FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graham Foundation Announces Leonardo Finotti as 2026 Fellow

Fellowship supports the next phase of *A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture*, coinciding with the exhibition *Latinitudes* at the Graham Foundation

Chicago, November 20—The Graham Foundation is pleased to announce Brazilian photographer and visual artist Leonardo Finotti as a Graham Foundation Fellow. The Fellowship will support the continuation of his long-term photographic survey, *A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture*, expanding its documentation of twentieth-century architecture across the region. The announcement coincides with the first US presentation of *Latinitudes*, curated by Michelle Jean de Castro, on view at the Graham Foundation through December 5, 2026, before traveling to the Princeton University School of Architecture.

For more than two decades, Finotti has documented and reconsidered modern architecture across Latin America through sustained photographic fieldwork realized in exhibitions and publications. Trained as an architect, Finotti brings an architectural sensibility to his photography, using light, framing, and proportion to offer new perspectives on both celebrated and lesser-known examples of modern architecture.

This ongoing investigation has taken shape through the publication series *A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture* (Lars Müller Publishers) and the exhibition Latinitudes. The first two volumes, published in 2016 and 2025, document architecture across eighteen Latin American cities. The fellowship supports the next phase of this work, extending Finotti's photographic research beyond major metropolitan centers for the series' third and final volume, completing a portrait of the region's twentieth-century architecture. Spanning more than one hundred cities, towns, and communities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela, the expanded project considers significant civic, educational, and residential buildings alongside vernacular buildings and infrastructure that reveal the diverse ways modern architecture has developed throughout Latin America.

The Graham Foundation Fellowship provides artists with space, financial resources, and institutional support to develop ambitious new work that advances ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. The program builds upon the Foundation's first awards in 1957, which supported an international group of practitioners pursuing innovative approaches to art, architecture, and design, including Frederick J. Kiesler, Wifredo Lam, Balkrishna V. Doshi, Fumihiko Maki, Harry Bertoia, Harry M. Callahan, and Eduardo Chillida, among others.

The contemporary Fellowship program was inaugurated in 2017 with artist David Hartt's *in the forest,* which premiered at the Graham Foundation that fall. Subsequent Fellows include Cally

Spooner (2024), Katherine Simóne Reynolds (2023), Barbara Stauffacher Solomon (2022–23), Anna Martine Whitehead (2020–21), Sergio Prego (2020), Tatiana Bilbao (2019–20), Nelly Agassi (2019), Martine Syms (2018–19), Torkwase Dyson (2018), and Brendan Fernandes (2018).

ABOUT LEONARDO FINOTTI

Leonardo Finotti is a visual artist based in São Paulo, Brazil, whose work centers on two complementary themes: modern architecture and anonymous or informal urban spaces. Trained as an architect, he holds a bachelor of arts in architecture from the Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, completed postgraduate studies at the Bauhaus Foundation in Dessau, Germany, and began his career in Portugal before returning to Brazil.

His long-term photographic practice includes an extensive survey of Oscar Niemeyer's buildings and collaborations with architects such as Álvaro Siza, Paulo Mendes da Rocha, and Isay Weinfeld. His independent projects include *Pelada* (2014), *Latinitudes* (2015–present), *Rio Enquadrado* (2016), and *Sacred Groves & Secret Parks* (2019).

Finotti's work has been widely exhibited and is held in major public and private collections. Fifteen of his photographs entered the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, following his contribution to *Latin America in Construction: Architecture 1955–1980* (2015). His work is also held by the Bündner Kunstmuseum Chur, Fundação EDP, Architekturzentrum Wien, Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, and Museu Brasileiro da Escultura e Ecologia, among others. He has represented Brazil at two International Architecture Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia and at the 10th Mercosul Art Biennial, and was a prizewinner at the 15th Buenos Aires International Biennial of Architecture.

ABOUT LATINITUDES



LATINITUDES: A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture
Photographs by Leonardo Finotti, curated by Michelle Jean de Castro
On view through December 5, 2026

Latinitudes presents a photographic survey of modern architecture across twelve Latin American cities through the work of Brazilian artist Leonardo Finotti, tracing a horizontal framework that connects Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Santiago, São Paulo, Lima, Quito, Bogotá, San José, Caracas, Guatemala City, Mexico City, and Havana. Bringing together the words "latitudes" and "Latin," the exhibition proposes a way of seeing the region that resists hierarchy, emphasizing instead shared geographies, histories, and architectural languages.

Organized from south to north, the exhibition draws on Uruguayan artist Joaquín Torres-García's *América invertida* (1943) and his declaration in the 1934 lecture manuscript *La Escuela del Sur* (The School of the South) that "our north is the south." Where Torres-García inverted the map to challenge dominant perspectives, *Latinitudes* aligns each city along a continuous horizon, presenting modern architecture across Latin America as an interconnected field. Housing, civic, and cultural works by key figures including Oscar Niemeyer, Lina Bo Bardi, Roberto Burle Marx, Luis Barragán, Carlos Raúl Villanueva, Juan O'Gorman, Rogelio Salmona, Clorindo Testa, Emilio Duhart, Eladio Dieste, and Paulo Mendes da Rocha are situated within this expanded geographic and conceptual landscape.

