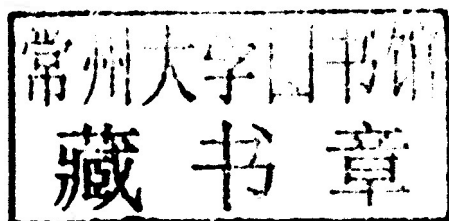


YALE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
EDWARD P. BASS DISTINGUISHED VISITING
ARCHITECTURE FELLOWSHIP
URBAN INTEGRATION:
BISHOPSGATE GOODS YARD NICK JOHNSON /
FAT ARCHITECTS

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Edited by Nina Rappaport, Andrei Harwell, and Lydia Miller



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Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Architecture Fellowship In 2003, Edward P. Bass, a 1967 graduate of Yale College who studied at the Yale School of Architecture as a member of the class of 1972, endowed this fellowship to bring property developers to the school to lead advanced studios in collaboration with design faculty. Mr. Bass is an environmentalist who sponsored the Biosphere 2 development in Oracle, Arizona, in 1991, and a developer responsible for the ongoing revitalization of the downtown portion of Fort Worth, Texas, where his Sundance Square, combining restoration with new construction, has transformed a moribund urban core into a vibrant regional center. In all his work, Mr. Bass has been guided by the conviction that architecture is a socially engaged art operating at the intersection of grand visions and everyday realities.

The Bass fellowship ensures the school curriculum recognizes the role of the property developer as an integral part of the design process. The fellowship brings developers to Yale to work side by side with educators and architecture students in the studio, situating the discussion about architecture in the wider discourse of contemporary practice. In 2005, the first Bass studio, led by Gerald Hines and Stefan Behnisch, Louis I. Kahn Visiting Professor, was documented in *Poetry, Property, and Place* (2006). The second Bass studio, in 2006, teaming Stuart Lipton with Saarinen Visiting Professor Richard Rogers ('62), engineer Chris Wise, and architect Malcolm Smith ('97), was documented in *Future-Proofing* (2007). *The Human City* (2008) records the collaboration of Roger Madelin and Bishop Visiting Professor Demetri Porphyrios. It is a pleasure to see the Nick Johnson and FAT architecture partnership now collected together as *Urban Integration: Bishopsgate Goods Yard*.

Preface: Robert A. M. Stern, Dean *Urban Integration: Bishopsgate Goods Yard* documents the fourth architect-developer studio to be conducted at Yale, led in spring 2008 by Bass Distinguished Visiting Fellow Nick Johnson of Urban Splash and Louis I. Kahn Visiting Assistant Professors of Architecture Sam Jacob, Sean Griffiths, and Charles Holland, partners in the firm FAT (Fashion, Architecture, Taste). Working together with advanced students in architecture, Johnson and FAT considered the history and future of London's Bishopsgate Goods Yard, a significant brownfield site redolent with Victorian associations that is earmarked for redevelopment.

Johnson, a graduate of Sheffield Hallam University from which he holds a bachelor of science in urban land economics, has worked with Urban Splash, the Manchester, England, property developers, for over twelve years, first as a consultant and subsequently as a director. He is responsible for more than £300m of development projects, including Manchester's 3rd Millennium Community; there he is working with various architects including Will Alsop, Foster + Partners, and FAT. Since 2002 Johnson has been a member of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and chairman of Marketing Manchester, the agency responsible for worldwide promotion of the city and its region.

The London-based FAT architects concentrates on projects for public and private ventures including, with Urban Splash, the redevelopment of the site of a former public housing development in the New Islington section of Manchester. They also have completed a pavilion in Liverpool, a park and community center in Hoogvliet the Netherlands, and an eighty-unit apartment building in Middlesbrough, England. FAT received the Architecture Foundation's New Generation Award 2006 and two RIBA European Awards.

To FAT and Nick Johnson I offer my great appreciation for their dedication to the studio and our students, and I salute the students who so productively and enthusiastically worked together to significantly combine research and design. I also offer thanks to Nina Rappaport, publications director at the Yale School of Architecture, who with Andrei Harwell (M. Arch, 2006) assistant to the studio, and Lydia Miller (M. Arch, 2008), one of the students in the studio, helped structure *Urban Integration* and see it through to publication as the fourth book in this series documenting the work of the Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Architecture Fellowship.

Introduction: Nina Rappaport, Andrei Harwell and Lydia Miller Developer Nick Johnson and FAT architects have worked together before. That collaboration inspired the organization of their studio at Yale incorporating intensive research and planning for the redevelopment of an urban area in London. The first section of the book, "Beyond Design: Placemaking and the City," features interviews with Nick Johnson and the three FAT partners the Louis I. Kahn Visiting Assistant Professors, Sam Jacob, Sean Griffiths, and Charles Holland. The second section, "Regenerating Bishopsgate Goods Yard," places the site and the program in the context of contemporary London with essays by architectural critic Kieran Long, D'Arcy Fenton, architect with Foster + Partners, and John McMorrough, assistant professor at the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State University. "Bishopsgate Goods Yard Studio Work," the last section, begins with the studio brief and continues with the studio exercises, student planning analyses, and the students' final project designs.

For the first half of the semester the students tackled preliminary exercises to explore creative ideas for understanding the site and issues. The assignments, represented in the section "Framework Design Exercises," included, *x100*, in which the students designed an object one hundred times; *People in Architecture*, which raised questions about how architecture should be represented, included vignettes of activities; and *3 into 1*, which sought hybrid design solutions by combining disparate precedents utilizing various representational techniques, from overlay to folding. Nick Johnson helped students understand how questions of economic viability might work for or against each of their projects and kept the projects grounded, asking questions about the character of the places they were designing, and what it would actually be like to visit or live there.

Much of the studio work was a response to the existing conditions of the site and looked for an alternative to the 2007 development proposal by Hammersons with architects Foster + Partners. In the "Regenerating Bishops Gate Goods Yard" section D'Arcy Fenton, a partner at Foster, describes the challenges of developing the site. Throughout the studio, emphasis was placed on using various drawing techniques and multimedia to represent the diverse communities, along with more traditional plan and elevation drawings. After the students visited the site and understood the complex context, they expanded on the experience of the first exercise to rapidly design one hundred schemes for the site over two days. For midterm, the students divided into pairs to complete an urban "master vision."

During the semester's second half, students refined their urban concepts, by developing one portion of their scheme in more detail. Final projects were charged with the responsibility of creating new and

interesting dynamics between different kinds of people who might live, work, plan, or create on the site, thus capturing the hybridity and vitality of a city. Student project descriptions and discussion highlights at final reviews before a jury of architects, writers, and professors including, Patrick Bellew, Kieran Long, Frank Lupo, John McMorrough, Emmanuel Petit, Elihu Rubin, Michael Speaks, Frederick Tang, Susan Yelavitch, and Mimi Zeiger, raised additional insights into issues of content and context.

The editors would like to acknowledge the work of the students (all class of 2008) who participated in the studio and whose cooperation was essential to this book: Lasha Brown, Ashima Chitre, Christopher Corbett, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Gabrielle Ho, Elizabeth McDonald, Nicholas McDermott, Christina Wu, and Shelley Zhang. We would also like to extend thanks to our copy editor, David Delp, and graphic designer, Sarah Gephart of mgmt. design, in New York.

I. BEYOND PLACEMAK AND THE C

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Nick Johnson, director of Urban Splash



FAT architects, from left: Charles Holland, Sean Griffiths, and Sam Jacob