At the World Economic Forum this year, I chaired a Global Action Committee on Infrastructure and Urban Development, an international team of experts charged with the task of finding new approaches to urban planning.

The challenge is nothing less than urgent. More than half the world’s population currently lives in cities and by 2050 that number will have grown to two-thirds or more. Over the next twenty years, China and India alone will need to build entirely new cities to accommodate 600 million more people. And with more than 1000 megacities—cities with populations of more than ten million—currently financed or under construction in 30 countries, it’s no wonder urbanism is the hottest of topics right now.

Because of our school’s expertise in this area—we have a long history in urbanism, going all the way back to Kevin Lynch—we are increasingly being approached for help in addressing this topic. Our faculty have recently traveled to Moscow, Mexico, Rome and China to consult on urban growth; we have just completed a study for an innovation park in Shanghai; and the President of Mexico has unveiled a massive urban regeneration scheme that was developed by SA+P’s Dennis Frenchman and Carlo Ratti.

The current focus on urbanism provides us all with a catalyst for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. In Davos, our Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to do exactly that for devising bold new models of growth. 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ART AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM
THE DISOBEDIENCE ARCHIVE COMES TO SA+P

The lobby gallery of SA+P’s new Media Lab Complex was the site of an exhibit this spring exploring video works by artists working at the intersection of art and political activism. Founded in 2005, and since exhibited around the world, The Disobedience Archive is an atlas of activist approaches developed by artists and filmmakers after the fall of the Soviet bloc that are currently proliferating on a global scale. Using ‘tactical media’ such as low-cost video and free web access, the DIY techniques offer unprecedented access to those who feel they’ve been damaged by mainstream culture.

The core of the collection focuses on social struggles in Italy, Germany, Argentina, Israel and Palestine, post-9/11 America and other insurrections around the world. But the archive has always been considered a long-term work-in-progress, intended to expand over time, and for this installation it was enlarged to include political and artistic action in Boston. Originally scheduled through February, then extended through April 15, the installation was curated by SA+P’s Gediminas Urbonas, and his partner Nomeda Urbonas, working with critic and curator Marco Scotini, director of the Visual Arts Department at Nuova Accademia de Belle Arti Milano and curator of Milan’s Giani Colombo Archive.

It was developed in tandem with last fall’s lecture series in the Art, Culture and Technology Program—Zones of Emergency: Artistic Interventions—directed by Ute Meta Bauer, then director of the ACT program. That series investigated creative responses to conflict and crisis to explore how artistic interventions can disrupt, subvert or transform existing conditions in critical ways. The exhibit was produced in collaboration with students from two ACT seminars—both taught by Urbonas—that offered students occasion to research, debate and create artworks that examine the notion of disobedience as it relates to history and politics in the Boston area. For this exhibit, the MIT Museum also loaned digital scans of original protest posters from their general collection, documenting actions at MIT during the Vietnam Era. After closing at MIT, The Disobedience Archive is traveling to BildMuseet in Umeå, Sweden.

Alums Bring Turks and Armenians Together for Joint Initiative
Professional Workshops Focus on Environmental Sustainability

In December, two SA+P alumni conducted a workshop in Istanbul that brought together 24 young architects, planners and engineers—half from Armenia, half from Turkey—for a week-long series of lectures, discussions and site visits focused on environmental sustainability. While the primary aim of the workshop was professional development, the organizers hope to create a cross-border network of faculty, students and young professionals that will foster human bonds and enhance understanding between the two estranged countries.

Turkey and Armenia have a long history of painful disagreement—their border has been closed for years and they have no diplomatic relations—but when Turkish native Birgul Colak (PhD ’01, Architecture) and Armenian Alen Amirianan (MCP ’97) re-established their friendship after graduating from MIT, they came up with a promising idea. Amirianan had become a lecturer on sustainable urbanism at the American University of Armenia and Colak was an associate professor of computational design at Istanbul’s Yildiz Technical University.

