ARCHITECTURE NEWS
The newsletter of the Syracuse School of Architecture

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N.11 Fall 2011
Message from the Dean

Picture this

Images of protest on Wall Street flooded news outlets this fall, and beyond what the pictures recall of the activism of the 1960s, they also record an impressive appropriation of space, which resonates deeply with the long history of its political uses. The resurgence of the polis, as critic Michael Kimmelman’s recent article in The New York Times highlights, represents this field of political and social will, despite the degree to which our lives seem to be increasingly private, less physically connected, and ever more virtually connected. These images underscore the continued importance of public space in concert with the power of media to communicate, transmitting these very spatial acts into the ether, in tweets, blogs, newsfeeds, and broadcasts with the instantaneous speed to which we have become accustomed.

Coincidentally, this drama played out during the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Marshall McLuhan, which has brought a series of his ideas again to the public forum. The Canadian professor of English literature who breached the walls of the academy with landmark books like The Medium is the Massage and countless appearances on the talk show circuit, becoming a media darling during the 1960s and ‘70s, is now forever identified with prescient concepts about media and technology. He cited the impact of “the telegraph and radio” and suggested their role in the contraction of the globe, spatially, into a single large village. As we scan our world it has evolved in an image akin to the one that McLuhan envisioned. With greater technological means, we are linked ever more closely, both socially and economically, as consumers in a world market that is growing more extensive and complex.

We all experience the world through the filter of media. Here at the School of Architecture, students and faculty are increasingly on the road, with recent study programs in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, India, Japan, and Spain, in addition to our studios in New York City, London, and Florence. This summer, over the course of a series of workshops and lectures, I worked with students from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, and in Rwanda with students at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology. Assistant Professor Yutaka Sho has been on leave in Kigali, teaching at KIST, the first school of architecture in the country, and conducting research on Rwanda’s planned housing policies. These experiences allowed me the opportunity to observe, firsthand and within a short span of time, students from very different places. The juxtaposition highlighted the common curiosity and challenges of all students and also the assumptions as we teach about a shared set of reference points.
Study off-campus is more than literally dislocating. It puts inconvenient facts on the table through the myriad differences in culture and form. Grappling with this builds intellectual skills; what is learned abroad changes the understanding of each student’s intellectual context and prepares him or her for future shifts in perspective. This past summer, Assistant Professor Victor Tzen led a group of students studying the architectural and cultural role of step wells in India, while students worked as interns in Syracuse for visiting critic Fred Stelle and Associate Professor Tim Stenson, completing construction documents for house renovations based on the previous semester’s studio work, now under construction in Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood.

On campus, the School is increasingly a center for multidisciplinary work. Professor Mark Linder was appointed the first Chancellor’s Fellow in the Humanities. His inaugural event of programs, “Images? Precisely!,” creates a base for discourse on campus through the Humanities Center, featuring influential scholars and artists whose work has contributed to new understanding of images as a complex subject of inquiry.

Recently, passing Salina Street, Syracuse’s former main shopping thoroughfare, I was struck by the homemade banner that read “Occupy Syracuse” strung up amidst tents on the otherwise empty street. In such an urban setting, the critique of big business also could be read as a call to activate downtown, which like many other similar urban centers has been superseded by other forms of development. Such a call interrogates not only the nature of public process, with the accompanying difficulties faced by planners and designers across the country, but also the role of architects in proposing progressive strategies that build on the effective translation of design expertise. In Syracuse, this is already evident in many forms and through multiple partnerships. Construction has begun for the Connective Corridor, the landscape infrastructure project that links the University with downtown and UPSTATE; has progressed with its master plan for the Near Westside neighborhood which includes the creation of green infrastructure and dynamic public space.

Media may be the message, but the context changes our understanding. Developing the skills for critical analysis is central to the work of the School and the way we situate ourselves as an educational institution. Our discipline addresses the political and social context as well as the physical spaces we envision and create. Images have power, as does our work as architects and citizens.

