

Benjamin Gianni  
Associate Professor

I'm very honoured to have been given the opportunity to say a few words. As coordinator of the urbanism program, I have a special connection to the urbanism students with whom I've worked over the past few years. I'm incredibly pleased and proud of how much you've grown of everything you've produced and of how your horizons have expanded. Most of the rest of you I know through the fourth-year housing studio, which I was privileged to have had the opportunity to organize again this year. I see this studio as the culmination of your four years of study, the opportunity to put many of the pieces together, and to get a glimpse into the forces that produce the built environment.

You are fortunate to be graduating when you are. The economy is strong, offices are hiring, and the range of work that is going on out there is staggering. The rate and fashion in which our cities are growing are giving architects the opportunity to work at scales that are virtually unprecedented. Large portions of cities are being torn apart and rebuilt as we speak. In a very literal sense, you have the chance to shape the future. I encourage all of you to bring your amazing skills and energy to bear on making the world a better place.

The last four years represent the beginnings of a journey that will take each of you to many different places. For some, the journey will be linear and straightforward, while for others, it will be peripatetic. Wherever it takes you, you'll be continuing the process of learning that you began here as undergraduates. For those of you considering or committed to returning to Carleton for graduate work, we very much look forward to seeing you again – and in person! For those whose journeys take them elsewhere, we ask you to please stay in touch. We have a stake in your wellbeing; your successes will always be our successes. We want to share them with you and with the world at large.

Thank you!