From the Interim Dean: Architectural futures at Syracuse

Next year, the School will celebrate its 140th anniversary, a time period encompassing the full sweep of the 20th century and parts of both the 19th and the 21st. During that time, the profession has gone through radical changes that have redefined the role of the architect, the way we make buildings and, most notably, the impact building has had on the environment. The architect, once seen as an auteur, has evolved into a collaborator and often part of an international team of interdisciplinary specialists. Building fabrication, once an entirely manual process, now employs systems, materials, and modes of assembly that did not exist, in some instances, just a few years ago. However, as great as these changes are, they pale by comparison to the consumption of resources and energy that buildings and the building industry account for.

This rapidly evolving landscape is forcing the academy to re-examine how the next generation of architects is educated. As a beginning step, Syracuse Architecture has established the Einhorn 21st Century Studio Fund, made possible by a generous grant from Steven (67) and Sherry Einhorn. A committee at the School has been rethinking how we deliver the curriculum and the nature of the physical environment in which that occurs, exploring options to equip this next generation studio, including flexible work stations, panoramic projectors, and computer stations with access to high-end software.

As part of the ongoing expansion of our Global Campus offerings, the New York City architecture program will move to a new 16,000-square foot facility in midtown Manhattan, the Syracuse University Fisher Center. The center will include classrooms, rehearsal space, a lecture hall, and faculty offices, opening the program to more students and increasing the School’s presence in the NYC professional community.

After an international search, Michael Speaks has accepted the deanship at the Syracuse University School of Architecture. Michael’s scholarship and leadership, as well as his vision for integrating multiple perspectives in the design process, and his record of entrepreneurial leadership make him the ideal choice to lead the School during this dynamic time both for higher education and the architecture profession.

On a personal note, I want to express my gratitude to the faculty and staff who have helped make this a successful year of transition. It has been a great pleasure and honor to serve as the interim dean. I am looking forward to working with Dean Speaks as he leads the School forward into the opportunities and promise of these uncharted futures.

Randall Korman
Interim Dean

Alumnus firm wins Michigan public art competition

William Villalobos ’08 and his London-based firm, Two Islands, have won the $25,000 grand prize in the inaugural Flat Lot competition for a temporary summer pavilion for a downtown parking lot in Flint, Michigan. "Mark’s House," which Architectural Digest calls one of the summer’s must see outdoor exhibits, represents the foreclosed home of fictional Michigander Mark Hamilton, a metaphor for what the city has lost and its ongoing revitalization. A Tudor-style house clad in reflective panels hovers above a mirrored pedestal giving the structure the appearance of floating in mid-air. Flint Public Art Project and the Flint Chapter of the AIA sponsored the competition that received 221 entries from around the world. The project runs June 14 through fall 2013. For more information, go to flintpublicartproject.com/flatlot/
Syracuse Architecture announces new dean

Michael A. Speaks has been named as the new dean of the Syracuse University School of Architecture. The appointment concludes an international search to replace former Dean Mark Robbins who stepped down last summer. Speaks will assume his position on July 1.

Speaks is the current dean of the College of Design at the University of Kentucky, where he is also a professor of architecture. Formerly, Speaks was director of the graduate program at the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles (SCI Arc). He has taught in the graphic design departments at the Yale School of Art, and in the architecture schools at Harvard University, Columbia University, The University of Michigan, UCLA, Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, and the Berlage Institute and TU Delft, in the Netherlands.

“I am thrilled to join the Syracuse University School of Architecture, among the most highly regarded programs in the U.S. and, indeed, in the world,” Speaks says. “It is a distinct honor to follow those esteemed deans and school leaders who came before me and who put the school on such a strong foundation. Working with faculty, staff and students, and exploring new opportunities on the horizon, I am confident that together we will build upon and enhance the reputation and standing of this truly great school of architecture.”

Speaks has published and lectured internationally on contemporary art, architecture, urban design, and scenario planning. His essays and exhibitions in the 1990s were among the first to introduce a new generation of Dutch architects and planners to a broader audience in North America. He has played an important role in recent debates about city branding and alternative models of city planning, authoring a number of essays and advisory studies as well as overseeing scenario studies commissioned by city and regional governments in the U.S. and Europe.

