

# Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

## BREAKING NEWS!

**W**e are officially DECATHLETES! Our student and faculty team met with great success in City College's very first entry into the prestigious *Solar Decathlon*, an international competition organized by the U.S. Department of Energy and held bi-annually among schools of architecture and engineering on the National Mall in Washington D.C. We were chosen as one of twenty finalists from a large field of applicants. Much thanks to Professors **Christian Volkmann**, as well as **Alberto Foyo**, **Fabian Llouch**, and **Hillary Brown** for their efforts with third year BArch students. Joined by participants from the Grove School of Engineering, we will design, build, and transport our 1,000 square foot "net-zero energy" (off-the-grid) residential pavilion to the Capitol where we will operate it as part of a public exhibit in fall 2011. This summer, the team will begin to realize the initial concept with balanced input from faculty, industry, and manufacturers.

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LEFT: The Oubrierie show in the SSA Gallery. ABOVE: Jacob Alspector (left) and José Oubrierie (right) consult while installing the show.

PHOTO: GORDON GIBERT

## Glorious Exhibits

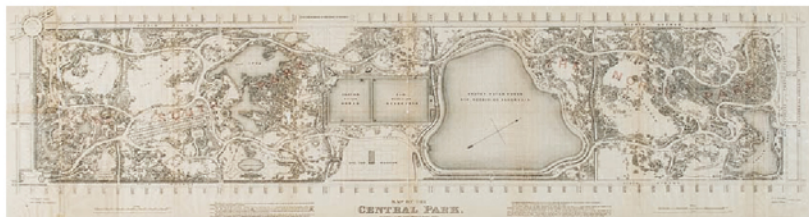
**T**WO AMBITIOUS exhibits grace the walls of the Spitzer School of Architecture this spring. In the main gallery, "Architecture with and without Le Corbusier," includes an array of artifacts – large models, red lined construction drawings, archival photographs – documenting two projects of architect José Oubrierie, a distinguished visiting professor here last fall. The *Eglise Saint-Pierre de Firminy-Vert* was begun in 1960 in the atelier of Le Corbusier, where Oubrierie was a young apprentice. The church remained unfinished until 2006, its realization a cross-continental, decades-long process for Oubrierie. The

experimental Miller House in Lexington, Kentucky, was completed in 1992, and stands as a vital link in a chain of stand alone dwellings that engage with Corbu's challenging oeuvre.

The complex installation was coordinated by Director of Exhibitions and Associate Professor Jacob Alspector and realized by an able team led by Shop Director Jorge Plazas, including David Seto, Sergiy Panas, Jorge Diaz, Sanjin Somo, Sean Gunther, Sean Wright, Sebastian Carro, Douglas Ling, and Heaji Kang. The printing and mounting team included Tim Chogovadze, Elton Nurcelari, John Vlahakis, Wen Qu,

Wing Peng, Yu Tian Chen, Jorge Miranda, Taimur Gul, Jonathan Carrera and Vikram Singh, under the direction of Assistant Professor M.T. Chang.

Meanwhile, in the corridor outside Dean Ranalli's office on the first floor of SSA, a very special permanent exhibit has been mounted: fifty original prints of gorgeously detailed drawings from the office of Frederick Law Olmsted. The range of projects featured includes parks, campus plans, suburban subdivisions, and parkways. The drawings were a gift from the Olmsted Society, coordinated by Professor Lee Weintraub. ■



ABOVE: Map of the Central Park, by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, from the SSA collection of original Olmsted prints

SPITZER DESIGN FELLOWSHIP:  
► Khan Mohammed Shibly,  
"Plazas: A Proposal for More  
Urban Spaces," (BARCH)

# Awards

THE INAUGURAL round of travel grants are awarded to the following graduating students (\$5,000 each):

## SPITZER TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS:

- **Helen Levin and Shengyi Pu**, "Mapping the Metropolis," (BARCH)
- **Bretaigne Walliser**, "Sub/Surface—Breaching the Underground in Japanese Architecture," (MARCH)
- **Kelly Greenfield**, "Voyage to Orient," (MUD)
- **Alexa Clark Helsell**, "Tiber River, Rome," (MLA)

**Denton Tarver** (MLA) was named a 2009 University Olmsted Scholar by the Landscape Architecture Foundation.

**Heather Fuhman** (MLA) received a 2009 Student Honor Award from the ASLA for her project "Remediation Infrastructure: A Comprehensive Development Strategy for the Remediation of the Gowanus Canal."

