



HOFFMANN ARCHITECTS + ENGINEERS

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HOFFMANN AWARDS 2026 SCHOLARSHIP TO MATTHEW ZHOU OF CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

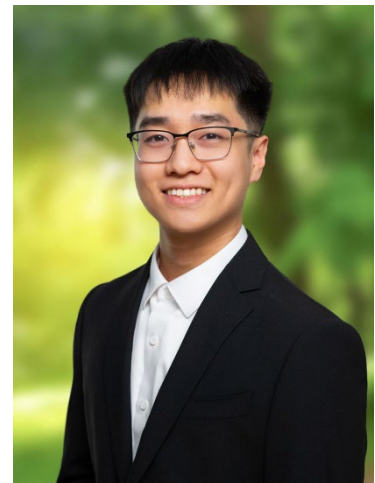
Scholarship offered in partnership with the Connecticut Architecture Foundation

New Haven CT — 15 October 2026 — Hoffmann Architects + Engineers, a design firm specializing in the rehabilitation of building exteriors, has selected **Matthew Zhou of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York** as the 2026 Hoffmann Scholarship awardee. Now in its fourth year, the Hoffmann Scholarship was established in collaboration with the Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF) to support students seeking degrees in architecture or engineering. Unique among CAF programs, the Hoffmann Scholarship also offers a paid summer internship in one of the firm's three offices. This summer, Zhou interned with Hoffmann's New York City team.

2026 Hoffmann Scholarship Competition

The applicant pool for the 2026 Hoffmann Scholarship was the most competitive yet, with nearly 70 applications from students at more than 17 academic institutions. Out of these impressive candidates, Hoffmann's scholarship committee selected Matthew Zhou, a rising fourth-year student in Macaulay Honors College at The City College of New York Spitzer School of Architecture. With a 4.0 GPA and a keen interest in architectural preservation and adaptive reuse, Zhou channels his considerable creative and academic talent into community-centered historic restoration.

"We were impressed with the high caliber of this year's applicants, which made selecting just one awardee challenging," noted Alison Hoffmann, Chair of the Hoffmann Community Action Committee, which runs the scholarship program. "Matthew stood out for his stellar academic performance, as well as his heartfelt narratives about the value of humility and community in architectural preservation. In just three years of collegiate study, he has managed to develop the kind of nuanced and empathic perspective it often takes years of experience to cultivate."



Matthew Zhou of The City College of New York, recipient of the 2026 Hoffmann Scholarship

Internship with Hoffmann

Matthew Zhou joined Hoffmann's New York City office as Architectural Intern in June 2026. Over the course of his twelve-week internship, he was able to remain involved with projects across their full life cycle, from investigation through construction.

"My internship at Hoffmann has taught me a lot about formalized inspections to ensure the NYC streetscape stays safe," Zhou reflected. "I was able to learn a lot about the Facade Inspection Safety Program, the Periodic Inspection of Parking Structures program, and the annual requirement for parapet

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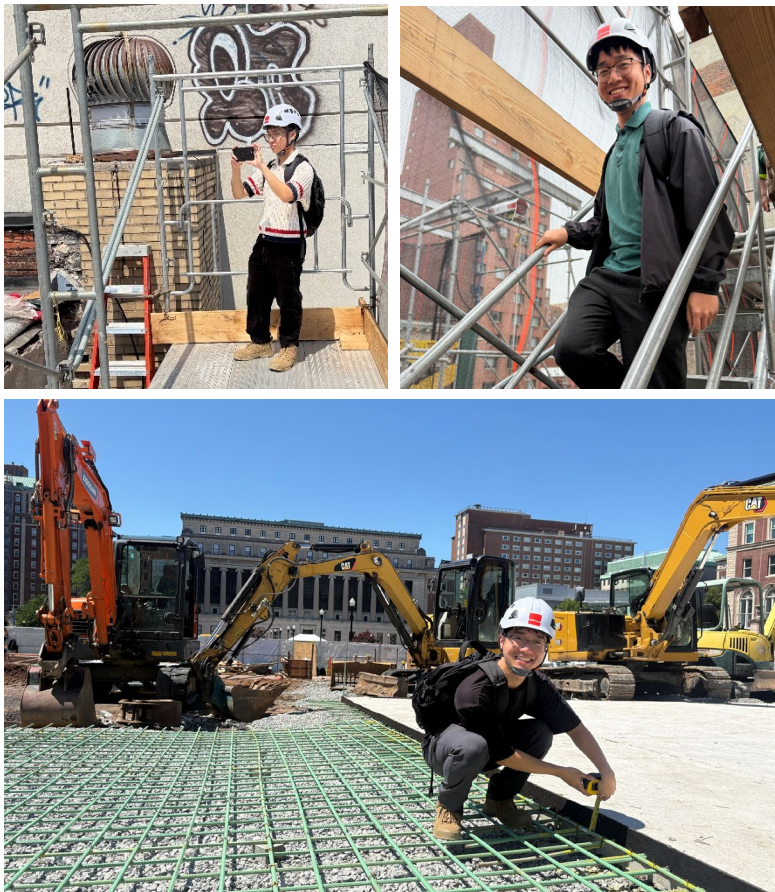
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inspection. This information was mostly new to me, considering that my education at City College mainly focuses on designing new structures.”

