About James Sanders, FAIA

James Sanders, FAIA is an internationally recognized architect, author, and filmmaker, whose work has garnered him a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Emmy Award, among other honors. In 2021 he was elevated to the American Institute of Architects' College of Fellows, the AIA's highest membership honor.

With Ric Burns, Sanders wrote the award-winning ten-part PBS series, *New York: A Documentary Film*—which *Variety* called "nothing short of gripping...a monumental documentary series that raises the bar for this kind of work"—and its bestselling companion volume, *New York: An Illustrated History* (Knopf, 1999, 2021), as well as *Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film*, for which he won an Emmy Award. In 2021 Knopf published an expanded edition of the book, and two new episodes of *New York* were broadcast in 2026.

Sanders' landmark study of the city and film, *Celluloid Skyline* (Knopf, 2001), was hailed by Jane Jacobs as a "marvelous—miraculous—book," and by Richard Schickel in the *Los Angeles Times* as "virtually without precedent...given its depth of research, the richly detailed elegance of its critical argument and...its ability to expand and redirect the way we think," and in 2007 became the basis for a major multimedia exhibition in Grand Central Terminal, sponsored by TCM. His book *Scenes from the City* (Rizzoli, 2013), produced with the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, features contributions by Martin Scorsese and Nora Ephron. His most recent book, *Renewing the Dream: The Mobility Revolution and the Future of Los Angeles* (Rizzoli, 2023), was described by Justin Davidson in *New York* as a "panoramic collection of ideas...glossily illustrated, lucidly written, and thoroughly reported." Sanders' essays and articles have appeared in *The New Yorker, New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *Harvard Architecture Review*, *Architectural Record*, and Reuters.

His firm, James Sanders Studio, has produced architecture, urban development, exhibition, and film projects for a wide range of cultural, civic, and corporate partners. These include *The Constant Future: A Century of the Regional Plan*, for the Regional Plan Association, *Seaport Culture District* for The Howard Hughes Corporation, *NYU Open House* for New York University, *Timescapes*, the orientation experience for the Museum of the City of New York, and *Three Buildings* at the CUNY Graduate Center.

The firm has consulted on development projects in New York, Los Angeles, and other global cities for the Related Companies, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Pershing Square Development Corporation, André Balazs Properties, and Ian Schrager Company, among others. Sanders served as Global Design Council Chair for the architecture firm Woods Bagot, with whom he produced the study and book *Renewing the Dream*. He has designed residential projects for *New Yorker* editor Bill Buford, Columbia professor Edward W. Said, and the actress Molly Ringwald.

James Sanders received a B.A. from Columbia College and a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and is an alumnus of the MIT School of Architecture + Planning. He sits on the board of the Skyscraper Museum and has been awarded fellowships in architecture by the Graham Foundation, the American Academy in Rome, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2006 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship for research in the experience of cities. Mr. Sanders' design work has appeared in *Metropolis*, *New York*, *Architectural Digest*, and *New York Times*, and he has been profiled in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Charlie Rose Show*, NPR, and *Monocle*.

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