

James Sanders Studio

About James Sanders

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

With Ric Burns, Mr. Sanders co-wrote the award-winning eight-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, they published an expanded edition of the volume, and are producing three new episodes of the series for 2025.

Mr. Sanders' landmark study on 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 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.” Mr. 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, exhibition, and film projects for cultural, civic, and corporate partners. These include *The Constant Future: A Century of the Regional Plan*, an exhibition for the Regional Plan Association, which filled Grand Central Terminal in 2022, *Seaport Culture District* for The Howard Hughes Corporation, *NYU Open House* for New York University, *Timescapes*, the permanent orientation experience for the Museum of the City of New York, and *Three Buildings* at the CUNY Graduate Center, praised by *New York Times* critic Ada Louise Huxtable as “a model of what such an exhibition should be....I don't know when I've seen a better architecture show in a more appropriate setting.”

The studio has designed residential projects for *New Yorker* editor Bill Buford, professor Edward W. Said, and the actress Molly Ringwald, and has consulted on development projects for André Balazs Properties, Ian Schrager Company, and Related Companies. Mr. Sanders long served as Global Design Council Chair for the architecture firm Woods Bagot, with whom he produced *Renewing the Dream*.

Mr. Sanders received a B.A. from Columbia College and a Master of Architecture degree from the Columbia University 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 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' 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*, *New York Observer*, *Charlie Rose Show*, *Brian Lehrer*, NPR, and *Monocle*.

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