Design Educators

Dustin Atlas, Design Educator
Dustin joined the CFA team in 2016 and is passionate about creating meaningful learning experiences by engaging with design. Dustin studied architecture at Cooper Union and worked with a Broadway set designer before volunteering as a 5th grade English teacher in Israel. He loves exploring, spending time in nature, and going to the theater!

Hadley Beacham, Design Educator
Hadley is an artist and educator who is passionate about arts education for kids. She was previously a full time staff member in the Center for Architecture’s K-12 Education Department for three years, leading and coordinating After-School, Family, Vacation, and Summer Programs, before moving to the west coast. She has also taught at Friends of the High Line, Intrepid, and now runs her own business teaching art and photography to young people.

Jessica Castillo, Design Educator
Jessica is a freelance Design Educator at the Center for Architecture and teaches in the Learning By Design:NY, Summer and Vacation programs, and DYCD after-school partnership programs. She began working with the Center for Architecture in 2013. She previously worked as a Senior Explainer at the New York Hall of Science for 8 years, where she managed educational experiences for exhibition visitors. Jessica received her Master’s Degree in Historic Preservation from Pratt Institute, where she wrote her thesis on the relationship between historic house museums and their local communities. She earned her Bachelor of Technology in Architectural Technology from the New York City College of Technology, CUNY.

Jane Cowan, Design Educator
Jane has been a freelance design educator with the Center for Architecture since 2000. She has created, implemented and taught original architectural and New York history curricula for 300+ school-based residencies in tri-state area classrooms for grades K-12. In addition to her work at the Center, she has developed and taught education programs at Village Preservation, Young Audiences NY, Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, and the Weeksville Heritage Center. She has a B.A. in The Growth and Structure of Cities, an M.S. in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, and an MS Ed in School Counseling from Brooklyn College. Jane is a licensed NYS School Counselor.

Breanna Katsman, Design Educator
Breanna has been teaching with the Center for Architecture since 2015, when she started as a Summer Programs volunteer. She has blossomed into an environmentally motivated design educator working within the Center’s Learning by Design:NY, After-School, Vacation, and Summer Programs. Breanna attended Pratt where she studied architecture and interior design and spent some time working in production design for TV and comedy shows. In her free time, she enjoys nature, sketching, and is active in the city’s greenmarket system.

Eli King, Design Educator
Eli has been a freelance Design Educator with the Center for Architecture since 2011, leading freehand drawing classes for teens and adults in our summer and school year programs. Eli has a MArch from Columbia University, and worked extensively in construction and in several architectural firms including I.M. Pei prior to opening his own practice King-Posel Architects. He has taught at the New York Institute of Technology, City College, and FIT and is currently an architecture professor at Blair Academy in New Jersey.
Lee McMahon, Design Educator

Lee is an architectural designer and educator, teaching summer and vacation programs at the Center for Architecture, architectural drawing at The New School, animation with Magic Box Productions, and visual art/animation with the 92Y. Lee received his Master of Architecture degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2009. Lee has designed at various scales working with Ryall Porter Sheridan Architects on Passive House building projects and rebuilds for homes destroyed during Hurricane Sandy through the NYC Build it back program with Cycle Architecture + Planning. He is currently designing new homes in Connecticut and a brewery in Brooklyn.

Howard Stern, Design Educator

Howard has been a freelance Design Educator with the Center for Architecture since 1997, helping to develop the program’s hands-on, inquiry-based approach to design education. He currently teaches in our Learning By Design:NY, Summer, Vacation, and After-School programs, specializing in digital design programs for middle and high school students, as well as design-build projects where students develop and implement improvements to their school environment. He previously taught architecture classes for youth at the Abrons Arts Center and the Queens Museum of Art. Howard is a licensed architect with over 18 years of experience as a practicing architect with a focus on affordable housing and institutional buildings. He has a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the New York Institute of Technology.

Kimberly Tate, Design Educator

Kimberly is a multi-disciplinary artist, designer and educator based in Brooklyn, who joined the Center for Architecture in 2017. In addition to teaching with the Center for Architecture, she is also a Part-time Assistant Professor at Parsons the New School for Design. In practice, she has been a project manager and designer at CDR Studio Architects, Formactiv Architecture Design and Technology, and Arch Productions & Design, working on retail, residential, public interest and custom design fabrication projects at various scales and phases from schematic design to construction/installation. As part of the Empowerhouse Collaborative, she developed, built and exhibited a solar-powered home built to Passive House standards for the 2011 Solar Decathlon, which placed first in Affordability. Kimberly earned her Masters in Architecture from Parsons School of Design and BA Cum Laude from the University of Missouri - Columbia.

Education Staff

Tim Hayduk, Lead Design Educator

Tim teaches in all of the Center for Architecture’s K-12 programs, with special expertise in high school programs and those focusing on NYC’s history. He works with the Center’s tour program for adult audiences and conducts walking tours and boat tours around Manhattan. Tim studied architecture at Pratt Institute and began teaching at the Center for Architecture in 2003. His devotion to modern architecture informs his interest in traveling, architectural publications, and photography.

Nadya Kim, School Programs Coordinator

Nadya coordinates and teaches the Center’s K-12 Student Day school programs; she also assists with the administration and teaching of CFA’s other youth and family programs when school is not in session. She earned her BA in Visual Arts and History of Art and Architecture from Brown University. Before joining the Center for Architecture, she was an assistant educator at Cooper Hewitt’s DesignPrep Summer Intensive for high school students and an Education Fellow at the Brooklyn Museum. Her experience teaching art and design to youth in a variety of learning settings supports her passion for arts education and commitment to building students’ understanding and appreciation for the built environment.

Mary Lib Schmidt, Youth Programs Manager

Mary Lib oversees the Center for Architecture’s Youth Programs including Family Days, After School, Vacation Programs, and Summer Programs. She received her BA from the University of Virginia and her MA in Art History from Columbia University. She joined the CFA K-12 Education Team in 2017 and previously worked in the Education Departments of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Jewish Museum.

Catherine Teegarden, Director of Education

Catherine manages the Center for Architecture’s K-12 education programs, which include school, family, and youth workshops. She has a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University and is a licensed elementary school teacher. Catherine helped establish the organizations’ Learning By Design:NY program in 1990 and served as its first director from 1996-2001, returning in 2009 after taking time off to be with her children.