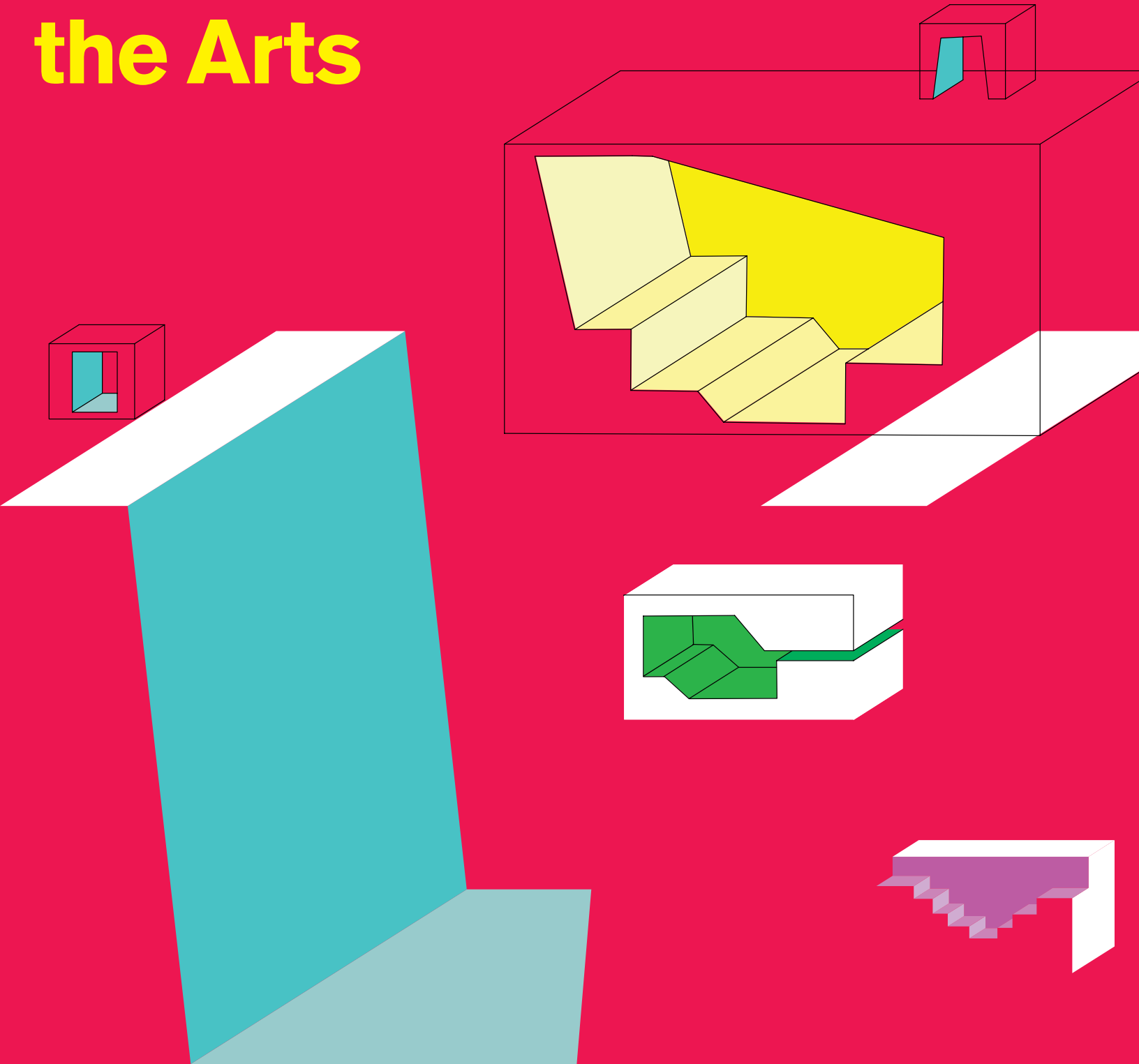


University of Illinois at Chicago

Spring/
Summer
2011

College of Architecture and the Arts



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Brian Yocum

Writers
Sara Connell
Brian Yocum

Graphic Design
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Photography
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Devlin
Renee Gooch
Rashmi
Mariyappa