Tapping the expertise of their Turkish and Armenian faculty colleagues, as well as practitioners in the field, the two set out to create a joint program on energy efficiency and clean energy in urban design and construction. The workshop was so successful that Colak and Amirianan hope to develop a series of such projects bringing students and young professionals together from both countries to work on joint projects in sustainability. Future projects may take place in Armenia, in Turkey, or in other countries.

The new center builds upon the momentum generated by last spring’s Festival of Art, Science and Technology, directed by SA+P’s Tod Machover and featuring architectural installations by our faculty and students. Pictured below, Night of Numbers, a dynamic lighting installation that told the story of MIT’s past with projected numbers and phrases which hold historical significance to the Institute; festival visitors were challenged to identify the meanings.

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Student Team Wins Two Awards in DOE Competition Contest Focused on Energy Efficiency in Buildings

A team of ten MIT students—seven of them from SA+P—won two awards in the first Better Buildings Case Competition sponsored by the US Department of Energy. The competition challenged students to develop practical solutions to increase the energy efficiency of buildings across the country.

Nineteen schools took part in the contest, each assigned two case scenarios to address, and the results—announced at the White House in March by Energy Secretary Steven Chu—revealed that MIT had won both its cases, the only team to do so.

The MIT team won the Most Innovative Proposal Award for a package of tools that the District of Columbia should apply to ensure that the Walter Reed Army Medical Center site will achieve and maintain the District’s energy goals. The team managed energy efficiency upgrades; aligning tenants in a realistic, multiphase project; implementing energy efficiency upgrades; and launching a ‘Go for Green’ program.

The MIT team included (L to R) [Photo: Amna Ansari]
- Christopher Jones, Wesley Look and faculty advisor Harvey Michaels
- Not pictured: Christopher Jones, Wesley Look and faculty advisor Harvey Michaels, all from SA+P
- [Image 29x-1 to 315x155]

Confronting Global Disasters from Afar Creative Responses to Devastation

Since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown in Japan last year, a number of efforts have been undertaken at SA+P to help with reconstruction efforts—part of the MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative to facilitate the study and implementation of disaster-resistant planning.

A model by MArch student Kyle Altman created in Kanda’s spring studio, Scaling New Ground; the studio explored systems for using the ruined railroad line above Minami Sanriku for an alternative mobility system, clustered housing, mixed-use development and green space.

Last summer, a 23-member team of faculty and students in architecture, planning, landscape architecture and engineering used rapid assessment methods adapted from analysis from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, to identify several potential sites for future community centers.

At the end of the fall semester, students of the class Zones of Emergency: Art as Intervention—Creative Responses to Conflict & Crisis gathered at The Cube in the Media Lab to present their concepts for gifts to be sent to Minami Sanriku, a village in Japan devastated by the earthquake and the tsunami that followed last year.

Ninety-five percent of Minami Sanriku’s buildings were leveled by the disaster, with about half the town’s residents missing, but the exhibition created an atmosphere in stark contrast to the damage. Costumes, toys and balloons filled the space, and the sounds of children enjoying themselves.

The class—offered by the Art, Culture and Technology program—created two projects to bestow as gifts to the people of Minami Sanriku. Attempting to answer the question How do we confront and address such global disasters from afar, the students tried to delve into a deeper understanding of the nature of global disasters and to offer creative responses.

Realizing their roles as outsiders and how little they could actually do, the students sought to find ways to make their gifts relevant and purposeful to the people of Minami Sanriku, trying to promote the rebuilding of community by generating a dialogue between the tragedy and the future of the village. (See photos.)

Students and representatives from the class visited Minami Sanriku during spring break in March to present the gifts.

Photo: Darren R. Bennett

THE MIT JAPAN 3/11 INITIATIVE
A SERIES OF FOCUSED EFFORTS IN DISASTER RESILIENCY

Since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown in Japan last year, a number of efforts have been undertaken at SA+P to help with reconstruction efforts—part of the MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative to facilitate the study and implementation of disaster-resistant planning.

