

Sophie Weston Chien is a **designer-organizer**.

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## Education

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<b>Harvard Graduate School of Design</b>	2024	Master in Landscape Architecture Master in Urban Planning
<b>Rhode Island School of Design</b>	2020	Bachelor of Architecture Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture

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## Publications

*\* indicates peer-reviewed*

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- 2024 **Urban Innovation for the Climate Crisis: Design, Policy and Practice\***  
*(forthcoming, Routledge, Co-Author with Simone Delaney and christin hu, edited by Gabriel Kaprielian and Julie Ulrich)*  
Chapter: Bias Towards Action: Design As Protest Collective Works
- Building Ground for Climate Collectivism\***  
*(forthcoming, Routledge, Co-Author with Emily Wettstein and MK Smaby, edited by Alicia Imperiale and Emily Martin)*  
Chapter: From Competition to Mutualism: Model Migration in Design Pedagogy
- Storytelling Spaces of Solidarity in the Asian Diaspora**  
Interviewed by Tonia Sing Chi
- PAIRS Journal 05**  
Interview with Taylor Holloway and Tya Winn
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- 2023 **Paprika! Volume 9, Issue 3**  
Design-Organizing Abolitionist Futures
- Architect Magazine**  
*Co-Author with Dark Matter U*  
Context: A Subversive Act of Communing
- Plot Journal 12: Edge**  
*Co-Author with Dark Matter U*  
Reimagining the Ground to Recognize the Periphery
- Harvard Urban Review**  
Complicit Construction: The Role Of Architects In The Prison Industrial Complex (A Ten-Year Overview, 2012-2022)
- PAIRS Journal 04**  
Interview with Emily Wettstein

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2022 **Disc Journal 02: Intimacy**  
*Co-Author with Amanda Ugorji*  
Soft City

**Canadian Centre for Architecture**  
How To: Do No Harm

**Madame Architect**  
Next Gen Interview

**Log 54: Coauthoring**  
*Co-Editor And Co-Author With Dark Matter U*  
"The Other Day We Started A Shared Doc..."

**Harvard GSD Field Guide**  
Apocalypse Now J-Term

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2021 **Portals: Pedagogy, Practice, And Architecture's Future Imaginary**  
*Actar Publishing*  
Thesis Project: Practice

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2019 **v1 RISD Journal**  
Index of Agency

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2017 **Visions Brown And RISD Asian/Asian-American Literary Art Publication**  
Spatialized Protest

## Residencies

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2023 **I-Park Foundation**  
*East Haddam, Connecticut*  
Landscape Designer in Residence

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2022 **Canadian Centre for Architecture**  
*Montreal, Canada*  
How To: Do No Harm Researcher in Residence

## Solo Exhibitions

*\* indicates curator*

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2024 **Soft City**  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
MIT Museum

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2023 **Planning at 100 Years\***  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
Harvard Frances Loeb Library

**DAP Collective Projects**  
*New Orleans, Louisiana*  
Contemporary Arts Center Gallery

**DMU Constellation**  
*Starkville, Mississippi*  
Mississippi State University Architecture Gallery

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2022 **Soft City**  
*Boston, Massachusetts*  
Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library

**You are a (Anti)Racist: DAP Collective Projects**  
*Chicago, Illinois*  
Columbia College Glass Curtain Gallery

**Soft City**  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
MIT Rotch Library Gallery

## Group Exhibitions

*\* indicates curator and participant*

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2024 **Data Through Design: Aftermath**  
*New York, New York*  
New York City's Open Data Week at Bric House Gallery

**Harvard Arts First Festival**  
*Cambridge, Massachusetts*  
Harvard University Yard

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2023 **DAP Collective Projects**  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*  
Pearlstein Gallery at Drexel University

**10 Years of DesignxRI**  
*Pawtucket, Rhode Island*  
Machines with Magnets Gallery

**100% Real Fakes**  
*Brooklyn, New York*  
Roots Cafe + Gallery

**Open Studios**  
*East Haddam, Connecticut*  
I-Park Residency

**The City Talks**

*Online*

SLAB at the University of Southern California

**3rd Space\***

*Boston, Massachusetts*

12 Summer St Pop-up Gallery

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2022 **Lisbon Architecture Triennale: DMU Constellation**