Syracuse Architecture faculty exhibition

Furnished

A wooden end table carved like a 1950s TV set, a functional yet stylish wooden coffee table with pistachio nuts conveniently nestled in a carved-out bowl, a "knee chair," molded to adhere to the designer’s shape, and a set of glass and metal tables arranged as a desk. All were part of "Furnished," an exhibition of furniture and objects designed by Syracuse Architecture faculty that ran this fall in Slocum Gallery.

"Everyday objects have the capacity to affect our behavior, interactions and the fundamental ways in which we inhabit a place," said curator and assistant professor Vasilena Vassilev. "Through form, material, and detail connections, the small-scale design territories of furniture and product design give us the opportunity to furnish our needs and the spaces we live in, while transforming the atmosphere of a space. "Furnished" showcased faculty-built furniture designs and design research of products and objects at the human-scale. Experimentation and play, concept, form, material and connection were seen in physical prototypes and finished pieces, demonstrating emergent ideas about function, use, and design methodology."

Syracuse Architecture faculty exhibited their work:

Ramona Albert (in collaboration with Christopher Johnson): Coffee table; laminated birch / Credenza; birch, plexiglas / Side table; laminated birch / Lamp; birch, steel

Sarosh Anklesaria and Lior Galli: Readymade screen; steel, acrylic tubing

Larry Bowne: Steel shelving (fabricated by Andrew Becker, FACE Design, Brooklyn, NY); blackened steel and bronze / Sideboard (in collaboration with Collin Curry, Tim Sherman and Grant McGill; fabricated by Tim Sherman); birch and lucite

Sekou Cooke: Double C-bench; homasote and steel

Jon Lott: PARA-Chair (fabricated by Jared Rusten); laminated plywood

Ryan Ludwig: Modular tables, configuration of 5; plywood

P. Michael Pelken: Tension table and stool; maple / Plumbing table: glass, PVC and rubber / Frameless table and bench (in collaboration with John Bryant); maple

Brett Snyder: Little icon chair (in collaboration with Cheng+Snyder; fabricated by Cheng+Snyder and Jesse Ganes; product testing by Xie Snyder); laminated cardboard

Timothy Stenson: BOXing (fabricated by Jacobs Architectural Woodworking, Jake & John Gerros; animation by Victoria Ines Gueglio Saccone); maple plywood / Table (fabricated by John Bryant and John Kotlarz; images by Victoria Ines Gueglio Saccone); reclaimed fir and aluminum

Robert Szeto: Desk (fabricated by Advanced Sheet Metal, Paterson, NJ); steel and glass

Vasilena Vassilev: Personal chair: custom body specific chair designed using digital 3-D scanner and CNC mill; fiberglass and steel
New faculty

Sarosh Anklesaria (Diploma in Architecture, CEPT University; M.Arch, Cornell University) has interests that lie within the urban informal, an investigation into architectural agency in squatter settlements of the developing world, as well as inquiry into aspects of ornament and construct in contemporary architecture. He has worked extensively as a professional architect with offices in Switzerland, the United States and India, where he is licensed.

Susanne Cowan (B.A., Landscape Architecture, M.S., History of Architecture and Urbanism, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley) pursues the relationship between design professionals and the public, looking at issues of professionalization, public outreach, propaganda media, and participatory democracy. Her interest in participatory design grows from her commitment to professional activism in the design of the built environment, demonstrated in her work as an environmental educator for Americorps, and her training as a facilitator for collaborative policy-making.

Martin Hättasch (Dipl.-Ing. Arch., Technische Universität Braunschweig; M.Arch II, Princeton University) explores the inherently urbanist ambition of the Monumental and its generative potential for the formation of new collectives in present-day contexts. He is a registered architect in the Netherlands and has worked with internationally acclaimed architecture firms in the U.S. and Europe.

Ryan Ludwig (B.Arch, Cornell University; M.Arch II, Harvard University Graduate School of Design) focuses on developmental models of formation as observed in biology, ecology, and genetics, and the potential of these natural evolvable systems to inform architectural design and practice. He is a regular contributor to AnimalArchitecture.org, focused on investigating the potential performative role of biology in design.