So far, the Initiative has been focused primarily on the short- and long-term needs of Minami Sanriku, a hilly coastal town that was one of the hardest hit by the disaster. Some 6000 survivors have been placed in temporary housing but without a central place to gather, overcoming their isolation and depression is difficult. Until the refugees are relocated, community centers are urgently needed to facilitate social interaction.

Last summer, a team of students and faculty visited Minami Sanriku to document the wide-spread damage and identify reconstruction opportunities. Following the intensive two-and-a-half-day site mapping, the group took part in a three-week workshop during which they developed schematic designs.

Last fall, summer workshop leader Shun Kanda returned to build the first of the centers, working with a team that included several MArch alums and design lecturer Joel Lamere. Built in an alley between two rows of housing—admittedly humble, but a good start—the center provides a gathering space for the site’s 630 residents.

Meanwhile, in a related effort last fall, Jim Wescoat—Kanda’s co-leader in the summer workshop—conducted his annual seminar on disaster resilient design, originally conceived during the period of the Haiti earthquake, BP oil spill and Indus River flooding and expanded this time to include Japan.

In the spring, Kanda conducted another studio focused on the railroad line that lies between the wasted lowland of Minami Sanriku and the higher ground that has been designated for rebuilding. That studio was coordinated with a spring workshop, taught by Kent Larson and Ryan Chin of the Media Lab, focused on the development of new resilient cities that could be scaled to other towns in India, China and Latin America. Another workshop, taught by Jepgan Vincent de Paul in the Art, Culture + Technology Program, continued last fall’s exploration of creative response to conflict and crisis. (See story on preceding page.)

In late spring, Kanda returned to Japan to build two more community centers on lots donated by private owners near temporary housing sites. And this summer, he will offer his annual four-week Japan Design Workshop, in which he hopes to continue to build on the work begun in the spring.

Design workshops, symposia and community work will continue in the fall and the spring of 2013, and beyond, to produce alternative visions for resettlement and innovative models for the building of new communities.

Photo: Christopher Jones
Finding one’s way around a large unfamiliar building can sometimes present a major challenge, but researchers at the Media Lab have come up with a pair of new approaches to solving wayfinding problems.

**Guiding Light**, an augmented reality app, literally points people in the right direction. The system consists of a badge with magnetic sensors and a software app that can project arrows onto the floor to guide people to their destination, making use of a projector built into their smartphone.

Like a compass, the system relies on fluctuations in magnetic fields—in this case created by the presence of steel in the building’s walls and floors—and like a compass the arrows change direction as the badge senses shifts in orientation. By projecting arrows onto the floor, the system precludes the need constantly to refer to a map; and if visitors point their phone at a door, the phone could project the occupant’s name, job title and photo.

The other project, currently deployed in the Lab’s new building, is more ambitious and complex. The Glass Infrastructure is a place-based information system that uses 30 touch-screens strategically placed throughout the complex to help people not only find their way but also to learn about the research being pursued in the Lab.

Currently, at major Lab events, invited guests are issued badges with RFID inlays at a kiosk near the Lab’s entrance. They then create personal profiles that include their name and company, their tag ID and headshots taken by a camera built into the kiosk; they also create a login name and a password for use once the visit is over.

As they explore the building, they can approach any of the touch screens and call up a map to help them find a specific research group or to learn about any of the more than 350 research projects currently underway. But if they approach a touch screen while wearing their RFID badge, the screen will pick up their tag ID, save whatever information they call up on the screen and associate it with their profile. At the end of their visit, then, a digital history has been made showing where they went and what information they accessed through the screens.

After leaving the lab, they can access these digital bread crumbs remotely by logging in to the Lab’s website, using the login name and password they set up at the kiosk, to learn more about the research. And on subsequent visits, assuming they’re wearing their RFID tags, any interactions they have will be added to their existing data.