Designers and Fabricators

School of Architecture Director Robert Somol believes that an architecture program should incorporate the technical side of the profession with the field's theoretical influences and disciplinary framework. Clinical Assistant Professor Ryan Palider combined these elements of the School's philosophy when he created his design/build studio and seminar, "Architecture in a Box," where students are both designers and fabricators. "Through hands on fabrication we exposed them to the decisions that need to be made to make an architectural vision a reality," said Palider. The Fall 2010–Spring 2011 year-long course was inspired by a competition run by New York City's MoMA and PS 1 through their Young Architects Program. Each year, the New York competition invites a select group of up-and-coming architects to experiment with new shapes and materials with the winning design installed in the city over the summer. Palider added that the students' initial research "was meant to form a context to begin to understand architecture as a discipline, with recurring ideas and formal and organizational strategies that aren't unique or common to one project or building type."

Palider's students are designing their space in the covered walkway which once extended west off the second floor of the Arts & Architecture building. Palider and his students plan to use materials which will withstand

the elements—the tunnel is partially open to the outside—in order to become a year-round, useable space for students. The space is configured to display images of current student work. This walkway was used last year for a student-run competition sponsored by A3, the Architecture Alumni Association, which was a part of the 2010 Year-End Show.

"The studio and seminar, like the New York competition, create an opportunity to execute a design in a controlled space before moving on to a larger installation," said Palider. "For me, the role of architecture school is to theorize new possibilities for future architectures. Doing architectural installations is so important to the discipline as a transitional stage between abstract idea and a building." Describing the goals of the course, Palider asserted, "This is about the big 'Architectural Ideas' that advance the discipline of architecture. This is not a course about a design process that relies on inspiration as its origin or fabrication as a means to fetishize the tectonics of details."



School of Architecture students in the finished walkway space, 2011.

Letter from the Dean

At UIC's College of Architecture and the Arts, we see ourselves at the crossroads of making and thinking, social practice and professional discipline.

At the close of another exciting year, Deborah Rutter, President of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, addressed our 2011 graduating class and in her commencement remarks she emphasized opportunities for leadership and the responsibility of cultural citizenship and engagement. Following Rutter, Alexandra M. Plattos, a vocal performance student in the Department of Performing Arts spoke to the educational opportunities at UIC: those values and aspirations which are embodied in every classroom, studio, and performance site in our College. Commencement is the moment to share and celebrate accomplishments. It is also a moment to plan for the future and to aspire to ambitious goals.

At UIC's College of Architecture and the Arts, we see ourselves at the crossroads of making and thinking, social practice and professional discipline. We respect the traditions of our craft and extend them into new and dynamic media. And, every day our College celebrates the purposeful convergence of excellence and access. This equation typifies the unique qualities of our students and our faculty.

And with its strong disciplinary excellence, our College is realigning our overlapping practices to re-imagine the role of public education in the arts, architecture, and design. In this newsletter, you'll read about some of our growing and changing programs, like a new School of Design and a new graduate program in Museum Studies. What remains constant is our commitment to interdisciplinary partnerships and connecting the vitality of the College's innovative curriculum to the other important cultural institutions in Chicago. Our urban setting places us in contexts where we can make the greatest impact.

I want to share some questions that Julia Fish, Professor of Studio Arts, raised in a class—*Convergence + Context: living and working in Chicago*, topics which I believe precisely define our mission:

- What does it mean to live and work as an artist within a moment in history, in the context of an academic and creative community at UIC ?

- How might we define our individual responsibilities as artists working within a local community, even as we are increasingly connected to a more expansive, global and multi-centered context of visual art practice?

- How do we find a balance between what's come before, and the challenges of living and working in the endlessly up-dated, 24/7 present-tense?

These compelling questions are the foundation for a pedagogy that touches every student and engages everyone who participates in the rich cultural ecology of Chicago. The strength of our disciplines—architecture, art, design, history, theater, and music—is magnified and interrelated to produce unexpected and remarkable results.



Judith Russi Kirshner



Judith Russi
Kirshner

Published twice a year, each newsletter highlights select stories in a few of the College's units.

The Spring/Summer 2011 issue focuses on Architecture, Art History, Design, and Gallery 400.

Supporting Independent Visual Art: Gallery 400 hosts the Propeller Fund in Chicago

According to Lorelei Stewart, Director of Gallery 400, the timing of the Propeller Fund is critical: "This is an exciting time in Chicago. Creative people are making their own projects and activities on a range of scales and trajectories. Propeller Fund provides an opportunity to support, recognize, and accelerate this dynamic, independent visual arts activity. We at Gallery 400 are pleased to be partnering with threewalls and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts on Propeller Fund, and look forward to Propeller Fund's role in the arts in Chicago."