Professor of Practice

Maria Alessandra Segantini (Master Degree in Architecture, University of Architecture of Venice) follows Jürgen Johner as the School’s second Professor of Practice, with us for the fall 2011 semester. She is a registered architect in Italy and, since 1994, a partner with Carlo Cappai of C+S Associati in Treviso. In 2010 she was the winner of the Faces of Design Award in Berlin. Her books — Contemporary Housing (Milan 2008) and Learning Space (2012) — are the results of her research on housing and school projects.
Fall 2011 visiting critic studios

Designing Value: Make Haste, Be Bold
Based on the premise that building codes, zoning constraints, construction process, and market demands often wreak havoc on aesthetic intent, students in the Della Valle and Pires studio explored ways to approach real estate development opportunities through visionary thinking that allows for successful marketability of inspirational architectural design work. Within the context of real world restraints, students sought intelligent solutions for at least three distinct projects and were challenged to treat each project as a real opportunity. Effective communication and presentation skills, plus ability to identify novel approaches were central to each task.

Jared Della Valle and AJ Pires / Alloy Development LLC
Alloy offers a unique approach to real estate development through its marriage of progressive design and construction experience with business savvy and financial strength. Jared Della Valle and AJ Pires are both licensed real estate professionals and architects in New York. Projects include 245 10th Avenue, a luxury condominium along the High Line and residential conversion of a 100-year-old warehouse in DUMBO, Brooklyn.

Dincer Savaskan G'12

Tanner Hallyard '13

Studio field trip, NYC
Social Space: Detroit

Students in Snow and Kreilich’s studio explored ways that design can be inviting to a diverse group of users and at the same time provide a sense of safety, security, and comfort. The studio’s focus was designing a mixed use hotel/housing/retail space on a partial block in Detroit. After a field trip to the site to develop understanding of Detroit’s social and cultural context, students proposed massing, block planning, material and sustainable constructional strategies for the entire complex. A wide range of variables that address how people use public space were all part of the studio investigation.

Julie Snow and Matthew Kreilich / Julie Snow Architects

Recently being awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Award, Snow’s work was characterized as “invention within convention . . . elegance balanced by pragmatism.” The diverse scale and type of work characteristic of Julie Snow Architects (Minneapolis) reflects innovative designs that expand understanding of architectural performance. In 2005, Princeton Architectural Press published the first monograph on the studio’s work in its series on emerging designers from around the world. Recent award-winning work includes the Land Port of Entry in Warroad, Minnesota.
Fall 2011 visiting critic studios

Hybrid Fabrications: Vessels, Membranes, and Urban Archipelagos

Students in La and Dallman's studio investigated the transition of Milwaukee from post-industrial decline towards a new, water-based urbanism. The city has been shaped by a long legacy of manufacturing and transportation infrastructure with an underlying geomorphology formed by the earth's largest freshwater system, the Great Lakes Basin. After visiting an underutilized site on Milwaukee's water edge, students explored ways to transform the area through integration of water and public/private development. The studio concluded with proposals for a hybrid building-landscape comprised of a boat landing, bridge, day spa, and boutique hotel.

Grace La and James Dallman / LA DALLMAN
As founding principals of LA DALLMAN design studio in Milwaukee, La and Dallman engage in the transformation of site and infrastructure through spatial and material investigations, with built work ranging from bridges to houses, science exhibits to civic landscapes. Their practice was named a 2010 Emerging Voice by the Architectural League of New York. LA DALLMAN is the first U.S. recipient of the international Rice Design Alliance Prize (2011), recognizing "exceptionally gifted architects in the early phase of their career."
Near Westside Housing

Working with Syracuse housing non-profit Home HeadQuarters, Inc., students in Stelle and Stenson’s studio developed designs for renovation of two residential properties on the City’s Near Westside—one single-family house and one two-family house. The studio divided into small “offices” of working teams—one team per project—each advancing its way through schematic design into design development with particular attention to economics and project restraints. This studio, in its second year, is part of Syracuse University’s larger effort towards revitalizing the Near Westside neighborhood. Two projects from last year’s inaugural studio are now under construction.