Based on their digital profile, the system can also make suggestions about whom they might want to meet and where those people might be found. And if more than one person with a badge stands in front of a monitor, the names and photos of all badge-holders will be displayed on the screen along with information about what research they’ve expressed interest in, in hopes of getting people talking amongst themselves about the work they’ve encountered.

MORE: SAPP.MIT.EDU/PLAN
ARCHITECTS ON PARADE

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF S.A.P.'S ARCHITECTURE FACULTY HAVE RECEIVED
DISTINGUISHED RECOGNITION LATELY.

Department head Nader Tehrani was honored by AIA/NY with a 2012 Design Award for Untitled 3, a project that continues the work of his previous creative projects. Situated in an oval green and surrounded by historic Chelsea Piers Park, adjacent to the Hudson waterfront, Untitled 3 explores the landscape, extending natural flora over the roof, and continues to leverage the sloping terrain for producing sustainable systems.

Tehrani was also represented in Kevinviz's Georgia Design Biennale last fall with Georgia Girl Pool, an installation situated on a small road bordered by a row of trees, intended to bridge the space between ground and sky, the pavilion consists of a precisely geometric, freeform framework with randomly intersecting steel trusses, creating a folding mass that is “unwrapped” within the logic of its own structure.

Tehrani and Minjae Youn were both awarded top prizes in the 2012 Architecture Review: AIA’s Journal of the AIA, the magazine of the AIA. The jury chose four winners in six categories, representing some of the best work that American architects completed in 2011 and shared last year.

Tehrani won the award in the Open category for the Georgia Institute of Technology’s Human Research Building in Atlanta, the most recent in a growing string of prizes for that project. The $6.5 million restoration and rehabilitation project was designed to bring structures to be built as public pathways across the trench of the Big Dig excavation.

With her husband/partner Eric Höweler, Youn was one of six prizewinners in the Bond category for the SkyCzar Exhibition Hall at the International Design Center, Heritage Exposition in Chengdu, China. The 47,000-square-foot building, located over 36 feet to 49 feet tall, and pushes and pulls to create a varied perimeter that reflects the site’s non-orthogonal boundaries. Winner — Eric Höweler Architects also recently marked the opening of BSA Space, new home to the Boston Society of Architects and BSA’s hosting cultural initiatives, exhibitions and design. Situated on Boston’s waterfront, the 13,000-square-foot facility both exhibits and other programs that foster exchange between design and architecture, the profession and the public, and encourage collaboration across the city and the world.

The $2.2 million facility showcases the inner workings of the BSA in the public realm, through glass walls, in addition to watching the staff at work, visitors can wander through the galleries exploring exhibits on various aspects of design while enjoying the view out towards the Financial District and the Seaport.

Joel Lamere/Studio Lamere and the Boston Market Pavilion by Rawn Bond were honored in the Bond category for the SkyCzar Exhibition Hall at the International Design Center. The Boston Market Pavilion by Rawn Bond is one of the winners in a competition sponsored by the International BauAustellung that was intended to introduce to the public the work of architects from different fields of study.

Prizes, Commissions, Exhibits, Awards

(1) Nader Tehrani’s Untitled 3 design proposal for two vacation homes for two brothers and their families. (Photo: Jonathan Hillyer)

(2) The signature piece of Minjae Youn's Untitled 3 project is a photovoltaic facade that transforms the BSA to the public face from the street. (Photo: Jonathan Hillyer)

(3) The interior space makes it through the cusps, Minjae Youn’s BSA Exhibition Hall is a sort of kaleidoscope, inhabitable space that can be read from different ground levels. (Photo: Jonathan Lioy)

(4) Boston’s Banner Prize provides funded scholarship awards over three years, with the chance for students to be part of a full-time faculty teaching position. (Photo: Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)

