As we begin our new school year in Cambridge this fall, we are also embarking upon a new adventure in Singapore, with the inauguration of the recently-formed Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

Conceived in 2009 as a collaboration between MIT and the government of Singapore, SUTD is perhaps the first university in the world to focus specifically on design as a way to address the challenges of the future, and from the start SA+P has been deeply involved in designing its architecture program.

Our faculty have created more than a dozen courses for the curriculum, both graduate and undergraduate, and many of them will be going to Singapore to teach those courses, joining one of our recent alums, Andres Svetsuk, who is a resident member of the faculty there.

The research component of the program, focused on three ‘grand challenges’—the sustainable built environment, design for the developing world and devices for better living—will be co-directed by John Fernandez, director of SA+P’s Building Technology Program.

In combination with our part in MIT’s new edX program—providing interactive education online and conducting research on how students learn—we believe the SUTD experience offers us the opportunity to conduct a fundamental rethinking of how we educate leaders for the future.

It makes for a very rich brew of possibilities in the air here, these days. Stay tuned for more news as these programs develop.
THE HEAT IS ON
RECENT RESEARCH SUGGESTS NEW APPROACHES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Recent research from S+P’s Senseable City Lab, published in the April issue of Energy and Buildings, has generated results that could help designers and managers optimize energy usage in their buildings, potentially saving as much as $100K per year per building.

In order to reduce the amount of energy consumed, of course, a first step is to understand how energy is currently used, and the widespread deployment of information and communication technology now provides new means of doing that through continuous monitoring.

Because of its unique network of more than 100,000 sensors, tracking the functioning of its building automation systems, the MIT campus provides a perfect setting for such monitoring. Through its extensive WiFi network, it is possible to survey human occupancy at the scale of the room, the building or campus-wide.

S+P researchers have just released the first systematic survey of cities’ efforts around the globe to adapt to climate change, revealing that while numerous US cities are taking up the challenge, the country as a whole is lagging behind.

Many cities that are most actively preparing are not necessarily the biggest or wealthiest but rather places where they regard the climate as an active, growing threat. The study reveals, for instance, that 95% of cities surveyed in Latin America have initiated planning for climate impacts, compared to only 59% in the United States.

According to S+P’s Joanna Carmin, lead author of the survey’s report, one reason US cities are lagging in this area is that climate change is a more politically contentious issue here. While the US is embroiled in arguments over the cause of climate change, many other countries take it as a given and are able to move forward with adaptation, often at the local level.

Of the 468 cities worldwide that took part in the survey, 79% have seen changes in temperature, rainfall, sea level or other phenomena attributable to climate change; 88% are pursuing plans for adapting to climate change; and 19% have completed a formal assessment of global warming’s impact.

Even in many places where there is no explicit support for adaptation, local governments are developing plans and taking action, integrating their adaptation efforts into existing departmental responsibilities; because some of the potential effects of climate change — such as storms, flooding and deadly heat waves — are hazards they already grapple with, there is no need to create a new entity to address them.

Researchers at S+P and the Technical University of Lisbon (IST) have produced a richly detailed interactive tool for exploring material and energy use in urban environments. Combining statistical methods with spatial analysis to analyze resource use, the web-based map allows people to visualize energy and construction material in specific neighborhoods in more than 40 American cities.

Traditionally, urban planning has focused on identifying questions about the formation and functioning of cities, without in-depth understanding of the spatial patterns related to urban material and energy use. By presenting data at this level of granularity, the new tool attempts to address this knowledge gap and to encourage the public release of such data to help determine effective intervention points for designers and policymakers.

A user can explore the map at urbanlab.org by typing in the name of a city then zooming into any local area, comparing one area to another in terms of infrastructure material density, population density (by household or by person) and energy usage (both in terms of electricity and transportation).

In the future the tool could be used to quantify the effects of planning proposals such as changes to zoning laws in a given area, for instance, or to demonstrate the savings that could be achieved by neighborhoods that meet LEED development standards. In time, the researchers hope to provide this type of analysis for cities around the world.