The experience that stood out the most for Zhou was the opportunity to prepare a building envelope assessment report, which encouraged him to refine his technical writing under the tutelage of Hoffmann mentors. An active participant in enclosure investigations, he learned how to identify signs of distress and failure, and to describe observed conditions clearly and succinctly. Zhou praised the experiences he had learning to problem-solve on site: “Unforeseen conditions led me to see how the architects, owners, and contractors work together and communicate to remedy conditions and keep projects on track.”



Matthew Zhou interned with Hoffmann Architects + Engineers in New York.

Preservation Commission (LPC), documenting historic districts and landmark structures. Beyond learning about the permitting and designation process, he gleaned valuable insight into how the preservation of the built environment protects critical social and economic infrastructure and sustains community identity.

Zhou brought this sense of purpose to his experience with Hoffmann. “I was able to get a broadened sense of what it means to be an architect in New York City,” he reflected. Zhou connected so well with the team and the work that he has already accepted Hoffmann’s offer of a second summer internship in 2027.

An Exemplary Student

After graduating as the valedictorian of his class at the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, Zhou was admitted to the highly selective Macaulay Honors College at The City College of New York and matriculated at CCNY Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, where he expects to earn a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2028. His many academic honors include the Duang Zhon Ai Xin Foundation Scholarship Award, the Tina Li Sheff and Donald Sheff Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Architecture, and the Spitzer School of Architecture Second-Year Project Design Award. In June, he was also awarded the Student Merit Design Award from the Society of American Registered Architects (SARA) in New York.

After his second year of architecture school, Zhou secured a summer internship with the NYC Landmarks

About the Hoffmann Scholarship

Established through contributions from Hoffmann Architects + Engineers and John J. Hoffmann, FAIA, and his wife, Susan Hoffmann, the Hoffmann Scholarship is also sustained through individual donations from Hoffmann employees and CAF supporters. The fund now has more than \$85,000.

The scholarship is open to applicants who are students entering or enrolled full-time in an NAAB-accredited architecture program or ABET-accredited civil or structural engineering program, and are residents or full-time college/university students located in southern New England (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island) or the eastern Mid-Atlantic (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland), regions that form the core of Hoffmann's practice.

Applicants were solicited through a joint outreach effort with CAF to college and university architecture and engineering departments, campus clubs and associations, social media, and professional organizations. Applications were evaluated by the CAF Board and the Hoffmann Community Action Committee, a voluntary group of employees from varied locations, job positions, experience levels, and backgrounds, united in building stronger communities and opportunity in the design professions.

Past Hoffmann Scholarship recipients include Reeja Shrestha of Howard University, Alyssa Duran of New York City College of Technology, and Christopher Chung of Yale University.

Learn More and Support the Hoffmann Fund

Contributions to the Hoffmann Scholarship Fund may be made through the Connecticut Architecture Foundation: <https://cafct.org/hoffmann-scholarship-2/>

Application forms and details on eligibility and submission requirements are available through CAF: <https://cafct.org/hoffmann-scholarship/>

Details on the 2027 scholarship program will be available in fall 2026, with the application deadline in January 2027.

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Founded in 1977, Hoffmann Architects + Engineers specializes in the rehabilitation of the building enclosure. The firm's work focuses on the exteriors of existing structures, diagnosing and resolving deterioration within facades, roofing systems, windows, waterproofing materials, plazas/terraces, parking garages, and historic and landmark structures. We provide consulting services for new building construction, as well as litigation and claim support. Our technical professionals investigate and correct damage resulting from time and weather, substandard or improper construction, design defects, material failures, poor workmanship, structural movement, and stress. To learn more, visit www.hoffarch.com.