(5) The site plan of Sheila Kennedy’s Untitled 3 project for the BSA exhibits a high-visibility entrance to the BSA, an endeavor intended to introduce to the public faces of over 200 architects in Boston. (Photo: Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)

(6) Sheila Kennedy’s Untitled 3 exhibition is a distinctive, compact mutually-reinforcing design that provides an entry to the city, the gallery and the building. (Photo: Jonathan Hillyer)

(7) The exhibition opens with a presentation of Joel Lamere’s celebration of traditional Chinese architecture, design and the arts in his proposal for two vacation homes for two brothers and their families. (Photo: Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)

(8) The BSA Exhibition Hall is a proposal for expanding coastal cities; and three recent projects that contributed to Boston’s expanding cultural system, including the historic Cambridge Public Library, to submit William Rawn (Sheila Kennedy’s design proposal for two vacation homes for two brothers and their families). (Photo: Courtesy William Rawn)

(9) Architectural students competition organized to build an exposition site that would result in 30 hectares of built living, work and leisure space in Hamburg, Germany; the proposal was included in a visionary proposal created with Michael Vanderbyl—a proposal for three temporary high-bay sheds with a suspended overhead track, providing warmth and light and featuring roof-top gardens and green roofs, a state-of-the-art art classroom and a 350-seat auditorium. (Photo: Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)

(10) Beneath the pavilion's ceiling, a Smart Curtain travels along an overhead track, enabling panoramic and dynamic views through the glass walls. (Photo: Jonathan Hillyer, Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)

(11) architectural competition, which challenged the generation of new work, with competition entries that were judged on the basis of their conceptual and academic responsiveness. (Photo: Courtesy William O’Brien Jr.)
SA+P AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

A SCORE OF PRESENTATIONS REFLECTING REMARKABLE REACH AND DIVERSITY

This year’s World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, featured five professors from SA+P—nearly half of MIT’s entire contingent of twelve academics—delivering presentations that spanned an extraordinary range of topics, illustrating the remarkable reach and diversity of our faculty, a scope of particular note considering that SA+P is the smallest of MIT’s fifty-five departments.

The Future of Urban Development. Most prominently at the Forum, Dean Aâché Naudé Santos announced a long-term, cross-industry effort to offer new urban development models and, to launch the project, she distributed a compilation of six case studies in which a community overcame seemingly intransigent challenges. Titled Urban Anthologies: Learning from Our Cities, the booklet was coordinated and produced by the Senseable City Lab, a research center directed by SA+P’s Carlo Ratti. (You can download a PDF at senseable.mit.edu/wef.) The ultimate aim is to gather a community of urban scientists—both academic and practitioners—and produce a resource for cities and citizens around the world.

The Potential of Social Media to Transform Society. The Media Lab’s Sandy Pentland conducted a session on how science and the idea of Natural Law can help us rethink society to be more sustainable, more fair and more efficient. While our culture is currently based on a model of human nature that emphasizes competition, he said, scientific evidence suggests that pre-agricultural societies—based on private exchanges within trusted social networks—were both egalitarian and efficient. As we increasingly use digital social networks to reinvigorate our society, Pentland asserted, we have the chance to shape these new technologies around a different version of human nature. By encouraging interactions within trusted relationships, rather than nameless markets, we can build a system that is more stable and fair than today’s market-based systems.

The Future of Digital Fabrication. Neil Gershenfeld, director of the Center for Bits and Atoms, made one of his famous Fab Labs available at Davos this year, providing meeting participants with a hands-on introduction to personal fabrication. A spinoff from CBA’s research on digital fabrication—ultimately aimed at developing molecular assemblers that can make almost anything—Fab Labs have spread around the globe, providing widespread access to modern means for invention. At the Davos Fab Lab, participants were offered daily tutorials on vinyl cutting, laser cutting, 3D scanning, 3D modeling, prototyping, molding and casting, electronics production and microcontroller programming. Following the Forum, the lab was donated to a facility for children of migrant salt pan workers in Kutch, Gujarat, India.