The Neighborhood Visualizer was created by PhD candidate David Quinn of the Urban Metabolism Group in S+P’s Building Technology Program, in collaboration with PhD candidate Daniel Wiesmann at IST. (Lightning Photo: NOAA Photo Library; DAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory; Photograph: C. Clark)
INSPRIED IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD

SA+P STUDENTS WIN THOUSANDS IN GRANTS FOR BUSINESS START-UPS

More than a dozen students from SA+P were members of winning teams this year in a series of competitions awarding grants for start-up enterprises, mostly aimed at addressing challenges in the developing world. Below, a brief look at their winning ideas:

**Essemart** Ninety percent of annual retail spending in India takes place in small, low-margin retail shops that don't sell ‘essential technologies’—such as bicycle-powered machines, solar cookers and water filters—because they don’t know about them, where to find them or how to service them; Essemart aims to amplify demand through a paper and mobile catalogue and marketing campaigns, as well as to supply the technologies and facilitate manufacturers’ warranties.

**Peddl** A proposed alternative to Craigslist, Peddl is an app for buying and selling goods and services online. Like Craigslist, the application emphasizes local goods but with the added bonus of flagging listings close to a user’s location. The user-friendly interface allows a customer to indicate interest in a listing, contact a buyer, ask for a lower price or post a listing.

**inSight** A proposal to provide a fast, portable, inexpensive screening tool for diabetic retinopathy. Over two million people around the world have lost their sight from diabetic retinopathy and according to the World Health Organization, early treatment can reduce the chance of vision loss by more than 90%. The new tool can quickly photograph the retina to detect retinopathy without the need for a trained professional.

**OpenIR** When disaster strikes, the most important element to saving lives is information such as water depths, spread of oil, fault lines, burn scars and elevation; much of this information is publicly available as infrared satellite data but with today’s technology the data is difficult to obtain and even more difficult to interpret. OpenIR will develop a web application to open the world of satellite data to crisis responders, citizen journalists, indigenous groups and more.

**Fula&Style** Because most countries in West Africa do not have local manufacturers that produce at a large enough scale to be able to drive down costs and retail prices, workers’ options are limited to custom-made clothing from tailors—a long and inconvenient process. Fula&Style will produce apparel kits that will let people try on loosely stitched clothing then take the kit to a tailor who will finish sewing the garment, reducing the tailoring process to 1–2 days.

**Skadar Retreat** A proposal to develop an eco-resort in Skadar Lake National Park, on the border between Montenegro and Albania. Construction of the resort and subsequent tourism revenue will improve the economic well-being of local villages that have been deserted due to urban migration while simultaneously providing an example of cultural exchange and collaboration in the divided Balkan region.

**Mumbai Biogas Dissemination** A proposal to assist women waste pickers in India with the development and franchising of small biogas businesses. Institutions in Mumbai produce large amounts of organic waste that can be converted into fertilizer or methane for use as cooking fuel or for conversion to electricity. Using existing relationships and infrastructure, the installation, operation and maintenance of these new biogas systems will be linked to the waste pickers’ cooperative to secure sustainable jobs.

**Takachar** A proposal to convert household organic waste in Kenya into charcoal, a common fuel in the developing world. Takachar will implement a pilot project to increase the income of local waste-sorting youth groups by 46%. At the same time, they will collaborate with local community partners to engage in user experience surveys to market and distribute their eco-briquettes locally.

**SasaAfrica** A proposal to promote distributed global trade for women in under-served communities through a peer-to-peer marketplace using mobile phones, mobile money transfers and delivery services. Focused on emerging markets, SasaAfrica will connect enterprise women of the developing world to global e-commerce, even if they do not have access to the Internet, a computer or a bank account, reaching the most remote communities of entrepreneurs.

