4.680

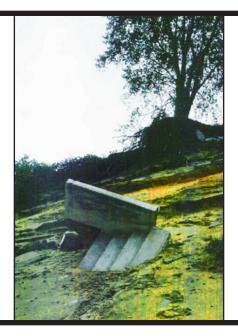**Advanced Studies in the HTC of Art and Architecture**

DISASTERS & DESIGN

This new seminar examines complex linkages between natural hazards and environmental design. Drawing upon hazards research in geography and related fields, the seminar engages theoretical debates about landscapes of risk, vulnerability, and resilience. We begin with established models of hazards mitigation (e.g., in building codes, design conventions, litigation, and post-disaster reform); and move toward more conscious, contemporary, and critical approaches in design. Four key types of design problem are examined:

- Anticipatory Design for hazards preparedness
- Retrofit of existing buildings and landscapes
- Reconstruction of post-disaster landscapes
- Resettlement in less vulnerable locations

The seminar balances design strategies at the scale of individual buildings and sites with community-based and larger urban and regional scales of intervention.

We also address the need to better integrate disaster-resilience with "green building" programs such as

FALL 2010

TIME:	Tuesday 9:00-12:00
ROOM:	5-216
INSTRUCTOR:	James Wescoat
E MAIL:	wescoat@mit.edu
UNITS:	3-0-9
PREREQUISITE:	Permission of Instructor

LEED and Sustainable Sites. These investigations will contribute to a collaborative workshop in October 2010 on Disasters and Design, convened by the National Research Council's Disaster Roundtable and the new National Academy of Environmental Design in Washington, DC. Seminar participants may wish to attend that workshop.

Special emphasis will be given to comparative international methods of inquiry. Students may pursue thesis projects in different parts of the world. We also have a superbly documented core case study presented by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service in Pakistan (AKPBS-P) that encompasses disaster-resilient community design in northern areas of Pakistan that are addressing an array of seismic hazards, landslides, flash floods, and related hazards.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE