A message from the Dean

During a visit to China in spring 2007, I was stunned by the speed with which the cities are being remade. Skyscrapers line the buildable flat strand along Hong Kong’s waterfront. In Beijing, vast swathes of Hutongs, the traditional courtyard houses, are razed for high rises by firms like Herzog & de Meuron and OMA. Remaining sections of the traditional architecture of alleys and courtyards are now filled with galleries and artists that cater to an international art market and tourism, something not envisioned just five years ago. Beyond the sheer magnitude of these transformations in the cities of the world, this level of activity reflects a shift in the world economy and culture away from what we know. Just as our own cities are changing into something less familiar in form and social composition, our discipline has begun to change to mirror these dramatic shifts in terms of practice and pedagogy.

At Syracuse Architecture, the curriculum has evolved with more advanced digital techniques and fabrication, the introduction of a real estate course, focused studios on actual sites in the city of Syracuse and abroad, as well as increased interactions with other units on campus. We continue to craft programming that encourages students to consider broader ways of thinking of their roles as designers, such as Saskia Sassen’s keynote lecture for the “Writing the City” symposium. Her work explores the ways the world economy has shaped the lives of cities.

The expansion of the scope of our terrain as architects to spheres traditionally seen as outside of our academic boundaries and the innovation in materials and production tap into the aspirations of earlier modern architects about our role as designers and the position of design work and thinking in culture. It encourages strategies for getting things done in ways not encouraged by the market but getting the market to support them. The “Syracuse Builds” exhibition presents fourteen projects currently on the boards for the University and the City that represent a range of strategies from private development to collaborations between non-profit entities, community groups, and local and state government.

At the School, our goal is to develop our students’ ability to communicate outside our discipline and actively participate in the multiple discourses—governmental, political, social, commercial—necessary to be effective in the new world they are entering. With your ongoing interest and support, we will prepare the future generation of designers for the challenges ahead.

Mark Robbins
Dean

Leading journalists headline symposium on media and architecture

UPSTATE: Writing the City

The Syracuse University School of Architecture will host the symposium “UPSTATE: Writing the City,” November 14-15, 2007 at the Warehouse, its center in downtown Syracuse. Leading national journalists and academics will explore the role of the media in shaping public understanding of architecture and urban design in relation to strategies for urban revitalization. At issue is the current state of American urbanism and the relationship between public policy, politics, and the marketplace in determining decisions affecting the civic realm.

The event probes the critical role that the media can play in bridging the gap between public understanding of the design disciplines and specialized knowledge in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design. “The media has often been a catalyst in the debates affecting the development of the U.S. city, both in smaller, weaker markets, such as Syracuse and Cleveland, and in denser and rapid growth regions represented by New York, Los Angeles, and Phoenix,” says Mark Robbins, dean of the Syracuse University School of Architecture.

The symposium will begin with a keynote lecture entitled “The Global City: A New Frontier” on Tuesday evening by Columbia University Professor Saskia Sassen. Wednesday will feature brief presentations by speakers followed by moderated discussions and a reception. The symposium coincides with the “Syracuse Builds” exhibition.

“Writing the City” is organized with the Goldring Arts Journalism Program at the Newhouse School of Public Communications.

The Warehouse Auditorium:
Wednesday, November 14
4:30 pm Keynote address / Saskia Sassen
Thursday, November 15
12:30 pm Introductory remarks
1:00 pm Session 1
4:00 pm Session 2
6:00 pm Reception

Participants
Janel Abrams, University of Minnesota Design Institute
Fred Bernstein, The New York Times
Robert Campbell, The Boston Globe
Jonathan Copehart, The Washington Post
Dana Cuff, UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design
Julia Czerniak, UPSTATE: at the Syracuse University School of Architecture
Nan Ellin, Arizona State University School of Public Affairs
Alex Frangos, The Wall Street Journal
Christopher Hawthorne, The Los Angeles Times
Julie Iovine, The Architect’s Newspaper
Johanna Keller, Goldring Arts Journalism Program, Newhouse School of Public Communications
Seán Kirst, The Post-Standard
Steven Litt, The Plain Dealer
Jonathan Massey, Syracuse University School of Architecture
Mark Robbins, Syracuse University School of Architecture
David Rubin, Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications
Exhibition explores innovative strategies for urban revitalization

Syracuse Builds: After the Master Plan

The “Syracuse Builds” exhibition at Syracuse Architecture includes a survey of fourteen new building, landscape, and infrastructure projects currently in progress in downtown Syracuse and on the campus of Syracuse University. The projects are driven by academic, civic, and non-profit groups, as well as private real estate concerns, often working in partnership. The exhibition reflects optimistically on the future of post-industrial cities such as Syracuse and the outcome of this variety of public and private collaborations in their revitalization. The exhibition is designed by Mathew Atchison, the first UPSTATE Fellow at the School of Architecture in collaboration with Associate Professor Richard Rosa.

Syracuse Builds Projects

Fiedler Marciano Architecture and Mark Robbins / Henover Square Bank Conversion
Field Operations and CLEAR, Julia Czerniak / Initial studies for the Connective Corridor
Garrison Architects / Slucum Hall Renovation, Syracuse University
Gluckman Mayner Architects / Law School Addition Feasibility Study, Syracuse University
Hargreaves Associates, Mary Margaret Jones / Life Sciences Landscape, Syracuse University
Koning Eizenberg Architecture / West Side Mixed Use Development Feasibility Study
Arthur McDonald / The Syracuse Trust Building
Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam and Reed Hilderbrand / Residence Hall and Landscape, Syracuse University
mungy brown studio, Ted Brown / Harbor Square Residential Development
RuffWorks and Tim Stenson / Westside Initiative Info Center and “Better for Less” Sustainable Housing
ROY Co, Lindy Roy / Armory Square Residential Development
SOM, Roger Duffy and Hargreaves Associates / Athletic Quad Feasibility Study, Syracuse University
Toshiko Mori Architect with Ashley McGraw Architects / Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems
Toshiko Mori Architect with Einhorn Yaffee Prescott Architecture and Engineering / Link Hall Addition and Renovation, Syracuse University

The Warehouse Architecture Gallery: November 1 December 28
Opening Reception: November 1, 5 pm

The symposium and exhibition are programs of UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate at Syracuse University, School of Architecture. All events are free and open to the public. Sponsored in part by the Community Preservation Corporation, The Gifford Foundation, and the Central New York Community Foundation.

UPSTATE: appoints new Director and Fellow

Julia Czerniak, associate professor in the School of Architecture, has been named the Director of UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate at Syracuse University. Czerniak is a registered landscape architect and founder and principal of CLEAR. Mathew Atchison is the first UPSTATE Fellow. He is an Associate of the Center for Metropolitan Studies at transatlantic graduate program between Berlin and New York City. Since 2003 he has been researching toward a Ph.D. in Architecture at the University of Queensland in cooperation with the Technische Universität Berlin.
Faculty focus

Jonathan Massey appointment

Associate Professor Jonathan Massey (M.Arch, UCLA; Ph.D., Princeton University) has been named Undergraduate Program Chair at Syracuse Architecture. Massey teaches courses in the history and theory of American architecture and urbanism. Since joining the Syracuse Architecture faculty in 2001, Massey has organized the architecture lecture series, chaired departmental and university committees, and worked with colleagues in other academic divisions to establish a new interdisciplinary program in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies. In 2004 he received a Meredith Teaching Recognition Award.

Massey holds bachelor of arts and doctoral degrees from Princeton University and a master of architecture degree from UCLA. Prior to joining the faculty, Massey worked at Dagmaer Richter and Frank O. Gehry & Associates and taught at Woodbury University, Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, and Barnard College. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

"Jonathan brings a high level of rigorous scholarship and dedication to students' academic development to his role as chair," says Dean Mark Robbins. "We look forward to his contributions in the evolution of the undergraduate program and the School."

"I'm honored to take on this new role," says Massey, "and committed to developing collaborative partnerships as the School embraces new challenges and opportunities for growth."

Massey's research examines the ways architecture mediates power by giving form to civil society, shaping social relationships, and regulating consumption. His work also considers the ways architects and clients use sustainable design to negotiate the processes of globalization and liberalization. Published articles have focused on architecture and political form; ornament and sumptuary regulation; and the design practice of Buckminster Fuller. Crystal & Arabesque: Claude Bragdon's Progressive Architecture (above right) Massey's forthcoming book from Pittsburgh University Press, will be released in 2008.

Christopher Gray retirement

Professor Christopher Gray (Diploma from Architectural Association London, M.Arch, State University of New York at Buffalo) retired from Syracuse Architecture in May 2007 after 33 years of service to the School. During his tenure he taught courses in design, drawing, technology, housing and architectural theory to both undergraduate and graduate students. He taught and directed programs in London, England and in Florence, Italy. Gray served as Head of the Graduate Program from 1990 to 1996 and served as Chair of the Undergraduate Program from 1996 until 2003.

Gray has joined the firm of Ballinger Architecture in Philadelphia where he recently served as project designer for the development of the new 80,000 square foot East Campus Research Facility at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine (above right), recognized with a 2005 Philadelphia AIA Merit Award in the un-built category. He is currently the project designer for creation of the 300,000-square foot Wisconsin Institute for Research in Madison, Wisconsin, scheduled for completion in 2010 and intended for gold LEEDS certification.

Faculty news

Paul Michael Pelken is part of the traveling exhibition 'Molens van Rembout tot Mondrian' at the Drents Museum, Assen, Netherlands, through December 9, 2007.


Richard Rosa contributed to the "Young Americans: New Architecture in the USA" exhibit at the National Museum of Architecture in Frankfurt, Germany, June September, 2007.

Aaron Srocherlectured at the Gallery Ze in Tel Aviv, Israel in July, the international media-ar institution Upgradel in Jerusalem in August, and at the opening of the Southern Illinois University "Aesthetia" symposium in September.

Jonathan Massey presented his research at ViCult, the Harpur College (Binghamton University) Dean's Workshop on Visual Culture on September 5, 2007.

Jon Hodgson recently completed an essay titled, 'All That Is Solid Melts into Infra-structure' and a video based interview with Thom Mayne, which will both be included in the forthcoming multimedia publication, "Thought Matters!"
Visiting critics for Fall 2007

David Leven and Stella Betts created Leven Betts Studio in New York City in 1997. The practice has focused primarily on projects relating to issues of the city and has recently completed several houses in New York State. Leven Betts Studio has won a variety of awards ranging from New York City AIA awards, an International Design magazine design review award, the Chicago Prize of the Chicago Architecture Club, runners-up for the Metropolis Next Generation Award, and has been published widely in design magazines and books on design. Both principals teach architectural design. Ms. Betts teaches graduate thesis studio at Parsons School of Design,!! and Mr. Leven teaches four-year design at the City College of New York.

Brian McGrath '81 is an Associate Professor of Urban Design at Parsons School of Design. He has a B. Arch. from Syracuse University and an M. Arch. from Princeton University. McGrath was a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellow at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, where he consulted on curricula and computer technologies for a new Master of Urban Design Program for the Faculty of Architecture. His spring 2007 visiting critics studio at Syracuse Architecture, "Travels in Hyper and Post Urbanism," examined the trends toward decentralization and sprawl in upstate New York in relation to the current wave of high density development in Manhattan, Bangkok, and Hong Kong focusing on an upstate site with the greatest potential for densification.

Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam are founders and principals of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects located in Atlanta. They have worked together in architecture for over thirty years. Projects include the Knowlton School of Architecture at the Ohio State University, the Mountain Tree House in Dillard, GA, the Jean Grove Music Library at the University of California, Berkeley, and Herman Miller Cherokee Operations, a manufacturing, assembly, and distribution center in Georgia. Awards include the 2005 National AIA/ALA Award of Excellence, 2004 Architectural Record Houses Award, and the 2003 South Atlantic Region AIA Honor Award.

New faculty for Fall 2007

John Bohn (M.Arch., Ohio State University, 1993; B.S. Architecture, Virginia, 1990) previously worked for Arata Isozaki in Tokyo and as an apprentice carpenter for a contemporary home builder in Seattle, where he also maintains a design-build firm. Completed works include the Cube House and Cantilever House.

Alexander Eisenschmidt (Ph.D. History and Theory of Architecture, expected 2007; M.Arch., Pratt Institute, 2000) is a partner in the design practice of Offshore and has previously worked on projects in Germany and Japan. His dissertation explores the relationship between urban formlessness and architectural form in German Modernity.

Kevin Lair (M.Arch., Harvard, 1995; B.F.A. Painting/Drawing and B.A. Psychology, Drake University, 1990) has gained professional experience working with MOD-Eco Architecture in Los Angeles, California and Westbrook Design in Medford, Massachusetts. His current involvement at MOD-Eco with the Ghana Education Project and supporting partner, Harvard University Grad School of Design, includes developing a mobile health clinic, EPV, to address AIDS and a wide range of serious issues facing developing areas in Africa.

Brian Lonsway (M.Arch., Columbia, 1995; B.A. Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, 1992) comes to Syracuse from Carleton University School of Architecture, with prior academic experience at Parsons School of Design and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Among his many distinctions he received the New Faculty Teaching Award in 1998 from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture/AIA.

Alfred Marichal (M.Arch., Harvard, 1999; M.S. Architecture and Urban Design, Columbia, 1997) teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in design and representation. In 1999 he founded Alfred Marichal Studio, an award-winning design firm specializing in architecture, landscape, and urban design.

Paul Michael Pelkey (Dipl. in Interior Architecture and Dipl. in Architecture, Dusseldorf University, 2001; M.Arch., Bartlett School of Arch, London, 2000) is a registered architect in Germany and the UK. His design work focuses on energy efficient solutions in different project scales and the transfer of design principles between the disciplines.

Marissa Tiron (M.Arch., II, Cornell, in progress; Bachelor of Architecture Design, University of Kentucky), focuses her research on the process of design through spatially interpreting various media in island conditions. At Cornell she was awarded a full teaching assistantship for first year design studio assisted in several courses for the Latin America summer program, and taught an upper level design studio on aluminum material research with Hiromi Hosaaya.

Katrina Stoll (M.Arch., Columbia, 2007; B.A. Cultural Anthropology, Cornell, 2003) has a special interest in how culture and space interact. Her work focuses on the role of the individual and customizing space in accordance with those principles. She has worked with Wolf Stavrand Architects in Charlotte, Vermont, Alan Wanzenberg in New York City, and Atelier Bow-Wow in Tokyo, Japan.

Admissions stats

121 students entered in fall 2007
Selected from a pool of 830 applicants, up from 736 in 2006
55% female and 45% male students
Geographically diverse student body: 55.7% from the Northeast, 7.4% international students, 5.6% from the South, 10% from Central States, 4.4% from Western states, 23.3% from states that typically have a low representation
31.1% minority students
Median GPA 3.73
At Syracuse Architecture, the primary goal of the thesis is the development of a rigorously constructed contention, defined by the student, which can be tested through architectural design. The thesis is also a demonstration of each student's ability to synthesize and apply the content of all the areas of the School's curriculum to his or her design work. The completion of a thesis is required for award of the professional degrees (B. Arch and M. Arch). It is an opportunity for students to explore an idea that compels them, one that they are passionate about, and that nourishes them intellectually. It is an idea that they believe and intend to prove and requires intense work over a sustained period. At the same time, students must consider the relatively constrained time available in the one semester of thesis preparation and one semester of design.