Shop Director **Jorge Plazas** was set production editor of the Academy Award-winning short film *The New Tenants*. Such talent in our ranks!

## Milestones

THE NEWEST CCNY Master of Science program, *Sustainability in the Urban Environment*, run jointly by the Grove School of Engineering, Division of Science, and Spitzer School of Architecture admits its first group of incoming students in Fall 2010.

The recently accredited Master of Landscape Architecture program was extensively featured in the article "Design for Cities: New York's CCNY Opens Doors to Urban Life and Ecology" in *Landscape Architecture* (April 2009).

## Urban Design Program Update

DIRECTOR MICHAEL SORKIN WRITES:

Former students of the urban design program are working for better cities all over the world. The visionary **Jenjoy Roybal** is Executive Director of the Buckminster Fuller Institute in New York, **Brian Baldor** is serving the people at the New York City Housing and Preservation Department, **Ziv Lavi** is working in the Urban Design office of the New York City Department of City Planning, **Vanburn Brookes** is Principal of Morlens Architecture Services in Anguilla and claims to be working hard, **Sarah Herda** is Director of the Graham Foundation in Chicago (grants guaranteed for UD grads), **Kym Chapman** is working as a planner for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (we've got alumni near the best beaches on the planet), **Adam Watson** is Project Director at Dattner Architects for the Via Verde affordable housing project in the South Bronx, **Einat Manoff** is pursuing her PhD at the Graduate Center (and studying with many of our favorite people there), **Holly Kallman** is the Sustainability Coordinator at our beloved CCNY and **Shirish Joshi**—ignoring my insistence that you do as I say, not as I do—has just become a professor

in Mumbai. And, he's getting married on December 26! Please send more news! ■

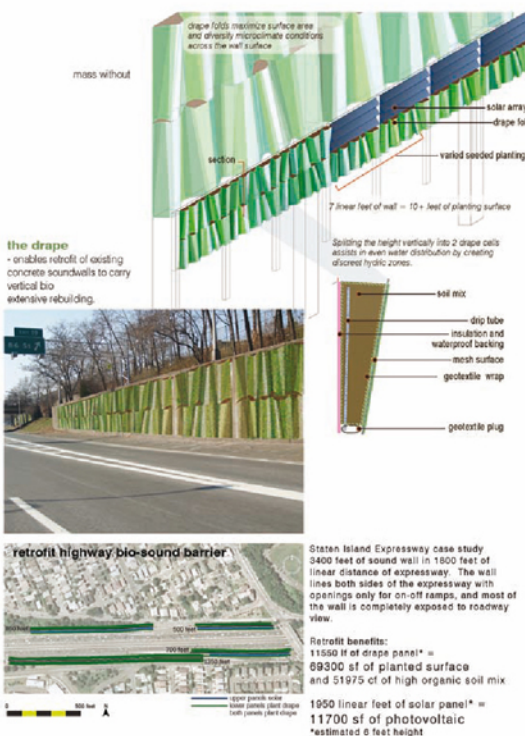
## FACULTY NEWS

THIS SEMESTER our two distinguished visiting professors are **Teddy Cruz** and **Brian Healy**. Cruz is principal of Estudio Teddy Cruz, based in San Diego, and has focused his practice on the US/Mexico border region. His urban design studio this spring is working in Usme, an informal settlement on the periphery of Bogotá, Colombia. Healy, based in Boston, has a distinguished record of designing rigorously detailed buildings.

Associate Professor **Jacob Aspector** made four guest appearances on *Burning Down the House*, a weekly Internet radio program on architecture. Substitute Assistant Professor **Nandini Bagchee**, with Maureen Shea, organized the **Peace Pentagon Competition**, a call for designs for the building at 339 Lafayette, home to many activist groups.

Associate Professor **Denise Hoffman Brandt** received the 2010 EDRA Metropolis Great Places Award for Research for her project "City Sink." She will be presenting the project at the CELA/ISOMUL conference in Maasricht, Netherlands, and the project is a semi-finalist in the Buckminster Fuller Challenge. Her article "The View from Mrs. Fair's Front Door" was published in *Places* online journal and she will present the paper "Many Lines—Complicated Spaces: Documenting Space and Time in Border Landscapes" at the Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting.