REINVENTING PLANNED CITIES

RETHINKING 50’S ERA ‘NEW TOWNS’

Students from SA+P traveled to Israel in January for a ten-day collaborative workshop with Tel Aviv University’s Laboratory for Contemporary Urban Design (TAU LCUD).

The workshop was one part of a semester-long studio, under the direction of SA+P’s Eran Ben-Joseph and TAU’s Talia Hatuka, focusing on Kiryat Gat, a mid-sized town in the south of Israel built in the 1950s. The city was chosen as a “laboratory” for re-designing outmoded planned towns of that era with the aim of creating new planning models that could reshape the future of similar cities around the world.

Like most of the post-war New Towns, the city followed a zoning model of the era that made a clear distinction between residential and industrial/commercial areas, an arrangement that is out of step with a 21st century lifestyle in which people work, live and spend their leisure time in the same environment.

To tackle the design and planning challenges of the city, the team of students focused on four themes—the ‘mobile city’, which looked at transport and accessibility; the ‘mediated city’, dealing with technological infrastructure; the ‘compact city’, which reconsidered the use of urban space and population growth; and the ‘natural city’, which integrated environmental features into the urban landscape.

The industrial core is central to Kiryat Gat’s future growth. It presents a unique development opportunity with its diverse collection of factories, workshops, warehouses and office buildings. Thanks to national government incentives, international firms such as Intel and HP have recently built production facilities there, forming the beginnings of a new high tech cluster.

While the area still resembles the industrial parks of yesteryear, with isolated campuses and few publicly accessible amenities, cleaner manufacturing processes have opened the door for a new model of industrial development. In a future Kiryat Gat, housing, retail and research facilities could be introduced into industrial settings to create innovation clusters with a high degree of knowledge spillover.

Innovation, of course, can happen in a lab or a factory floor but it multiplies when ideas flow between both settings. In the past, these facilities have been situated in disparate locales, due to land costs or siting limitations, but Kiryat Gat has an opportunity to challenge this convention by becoming the first to co-locate housing, manufacturing and R&D.

Based on smart industries, improved transportation, new forms of housing and the use of the city’s natural surroundings, the team’s action plan is designed to help Kiryat Gat emerge as a new, technologically-advanced planned city—a prototype that could be applied to similar communities around the world.
With the help of its generous alumni, the MIT Center for Real Estate and the Master of Science in Real Estate Program (MSRED) settled into their new location this spring overlooking Mass Ave in the heart of the School of Architecture + Planning.

The new facilities—about 8500 square feet on the third floor of Building 9—put the Center in closer proximity to the departments of architecture and of urban studies and planning, and to SA+P's dean's office, helping to further the integration of the MSRED program with graduate education in architecture, city and regional planning, engineering, transportation and logistics, and the Sloan School of Management.

The new center includes a 1200 sf state-of-the-art lecture hall, three meeting rooms, a conference room, a spacious reception area, seven offices (with views!) and a 500 sf student lounge with lunch facilities and lockers that offers an outlook on Mass Ave with a glimpse of the river and Boston beyond.

To help fund the relocation, the Center received a generous gift of $1M from MIT alumnus Hamid Moghadam ('77, SM'78), a cornerstone pledge that led to many more gifts from alumni of the Center's MSRED program, ultimately exceeding the matching challenge.

Architects for the space were Mimi Love, Chris Genter (SMArchS'98) and Silvia Illia-Sheldahl of Utile, Inc., of Boston; fundraising efforts were spearheaded by former Managing Director Marion Cunningham and Center Chairman Tony Ciochetti; design and construction was overseen by MSRED Lecturer Peter Roth (MArch/MSRED'85).

Since its founding in 1983, the Center has partnered with organizations in every sector of the global real estate industry; the new reception area provides a gracious welcome to them and to all the Center's visitors.
The annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) was convened at MIT this spring, culminating a series of events associated with the organization’s centennial celebration.

