

Jenna McKnight G'07 ARTS JOURNALISM

February 28, 2008



Standing on the roof of the new *New York Times* building in central Manhattan, Jenna McKnight, a 2007 graduate of the [Goldring Arts Journalism program](#), knew she had finally made it. "It was thrilling to look out on all of New York City and beyond," McKnight said. "That's when it really set in that I had accomplished my dream of working in New York."

As the web editor for [Architectural Record](#) and its sister publication, [GreenSource](#), McKnight has the unique opportunity to tour some of the country's newest buildings and architectural projects. On a day-to-day basis, she conducts video interviews with leading designers, attends art shows and restaurant openings, and creates slideshows to be used on the site. In the past several months, she has covered a three-day conference on green architecture in Chicago, toured a new performance center in her home state of Arizona, and has even written on the opening of Newhouse 3.

"There is no doubt that a master's degree in arts journalism got me this job," McKnight said. "During my year at Newhouse, I really honed my 'backpack journalism skills,' which have certainly been put to good use."

Prior to her time at Newhouse, McKnight worked as a newspaper reporter for the [Daily Record](#) in New Jersey, but knew that she wanted to specialize her skills.

"I've always had an interest in architecture," she said. "For me, it's the perfect fusion of art, history, environment and culture."

However, when looking for a master's program, she found there weren't many that would allow her the flexibility to study both journalism and architecture.

After speaking with [Johanna Keller](#), director of the Goldring program, McKnight knew a degree in arts journalism would take her to the next stage in her career.

"Jenna was a particularly good fit for this program because she had such clear career goals and was focused on learning skills that would take her to the next level," Keller said. "She's high energy, always learning something new and sharing it. I'm very proud of—and not at all surprised by—what she has achieved in such a short time in New York City."

In addition to challenging coursework and top-notch professors, the Goldring program allowed McKnight the opportunity to travel to both Ireland and New York City for cultural immersion trips. She spent a week in Ireland studying Irish literature, seeing theatrical performances, visiting cultural landmarks and meeting with critics. In New York City, she attended writing workshops and had her reviews on cultural events critiqued by editors.

"They were both truly incredible experiences," McKnight said. "Having to work on deadline and having your work critiqued by established editors was not only a lot of fun, but intellectually challenging as well."

At Newhouse, McKnight had a graduate assistantship with the Goldring program. She was responsible for designing and creating the program's first newsletter, which was distributed to 10,000 people. This has proved to be helpful in her position at *Architectural Record*, where she writes weekly newsletters to promote content on the web site and bring in new readers.

"Goldring really changed my life," she said. "There is no way I would be where I am today without it."

[On The Job](#) profiles Newhouse graduates who are in the early stages of their careers. Additionally, please read the [Success Stories](#) of Newhouse alums who have made their mark in the media.