



Collective for
Community, Culture
and Environment

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ZEHRA KUZ
Architecture and Environmental Design

Zehra is a registered architect and an adjunct professor at Pratt Institute, School of Architecture. She holds a Master of Science in Building Design and Architecture from Columbia University and Diplom Ingenieur from Universitaet Innsbruck. Influenced by relationships between buildings, their inhabitants and the surrounding environments, her work focuses on how the changing climate and prevailing environmental pressures affect urban life especially in Metro New York. She was one of the primary investigators for Fluid Frontiers: Stormwater Management research in Red Hook Sewershed, Brooklyn, funded by the NY Community Trust. This multi-faceted research sought to quantify stormwater impact through CSOs on coastal waters, explore feasible strategies for public-private partnerships and engage local communities in the implementation of innovative solutions toward achieving the Clean Water Act.

Zehra also co-lead a task order, issued by the NYC DDC, titled Design Guidelines for Equity (Part 1) and Evoking Equity (Part 2). The investigation was to contribute to the department's Design and Construction Excellence 2.0, Guiding Principles in an effort to bring communities and public facilities closer together. Presently, at Pratt Institute's School of Architecture she co-leads RAMP 2.0 (Recovery, Adaptation, Mitigation, and Planning) an interdisciplinary initiative that, together with respective community leaders, explores design, policy, and planning strategies for vulnerable waterfront neighborhoods. She has worked with local leaders in Jamaica Bay as well as most of NYC's SMIA's (Significant Maritime Industrial Areas). Currently, she is part of CCCE's team (with RISE) for the Nature Conservancy's project Community Visioning for Vacant Land following Managed Retreat in Edgemere, Queens.