The annual meeting is the largest architectural education conference in the world, featuring over 100 scholarly presentations, keynote and invited sessions, and drawing approximately 500 attendees.

Co-chaired by SA+P’s Mark Goulthorpe, associate professor of architecture and founder of DECOi at MIT, an architectural/design practice, and Amy Murphy, associate professor and vice dean at USC’s School of Architecture, the conference examined the history of the discipline since its inception and speculated on its future, especially in terms of the impact of digital technology.

Keynote addresses, panel sessions and papers addressed all areas of architectural discipline—historical, theoretical, technical, environmental, professional, cultural, et al.—exploring what new role(s) the architect might play in this period of radical technological change.


Edited by Joan Ockman, educator, historian, writer and editor, Architecture School opens with six chronological essays, each devoted to a major period of development from pre-1860 to the present. This overview is followed by a ‘lexicon’ containing shorter articles on more than two dozen topics that have figured centrally in the history of architecture education. The book is a unique history spanning almost three hundred years but the first formal program was established until 1865, at MIT.

In honor of Taylor’s achievements, “vividly conveyed” in Ellen Weiss’ Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture & Tuskegee: Weaving the Story of the Tuskegee campus with an examination of Taylor’s pedagogy and the study of Taylor’s work…. Weiss deftly interweaves the story of the Tuskegee campus with a focus on Taylor’s students and their work.

According to Gary Van Zante, Curator of MIT’s Architecture Education Center, “Weiss’s elegantly written book is a lucid introduction to Taylor’s work….” Weiss deftly interweaves the story of the Tuskegee campus with an examination of Taylor’s pedagogy and the plight of black architects in the early twentieth century.

The book also considers such issues as architectural education for African Americans at the turn of the twentieth century, the white donors who funded Tuskegee’s buildings, other Tuskegee architects and Taylor’s buildings elsewhere. Individual narratives of Taylor’s Tuskegee Indus trial campus are found in the volume.

Architecture alumus Robert R. Taylor (1892), the nation’s first professionally-trained African American architect and the first African-American graduate of MIT, is the subject of an important new monograph from New South Books, released in January, Research and written by architectural historian Ellen Weiss, Professor Emerita at Tulane University’s School of Architecture and Planning, Robert R. Taylor and Tuskegee interweaves Taylor’s life with his life’s work—the campus of Booker T. Washington’s Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama.

Richly illustrated, with a foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the book tells the story of how a black boy born in North Carolina shortly after the Civil War earned a professional architecture degree at MIT, then used his design and administrative skills to further Booker T. Washington’s agenda of community solidarity, racial pride and progress.

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According to Gary Van Zante, Curator of Architecture and Design at the MIT Museum, “Weiss’s elegantly written book is a lucid study of Taylor’s work….” Weiss deftly interweaves the story of the Tuskegee campus with an examination of Taylor’s pedagogy and the plight of black architects in the early twentieth century.

Richard K. Dozier, Dean of Tuskegee’s Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture & Construction Science, says that Weiss has painstakingly developed a long-overdue and well-deserved scholarly treatment of a truly African American architectural pioneer. Weiss provides a wealth of little-known factual information about Taylor and a scholarly historical analysis of his many contributions to architectural education and professional practice. Weiss also wrote frequently for general interest publications such as The New York Times, The Nation, Dissent, Boston Review and Technology Review. In 2002, she was a co-winner of Tufts University’s Lowentheil Prize in recognition of important contributions to economic theory that “support just and sustainable societies.”

Alice H. Amsden, the Barton L. Weller Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, died suddenly on March 15 at her home in Cambridge. She was 68.

A prolific scholar, Amsden wrote extensively about the process of industrialization in emerging economies, especially in Asia. Her work frequently emphasized the importance of the state as a creator of economic growth, and challenged the idea that globalization had produced generally uniform conditions in which emerging economies could find a one-size-fits-all path to prosperity.