Fred Stelle ’70 / Stelle Architects + Timothy Stenson / Stenson Building + Furniture Design

Fred Stelle has 30 years of design experience in institutional and residential projects that range from cultural facilities and administrative centers to private and multi-family residences. The design work of his Bridgehampton, NY firm reflects a consistent commitment to sustainable design principles that celebrate the natural environment. Timothy Stenson is undergraduate chair and associate professor at Syracuse Architecture. Stenson’s teaching encompasses design studios, advanced fabrication, furniture design and technology. His design research focuses on sustainable high performance houses.
D+T: Airport as Farm

This past October, "edible" foodscape were on display in Slocum Hall’s atrium as part of "Airport as Farm," the Syracuse Architecture graduate program’s 4-day Design + Technology (D+T) Workshop, led by Colombian visiting critics Felipe Mesa (Plan: b), Luis Callejas (Paisajes Emergentes), and Camilo Restrepo Ochoa (A.T.L.A.S). Students were asked to design a new public space that would transform Medellin’s Olay Herrera Airport and its environs into an urban educational farm. Medellin — like many Latin American cities — struggles with a serious hunger problem and the vast gap between social classes. The "Airport as Farm" workshop stimulated dialogue and exploration of creative, socially engaging, and sustainable approaches to new infrastructure that creates jobs and provides education in food management and preparation.

Each fall, the Syracuse Architecture M.Arch 1 curriculum holds a D+T workshop, led by distinguished visitors and co-taught by faculty from all areas of the curriculum. These workshops, combined with the Advanced Building Systems course, provide students with a vital integrated approach to technology and construction.

601 Tully

601 Tully, a community center that opened this past July on Syracuse’s Near Westside, is the result of a two-year collaboration between Marion Wilson, Director of Community Initiative in the School of Education and Anda French, assistant professor in the School of Architecture. An interdisciplinary team of Syracuse University students in Wilson’s "Social Sculpture" course designed and built the center, with French providing the architectural expertise required to totally renovate the structure’s interior. Students were involved at every stage—from enlisting community support and attending zoning committee meetings to laying floor boards and tile. The center features an art gallery, learning space, teaching garden, and coffee house open to the public.

For French and Wilson, the process was as important as the project’s completion. "There was a marked shift in the way my studio students talked about space after this experience. I think it was eye-opening and productive to expose students to this way of working." "This type of collaboration is unusual," said Marion. "That an artist, an architect, students, and a community could find a way to work together this effectively is amazing."

Top to bottom: Upstairs gallery at 601 Tully; Marion Wilson (left) and Anda French (right)
Short-term travel programs

From Shoji to SANAA: Japan-ness in Architecture
A group of eight architecture students traveled to Japan this past summer with professors Anne Munly (Syracuse Architecture) and Michael Carroll (Southern Polytech, Atlanta) as part of a four-week field studies program. Students explored Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo as they studied architecture “through the lenses of scale and materiality,” says Munly and in two courses offered during the trip, “Dwelling in the Japanese City” and “Materiality in Japanese Architecture.” Students also had the opportunity to interview several Japanese architects and visit their built works. Students were challenged to develop urban surveys and analyses constructed from their sketch work, photographs, and essays.

A Path to Water: Rethinking the potential of India’s step wells and step ponds
For four weeks in May and June, Syracuse Architecture Assistant Professor Victor Tzen and SUNY ESF Visiting Instructor Emera Bridger led an interdisciplinary group of thirteen Syracuse University undergraduate and graduate students—including architecture students—to northwest India where they studied step wells and step ponds. The step wells of India, some dating back to the 6th century, are linear buildings designed to allow easy access to water; Step ponds, more open and square, are typically situated near temples and used for ritualistic bathing. As students visited the step wells and step ponds of Panna Meena, Patan, Adalaj, and Nagar Sagar, and Bhavaldi Baori’s restoration efforts in Bundi, they gained historic and contemporary perspectives—including how class, caste, and gender affect access to water—and analyzed the importance of water in rural development.
Many thanks to our 2010-2011 donors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who began and continued their support of the School during the past year. Your generosity makes a direct impact on the School and the quality of its facilities, our ability to create new and innovative programming, and to attract and retain the best students and faculty.