Operating between archive and installation, the exhibition unfolds across two floors as monochrome photographs printed on aluminum composite panels, aligned along a continuous

horizon line marked by a red line at eye level. Scaled to the figures depicted in the images, the photographs guide viewers through the cities as if tracing a single latitude across the region. Together, they form a visual cartography that repositions Latin American modernism not as peripheral, but as central to the global history of architecture.

Latinitudes originated as a project of LAMA.SP (Latin American Modern Architecture, São Paulo), an artist-run space founded by Michelle Jean de Castro and Leonardo Finotti. First presented in São Paulo in 2015, the exhibition has since traveled to institutions across Latin America and Europe, including Bogotá, Cuenca, Guadalajara, Mexico City, Montevideo, and Quito. Presented for the first time in the United States at the Graham Foundation, the exhibition will travel to the Princeton University School of Architecture in early 2027.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture, Volume 1
Leonardo Finotti; essay by Barry Bergdoll
Lars Müller Publishers, 2016

A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture, Volume 2
Leonardo Finotti; essay by Alexia Tala
Lars Müller Publishers, 2025

A Collection of Latin American Modern Architecture, Volume 3
Forthcoming

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts fosters the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture and society. The Graham realizes this vision through making project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and by producing exhibitions, events and publications.

The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect and protégé of Daniel Burnham.

THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a turn-of-the century Prairie style mansion designed by Richard E. Schmidt and Hugh M. G. Garden. Built 1901–02, it was later renovated by prominent modern architect Daniel Brenner. The 9,000 square-foot historic home now hosts galleries, a bookstore, an outdoor collection of architectural fragments, an extensive non-circulating library of grantee publications, and a ballroom where the Foundation hosts a robust schedule of public programs.

BOOKSHOP

The Graham Foundation's bookshop, designed by Ania Jaworska, offers a selection of new, historically significant, and hard-to-find publications on architecture, art, and design, many of which have been supported by grants from the Graham Foundation.

GALLERY HOURS AND VISITOR INFORMATION

Gallery and bookshop hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 12–5 p.m. closing week extended hours: Thursday, December 3, and Saturday, December 5, 12–8 p.m.
Thanksgiving hours: Closed, Thursday, November 26–Saturday, November 28
Bookshop Fall Sale: 20% off all purchases, December 2–5

Admission is free. Group tours are available by request. The second-floor galleries and the third-floor ballroom, where events are held, are only accessible by stairs. The first-floor galleries and bookshop are accessible via outdoor lift. Please call ahead to make arrangements.

MEDIA CONTACT

A selection of high-resolution digital images are available here. Press tours welcome by appointment.

Noreen Khalid
noreen@studio-interval.com



Edificio Copelec (Copelec Building), Chillán, Chile, designed by Juan Borchers, Jesús Bermejo, and Isidro Suárez, 1962–63. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2023. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Facultad de Arquitectura, Universidad de Mendoza (School of Architecture, University of Mendoza), Mendoza, Argentina, designed by Enrico Tedeschi, Diego Franciosi, and Roberto Azzoni, 1961–64. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2026. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Leonardo Finotti, 2026 Graham Foundation Fellow. Photograph by Michelle Jean de Castro. Copyright Michelle Jean de Castro



Estación de Biología Marina de Montemar, Universidad de Chile (Montemar Marine Biology Station, University of Chile), Viña del Mar, Chile, designed by Enrique Gebhard, 1941–59. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2017. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Museu das Missões (Missions Museum), São Miguel das Missões, Brazil, designed by Lucio Costa, 1937–40. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2018. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Mangueirão (Mangueirão Stadium), Belém, Brazil, designed by Alcyr Meira, 1968–78. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2018. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Iglesia de San Pedro (Church of Saint Peter), Durazno, Uruguay, designed by Eladio Dieste, 1969–71. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2011. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Bloque Salta (Salta Block), Salta, Argentina, designed by Eduardo Larrán, 1960–62. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2020. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Capilla Susana Soca (Susana Soca Chapel), Soca, Uruguay, designed by Antonio Bonet Castellana, 1959–61. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2016. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Edificio CORDECRUZ (CORDECRUZ Building), Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, designed by Fernando Moreno, 1977–1980s. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2018. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Estadio Real Cartagena (Real Cartagena Stadium), Cartagena, Colombia, designed by Edgar Burbano, Jorge Gaitán Cortés, Álvaro Ortega, and Gabriel Solano, 1947–58. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2019. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Teatro Municipal Brás Cubas (Brás Cubas Municipal Theater), Santos, Brazil, designed by Abrahão Sanovicz, Júlio Katinsky, and Oswaldo Corrêa Gonçalves, 1961–79. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2016. Copyright Leonardo Finotti



Caixa d'Água de Olinda (Olinda Water Tower), Olinda, Brazil, designed by Luis Nunes, 1934–36. Photograph by Leonardo Finotti, 2012. Copyright Leonardo Finotti

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