

ArchDaily News Landscape Architect Kate Orff and Urbanist Damon Rich Aw

# Landscape Architect Kate Orff and Urbanist Damon Rich Awarded 2017 MacArthur "Genius" Grants

12:30 - 11 October, 2017 | by [Patrick Lynch](#)

The [MacArthur Foundation](#) has announced the 24 recipients of their 2017 MacArthur Fellowships Grants (sometimes referred to as 'Genius' Grants), and for the first time since 2011, the list includes individuals from architectural fields: urban planner and designer [Damon Rich](#) and landscape architect Kate Orff.

Established in 1981, the grants are awarded annually "to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations." This year's fellowships come with a \$625,000, no-strings-attached stipend for individual pursuits.

Founding principal of [landscape architecture practice SCAPE](#), [Kate Orff](#) has dedicated special attention toward addressing the challenges associated with urbanization and climate change, including rising sea levels, pollution and biodiversity loss. Together with her firm, Orff has developed master plans for cities and districts across the country using innovative, pedestrian-friendly schemes, such as in [SCAPE's 2014 Buckminster Fuller Challenge-winning climate change adaptation plan](#). Recently, the firm was chosen as a lead exhibitor for the [US Pavilion at the 2018 Venice Biennale](#).

She is also an Associate Professor & Director of the Urban Design Program at Columbia GSAPP.

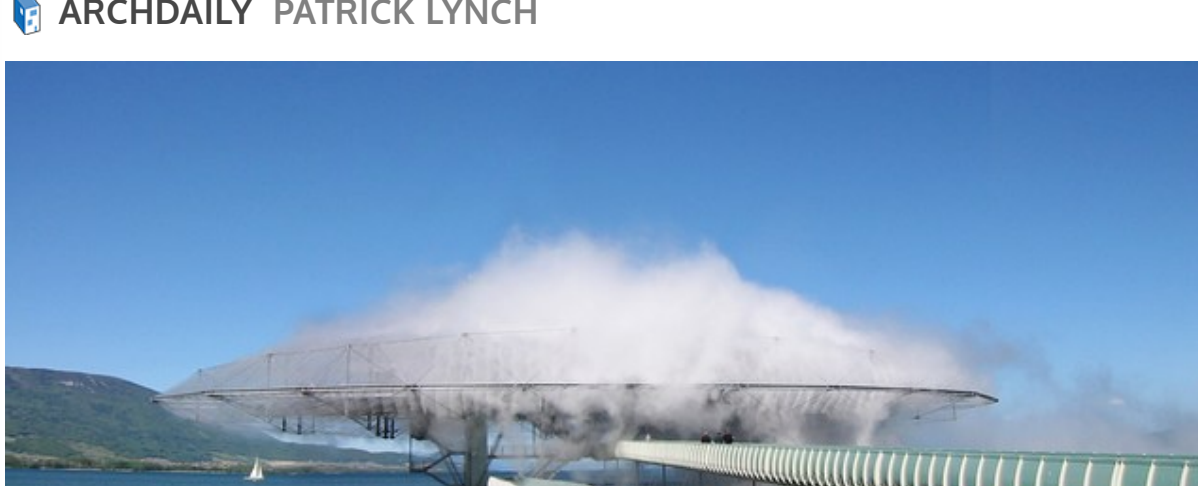
Orff was lauded by the [MacArthur Foundation](#) for her "resourceful design approach" that "calls attention to the most distinctive natural attributes of a given place, while her collaborations and community outreach strategies extend the boundaries of traditional landscape architecture."

Also a [GSAPP](#) faculty member (adjunct associate professor), [Damon Rich](#) is co-founder of design studio [Hector](#) and founder of the [Center of Urban Pedagogy](#) (CUP), a New York City-based nonprofit organization focused on the educating students and young people about urban planning processes such as affordable housing, infrastructure design and tenant's rights.