In late 2010, the first Propeller Fund grantees were announced at a public celebration, hosted by Lorelei Stewart, at UIC's Art & Design Hall.

Propeller Fund is administered jointly by Gallery 400, UIC, and threewalls. Initial support for the program is provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts as part of its initiative to promote informal and independently organized visual arts activities across the United States.

Since Propeller Fund was initiated to build the small, self-organized operations that constitute a large catalyst for the creative activity and vitality of the Chicago visual art world, support is provided to visual arts projects that are: independent, informal, and self-organized. Artists, curators, and groups residing in Cook County are eligible to apply.

The jurists for the first round of awards, UIC's Dan Peterman, Hannah Feldman, Georgina Valverde, Cleo Wilson, and Propeller Fund representatives, selected 15 winners from over 140 applications. The Propeller Fund awards are given at two levels: five grants at \$6,000 and ten grants at \$2,000.

The goal is to stimulate further independent artistic growth throughout Chicago; to encourage more varied modes of visual arts presentation; to spread the self-organized activities into more diverse areas; to promote the public's interaction with, and public recognition of, such activities; and to spark ambitions beyond current formats.

For more information about 2010 Propeller Fund awardees or to apply for 2011 funding, please visit www.propellerfund.org



Edlis Neeson Foundation Gift

Last year, Chicagoan Stefan Edlis was named one of the world's top collectors by ARTnews. In addition to their reputation as collectors and philanthropists, Edlis, and wife Gael Neeson, are also known as generous supporters of the arts in Chicago and Aspen, Colorado. They have made many significant gifts to leading arts and culture institutions in Chicago, Aspen, and New York. The remarkable Edlis Neeson collection includes works by Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst and Maurizio Cattelan. After meetings with College Visiting Committee member Judith Neisser and Dean Judith Russi Kirshner, the Foundation generously contributed to the College and the School of Art and Design. The gift was designated for the Studio Arts program in the School of Art and Design for recruitment and retention of talented students and will be distributed over the next five years.

"The gift from the Edlis Neeson Foundation is truly transformational," said Dean Kirshner. "It allows us to support our best students and have them continue in the program regardless of financial need." The Foundation's significant multi-year gift has had an immediate and meaningful impact on current students and the Studio Arts program. Nina Barnett, a student in the MFA program and one of the first recipients of the award, said "The award gives me great encouragement and confidence in my work and my time studying at UIC."

The Edlis Neeson Foundation gift strengthens the already high academic standing of the Studio Arts program. "An endorsement of UIC's Studio Arts program from leading arts patrons like Stefan and Gael reinforces the academic strength and artistic merit of the School's training," stated Tony Tasset, Associate Director, School of Art and Design.

Mr. Edlis and Ms. Neeson appreciate UIC's mission of providing a competitive and affordable education to students. The couple also recognize the strength of UIC's studio arts faculty: acclaimed artists with work in private and museum collections and repeated invitations to participate in the Whitney Biennial. Said the couple, "The decision to support UIC's art program was easy knowing that the next generation of artists are being taught by such a remarkable faculty. We were pleased to be able to provide a more level playing field so that talented students from all backgrounds could participate in UIC's strong artistic and academic environment."



Bridging Disciplines and Partnering with Chicago Cultural Institutions

Beginning in the Fall of 2011, the new Master of Arts in Museum and Exhibition Studies program in the College of Architecture and the Arts will emphasize the dynamic social and cultural contexts of today's institutions. Broadly interdisciplinary with a large group of applicants, Museum and Exhibition Studies integrates professional training with the intensive study of the intellectual and practical tasks of exhibition-making and public engagement at museums of art, history, architecture, science, anthropology, and contemporary culture, among others.

Housed in the College's Department of Art History, the innovative program will draw on the great range of disciplines at UIC including anthropology, gender studies, history, and social work. Gallery 400 and the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, both part of the College of Architecture and the Arts, will serve as laboratory spaces for learning and doing, whether preserving traditions of social activism or engaging contemporary artists.

This unique Master's degree program will help build important bridges among many of Chicago's influential art, cultural, and educational institutions and provide close mentoring relationships. Faculty in the program include Hannah Higgins, Peter Hales, Martha Pollak, Lisa Lee, and Lorelei Stewart, as well as experts from Chicago's major museums including the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago History Museum, the Field Museum, and the National Museum of Mexican Art, among others.