MUCH MORE: SA+P.MIT.EDU/PLAN
OVER THE PAST YEAR, SA-HIRED SIX NEW PROFESSORS IN ARCHITECTURE, ART AND MEDIA, PART OF A FACULTY TRANSITION OF UNPRECEDENTED SCALE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN MORE THAN TWENTY NEW FACES HERE, NEARLY 10% OF OUR FACULTY. WE HEREBY INTRODUCE: FIVE MORE—TWO IN ARCHITECTURE, THREE IN PLANNING—ALL OF WHOM WILL JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO EACH:

(A) Anton Garcia-Abril Professor of Art

Regarded by some as among the most brilliant and influential architectural critics and historians of his generation, Garcia-Abril has a growing international reputation for outstanding work with public and private patronage projects that test and challenge norms of materiality, architectural engineering and construction space. His several projects for the Hemeroscopium house in Madrid (2005) and the SAGA offices in Santiago de Compostela (2007), for example, illustrate his vision for deftly assembling concrete precast components or massive stone blocks to create architectures that challenge contemporary conventions about composition, assembly and pre-fabrication. His works and achievements have been recognized by multiple awards on national and international levels. From 2006–2012, he was an associate professor at the Polytechnic University of Madrid (ETSAM-UPM). He is president and researcher with Public Space Foundation and artistic director with Ensemble Studio. He is also the architect of the El Calafate grotto in the garden of Baltimore’s Evergreen Museum, acting as a display of spatial information about contemporary and pre-fabricated spatial interpretations to produce images. Since 2005, he has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Pennsylvania and co-founder of Spatial Information Design Lab, a think-and-action tank specializing in the visual display of spatial information about contemporary and historical events. The lab’s work has been widely exhibited and written about and is currently part of MoMA’s permanent collection. In 2012, Williams received a Game Change Award from the American Institute of Architecture and in 2011 she was named one of 25 Top Thinkers in Urban Planning and Technology by Planetizen. She holds a BA in international relations and political science (magna cum laude, 1998) and an MA in international relations and political science (2005) with a certificate in urban design (2005). She was named one of 25 Top Thinkers in Urban Planning and Technology by Planetizen. She holds a BA in history and geography from Clark University (1997) and an MPP from MIT (2001) with a certificate in urban design (2001). She was named one of 25 Top Thinkers in Urban Planning and Technology by Planetizen. She holds a BA in history and geography from Clark University (1997) and an MPP from MIT (2001) with a certificate in urban design (2001).}

(B) Joel Lamere Assistant Professor of Architecture

Williams’ design research investigates the relationships between geometry, digital fabrication and construction—how to model it, how to fabricate it and how to walk it. He has been teaching core courses in architectural geometry, design and representation at MIT since 2005. Previously he taught design and research studios at Northeastern University and during summer breaks he teaches gifted high-school students in MIT’s Undergraduate Intensives in Engineering and Science. In 2009, he introduced 25 students to the program: another class in architecture.

A founding partner of G+H, Guidestones design, he has received numerous honors for his work on the Rockefeller Foundation’s Urban Land Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation and the Venice Biennale 2012. Lamere holds a BA in philosophy from Boston University (magnum cum laude, 1998) and an MArch from Harvard (2003).

(C) Sarah Williams Assistant Professor of Urban Studies and Planning

Professor Williams’ work on mapping visual data visualization into policy tools and prototyping technological experiments in housing, land use and census data, GIS information, maps, high- and low-satellite imagery, analytics graphics, photographs and drawings, along with iterations and qualitative interpretations to produce images. Since 2005, she has been an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University and co-founder of Spatial Information Design Lab, a think-and-action tank specializing in the visual display of spatial information about contemporary and historical events. The lab’s work has been widely exhibited and written about and is currently part of MoMA’s permanent collection. In 2012, Williams received a Game Change Award from the American Institute of Architecture and in 2011 she was named one of 25 Top Thinkers in Urban Planning and Technology by Planetizen. She holds a BA in history and geography from Clark University (1997) and an MPP from MIT (2001) with a certificate in urban design (2001).
Brandon Clifford Appointed to Belluschi Lectureship
A Young Practitioner/Scholar Researching Past Methods of Making

Brandon Clifford has been appointed first holder of the Belluschi Lectureship at Sa+P’s Department of Architecture, a new three-year teaching and research post named for Pietro Belluschi, Dean of the School from 1957 to 1965, in recognition of the generous endowment of young practitioners and scholars.