ACSA Distinguished Professor **Lance Jay Brown**, FAIA, delivered the spring 2010 keynote address, "Urban Visions for an Urban Century," to the CCNY's Society of 1847. He was appointed to the CUNY Architects Selection Panel for the future Colin Powell Academic and Conference Center to be built on the City College campus and he moderated the panel "Framework for Collaborations: Designing Sustainable Plans"



ABOVE: Highway bio-sound barriers, an idea from Denise Hoffman Brandt's City Sink project



with the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization in the Information Age at the **UN Habitat World Urban Forum** in Rio de Janeiro.

Adjunct Professor **Marjorie Clarke** was elevated to Chair of the Municipal and Medical Waste Management Division of the Air & Waste Management Association and was interviewed by the Voice of America on the persistence of respiratory illnesses and cancers caused by the collapse and fires of the WTC towers.

Adjunct Assistant Professor **Antonio Di Oronzo's** research project "Architecture as Infrastructure" was exhibited at the Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico, and will be published in *Self-sufficient City* (Institute for Advanced Architecture, Barcelona). His **projects** were featured in *AR* and his project for a home in Florida will be in the book *Sustainable Architecture* by Sian Moxon (Laurence King Publishers). Also, his work was published in *Architecture Korea*, *Shotenkenchiku*, *Arqart*, *Boutique Design* and *Interior Design*. He recently spoke at the IIDA conference "Sustainable Design in a Challenging Market."

Associate Professor **Jeremy Edmiston's** studio **SYSTEMArchitects** was invited to submit ideas for the Future of Fashion at Lincoln Center, which were published in *Women's Wear Daily*. Current projects are in the inaugural edition of *TOWER* magazine. Other recent publications of work include: *10x10\_3* (Phiadon), *New Prefab* (Loft Publications), *Prefab Houses* (Links Books), *Green Houses* (Tatlin Press), and the *AD* special issue "Closing the Gap." Edmiston delivered the lecture "BURSTING" at the UTS School of Architecture, the lecture "Finite Variations" at the TRESPA Design Center, and will be a speaker at the Australian AIA national conference.

Professor **Alan Feigenberg** created and led an interactive workshop at the "In Defense of Childhood: Play and Active Learning in Urban Schools" conference at CCNY, engaging participants in an exploration to illustrate how teachers can use the built environment as a resource for math, science, social studies, and language learning.

Adjunct Lecturer **Antonio Furgiele** presented a paper at the IDEC conference in Atlanta titled "Taste and the Modern Interior," discussing the modern Interior as it shifts from reiterating socioeconomic strata to a system of value relations. As part of The Cooper Union Feltman Chair Lectures, Furgiele presented "Light Grammar & Le Corbusier," his analysis of the syntax of light and photography in the late work.

Professor **Peter Gisolfi**, Chair, has received three design awards: the 2010 Citation of Excellence Award for the Kathleen Allen Lower School at the Hackley School from *Learning by Design*, and two 2009 AIA Design Awards, for the Berman Student Center and Quadrangle at Manhattanville College and for the Kathleen Allen Lower School. In April, he presented the lecture "Master Planning for Independent Schools" at Columbia University Teachers College.

Adjunct Associate Professor **Ali C. Hoces's** firm **AC Hoces Architecture** is engaged in the restoration of 20 Greene Street, an ornamental cast iron façade building in SoHo. ACHA is also renovating the core exhibition at the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens. The original exhibit, by the firm, opened in

1996.

Master of Architecture Program Director **Brad Horn's** review of Jan Turnovsky's book *The Poetics of a Wall Projection* was in *The Architect's Newspaper* (Oct. 2009). Adjunct Instructor **Maria Berman** and Horn were featured in *flux:letters* for their project Char No. 4. Their renovation of a Manhattan townhouse was mentioned in *The New York Times* (April 2010).

Adjunct Professor **Joan Krevlin**, principal of **BKSK Architects**, has been elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in recognition of her contribution to the field of design.

Assistant Professor **Fran Leadon** co-authored with the late Norval White the 5th edition of the *AIA Guide to New York City*, to be published by Oxford University Press on June 7.