Museum and Exhibition Studies will deepen students' understanding of museum missions and civic purposes, forming and maintaining collections, interpreting objects and activities, curating exhibitions, engaging publics, and harnessing new technologies of the intellectual and practical tasks essential to professional careers in diverse positions: directors of institutions, curators, gallery directors, museum educators, and exhibition developers within the rapidly emerging spheres of museums as educational and cultural leaders.

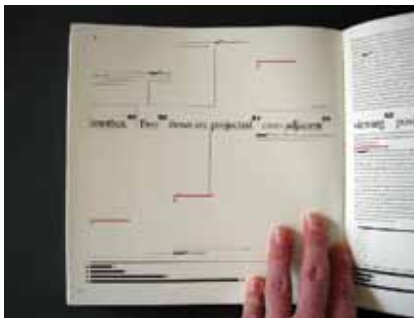
For more information on the Museum and Exhibition Studies program, please visit the Department of Art History at: www.aa.uic.edu

Stefan Edlis and
Gael Neeson

Educating Design Leaders, Makers, and Thinkers

Last year, Dean Judith Russi Kirshner spearheaded plans to emphasize the prominence and excellence of the College by rethinking strengths and blending consonant fields of study. College faculty and staff engaged in vigorous restructuring discussions and determined that the talent of our design faculty and students—as well as the energy about our innovative curriculum—made a compelling case for a distinct School of Design. Marcia Lausen, current Director of the School of Art and Design and co-founder of Studio/lab, will become the first Director of the UIC School of Design and has been central to the planning.

This is an exciting and important time to create a new school of design in Chicago. Design thrives in urban centers and Chicago, always



John Fisher (M.F.A. 2006, Graphic Design),
Reading Machine: A Crypto-typography

famous for its architecture, is also recognized as a center for design innovation. UIC is Chicago's public, urban, research university and capitalizes on Chicago's ideal environment for the designer-citizen.

UIC Design is uniquely positioned as a leader in Interdisciplinary Product Development (IPD) as one of only seven design schools in the country with a program combining Industrial Design, Engineering, and Business—and the only one in Chicago. UIC Design's graduate degree is delivered both in Chicago and in Basel, Switzerland. UIC students have the opportunity to study at the famed Basel School of Design, which has greatly influenced design pedagogy in the United States since the 1960's.

Professor Lausen is assembling an advisory board for the School comprised of distinguished designers from across the country. These experts will advise on curriculum developments established by UIC Design faculty that shift from a singular focus on the "making" of objects to one which incorporates strategic thinking and leadership. Building on the program's renowned commitment to excellence in practice, and addressing the evolving needs of the design industry, we will enhance instruction in New Media Design, Typography, New Product Development, and Design Research.

Through enhanced curriculum, and international and interdisciplinary collaboration, UIC Design will provide the critical forum necessary to amplify talent, perfect skills, and expand the intellect. In doing so, we are convinced our students will graduate as the best trained designers, thinkers, and leaders.

Achieving ambitious goals will only happen through significant internal and external funding. A portion of the resources for the new School of Design will come from the reallocation of funds. The remaining portion will come from

private, philanthropic support. As the State of Illinois currently provides less than 17% of the College budget, we will rely on philanthropic gifts from alumni and friends to support our students and instructional activities.

With your valued advocacy and enthusiasm, we can implement our innovative vision and build our existing strengths to create a preeminent School of Design at UIC.



Michael Serafin (B.F.A. 2008, Industrial Design),
sketch/marker rendering



Matthew Wizinsky (M.F.A. student, Graphic Design),
The Herbaceous Garden, 2010

Outstanding Faculty and Students



Alex Lehnerer, *The Second Sun*, 2010



Mike Gibisser, *The Day of Two Noons*, 2010



Sean Lally, LLC, *Kaohsiung Marina Culture & Pop Music Center* By Weathers

Roberta Feldman, Professor in the School of Architecture, has been awarded the prestigious 2011 Latrobe Prize, a biannual research prize of \$100,000 awarded by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows, which recognizes research that significantly advances the architecture profession.

Along with fellow researchers Bryan Bell, Sergio Palleroni, and David Perkes, Feldman's winning submission proposal, "Public Interest Practices in Architecture" will investigate how global problems like climate change, urban decline, habitat destruction, and health issues, among others, demonstrate the need for more public interest architecture.