“As a scholar and leader in design education, Michael emphasizes innovative approaches and interdisciplinary connections focused on real-world problem solving, particularly on addressing the challenges of older industrial cities—emphases that align perfectly with SU’s strengths,” says University Chancellor and President Nancy Cantor. “We’re pleased to have been able to attract him here and we know he’ll hit the ground running.”

Originally from Mississippi, Speaks earned his B.A. from the University of Mississippi and his Ph.D. from Duke University.

Students explore future of I-81 in downtown Syracuse

A spring research initiative between Syracuse Architecture and UPSTATE: a Center for Design, Research, and Real Estate explored the future of Syracuse’s I-81 expressway that reaches the end of its functional life in 2017. A real estate seminar taught by UPSTATE: Director Marc Norman and Research Fellow Peggy Tully with students from the School of Architecture and the Whitman School tackled funding, examining ownership structures and the feasibility of proposals from the design studio. Students in the studio, led by Associate Dean Jonathan Solomon and Joe Sisko, Assistant Director of UPSTATE, produced neighborhood and regional retail, entertainment, open space, and housing projects. An exhibition at The Warehouse, 350 W. Fayette Street, opens May 20 and continues through June.
Student exhibitions across the globe

Florence
Fall 2012 Florence Architecture Program Exhibition
November–December 2012
An exhibition of free-hand analytical sketches of historic and modern architecture produced by Florence students as part of in their design studio and Italian architecture survey course were showcased at the end of the fall semester at the Florence center’s gallery. The work represented a wide array of projects and drawing types, with students presenting a selection of their best drawing. The drawings are now on display for the Syracuse Architecture community in Slocum Hall in Syracuse.

London
Field Explorations
NLA, London’s Centre for the Built Environment
March 18–April 18, 2013
Syracuse Architecture students studying in London this past year had the opportunity to showcase their work at the NLA, London’s premiere venue for interdisciplinary exploration of the built environment. Working with Assistant Professor Lena Vassilev and Associate Professor Michael Pelken, program coordinator, students created analytic hand drawings that provided a broad view of architecture, art, and urbanism in London. Subjects of study ranged from urban morphology to a sequence of urban spaces, single buildings, and details of materiality and structure.
www.newlondonarchitecture.org/exhibitions
New York
Made in Long Island City
February 10—March 16, 2013
The clock tower of the iconic former Bank of Manhattan building in Long Island City was the site of No Longer Empty: How Much Do I Owe You?, installations focused on exploring options for economic reinvention of the surrounding neighborhood. Students in Nina Rappaport’s fall semester New York City studio exhibited mapping studies of land use and potentials for new industrial ecologies in Long Island City. The student exhibition was part of the Vertical Urban Factory project and traveling exhibition curated by Nina Rappaport and a project of The New York Foundation for the Arts.

Syracuse
The Architect’s Work 10: STEALTH
Slocum Hall Gallery
March 5—April 2, 2013
As part of The Architect’s Work series, graduate students research and curate an exhibition documenting a single project by a notable practitioner. This year students focused on the work of STEALTH (Rotterdam), which included a modular installation in the style of the ‘ARCHI PHOENIX’ installation originally created by STEALTH and Saskia van Stein for the 11th Venice Architecture Biennale. The spatial setup of interchangeable cubes could be reconfigured to accommodate a variety of activities, such as a studio critique presentation or the March 26th Graduate Sessions interview with STEALTH principals Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen.
Studios travel to Madrid and Azerbaijan

Sick space

In the spring 2013 visiting critic research studio, “Sick space,” students were asked to consider the question, “What role do we as architects and designers have in improving the quality of healthcare space—a space everyone will visit and occupy at some point in life?”

Led by Syracuse Architecture Associate Professor Lori Brown, students investigated new ways to deliver healthcare and design better spaces to improve patient/doctor relationships. As part of the studio, students traveled to Madrid over the spring break to conduct first-hand research at several of the city’s exceptional healthcare spaces, such as Hospital Quirón and the Gregoria Marañón Maternity and Pediatric Hospital. Students also visited significant architectural sites including the Museo del Prado and CaixaForum.