As the School continues to increase its academic and professional standing, it is imperative that we grow the School’s endowment and levels of annual unrestricted support. Endowment funds provide for the long-term viability of the School while unrestricted giving is critical to the School’s ability to respond to unexpected opportunities during the year. We welcome your support and active involvement in helping our students shape the future.

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Syracuse Architecture Thesis Awards Show

[Image of an architecture thesis awards show with a student pointing at a model]
Rubin gift supports global study

Through a generous gift from the Rubin Family Foundation, Todd Rubin ’04 has established the Rubin Global Design Studio, which will bring a visiting architect to Syracuse to teach a design studio in collaboration with a School of Architecture faculty member. The gift will also support a week-long international trip for a graduate studio and faculty member.

(left to right) Todd, Ron, and Pam Rubin

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Assistant Professor designs local food coop
Sekou Cooke, an assistant professor at Syracuse Architecture, designed the food cooperative located on Syracuse’s south side, the result of a partnership between the Southside Community Coalition and Syracuse University’s South Side Initiative. Construction on the coop, which will include a café and offices, will begin in spring 2012. This will be the first new construction project in the neighborhood for over 30 years and will answer the needs of an area currently considered a “food desert.”

Supporting the School

Planned giving
Tax law changes made by Congress in 2010 make it even easier for you to support your family, loved ones, and charities of choice.

Tax-free giving
If you’re age 70½ or older, the IRA Rollover legislation has been extended—creating the opportunity to make tax-favored gifts to your alma mater or other nonprofit directly from your IRA. Time is short—this option expires December 31, 2011.

Ensuring your legacy
Wealth doesn’t matter when it comes to ensuring your legacy. But critical changes in federal legislation make timing more important than ever—new tax and estate laws expire December 31, 2012. For advice on updating your estate plans, turn to a trusted legal and financial advisor.

For questions, call the Office of Gift Planning at 888.352.9535 or e-mail giftplan@syr.edu.syracuse.planyourlegacy.org. More information available at syracuse.planyourlegacy.org
Alumni news

Fiedler Marciano an “artistic catalyst” for Syracuse
NYC alumni firm Fiedler Marciano (Mark Fiedler ’86 and Martin Marciano ’86) has made an impression in Syracuse’s burgeoning arts district through its recent renovation of the three-story, 19th-century masonry building at 219 West Street, now serving as the home of independent recording studio SubCat. ArchNewsNow.com recently cited the firm’s work as a "downtown cultural redevelopment project that has rapidly established itself as a catalyst to rebrand and revitalize the city’s core by promoting a supportive environment for the arts within the downtown area.” Conveniently located next to the Redhouse Arts Center—a theatre and music house—the building’s basement and first two levels are occupied by SubCat, with residential suites for visiting artists on the third floor. The project has garnered particular attention from the architecture community for the designers’ ability to effectively deal with the acoustical challenges of having an active freight railway 40 feet from the studio, and heavy traffic noise outside the door.

Alumni hosted gatherings
This fall, Syracuse Architecture alumni from the NYC and Philadelphia areas met to socialize and network at two separate gatherings that came about thanks to the generosity of School alumni/ae. On November 3, The Apartment and Terrace of the Hudson Hotel, NYC was the scene of the Young Alumni Reception, hosted by Lea Ciavarra G’95 and Anne Marie Lubrano of Lubrano Ciavarra architects, Brooklyn, and Todd Rubin ’04, Republic of Tea. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed the Friday night outing that also included live music by The Roofwalkers with Maciej Barwinski ’07. On November 17, Scott Erdy G’90 and partner David McHenry hosted a reception that was held at McHenry’s recently renovated office, and enjoyed by nearly 50 Philadelphia area alumni, colleagues, and friends of the school.
Dean's Outstanding Alumni Award
Dean Mark Robbins presented Thomas A.K. Queenan '81 with the 2011 Outstanding Alumni Award at a reception held in Slouc Gallery on November 11, during Homecoming + Reunion Weekend. Each year the dean recognizes an alumnus/a who exemplifies outstanding leadership and service to the School and the architecture profession. Queenan has long been a role model and motivator for students from urban Philadelphia in pursuit of an architectural education, and continues to show interest in the progress of Syracuse Architecture students who were inspired by him while in high school. Queenan holds a bachelor of architecture degree from Syracuse Architecture, a master's degree in architecture and urban planning and design from Columbia University, and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Syracuse Architecture Advisory Board and is currently the Vice President for Finance and Administration at Dickinson College.