Alex Lehnerer, Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture, was featured in Time Out Chicago (2/13/2011 issue) in the article, "The Hole Truth" on the stalled Chicago Spire. Lehnerer and his students beat out more than 150 other entries to win a 2010 competition sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Club, inviting architects and planners to submit ideas for how the hole could be used. Their design, "The Second Sun," envisions the hole as a swimming pool, with the land surrounding it transformed into a beach. The pool is attached to a yellow balloon, which would float up and down, lifting the pool like a rising skyscraper and mirroring the hot air balloon ride at nearby Navy Pier.

Nicole Mitchell, Department of Performing Arts, is the recipient of the JazzIt Award for Top International Jazz Flutist from *JazzIt (Jazz Italy) Magazine*. She is also the first woman president of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM).

Aay Preston Myint, M.F.A. student in the School of Art & Design, has won a prestigious 2011 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant; his multimedia paintings have already been included in gallery exhibitions.

Mike Gibisser, a M.F.A. student in the School of Art & Design, won a celebrated 2010 Princess Grace Foundation Award for his talent and exceptional promise in the area of film. The Princess Grace Foundation supports emerging artists in theatre, dance, and film. The \$25,000 scholarship will help Gibisser complete his film, "The Day of Two Noons." Jennifer Reeder, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Art & Design, says that Mr. Gibisser's films weave together both biography and history in a thoughtful and challenging manner.

Andrew Vogt and Hans Luchs, students in the Department of Performing Arts, were chosen by Jazz Institute of Chicago as two of this year's four "Young Jazz Lions." Now in its fifth year, the program introduces Chicago's exciting top new players in a public performance that, this year, was held on May 13th in Gage Park.

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Professor in the School of Art & Design, was honored by the Hyde Park Art Center at their Spring 2011 Gala for his dedication to advancing the visual arts in Chicago

Sean Lally, Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture, is a winner of the 2011-2012 Rome Prize Competition by the American Academy in Rome for his project, "Gradient Noll." The American Academy in Rome awards the Rome Prize to a select group of artists and scholars, who are then invited to Rome to pursue their work in an atmosphere conducive to intellectual and artistic freedom, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovation. Professor Lally's Rome Prize includes an 11 month research fellowship in Italy.

**Student financial support.
Academic program development.
Learning environment updates.**

These are just a few of the priorities your support and gifts enable the College to achieve. By making a contribution at any level, you become an engaged stakeholder. And that's important. As an alumna/us, you expect the value of your degree to increase over time. And as a friend of the College, you know that the vibrancy of the University of Illinois at Chicago impacts the strength of our community, the relevancy of our ideas, the vision of our leadership, and the health of our city.

State support of the College continues to decline and now accounts for 17% of our total budget. We will rely more heavily on stakeholders such as you to provide the private, philanthropic support which funds critical student scholarships, enhances the student experience, and engages exceptional faculty.

The College offers a competitive academic program which draws students and faculty from Chicago and around the world. Working to provide our students with an outstanding education, we count on you to provide the support that keeps talent here and offers acclaimed faculty as models and mentors.

To make a gift and become a more engaged stakeholder and patron of our future creative leaders, please go to our website www.aa.uic.edu/give or call the College's Advancement Office at **312.355.0480**.

**University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Architecture and the Arts**

303 Jefferson Hall (MC 033)
929 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7038
312.996.2006
www.aa.uic.edu

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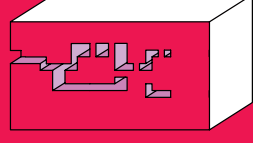
Support the College

To make a gift to the College, please go to our website: www.aa.uic.edu/give or call the Advancement Office at **312.355.0480**. Your gift makes a meaningful difference to our students.

Stay Connected

If you would like to receive the College's monthly e-newsletter, please contact Jane Erb at **312.355.0480** or email: CAAadv@uic.edu.

The e-newsletter spotlights current happenings and events at the College and is a great way to learn about exciting exhibitions, critiques, gallery openings, BFA and MFA shows, performances, lectures, and special events.



Cover Image:
UIC School of Architecture students **Brian Schmidt, Ben Stone, Christopher Johns, Nick Berchtold, Mark Berlinrut, walkway design drawings**, 2011, for Professor Ryan Palider's studio/seminar, "Architecture in a Box"