At the end of the academic year, leading practitioners, educators, and critics from across the United States and abroad are invited to review a selection of exceptional projects in the annual Thesis Awards Jury. From this pool, three projects are selected for the Britton Awards recognizing outstanding achievement in thesis design. Here we present a selection of the fifteen projects from spring 2007 that were part of the Thesis Awards Jury.
Dale Lunan '07 received the Storefront/Control Group Student Design Award 2007 for his 'Virtual Terror Tribunals' project at a recent juried competition sponsored by Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York City. Entries were solicited from undergraduate and graduate architecture schools in the Northeast U.S.

1. Vertical Exchange: public interaction and community identity along the L in Chicago
   Dena Wangberg '07
   By designing a cross-programmed building at a Chicago L' station, Wangberg demonstrated a method for introducing local specificity into nodes of the transportation network.

2. [re]generation of statelessness NO
   WHERE PLACE
   Sai Sinbonnit '07
   Sinbonnit explores the relationship between settlement, culture, architecture and the environment in the cities of India and Nepal. He contends that water planning is one of the oldest driving forces in urban development, yet, more than the result of simple technical ingenuity, the relationships between the water and the settlement can also manifest profound social and spiritual dimensions.

Nigerian Foundation for Arts +
3. Technology
   Emily Turner '07 and Ella Scheuer '07
   The project entails a small-scale university based in the city center of Benin City, Nigeria including a School of Business and a School of Communications. The School of Business was geared towards the preservation of local arts and technology while the School of Communications was based on truth in media through the proper and unbiased distribution of information.

REVISION: embracing the mutations at
4. the united nations headquarters
   Robert Daario '07, recipient of the James Britton Memorial Award for best design thesis of 2007. Daario explored the need for preservation in the face of change for the ever mutating United Nations organization. He proposes an armature for the existing complex to allow space for programs currently demanded by the organization and simultaneously provides an infrastructure for future expansions, unpredictable growth or potential contraction.

ware house
Douglas-Jack '07
Jack's project looks to the market-driven genes and typical detached residences to propose a model that is commercially viable, yet resilient and manipulable. ware house is a generic, long-lasting framework that supports five easily altered elements, with the framework placed in relation to site dimensions and adjacencies, and the elements selected and placed by inhabitants themselves.

Vertical Venice
David Turturo '07
Recipient of an Outstanding Design Thesis Award for 2007, Turturo investigates the cumulative work of John Hejduk and redefines Vertical Architecture as a process of drawings that communicates original ideas of time and space. A 'hospice for the city,' literally persuades Venice of her inevitable death at different scales of time and allegorically suggests spaces of reflection for different scales of gathering.
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Spring 2007 Events at the Warehouse


2. Thomas Wayne lecture, April 25, 2007

3. Graduate student coordinators; "Coast Park Forum 2004, Barcelona" Exhibition, Juan Herreras, April 16, 2007


5. Anita Berrisfeld lecture, April 4, 2007


7. Outgoing Undergraduate Program Chair Lawrence Davis, Syracuse Architecture Convocation, May 12, 2007
Study Abroad China

In May, a group of architecture students, led by Mary Ann Ocampo and Susan R. Henderson, faculty of the School of Architecture, traveled to China to study classical architecture of the Chinese city. Henderson shares the following account of their trip.

We spent the first two weeks in Beijing. The city is rich in historical sites and is a fast developing metropolis with important new projects underway for the Olympics, new housing and urban infrastructure. For our classical studies, we visited a substantial array of buildings. Along with the best-known monuments, such as the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Great Wall, we had fascinating excursions to lesser-known sites, buildings like the Nuan Mosque and the Lama Temple. We also had the opportunity to spend an overnight in Chengde, home to the Imperial Summer Resort with its Eight Outer Temples, some modeled on the famed monasteries of Tibet. Part of our mission in all three cities was to gain an understanding of the infrastructure of the Chinese city, including its housing, and in Beijing we took opportunities to visit the hutong, traditional courtyard districts, as well as a traditional village outside the city.

