

Rafi Elbaz, graduate of Harvard University Graduate School of design.

Rafi Elbaz, owner of **SAHONYC** and a distinguished member of the New York City business and developers community has just graduated after two years of attending Harvard University's prestigious Graduate School of Design in Cambridge, MA.

This prestigious graduate program attracts thousands of applicants each year, yet only 35 top global executives are hand-picked to participate in the program. Elbaz will join the likes of Fahd Al-Rasheed, CEO of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah's Economic City Mega project, who was ranked as one of 25 of the most powerful people in the world.

Elbaz and the other participants worked on complex development and investment structures with some of the world's most influential architects and developers. Elbaz says of the program, "This was exactly what I needed to further my education and career. I couldn't have imagined collaborating with a more brilliant group of designers and businesspeople and learning from the most seasoned experts in the field. I'll never forget my time at Harvard and I've made connections that I know will last throughout my life."

Elbaz is currently pursuing 'URBBAN', his latest business venture, conceived and incubated in the Harvard AMDP program. It's a social marketplace for crowdfunding of small positive impact developments in large cities. Elbaz will take the tools he acquired at Harvard along with his decades of expertise in designing, building, and developing buildings and communities. Early in his career, he worked as an architect for seminal figures in the industry including Josef Paul Kleihues, Peter Eisenman, and Raimund Abraham. Elbaz started his own design-build firm, Lifeform, in 2000. Lifeform (now SAHO) is renown for innovation, simplicity, and functionality and has been covered extensively by press outlets like The New York Times, Washington Post, and others. Work from Lifeform has also been featured in the Centre Pompidou. Additionally, Elbaz has spent time as an adjunct professor at Pratt Institute and Jerusalem University and has been a visiting critic at other prestigious universities like University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. In addition to Harvard, Elbaz has a degree from the Cooper Union School of Architecture in his home of New York City.

