP Incubator Prize, May 20, 2021, New York City

Piacentini, J. "Riace Rinasce." John Belle Travel Fellowship Lecture, Oct 15, 2019, Beyer Blinder Belle, New York City

Piacentini, J. "Hacer Vieques." Public Design Presentation, Isabel Segundo City Hall; Mar 15, 2019, Vieques, Puerto Rico

## Conference Papers and Presentations

Piacentini, J. "The Equitable Development Data Explorer." Abstract presented at: Spatial Justice in Practice Symposium; Dec 1, 2023; TU Delft, Netherlands

Piacentini, J. "Rome: Past, Present, Future." Poster presented at: The Fulbright National Conference; Nov 4-7, 2017; Washington, DC

Piacentini, J. "Blogging as a Tool for Advocacy Planning." Paper presented at: 18th N-AERUS Conference; Sep 14, 2017; Milan, Italy

Piacentini, J. "Rome: Eternal City or Evolving Metropolis?" Poster presented at: The American Planning Association 2017 National Planning Conference; May 7, 2017; New York City

## HONORS

### Civic Leadership Fellowship

AIA New York | Center for Architecture  
May 2022

### Incubator Prize (\$10,000)

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Oct 2020

### Visualization Prize (\$1,000)

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
May 2020

### William Kinne Fellows Traveling Prize (\$2,500)

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
May 2020

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## **Finalist - Hahnemühle Student Photo Contest**

Hahnemühle FineArt  
Jul 2019

## **John Belle Travel Fellowship (\$10,000)**

Beyer Blinder Belle  
Mar 2019

## **2nd Place - National Planning Conference Poster Competition**

American Planning Association  
May 2017

## **Fulbright Scholarship (\$18,000)**

J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (U.S. Department of State)  
May 2015

## **Honorable Mention - Matthew M. Lyon Prize in Photography**

University of California, Berkeley  
Mar 2014

## **Berkeley Circus Design Showcase**

UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design  
May 2013

## **Finalist - The Foundry**

CITRIS (Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society) at UC Berkeley  
May 2013