Lori Brown’s work exists within both the more traditional realm of architecture (through competition proposals and individual practice) and in broader environments where architecture may not be immediately legible (social, political, and institutional arenas where architects are not typically present). Brown is the author of two recent books, Feminist Practices: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Women in Architecture and Contested Spaces: Abortion Clinics, Women’s Shelters and Hospitals, both from Ashgate Publishing.
Reimagining Cultural Context: Diplomacy and Architecture

Azerbaijan and the capital city of Baku are in the midst of a large-scale political transition and significant economic transformation. In this post-Soviet era, the Azerbaijani people have control of their country, government, and resources, including enormous oil reserves, for the first time in nearly a century and are beginning to reshape their nation.

This studio was an opportunity for students to explore how architecture and planning can participate and perhaps guide this on-going cultural discussion and the country's burgeoning identity in ways that reflect a nuanced cultural understanding of the history and texture of the region. During spring break, students traveled to Baku to experience the Azeri culture first hand and to meet with political officials and design professionals, culminating with the design of a new arts and sciences building for the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy.

DANNY FORSTER DESIGN STUDIO (DFDS) specializes in sustainable, economic design and development. He is a national outreach consultant for Discovery Education and award-winning host of Build it Bigger, a global architecture and engineering documentary series. He is also the creator and executive producer, with Steven Spielberg, of The Rising, a long-form documentary series chronicling the rebuilding of Ground Zero.
Sanin to pursue urban development work worldwide

Professor Francisco Sanin will step down July 1 from his role as Graduate Chair and take a leave from teaching to pursue a range of global projects.

Colombia

Sergio Fajardo, governor of the state of Antioquia, selected Sanin as the lead designer for a series of urban design strategies in the towns of the state intended to transform and improve the quality of life based on this work in Medellin. As mayor of Medellin from 2004-2007, Fajardo constructed a social and political program with architecture at the center that is internationally recognized as a model for urban revitalization and social, political, and cultural transformation. At the invitation of Jorge Perez Jaramillo, Director of Urban Planning in Medellin and consultant for the city’s master plan, Sanin will work on documenting the city’s intellectual history and urban transformation over thirty years, to be presented at the 2014 Global Urban Forum hosted by Medellin.

Mexico

Sanin is the urban designer for the area surrounding the Universidad Tecnologico de Monterrey in Mexico. The intent is to redefine campus-city relationships and to develop new urban models that are socially engaged and environmentally sustainable. The project is seen as an opportunity for the TEC to develop new ideas and forge new alliances with the government to explore an urbanism that is socially engaged in the transformation of the city’s culture and vision, particularly meaningful at a time when Mexico faces challenges of drug cartel violence and weakening institutions.

South Korea and China

Working in collaboration with Iroje Architects and Planners (Seoul), Sanin is working on a master plan for the city of Pingdu, China. The first stage includes a commercial building and public space that will serve as the center for future development. Sanin was also selected by Seoul city architect Seung H Sang as consultant to a new urban development in Seoul, one of the last informal settlements in the city. The city administration intends to use this area as a test to develop new and more culturally sensitive modes of urban development.
Creating a monster

Syracuse Architecture graduate students spent the week of March 25th designing and building the ultimate multi-use structure for the community as part of the annual Design + Technology Workshop. "Monster" is the result of an intensive design build studio led by Axel Timm and Andreas Krauth of raumlaborberlin. This structure flips up, flips down, folds and bends, and addresses the many desires expressed by community stakeholders during meetings with the students. The possibilities include a warm outdoor gathering place for winter, a community stoop, a "porch," a mobile stage, and concession stand.

The project was sponsored by UPSTATE: at Syracuse Architecture, the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems, the Syracuse Architecture graduate program, and the Syracuse Connective Corridor. Plans are underway to continue work on Monster and present it to the community for use at a variety of locations.

raumlaborberlin is a collective of architects who collaborate on projects at the intersection of architecture, city planning, art, and urban intervention. Their work focuses on urban renewal as a process in places that are abandoned or in transition and are open to urban transformations. Projects include an inflatable kitchen, a temporary prefab hotel, as well as "Spacebuster," an inflatable space coming out of the back of a van that holds eighty people, expanding the idea of public space in New York City.
Faculty Initiatives

