

Dense

Urbanism

The High-rise Tower as a Building Block for the Public Realm Safdie Architects Research Fellowship

Though the skyscraper has been with us for a century, we are yet to discover how to deploy it as an effective building block for contemporary urbanism. Before the age of towers, we could take for granted that buildings aggregated to create boulevards, streets, squares and crescents—wholesome places for the public realm. Today, the dominant typology of towers is a singular, autonomous structure—experienced as a sculptural object. Alternatively, and becoming more common, are clusters of mixed-use towers atop a podium, predominantly designed as self-contained, introverted, and privatized environments. Planning, zoning and urban design have not

provided the tools to accommodate and regulate the great inter-dependency of towers in the city, the impact on light and view on each other and their surroundings.

The challenge going forward is to recognize that towers are highly inter-dependent and require new planning tools to resolve their relationship. Moreover, their impact, as they collide with the ground, with or without podiums, is enormous. Only powerful concepts for how earth meets tower can begin to bring about an urbanism in which the public realm is continuous, truly public, and possesses the appropriate environmental conditions.

In this world of towers, designed as a collective—connecting, bridging and

creating urban places at various levels opens up a new realm of possibilities for a better functioning and humane city.

Safdie Architects announces a call for submissions for the 2015 Research Fellowship Program. Fellows will work with Moshe Safdie and his Practice to formulate specific proposals and research plans that fit within the umbrella theme.

2 Fellows will be invited to spend one year in residence at the Boston office of Safdie

Architects. Each Fellow will receive administrative and research support and have access to the consultants and resources of the office. The Fellowship carries a stipend commensurate with experience.

Candidates should have a degree from an accredited School of Architecture and minimum 5 years practice experience.

Applicants should send a letter of intent discussing their interest in the theme, curriculum vitae, names of three references and a portfolio of professional and academic work.

Send materials to fellowship@msafdie.com or to our mailing address below:

Safdie Architects
c/o Research Fellowship Search Committee
100 Properzi Way
Somerville, MA 02143

Information regarding the office and the Fellowship Program at <http://www.msafdie.com>