“She will be sorely missed,” said Amy Glasmeier, head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. “Upon hearing the news, one student said to me, ‘she was a titan’ in the field of development. While others took the conventional way, Alice took another path. She was fearless. By any measure, Alice was one of the most, if not the most, accomplished heterodox economists in the world.”

Amsden wrote or co-authored seven books, and dozens of journal articles, essays and chapters in edited volumes. One of her best-known books was The Rise of ‘The Rest’: Challenges to the West from Late Industrial Economies, published by Oxford University Press in 2001. In it, she examined the way Asian countries such as South Korea and Taiwan had helped produce growth through state-promoted industrialization. By contrast, Amsden observed, some Latin American countries had accommodate a greater degree of overseas investment, leading more economic decisions in the hands of multinational firms, not state actors.

Amsden was born in New York City, received her undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1965, and her PhD from the Department of Economics at MIT in 1971. She began her career as an economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and before joining MIT in 1994, taught at the University of California at Los Angeles, Barnard College, Harvard Business School, and The New School. At MIT, she held the Ellen Swallow Richards Institute Chair from 1994 until 1999, when she was named the Weller Professor.

In addition to her many academic publications, Amsden also wrote frequently for general interest publications such as The New York Times, The Nation, Dissent, Boston Review and Technology Review. In 2002, she was a co-winner of Tufts University’s Lowentheil Prize in recognition of important contributions to economic theory that "support just and sustainable societies."

Lois Craig, 1929–2012
A Trusted and Valued Advisor and Colleague

Lois Craig, Associate Dean of SA+P in the 1980s and early 90s, died March 23 in Chicago after a long illness. She was 82.

A trusted and valued advisor to many architect and urban designer students and graduates during her years at MIT, Craig was highly regarded for her intellectual contributions to her field and her understanding of administrative issues, as well as for her wisdom, humanity and grace.

In nominating her to the AIA in 1989, the Boston Society of Architects said that Craig had made ‘an unusually comprehensive contribution to our profession, to the art and science of architecture and to the public.' Before coming to MIT in 1978, Craig was director of the Federal Architecture Project at the National Endowment for the Arts, the US government’s effort to improve federal building programs. In that pioneering role she contributed to the development of new designer-selection procedures, new legislation governing public building and the first comprehensive history of federal government architecture. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics and National Design—developed with the staff of the Federal Architecture Project—was published by the MIT Press in 1978. Craig wrote frequently for professional journals on employment and housing issues, and on architecture and urban design, and served as advisor on a range of design projects and programs. As honorary member of the AIA, she received a NEA Design Achievement Award in 1988 for her contributions to the Massachusetts Designer’s Awards Program.
DATEBOOK
SUMMER 2012

THROUGH AUGUST 6

THROUGH JUNE 11—JULY 20
Professional Development Institute, MIT Center for Real Estate. A series of six short courses for real estate professionals looking to situate themselves on the leading edge of the profession. MIT Campus, Cambridge.

THROUGH JULY 29
The Future Archive. Historical material from SA+P’s Center for Advanced Visual Studies, including recent creative efforts demonstrating how artists, designers and architects are responding to that groundbreaking oeuvre in their current work. Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.), Berlin.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2
HearSay House. A deconstruction of the historic meeting between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986; conceived by professor Gediminas Urbonas and his partner Nomeda Urbonas, the project focuses on the idea of false neutrality and Iceland’s role in ending the Cold War. At several locations including the Reykjavik Art Museum and Höfði House, Reykjavik.

Ongoing
The MoMA Media Lounge. A modular, flexible structure designed by Renée Green, acting director of SA+P’s Program in Art, Culture and Technology, to present the Museum’s extensive collection of video- and audio-based works—the first public platform of its kind in a New York museum. Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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(Cover) Detail of spiral stair from Nader Tehrani’s award-winning Himan Research Building at the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture. (Photo: Jonathan Hillyer)