Trained as an architect (at Columbia), Rich has used his design background to create physical representations of planning concepts, such as in his [Red Lines Housing Crisis Learning Center](#) exhibit at the Queens Museum in 2009. Recently, Rich has served as chief urban designer and director planning (2008–2015) for Newark, New Jersey, where he helped to spawn new development and revitalization by redrafting outdated land-use and zoning laws by organizing a citywide coalition of neighborhood representatives.

Read more about Orff and Rich as well as the other 22 grantees, [here](#).

ARCHDAILY PATRICK LYNCH



## The 6 Architects Who Have Won MacArthur "Genius" Grants

Today, the MacArthur Foundation announced the 23 recipients of their 2016 MacArthur Fellowship Grants, which are awarded annually "to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations." Each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$625,000 for the recipients to use for individual pursuits, paid out in equal quarterly installments over a five year period.

[Read the article on archdaily.com >](#)

powered by embedly

See more:

- [News](#)
- [Architecture News](#)
- [Columbia GSAPP](#)
- [Kate Orff](#)
- [GSAPP](#)
- [MacArthur Foundation](#)
- [Damon Rich](#)

Cite: Patrick Lynch. "Landscape Architect Kate Orff and Urbanist Damon Rich Awarded 2017 MacArthur "Genius" Grants" 11 Oct 2017. ArchDaily. Accessed 2 Nov 2017. <<https://www.archdaily.com/881421/landscape-architect-kate-orff-and-urbanist-damon-rich-awarded-2017-macarthur-genius-grants/>>

[Read comments](#)

## MORE ARCHITECTURE NEWS



**Check Out the Dazzling Pumpkin Architecture at New York's Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze**



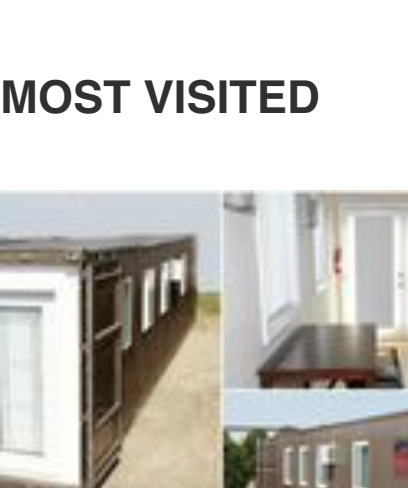
**Cooper Hewitt Releases Online Catalogue of Over 200,000 Historic Design Objects**



**LA's Natural History Museum to Expand With Transparent "Front Porch" Additions**

[More Architecture News »](#)

