

# Letter From The Editors

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Agora continues its tradition of excellence moving into its 13<sup>th</sup> year. A team of graduate students are pushing forward Agora's tradition of creating an open forum for discussion of pressing issues and future possibilities posed by the built environment. After winning The Center for Architecture's Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journals in 2018, we are excited to continue this tradition of excellence in student publication.

As with last year, Agora continues to seek varied perspectives of the city. We once again welcomed submissions from colleges throughout the school with multi-disciplinary backgrounds. Within Taubman College, the *Agora 13* staff has worked hard to create an inclusive environment where students gain new skills and refine their abilities in critical thinking, writing, editing, and design.

The title of this year's journal is *Transformations*. Built environments are in a constant state of change. The articles explore a variety of ways in which urban areas are transforming. Nadia Karizat in her article "The Story of Public Space" explores the transformations that have occurred in Beirut after the Lebanese Civil War. Ester Lo in her design piece entitled "Wearable Society" imagines a not-so-distant future where individual wearable technologies connect people with the urban fabric, allowing real-time transformations of the built environment. We are challenged by Emily Richards in "Seems like the Ghetto," which exposes how language and perception combine to transform physical space in insidious ways.

We would like to thank the staff of *Agora 13*, whose tireless efforts produced this exceptional work; its authors and photographers for sharing their visions; our supporters who make this journal possible; and our faculty advisors and peer reviewers for their expertise and guidance. It is through your collective efforts that Agora continues its mission of cultivating transformational thought to inspire current and future community leaders.

We hope you enjoy this work as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Emily Smith & Michael Friese  
Editors-in-Chief