From the archives
Robert Charron '70 designed and built a modular inflatable structure commissioned by the University Union to serve as a temporary facility before the Schine Student Center was completed on University Place. Built on the quad, this could be transported to various events and assembled in a variety of configurations and preceded the Carrier Dome as the first air-supported structure on campus. The Modular U Bubble dates from 1971-72 and was one of several experimental structures that Charron designed and built in the early 1970’s. As Robert says, “The spirit of Archigram lives on!”

Zinder designs chef-inspired Singapore restaurant
Joshua Zinder ’91 (JZA+D) designed The Sky on 57, a 300 seat restaurant designed for acclaimed Singapore chef Justin Quek. As part of the Marina Bay Sands resort and casino — and also home to Zinder’s award-winning Waku Ghin restaurant, designed for chef Tetsuya Wakuda — Sky provides expansive views of Singapore, Malaysia, and the Pacific, with a dynamic and open floor plan that is understated yet full of stimulating visual features. Zinder also provided interior design services and designed all furniture pieces and some light fixtures.
Events at Syracuse Architecture
1. Peter Eisenman, "Project or Practice?" lecture, Grant Auditorium, September 30, 2011

2. Bjarke Ingels, "Hedonistic Sustainability" lecture, Slocum Auditorium, October 4, 2011


4. Craig Scott, "IwamotoScott: three avenues" lecture, Slocum Auditorium, March 1, 2011

5. Visiting critics Grace La and James Dallman, "Resonance" lecture, Slocum Auditorium, October 18, 2011


7. Sarah Whiting, lecture, Slocum Auditorium, April 12, 2011


10. Pier Vittorio Aureli (second from right) and Martino Tattara (far right) with Syracuse Architecture graduate students, "DOGMA: A Simple Heart" exhibition reception, Slocum Gallery, April 8, 2011


12. Walter Hood, Jean Seligman, Dean Mark Robbins, "Public Sculpture" Werner Seligmann Lecture, Slocum Auditorium, October 11, 2011

Class of 2016 Admissions Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Admit Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1272</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Profile

122 students: 67 female; 55 male
22 states and 17 countries represented
30% of the class comprised of international students
Average combined SAT: 1240
Average high school GPA: 3.8
Writing Urban Landscape: Criticism Now

Save the Date: April 11, 2012

Mark your calendar for April 11 and plan to join us at Syracuse Architecture for a day of conversation on the current state of writing criticism as a projective practice for imagining cities hosted by UPSTATE: Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate. Following individual presentations, invited participants, including Anita Berriosbeitia, Bernadette Blanchon-Caillot, Julia Czemiat, Nancy Levinson, Doreen Massey, Linda Pollak and Jane Rendell, will interact with the audience in a roundtable discussion on the evolving role of writing criticism within the context of contemporary urban life and work.

Syracuse Near Westside Cultural Center

On September 28, members of the Syracuse University and Near Westside communities gathered to celebrate the opening of La Casita Cultural Center at 109 Otisco Street. The 5,000 square-foot center, designed by Assistant Professor Jon Lott and his firm PARA-Project, is located on the first floor of the former Lincoln Supply building, which also includes loft apartments on the upper floors. The space featuring partitions and curtains in bright hues closing off defined areas for an art gallery, bilingual library, informal classroom, kitchen, and performance space, provides programming for the Latino community and encourages exchange and collaboration between the University and the neighborhood.

Gwangju Design Biennale

Professor and Graduate Chair Francisco Sanin participated in the Gwangju Design Biennale. "Design is design is not design," held September 2 – October 23 in Gwangju, South Korea. Sanin designed the exterior and interior exhibition spaces with the exhibition curated by renowned Chinese artist Ai Wei Wei and South Korean architect Seung H Sang. Sanin also designed one of the ten follies built around the city, joining other notable designers such as Alejandro Zaera-Polo, Dominicque Perrault, Peter Eisenman, and Atelier Bow-Wow.

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