## MOST VISITED



**You Can Now Buy a Shipping-Container Tiny House from Amazon (But Should You?)**

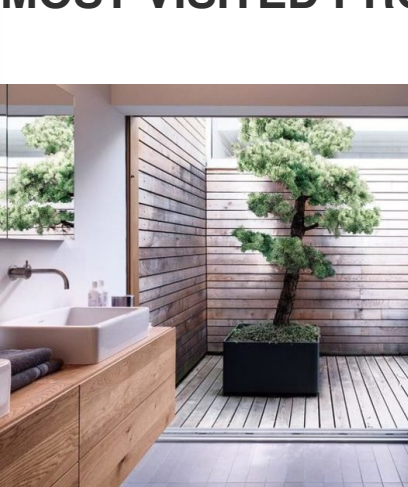


**10-Square-Meter Apartments: Minimizing Living Space or Maximizing Profit?**

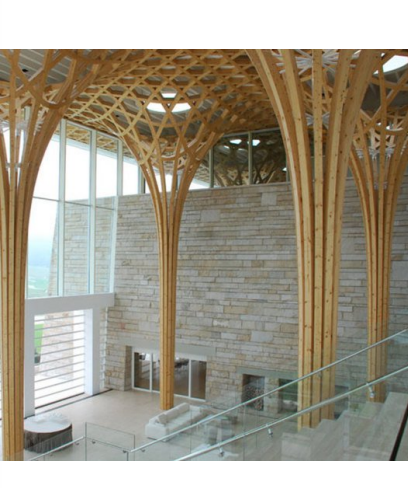


**House N / Estudio GM ARQ**

## MOST VISITED PRODUCTS



**Garden & Design Furniture and Accessories | Swisspearl**



**Free form structures for wood projects | Blumer Lehmann**

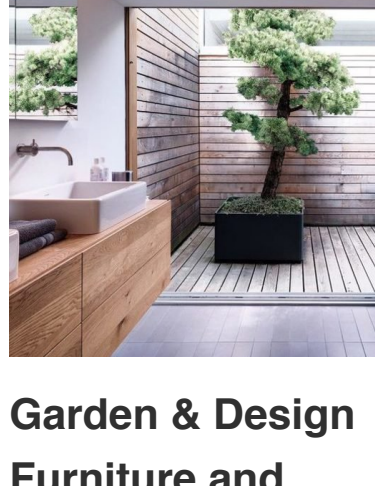


**Terracotta Sunscreens - Baguette | Shildan**

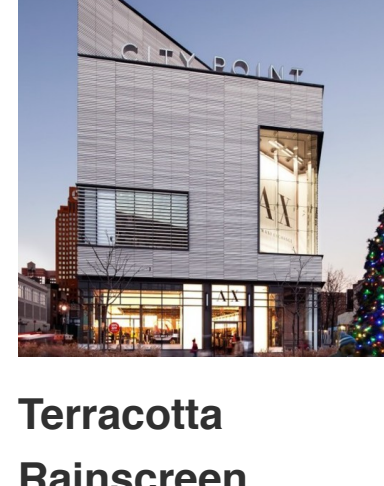
## BROWSE THE CATALOG



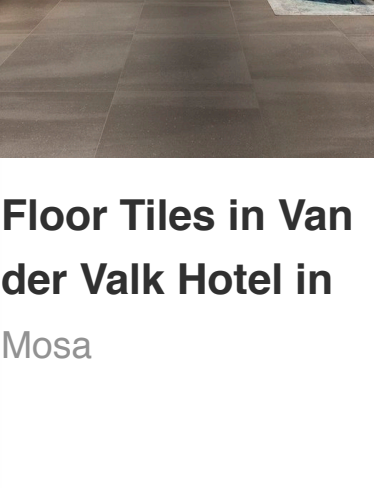
**Roofing and Waterproofing**  
Tremco



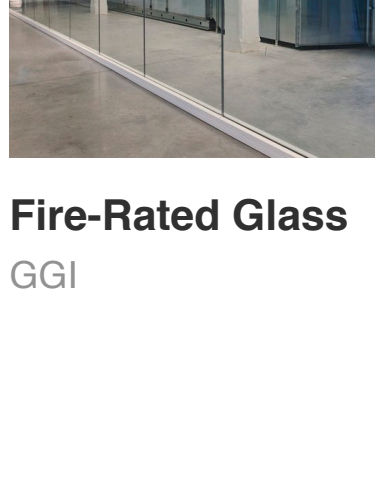
**Garden & Design Furniture and Accessories**  
Swisspearl



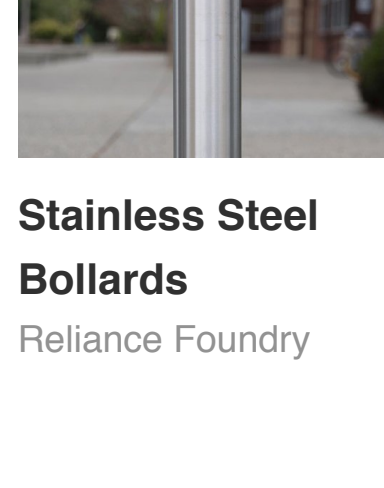
**Terracotta Rainscreen**  
Shildan



**Floor Tiles in Vander Valk Hotel in Mosa**



**Fire-Rated Glass**  
GGI



**Stainless Steel Bollards**  
Reliance Foundry