Clifford is the founder of The Modulbau Movement in architecture, a rejection of the assumptions that architecture is dedicated to permanence and stability in favor of a practice emphasizing variable processes and structures that respond to site-specific forces. He is also co-founder, with Don McCreary, of Matter Design, a collaborative studio committed to experimenting and researching at a variety of scales including, importantly, the translation of past means and traditional methods of making into contemporary digital processes.

In May, Clifford’s Alumnae I.V. Pridham ‘42 was presented with the fourth annual Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts as a former member of Stato Militare Civile al Ministero degli Affari Esteri. The award was established in 2008 to honor the foundation’s founders, Louise Annenberg, and her husband Walter. It recognizes Americans who have demonstrated a commitment to the arts and who exhibit long-term excellence and innovation across the rich, diverse culture of the United States. On the same day he was presented with the award, the Foundation staged a public panel discussion at the National Gallery of Art, Sculpture and Art: Creating Community, exploring how art is made and used to shape public spaces. The discussions featured David Adgey, Prentiss Architect; Aymane Alloum; Elisabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, Principal Architects; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Peter Tunney, Executive Director, Queens Museum and Art; Stephanie Luce, an Associate Curator; and moderator Robert Stein, Dean of the YI School of Architecture.

Past recipients of the Annenberg Award include Aapo Grand, President Emeritus of The Museum of Modern Art (Umwelt) and Chairman of MoMA’s International Council; Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City and Stephen Breyer, Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court.

NEW BOOKS ON THE SHELF
RECENT PUBLISHING NEWS FROM OUR FACULTY

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A new website was launched in September at waste2place.com that provides a layman’s portal to a wealth of information about the reclamation of abandoned mine sites in the U.S. Designed for activists in communities with deserted mines, the website offers detailed guidance to communities on how to build assets out of these damaged landscapes.

Estimates of abandoned mine sites in the U.S. range from 300,000 to 500,000—and 100,000 of those are likely ripe for reclamation—but because reclamation costs often exceed net profits from mineral extraction, companies often declare bankruptcy rather than clean up after themselves.

Meanwhile, private citizens and communities that want to initiate a clean-up process are often deterred by laws that would hold them responsible if the cleanup were deemed insufficient or if the cleanup standards changed.

A CITIZENS’ GUIDE TO RECLAIMING ABANDONED MINE SITES ECOLOGICALLY

Importantly, the site also offers an archive of detailed reclamation case studies that will continue to grow as more reclamation efforts are documented. (Submission guidelines are included for those who want to contribute to the curated archive.)

In addition to the case studies, the site also includes EPA technical guides, remediation technology reports, EPA reclamation/revitalization initiatives, grant sources and regulatory information.

Housed at MIT, the website is managed with the help of students from S+P, an arrangement that makes an important contribution to their education in terms of learning how to become advocates for reclamation, the challenge of teaching clients to value what currently has no value.

waste2place.com was developed with funding from the Tiffany & Company Foundation as part of their ongoing effort to promote responsible metal mining.
The Future of Global Investing, the Future of Cities
Two of Several Sessions at CRE’s International Real Estate Forum

In April, the MIT Center for Real Estate (CRE) and its alumni association—together with their media partners, The Real Reporter—hosted a day-long forum on global real estate, featuring prominent leaders of local and international real estate firms. A highlight of the event was a presentation by noted urban economist William Wheaton—a founder and former director of the Center, and currently on the faculty—on the impact of energy costs on the growth and development of cities. Part of a series exploring important research by the CRE faculty, Wheaton’s presentation examined a trend that is already having an impact on the urban landscape in much of the world: as transportation costs continue to rise, businesses are dispersing to suburbs in order to be nearer workers who are more or less ‘stranded’ by commuting costs, giving rise to increasingly polycentric cities.

Historically, as cities have grown and their boundaries have expanded, he said, land price and density gradients have flattened as transportation improved, but in the coming century, because such transportation improvements are unlikely to be able to keep pace with rising energy costs, the monocentric model is likely to continue to decline.

Another main feature of the event was a panel discussion sponsored by the CRE featuring industry partners and alumni of the Center. Talking about the important forces impacting today’s global investor, featured (L to R) were Chris Trainer, CEO of Savills; Adriano Gonzalez, CEO of the Interamerican Development Bank; and chairman of Stila Group; Mexico (and father of this year’s MITREX graduate Adriana Gonzalez); and Alan R. Wiener, CEO of the Wiener Company Development in Shanghai.

Above Wheaton, founder and former director of the Center and currently on the faculty.

Once again this year, students from SA+P have dominated MIT’s Harold and Ariele Schnitzer Prizes in the Visual Arts, established in 1996 to recognize a body of artwork by a current MIT student, and the Laya and Jerome B. Wiener Student Art Awards, presented annually for outstanding achievement in and contributions to the arts at MIT. This year’s $5000 first place Schnitzer Prize was awarded to Matthew Everett Lawson, a graduate student in the Art, Culture and Technology (ACT) program, for a wide-ranging body of work including such constructs as The Chair, a one-man helicopter made from found materials beneath the Stata Center; and Gilitch, a transcranial magnetic stimulator built from broken electronics, monitors and lab equipment.

The $3000 second prize went to Narda Alvarez, also an ACT graduate student, for work including Polyethylene Electric Everlasting Daily Party, a video animation with hand-drawn digitally colored images; and Construction to Live Alone and Become Sensitive Like a Poet, a four-panel installation commissioned for the XXVII Sao Paulo Biennial.

ACT graduate student Elizabeth Anne Watkins was awarded an honorable mention of $1000 for some short video work needing to examine how time-based media, and our interaction with them, change our perception of events both past and present; and undergraduates Leah Brunetto (BS’12, Architecture) and Farrel Nixon (BS’12, Urban Studies and Planning) were presented with $1500 Wiener Awards. Nixon’s entry comprised five mixed-media projects and Brunetto’s entry included two watercolors and a performance documentation.

(Left) Matthew Everett Lawson, founder and director of the Center and currently on the faculty.

(Left) A panel discussion about the important forces impacting today’s global investor, featuring (L to R) were Chris Trainer, CEO of Savills; Adriano Gonzalez, CEO of the Interamerican Development Bank; and chairman of Stila Group; Mexico (and father of this year’s MITREX graduate Adriana Gonzalez); and Alan R. Wiener, CEO of the Wiener Company Development in Shanghai.

Brochure Design: Philographics, Arlington, MA

MUCH MORE SAPIENTIUSPLAN

SA+P Students Take Top Honors in Arts
Five Cash Prizes Total $12,000

Alumnus Roger Lewis has had—and continues to have—a pretty remarkable career, as full of unexpected turns as a novelistic page-turner. The story began in Houston in the 1950s and moved to Massachusetts when MIT offered him a full scholarship directly out of high school. He headed for Cambridge with plans to become an engineer; a mathematician or a scientist but by the middle of his sophomore year he was ready to drop out, convinced that he didn’t want to be any of those things but not at all sure what he did want to do.

In an attempt to help him find his direction, the dean of students asked him the obvious question—What do you like to do best?—and the answer just fell out of him: ‘Draw’. So the dean suggested he consider looking into architecture. ‘I didn’t even know how to spell it’, he says now. ‘But I ambled over to Building 7 and had a look at all the drawings and models and I thought—you mean you can get credit for this?’ So he signed on and began his BA in his junior year.