*Lisbon, Portugal*

National Museum Of Contemporary Art, Lisbon

**Now What?! Advocacy, Activism, and Alliances in American Architecture Since 1968**

*Boston, Massachusetts*

Boston Society Of Architects Gallery

**No White Walls**

*New Haven, Connecticut*

Yale E.I.K. Gallery

**GSD End of Year Show**

*Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Harvard Druker Design Gallery

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2020 **RISD Undergraduate Senior Show**

*Online*

RISD Class of 2020

**Architecture(ish) Senior Show\***

*Providence, Rhode Island*

RISD Architecture Gallery

**{re}position**

*Providence, Rhode Island*

RISD Gelman Gallery

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2019 **\_\_\_\_\_scapes**

*Providence, Rhode Island*

RISD Gelman Gallery

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2018 **Allora**

*Rome, Italy*

Palazzo Cenci

**Eruption**

*Rome, Italy*

Bibliothe Galleria

**Polar Opposites**

*Providence, Rhode Island*

Granoff Center Brown University

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2016 **Alaska Centennial Science and Stewardship Symposium**

*Fairbanks, Alaska*

National Park Service

**Experimental + Foundation Studies Triennial**

*Providence, Rhode Island*

RISD Woods-Gerry Gallery

## Honors + Awards

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2021-24 **Dean's Merit Scholarship**

*Harvard Graduate School of Design*

2023 **The City Talks Digital Gallery Award**

*SLAB at the University of Southern California*

2023 **Radcliffe Institute Public Art Competition Finalist**

*Harvard University*

2022 **ASLA Student Award Nomination**

*Harvard Graduate School of Design*

2020 **Leadership Legacy Award**

*RISD Center for Student Involvement*

2020 **Warren Family Social Engagement Award**

*RISD Graduation Class of 2020*

2015-20 **Diversity Advancement Scholarship**

*American Institute of Architects*

2018 **Steven Lerner Scholarship**

*RISD Architecture Department*

2017 **Peter Guimond Memorial Scholarship**

*RISD Architecture Department*

2016 **Outstanding New Leader Award**

*RISD Center for Student Involvement*

## Funding

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2024 **Professional Development Fund**

*CU Boulder Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship for Faculty Diversity \$5,000*

2023 **Design Justice Summit Fellowship**

*Design Justice Summit \$1,000*

2023 **GSD Racial Equity + Anti-Racist Fund**

*Planning Abolitionist Futures Workshop with UCLA + GSD Planning \$1,500*

2022 **GSD Conference Attendance Fund**

*Harvard GSD \$500*

- 2021 **GSD Racial Equity + Anti-Racist Fund**  
*Complicit Construction: Ten Years of the Prison Industrial Complex \$1,200*
- 2021 **Council for the Arts at MIT Award**  
*Soft City: Texture Mapping Black Boston with Amanda Ugorji \$6,800*
- 2019 **RISD Architecture Travel Studies Award**  
*Design Research in Mexico \$1,000*
- 2018 **Textron Design Fellowship**  
*Internship with La Más \$2,500*
- 2018 **RISD Global Travel Grant**  
*European Honors Program \$5,000*
- 2017 **Maharam Design Fellowship**  
*Research in Providence Mayor's Office \$5,000*

## Teaching + Research

University of Colorado, Boulder Environmental Design Program Boulder, CO	2024- Present	<b>Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow</b> Postdoc research with community members in San Lazaro to create Colorado-specific ecological communication devices, using tufted textiles to record narratives of climate and migration.
University of Colorado, Boulder Environmental Design Program Boulder, Co	2025 2024	<b>Studio Instructor</b> Intro to Landscape Architecture Intro to Environmental Product Design
Seeding Pedagogies/ University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA	2022- Present	<b>Founder</b> Seeding Pedagogies is a collaborative researching landscape architectural pedagogical formation and theory. Co-founded with Emily Wettstein.
just practice Cambridge, MA	2021- Present	<b>Founder</b> just practice is a collaborative design research practice dreaming and designing social-spatial liberation. Co-founded with Amanda Ugorji.
Dark Matter U	2021- Present	<b>Core Organizer</b> Dark Matter U is an anti-racist design justice network collectively seeking the radical transformation of education & practice toward a just future.