A highly detailed villa in Shenzhen, China, designed by Adjunct Professor **Peter Lynch** is featured in the book *Re-Crafted* (Monacelli Press). Lynch received the JAE Best Design as Scholarship Article Award for "No Resistance," co-written with Gustavo Crembil. Also, last fall he lectured and led a design workshop at Musahino Art University, Tokyo.

Dean **George Ranalli's** Saratoga Avenue Community Center in Brooklyn was featured in the article "Stealth by Design:

**How the City is Sneaking Back Little Buildings Into Unexpected Places"** in *New York Magazine* (Nov. 2009), and in "How the Power of Architecture Changed a Community" in the London *Daily Telegraph* (March 2010). He and his work were also profiled in *Chatham Press*, an upstate New York newspaper, and online in *New York Social Diary*. Paul Goldberger selected the Saratoga Avenue Community Center as one of "The Ten Most Positive Architectural Events of 2009" in *The New Yorker*. In April, Dean Ranalli gave the lecture "In Situ Design: People, History, Place" at the Yale Club of New York.

Associate Professor **Julio Salcedo-Fernandez** was interviewed in the Spanish publication *Capital* (Feb. 2010) in the article "Portada" in which he discussed his practice and research.

Distinguished Professor **Michael Sorkin** won the 2010 Architecture Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The Michael Sorkin Studio recently won a competition for 4500 units of housing in Tianjin China, and the non-profit Sorkin directs - **Terreform** - was chosen as one of ten teams world-wide to make proposals for transportation

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**ABOVE: The Trento Tunnel Project In situ, by Elisabetta Terragni**

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transformation on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. The president of IDTP is the former Mayor of Bogota and Lewis Mumford Lecturer, Enrique Penalosa.

Associate Professor **Elisabetta Terragni's** project the Engadine House was published in the Austrian magazine *Zuschnitt* (35; 2009) and her Elementary School in Altavilla Vicentina, Italy, was in the Spanish magazine *Arquitectura Viva* (Dec. 2009). At the Italian Academy for Advanced Study at Columbia University, she presented "Next Stop on the High Line: the Trento Tunnel Project," which was a *finalist* in the Ossigeno Italiano 2009 Design Competition, run by *Abitare*, and was in their Dec. 2009 issue. Also in *Abitare*, she wrote a tribute to the late Tom Schumacher. With Kurt W. Forster, she delivered the lecture "Vierhaendig im Halbdunkel, oder How I Forgot to Remember" at the Muenster

Kunstakademie, Germany.

Adjunct Associate Professor **Albert Vecerka** published the photo essay "A Green Alternative to Dry Cleaning" in *Time* magazine.

Associate Professor **Christian Volkmann** participated in the research-based workshop "Re-Inventing Construction" at the 3rd International **Holcim Forum for Sustainable Construction** in Mexico City.

Associate Professor **June Williamson's** book *Retrofitting Suburbia* received a 2009 PROSE Award from the Association of American Publishers. An exhibit, "Adapting Suburbs in the 21st Century," based on the book, was organized by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center and will travel to Atlanta and Seattle. She delivered the 2009 Candeub Memorial Lecture at the Boustein School at Rutgers and is Advisor to the ongoing **Build a Better Burb** ideas competition, sponsored by the Long Island Index. ■

## IN MEMORIAM

We would like to pause at the end of this newsletter to remember key figures in the history of the Spitzer School of Architecture who have recently passed away:

**J. Max Bond Jr.**, long the most influential African-American architect in New York City with a rich legacy of significant built work, and Dean of our School from 1985 to 1992, died in February 2009. At his death, he was the partner-in-charge at Davis Brody Bond Aedas of the museum portion of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

Professor Emeritus **Norval White**, the founding Chair of our School,

died of a heart attack in Roques, France, in December, 2009, just months before the completion of the 5th edition of the *AIA Guide to New York City*, which he was co-authoring with Assistant Professor Fran Leadon. All are invited to celebrate his legacy at the launch party for the Guide, to be held on June 2 at the Center for Architecture.

**Charles Zucker**, a founding faculty member of our School (1969-1976), died in February 2010 in Boulder, Colorado, where, as an expert in participatory design processes, he had been Senior Urban Designer of that city's progressive Planning Department.



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