Moving on to Shanghai, we turned our attention to a city that has a very recent history, but one complicated by the unique phenomenon of the ‘open city’ and the foreign concessions. We studied the evolvement of the concession map of the city and its housing type, the shikumen. Shanghai’s current building boom is a remarkable aspect of its current evolution and we got a sense of the urgency in architectural practices during visits to two different architecture firms, including Zaha Hadid, where our SU alumni Lance Smith is an associate partner. We spent our last two weeks in Hong Kong, a city with a spectacular urban topography comprised of steep islands and very dense settlement. Here we concentrated on in-depth studies of spectacular instances where these phenomena coincide. Working in groups, the students measured buildings and streets, observed traffic patterns, and interviewed local tenants to produce insightful analyses of the very dynamic Hong Kong cityscape.

Each of the three cities provided us with unique experiences, and yet we also came away sensitive to the great power of a larger Chinese culture. It was a summer semester filled with rich and memorable experiences, one that has encouraged us a profound and abiding interest in the country and its people.

Syracuse on camera

The Discovery Channel featured the Bank of America Tower by Cook + Fox Architects (Rick Cook '81) in its series “Building the Future: Surviving Climate Change” that premiered in summer 2007.

David Rockwell '79 was featured on the May 24, 2007 Charlie Rose Show to discuss his recent book, SPECTACLE, and a range of recent projects that focus on the redefinition of public space.

Berry Wood '93 has a recurring role on “Trading Spaces” on TLC and “Hidden Potential” on HGTV.

At the beach


A home on Long Island’s East End designed by Frederick Stee ’71 for fashion industry creative director David Lloyd was featured in the Style Section of The New York Times Magazine on September 2, 2007.

Houses of the Hamptons, 1890-1930 by Anne Surchin ’79 was published by Acanthus Press in May 2007.
New Director of Development joins Syracuse Architecture

Syracuse Architecture is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Walter C. Williams as Senior Director of Development for the School of Architecture. Williams comes to the School with considerable development experience. "I'm very excited to join Syracuse Architecture at such a dynamic time in the School's history. I look forward to meeting and working with our alumni/ae and friends over the coming years." Most recently, Williams served as the Director of Alumni Affairs and Development for Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Prior to that, he was Director of Alumni Affairs and Development for Cornell's College of Architecture, Art, and Planning for three years. Before joining Cornell, Williams worked in development at Slippery Rock University and Ithaca College where he held leadership positions in annual giving. He holds a M.S. degree from Ithaca College and a B.S. degree from the University of Mississippi.

UPSTATE: at Syracuse Architecture Receives $2.5 Million

UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate will receive $2.5 million as part of Syracuse University's plan to reinvest a $13.8 million debt repayment in the Near Westside Initiative Inc.'s efforts to create the Syracuse Arts, Technology & Design Quarter. UPSTATE: will engage nationally recognized architects, landscape architects, planners, and other experts to create a sustainable urban revitalization project which includes plans for a new WCNY public television headquarters and media education center. The project also includes plans for artist relocation housing and studios, commercial development, and rehabilitation of single family housing within the Westside neighborhood.

David Rockwell Hosts Alumni Gathering at New Offices

David Rockwell, B.Arch '79, will host a School of Architecture event on December 5th from 6 pm-8 pm at the new office of the Rockwell Group, 5 Union Square West, New York City. Details forthcoming. David Rockwell is a member of the Syracuse Architecture Advisory Board.

E-Newsletter Coming Soon

Beginning in November 2007, Syracuse Architecture will publish an e-newsletter with updates on alumni/ae and friends of the School. If you don't have your email address and you would like to receive the newsletter, please send it to Katryn Hansen at kehansen@syr.edu.