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Harvard University Launches New Center for Green Buildings and Cities at the Graduate School of Design (GSD)

GSD Professor of Architectural Technology Ali Malkawi named Founding Director; Inaugural Challenge Conference (Nov. 7) convenes thought leaders from academia and industry

Cambridge, MA — Harvard University has announced the establishment of the Center for Green Buildings and Cities based at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. The Center engages in long-term multidisciplinary research across scales—from the nano-scale of new materials to the macro scale of urban planning—with the goal of driving the development of new design strategies for a more sustainable built environment.

"In our rapidly urbanizing global economy, we need a vision that shapes the impact of buildings on our environment," says Harvard University GSD Dean Mohsen Mostafavi. "Driven by population growth, urbanization, and economic development, cities worldwide have been building new construction on a massive scale. We must change energy consumption patterns, or face dramatic environmental consequences. Improving the energy efficiency of buildings is absolutely critical."

GSD Professor of Architectural Technology Ali Malkawi, an international scholar and expert in building simulation, energy conservation, and sustainability in buildings, will direct the Center, overseeing the design, scientific and engineering research. Richard Freeman, Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics at Harvard and renowned specialist in labor economics and the economics of science, will co-direct the Center, leading social and economic research.

"Our vision is to create a global center of excellence that will utilize the vast resources of Harvard's expertise to have a large and lasting impact," says Professor Malkawi. "Though there

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are many research centers, councils, and other entities devoted to green buildings and cities, the Center's mission is influenced by its foundation in a design school: We are focusing on *design* as the driver for research on sustainable built environments."

The Center is establishing strategic partnerships with universities, research centers, private industries, and government institutions around the world to collect and share data and research.

As part of its objective to bridge the academic, business, and policy worlds, the Center will bring together a diverse group of visionaries to articulate the pressing environmental challenges related to building and urban planning. The Inaugural Challenge Conference (November 7, at the GSD) is the first in an annual series of events spotlighting ideas that are pushing the frontiers of architectural knowledge and practice. Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust, GSD Dean Mohsen Mostafavi, and Center Director Malkawi will help frame these important talks, which will include presentations by architect James Carpenter of James Carpenter Design Associates; Alejandro Murat, CEO of INFONAVIT (Institute del Fondo Nacional para la Vivienda de los Trabajadores), the national housing fund of Mexico; architect Joshua Prince-Ramus of REX-NYC; Daniel Nocera, Patterson Rockwood Professor of Energy in Harvard's Department of Chemistry; Gordon Gill of Adrian Smith and Gordon Gill Architecture; and Phil Harrison, CEO of Perkins + Will.

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