NYC symposium explores work of Diller Scofidio + Renfro
On April 20th, the Syracuse Architecture NYC Program presented “Vision and Visuality in Architecture: Diller Scofidio + Renfro,” a symposium exploring the ‘ocular’ architecture of DS+R. Organized by Assistant Professor Jon Yoder and sponsored by the CNY Humanities Corridor, architecture and media scholars Giuliana Bruno (Harvard) and Edward Dimendberg (UC-Irvine), and architect Charles Renfro (DS+R) presented short lectures followed by a roundtable discussion. Students in Yoder’s “Op Arc” course presented group research projects to students and faculty members from Syracuse University and Cornell University while viewers participated remotely from eleven countries including Bangladesh, France, India, Italy, Poland, and Turkey.

Street redesign competition organized by Julia Czerniak
In April, STOSS landscape urbanism of Boston, including Höweler + Yoon Architecture, Nitsch Engineering, and Angie Craddock ScD, MPE, was announced as the winner of the Movement on Main: Designing the Healthy Main Street competition—sponsored by the Near Westside Initiative with UPSTATE: A Center for Design, Research and Real Estate, with generous funding from The Educational Foundation of America. The block is located in Syracuse’s Near Westside neighborhood, one of the city’s most underserved areas. “The winning design offers a clear and robust vision of an exciting social space which will bring new energy to the neighborhood and appeal to the whole community,” says Jury Chair Richard Weller, chair of the landscape architecture program at the University of Pennsylvania. Work will begin this summer.

Anda French finalist in MoMA PS1 Competition
FRENCH 2D, a firm established by Assistant Professor Anda French and her sister Jenny French, was named a 2013 finalist in the Young Architects Program sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art and MoMA PS1, an annual competition that fosters innovative design research and promotes emerging talent. Their project, "White Noise," proposes an interactive sound environment embedded in a playful series of figural abstractions, clad with synthetic white turf. The foregrounded backdrop of the architecture highlights the project’s main event, sharing and exchange among the people in the space, and explores approaches to sustainability, both community-based and material-based. An exhibition of all finalist work will be on display from May 12 through September 13 at PS1.
Brunner Grant supports ongoing work in Rwanda
Assistant Professor Yutaka Sho, co-founder of the GA Collaborative (GAC), was awarded this year’s Arnold Brunner Grant from the New York Center for Architecture for her project, “Sustainable Housing in Rwanda.” The grant supports development of a low-cost, low-carbon footprint prototype home in Masoro, a rural area with significant housing needs. GAC will work in collaboration with

Dushyigikirane, a women’s association in Masoro, on the house which will break ground in July. Additional housing and a community compost latrine are planned for the future. Since 2008, GAC, a non-profit group of design practitioners and educators, has been working with Dushyigikirane on community projects. The association has developed many projects including orphanages, a bakery, and micro-credit bank.

StitchWorks is a collaboration between GAC, Dushyigikirane, and a group of contributing artists who together create products inspired by African designs that are sold to support the ongoing work in Masoro. Prints are available online with printed fabrics to follow soon. In the next phase, Rwandan fashion designers will create clothing using the fabric. All funds go to support the work in Masoro. For more information on the GAC, StitchWorks, and products available for sale, please visit gacollaborative.org
Students elevating students

It began in August 2012 with a crew of fourteen AIAS Freedom by Design students putting their heads (and hands) together to imagine and build a “treehouse” outdoor learning environment for nearby Jowoio School, a not-for-profit pre-school for children of all abilities. Former projects of the FBD group had been primarily focused on accessible ramp projects. Now the team from Jowoio came calling to pose a unique and truly exciting set of challenges that would test the group’s design and construction skills and lead them down an adventurous path. This structure would be occupied by small children, some with special needs. It would need to blend in with the environment and inspire multi-sensory interaction with nature. And it needed to achieve a high level of design. Over the past year, dozens of architecture students — most recently under the leadership of faculty advisors Larry Bowne and Sinéad Mac Namara — have worked tirelessly to design, fundraise, and construct this innovative classroom. “The Denny Family Play Perch” is now a reality for delighted members of the Jowoio School community—a festive launch event took place on May 17—and an historic design build project by Syracuse Architecture students brings inspiration for similar initiatives in the future.