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<b>Harvard Graduate School of Design</b> Cambridge, MA	2022	<b>Creator + Instructor</b> Apocalypse Now, a seminar rethinking necessary “survival methods” for traumatic times, 2-week course
	2023	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Near-Future City Landscape Architecture Core 4 Studio, Danielle Choi
	2022	Littoral Landscapes Landscape Architecture Core 3 Studio, Danielle Choi
	2022	Typologies of Liberation Seminar, Oana Stanescu and Bryan Lee Jr.

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<b>RISD Architecture Department</b> Providence, RI	2021	<b>Teaching Fellow</b> Assisted studios taught by Cara Liberatore and Zachary Schumacher through workshops and lectures to deliver curriculum to students. Focus on design principles and drawing through the consideration and creation of form, experience, and culture.
	2018, 19	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> RISD Urban Ecologies Architecture Studio Core 3, Cara Liberatore and Manuel Cordero Alvarado
	2017	RISD World Architecture History Seminar, Peter Tagiuri and Emanuel Admassu

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<b>Invited Reviews</b>	2024	MIT Graduate Landscape of Urbanism Seminar Final Review Pratt Undergrad Architecture Representation Final Review Morgan State Graduate Landscape Architecture Final Review
	2023	MIT Graduate Architecture Thesis Mid Review CUNY Staten Island Undergraduate Public Interest Technology Final Review
	2022	NY City College of Technology Undergraduate Architecture Final Review Wentworth Undergraduate Architecture Final Review Cornell Graduate Landscape Architecture Final Review Pratt Undergraduate Architecture Final Review University of Buffalo Undergraduate Architecture Review
	2021	Cal Poly Pomona Undergraduate Architecture Final Review UC Berkeley [IN]ARCH Mid Review Carleton Undergraduate Architecture Final Review RISD Undergraduate Architecture Final Review
	2018	RISD in Richelieu Printmaking Final Review

<b>Coauthored Syllabi</b>	2022	Race + Place in the Built Environment taught at University of Buffalo by Garnette Cadogan, Victor Zagabe, and Samendy Brice (Dark Matter U) Speculative Futures: Designing Pedagogies + Practices taught at UVA by Emily Wettstein (Seeding Pedagogies)
<b>Spalter Teaching Fellow</b> RISD Museum	2018-20	Teach weekly art and design workshops to high schoolers focused on contextualizing the museum's collection through theory and technique.
<b>Leadership + Community Engagement Fellow</b>	2016-17 2015-16	<b>Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island</b> <b>Mount Hope Learning Center</b> Responsible for teaching weekly art and literacy class (K-12 and all ages), managing work-study students, volunteers, and planning community events.

## Conferences + Workshops

*\* indicates peer-reviewed*

2025	<b>Analyzing Cop City through the Complicit Construction Model*</b> Society for Architectural Historians Annual Conference
2024	<b>Place and Space: Soft Grounds</b> Architecture and Urbanism MITES Program MIT  <b>Fuzzy Futures: Developing Ecological Communication Devices</b> Landscape Technology Colloquium Harvard GSD
2023	<b>Speculative Pedagogies</b> Setting the Course: Future Core Studio Pedagogies in Landscape Architecture Symposium Harvard GSD  <b>Centering Community Leadership in Design</b> Design Justice Summit
2022	<b>Designer-Organizer: Practicing Just Futures in Landscape Architecture*</b> Architectural Humanities Research Association Annual Conference  <b>Reframe: Organizing by Design</b> Brown/RISD Better World By Design Conference  <b>DAP National Call - Call to Organize</b> Design As Protest Collective  <b>DAP Care + Coordination Annual Retreat</b> Design as Protest Collective