Six years after arriving in Cambridge, graduation presented him with another decision about his direction and he found the answer in the halls—a Peace Corps poster announcing that Tunisia needed architects. He applied and was accepted and spent the next two years in North Africa working for the Tunisian Ministry of Public Works, responsible for designing more than thirty government-financed projects, most of which were actually built. Municipal auditoria, shopping facilities, schools, a boy scout camp, a movie theater, a hotel, a historic mosque renovation and public gardens: a pretty impressive portfolio for someone just two years out of school.

After two years in Tunisia Lewis came back to MIT for a masters in housing and community development, then moved to Washington DC to establish his own architecture and planning firm. Since 1969, his firm has produced award-winning private residences, low-income and elderly housing, community buildings, art centers, recreational facilities, commercial structures and schools.

And meanwhile, he was doing all that; he also helped establish and nurture a new school of architecture at the University of Maryland, where he taught for 37 years—he is now Professor Emeritus—helping to initiate the school’s first summer study abroad program and its first-ever program in Russia.

He added journalism to his resume in 1984, initiating a series of essays for the Washington Post. To provide visuals for the series, he drew cartoons—he’d been drawing cartoons all his life, including several for VooDoo, MIT’s humor magazine—and the essays and cartoons were so well received that the series turned into a weekly column called ‘Shaping the City’.

Today, twenty-eight years later, the column continues—now biweekly—covering everything from architectural design, planning and land use regulation to housing, historic preservation, transportation and infrastructure, landscape architecture and public policy. In 1987, the AIA Press published a compilation of the columns and the accompanying cartoons.

Remembering how clueless he was about the field as a student, he next wrote a book to fill a gap in the literature. In 1985, just one year after he started with the Post, the MIT Press published the first edition of Architect? A Candid Guide to the Profession. In the decades since, the best-selling book has been used as an introductory text for would-be architects at universities throughout North America, and has been translated into Spanish, Japanese and Korean. He is now working on the third edition, due out on 2013.
D A T E B O O K
FALL 2012

NOVEMBER 15
Moving Beyond Materiality. Visiting Artist Tomas Saraceno in a panel discussion with Professors Nader Tehrani and Anton Garcia-Abril; an artist trained as an architect, Saraceno will be at MIT to advance new work for his ongoing ‘Cloud Cities’ series. 6:30PM–8PM. 7–429.

DECEMBER 20
Master of Architecture Thesis Final Review. Twenty-three MArch candidates will be presenting their work for review by thesis committees and critics. 9AM–5PM. E14–674.

THROUGH DECEMBER 20
Frames for Living: The Work of William Wurster. An exhibit exploring the work of MIT’s Dean of Architecture (1944-50); Wurster was a pioneer of twentieth century modernist architecture and one of the most influential architectural educators of the twentieth century. Weekdays, 9AM–5PM. SA+P’s Wolk Gallery, 7–338.

THROUGH JANUARY 6
In the Holocene. A group exhibition exploring art as a speculative science, featuring work by Berenice Abbott, Sol LeWitt, Man Ray, SA+P’s Florian Hecker and Joan Jonas, and Visiting Artist Trevor Paglen, among many others. T-W, 12-6PM; Th, 12-8PM; F-Sun, 12-6PM. Closed Mondays. List Visual Arts Center, E15.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 24
Palaces for the People: Guastavino and America’s Great Public Spaces. MIT and the Boston Public Library partner to present the first major exhibition on the Guastavino Company and its architectural and historical legacy, as documented in a recent book by SA+P’s John Ochsendorf: Guastavino Vaulting: The Art of Structural Tile (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010).

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Follow SA+P on Twitter twitter.com/mitsap

Stories in PLAN can usually be found in greater detail online at sap.mit.edu/plan, along with archives of previous issues.

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(Cover)
The headquarters of Spain’s Sociedad General de Autores y Editores, in Santiago de Compostela. Designed by professor Anton Garcia-Abril, the building features a screen of massive gray granite fragments and a portico behind, fashioned from plastic DVD cases. When lit with colors at night, the glowing DVD cases and dark granite mullions evoke a cathedral window.

(Photos: Roland Halbe)