Extensive pictorial at:
Facebook.com/playperch
At a special ceremony held on April 24, members of the Play Perch team were awarded a Syracuse University Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship—an award recognizing committed students who exemplify Syracuse University’s vision of Scholarship in Action.

L to R: Michael Palmer ’13, Steven O’Hara ’14, Brian Luce ’13, Sean Morgan G ’15, Jeffrey Cheung ’13, Selly Morrow ’13, Chancellor Nancy Cantor
1 Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg (Co-principals, SO-IL), “To Be Determined” lecture, Slocum Auditorium, January 22, 2013


3 Professor Julia Czerniak and Interim Dean Randall Korman, “Redefining the Rust Belt” book signing reception, Slocum Hall Gallery, January 31, 2013

4 Wowo Ding (Dean, School of Architecture, Nanjing University), “Design and Dialogue,” lecture (co-presented with L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science), Slocum Auditorium, February 5, 2013


6 Sofia Saavedra Bruno (University of Netherlands Antilles; Superspudacca), “Direct Architecture” lecture, Slocum Auditorium, March 19, 2013

7 Richard Weller (Department of Landscape Architecture School of Design, University of Pennsylvania), “Global Landscape Futures,” lecture, Slocum Auditorium, April 2, 2013


10 “Systems of Representation,” Syracuse Architecture faculty exhibition opening reception, Slocum Gallery, April 9, 2013

11 L to R: Todd Reisz (Yale University), Nicoletta Kyvernitis, Muneerah Alrabe, George Efstatthiou (SOM), Sonja Stockmarr (Henning Larsen Architects, Copenhagen), Professor Francisco Sanin, Associate Professor Stenson, Lorraine Chan, Abdurahman Medallah, Ashley Marshall, Sai Prateek Narayan, “Expertise Exposed” symposium sponsored by Architecture Students Organization (ASO) and the Society of Multicultural Architects and Designers (SMAD), Slocum Auditorium, April 8-9, 2013

12 “Biomimicry Challenge 2” exhibition by advanced level Syracuse Architecture students (Assistant Professor Jon Yoder), Syracuse Center for Excellence, March 22, 2013

13 L to R: Danielle Lax G’14, Elvira Ibragimova G’13, Hamsa Hasan G’15, Ana Džokić and Marc Neelen (Co-founders of STEALTH), Graduate Sessions interview, March 26, 2012
Jean-François Bédard named Graduate Chair
Associate Professor Jean-François Bédard has been appointed as chair of the school's graduate programs, effective July 1, 2013. Bédard has taught at Syracuse since fall 2005; in spring 2012 he was honored by Syracuse University with a Meredith Teaching Recognition Award for his significant contributions to teaching. Bédard is an architectural historian specializing in the theory and practice of French architecture during the eighteenth century. Bédard received Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degrees from McGill University and completed his doctoral studies at Columbia University. Bédard follows Francisco Sanin, chair of the program since 2010.

Architecture students design and build bilingual library for La Casita Cultural Center
La Casita Cultural Center on Syracuse’s Near Westside has a new bilingual library thanks in part to the volunteer efforts of Syracuse Architecture SMAD (Society of Multicultural Architects and Designers) group. Under the leadership of faculty advisor Ryan Ludwig and wood-shop manager John Bryant, students designed and built the library space and custom shelving. Planning began last year and was completed this spring. Dedication took place on April 26. “We are proud of leaving this legacy behind for the community to enjoy,” says fifth-year student Jose Arango.

San Francisco alumni event held at Gensler offices
Bay area alumni, parents, and friends came together on March 21 at Gensler offices in San Francisco for a reception co-hosted by Peter Weingarten ’93 (Principal, Gensler) and Shay Zak ’85 (Principal, Zak Architecture). A great time was had by all.

L to R: Jean Orino ’96, Paul Molina ’94, Jason Arth ’93, Rosa Sheng ’94, Assistant Dean Katryn Hansen, Timothy De Noble ’92

Syracuse Architecture NYC studios — We’re expanding!
Renovation is underway at the University’s Fisher Center at 136 Madison Avenue to allow for expanded studio, lecture and classroom spaces for our New York City program, which is scheduled to open in fall 2013. Lawrence Mufson ’77 (Mufson Partnership, Inc) is the architect.

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