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2021 **Showing Up: Activism Across Life Domains**  
Black In Design Conference Harvard GSD

**Anti-Racist Design Justice Workshop**  
Womxn In Design Week Harvard GSD

**DAP Care + Coordination Annual Retreat**  
Design As Protest Collective

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2020 **Day of Action - Election 2020**  
Design As Protest Collective

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2019 **Merrow Visioning Workshop**  
Fall River Community

**Mapping Context Workshop**  
RISD/Brown Nth Degree Conference

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2018 **RISD Strategic Plan Workshop**  
RISD Community

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2017 **Wayfinding as Equity Workshop**  
City of Providence

**RISD x National Park Service Workshop**  
Delaware Water Gap National Park + Recreation Area

## Lectures + Speeches

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2023 **"Practicing Architects"**  
*Lecture*  
Mississippi State University Harrison Lecture Series

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2022 **Praxes of Care**  
*Lecture/Workshop*  
University of Waterloo Architecture Arriscraft Speaker Series

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2021 **Organizing in Design**  
*Lecture*  
DesignxRI Clambake Series

**On Contradiction and Care**  
*Speech*  
RISD Commencement Class of 2020 Undergraduate Speaker

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2020 **Just Patterns**  
*Lecture*  
RISD Civic Engagement Series

**Waterbodies**  
*Lecture*  
RISD Remote Student Lecture Series

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2018 **New Student Welcome Address**  
*Speech*  
RISD First-Year Orientation

## **Panels + Podcasts + Class Talks**

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2024 **Professional Practice: Advocacy**  
*Guest Speaker*  
RISD Architecture Department

**Landscape of Teaching**  
*Guest Speaker*  
Harvard GSD Career Services

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2023 **Planning at 100 Years**  
*Panelist*  
Harvard GSD Loeb Library

**Thesis Retrospective**  
*Guest Speaker*  
RISD Architecture Department

**3rd Space Closing: Head, Heart, Hand**  
*Panelist*  
3rd Space Gallery

**Participatory Mapping**  
*Guest Speaker*  
Northeastern University Graduate Seminar

**3rd Space Opening: Architectural Imaginaries**  
*Panelist*  
3rd Space Gallery

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2022 **Advanced Architecture Studio**  
*Guest Speaker*  
Tecnológico De Monterrey - Campus Querétaro

**Equity x Design**  
*Panel Moderator*  
DesignxRI Design Week

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2021 **Architecture + Advocacy**  
*Panelist*  
University of Buffalo AIAS

**Master of Architecture Project Course**  
*Guest Speaker*  
University Of Tennessee Graduate Thesis Seminar

**Grounds**  
*Podcast*  
MIT Architecture WAWD? Radio Station

**Architecture Across the Ecological Continuum**  
*Guest Speaker*  
University Of Waterloo Graduate Seminar

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2020 **Design & Covid-19: What Now?**  
*Panelist*  
Design Week Rhode Island

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2019 **Creativity is Core Episode #107**  
*Podcast*  
Clever Podcast

**Student Health + Wellness**  
*Panelist*  
RISD Board Of Trustees

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2018 **Thought Diversity**  
*Panelist*  
RISD Career Center

## Press

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2024 **Ouvert Magazine**  
*Soil on the Move in Data Through Design Exhibition*

2024 **The Harvard Gazette**  
*Leaf Litter in Arts First Festival*

2023 **ENSPIRE Magazine**  
*Soft City at Downtown Crossing*

2022 **Architect's Newspaper**  
*DMU at Lisbon Architecture Triennale*

2022 **Boston University**  
*Soft City at MIT Rotch Gallery*

2021 **RISD Media**  
*Class of 2020 Commencement Speaker*

- 2020 **Hyperallergic**  
*RISD Senior Show Coverage*
- 2020 **RISD Media**  
*Warren Family Social Engagement Award*
- 2020 **Architect's Foundation**  
*Grad Series*
- 2020 **RISD Media**  
*Architecture Senior Show*
- 2019 **Campus Compact**  
*Newman Civic Fellowship Announcement*
- 2019 **RISD Media**  
*Design Week Keynote Panel*

## Leadership + Service

<b>CU Boulder Leadership</b>	2024-25	Honors Advisor and Chair of Honors Committee for Aspen Randolph
<b>Design As Protest Collective</b>	2020-Present	<b>Core Organizer</b> Design As Protest is a collective of BIPOC designers and planners organizing to dismantle the structures that use design as a tool of oppression.
<b>DesignxRI</b>	2021-Present	<b>Board of Directors</b> DesignxRI is a non-profit creating an opportunity-driven environment for RI designers, design businesses, and the design sector to thrive.  <i>Projects: Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion Committee Chair, Executive Director Search Committee Co-Chair, DesignxRedefine Advisory Committee, Strategic Plan Committee, 10-Year Anniversary Committee</i>
<b>Juries / Selection Committee Member</b>	2023 21, 22, 23 2023	RISD Craft Selection Committee RISD Maharam Fellowship Selection Committee RISD Museum Artist Residency Selection Committee
<b>Harvard GSD Leadership</b>	2022-23 2021-22 2021-22	Urban Planning Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Committee Landscape Architecture Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Committee Landscape Architecture Class Representative

<b>Newman Civic Fellowship</b>	2019-20	National fellowship recognizes community-committed students who are changemakers, one per university. Mentored by RISD President Rosanne Somerson.
<b>RISD Leadership</b>	2019-20 2018-19 2019	Community Engagement Working Group Student Body President Honorary Degree Committee
<b>Affiliations</b>	2024- Present	Society for Architectural Historians Association for Community Design

## Work Experience

<b>Harvard Graduate School of Design</b> Cambridge, MA	2021- Present	<b>Career Liaison</b> Collaborate with Alistair McIntosh in shaping Landscape Architecture career programming, including panels and workshops, and create career resources.
	2022-23	<b>Project Associate</b> Collaborate with Jill Desimini on creating the Climate Justice Design Fellowship supported by Google+Harvard Data+Climate.
<b>Agency Landscape + Planning</b> Cambridge, MA	2020-21	<b>Urban Designer</b> Contribute design ideas, analytic skills, public engagement strategies and execution, representation, research, and writing for projects at many scales.  <i>Projects: Albina Vision Trust Community Investment Plan Portland, OR, Perkins Pier Siting Study Burlington, VT</i>
<b>Biden for President/ Democratic Coordinated Campaign</b> Charlotte, NC	2020	<b>Field Organizer</b> Organize community initiatives, including voting education, outreach, registration, Get Out the Vote, and manage and recruit fellows and volunteers.
<b>LA Más</b> Los Angeles, CA	2019	<b>Design + Engagement Fellow</b> Responsible for schematic design parts, field research, assembling design proposals, graphic documents, and model making

<p><b>Oualalou + Choi</b> Paris, France</p>	<p>2018 <b>Architectural Design Intern</b> Responsible for drawing, drafting, models (physical and CAD models), and urban strategies</p>
<p><b>op.AL / American Academy Rome</b> Rome, Italy</p>	<p>2018 <b>Architectural Design Intern</b> Assisted with installation in Cinque Mostre and research on optics and trump l'oeil with Jonathan Scelsa and Jennifer Birkeland</p>
<p><b>Providence Mayor's Office</b> Providence, RI</p>	<p>2017 <b>Maharam Design Fellow</b> Designed constituent advocacy and systemic analysis of interdepartmental municipal functions.</p>
<p><b>DESINE Lab</b> Central Falls, RI</p>	<p>2014 <b>Design Build Participant</b> Constructed a public plaza, transforming a parking lot into a revitalized community space with reclaimed materials and neighborhood-crafted art lab directed by Dr. Elizabeth Dean Hermann.</p>