**THROUGH NOVEMBER 15**

**Sidewalk City: Mapping the Unmapped.** The latest experimental maps developed by the MIT Sidewalk Laboratory (SLAB), a research group developing new methods of mapping in order to re-conceptualize urban space and find more inclusive ways to design and govern the 21st century city. Weekdays, 9AM-5PM, SA+P’s Wolk gallery, MIT room 7-338.

**AFTER KATRINA.** A major exhibit documenting the remarkable depth and breadth of MIT’s involvement in the revitalization of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina; the exhibit captures both the early days of MIT’s involvement and the department’s action-based approach to professional education. Daily, 10AM-5PM, MIT’s Compton Gallery, MIT Room 10-150.

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(Cover)
From Crowbot Jenny, an installation with video screens and printed panels by newly-appointed professor of media arts and sciences Hiromi Ozaki (aka Spunik!). An artist who uses design to explore technology’s impact on everyday life—and to imagine the future —Spunik! creates songs and music videos which she posts on social networks and online video platforms to encourage discussion outside traditional academic spheres. (Photo: Rita Reisinger)
While the School of Architecture + Planning is known primarily as a graduate school, we also maintain an abiding commitment to undergraduate education—a fact that was underscored this year when Meejin Yoon, director of our undergraduate program in architecture, was presented with the Institute’s Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant Improvement to MIT Education. (See the story in this issue).

In addition to this new prize-winning architecture curriculum, the department also offers undergraduates the option to focus on the arts through SA+P’s Art, Culture and Technology program, offering a range of subjects including photography, video, sound, cinema and public art.

In the urban studies and planning department, undergraduates can choose from three different minors, pursue a bachelor’s or enroll in a joint program to complete their undergraduate and master’s work in just five years; the department also hosts MIT’s Scheller Teacher Education Program, an option for students interested in exploring new ideas in teaching math and science K-12.

In our media arts and sciences program, undergraduates get involved through the special MAS Alternative freshman year in our media arts and sciences program, undergraduates

K-12.

Interested in exploring new ideas in teaching math and science

The City Science Initiative at the Media Lab, one of a number of research groups collaborating with SA+P’s new Center for Advanced Urbanism, brings together Kent Larson’s work to develop new mobility systems, transformable urban housing and responsive technology; Sandy Pentland’s expertise in urban analytics and human dynamics; and César Hidalgo’s interest in big data and macro-connections. Below, a brief introduction to some of that ongoing work:

When City Science researchers consider the city of the future, their imaginations travel to the human-centric cities that were organized before the advent of the automobile. Like those historic destinations, the urban environment they envision would consist of a network of compact ‘cells’, or small neighborhoods, that offer most of what people need in the course of their daily lives, all within easy walking distance. Infused with new technology to maximize quality of life and minimize resource consumption, the cells would be connected to the wider urban infrastructure by public transport and shared vehicles.

An example of the sort of shared vehicles they have in mind is the now-famous CityCar, a folding electric two-seater that can pivot in place and glide blithely sideways into a parking space. Researchers are now working on a driverless version that would autonomously pick up and drop off passengers at their chosen points, then park and charge itself without human assistance, and trip advice engines that will offer a wider range of options than do most current applications.

To better understand the complex interaction of urban design and technology, researchers are also developing the CityScope, a tool that helps to visualize a wide range of urban simulations by projecting them onto physical models. The group is currently using the tool to study the impact of shared-use vehicles and bus-on-demand systems for cities in Australia and Ecuador.

In the area of housing, City Science researchers are developing urban micro-apartments with elements that translate vertically and horizontally, allowing a small space to function as a unit two to three times its size. And urban farming systems are being developed to give city dwellers the opportunity to grow their own organic produce using aeroponic systems.

At the same time City Science researchers are working on all these urban components, they are also at work on how all these systems will come together. Their urban analytics research uses real-world data gathered from sensor networks throughout a city to model its urban dynamics with the aim of optimizing all the city’s functions. To begin to put these ideas into practice, City Science is negotiating partnerships with cities in Asia, Europe and Latin America, and with local companies that can commercialize innovations there.

MUCH MORE: SAPIENT.EduPlan
new technologies (such as social media, sensors and mobile technologies) to design a new generation of play experiences.

In 2005, he co-founded the successful gaming company Area/Code (later acquired by Zynga). Some of Area/Code’s more notable advances include games that mix game worlds with real-world geography, such as ConQuest, the first commercial ‘Big Game’ to use the city as the ‘board’ for the game (played in ten cities across the US).

Area/Code also advanced games and systems that use time as the medium for expression, re-synchronizing users/players to real-time interaction and simultaneous experience. Back-channel, for example, was the first commercial experience built for real-time synchronous chat through broadcast TV, preceding Twitter’s experience built for real-time synchronous chat-and-respond to offer a clearer picture of how these buildings both shaped and were informed by contemporary cultural attitudes towards money.

In her Crowbot Jenny project, for example, she developed the story of a fictional girl, Jenny, who built a robotic crow that bullt and exhibited an actual robotic crow that could communicate with real birds in an urban environment.

Another example is Together Everywhere, executed for Puma during the European Football Championship; fans of specific soccer teams received automated phone calls (with their country’s anthem as a ringtone) on every goal, and were brought into a live voice chat with every group of ten other fans around the world.

In addition to his commercial success, Slavin is seen as an intellectual leader in rethinking the nature of games and play in the digital age. ‘Too many brilliant technologies and ideas have failed not because of technological shortfalls but because they have failed to capture our attention or imagination. Playfulness brings us into forms of engagement we might not otherwise have in our lives, and I aim to build a lab that brings that to the Media Lab in general,’ Slavin holds a BFA (‘95) from CooperUnion. He was previously an Assistant Professor at NYU and a Guest Professor at Cooper Union. (Photo: Lauren Jacobi)

Kevin Slavin, Assistant Professor, Media Arts and Sciences. An international leader in developing games that integrate the physical and digital, Kevin Slavin explores the use of new media and international reputation for art and design projects that facilitate discussions about social, cultural and ethical implications of technologies.

Though still very early in her career, her work has already been exhibited in prestigious institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo. She also reaches beyond such traditional venues, taking advantage of social media, music and video technologies to spread messages virally and provoke discussion among diverse popular audiences.

In many of her projects, Sputniko! builds real machines in connection with fictional stories to spark discussion about the role of new technologies in everyday lives. In her Crowbot Jenny project, for example, she developed the story of a fictional girl, Jenny, who built a robotic crow to overcome her inability to socialize with other people. As part of the project, Sputniko! built and exhibited an actual robotic crow that could communicate with real birds in an urban environment.

Sputniko! is recognized as an active social media influencer in Japan, she was chosen by the Japanese government to become the youngest member of the Cool Japan Advisory Council, a committee discussing the funding of Japanese creative exports and industries. For many people, she says, ‘design is understood as something for problem-solving or making products more efficient and easier to use. I am interested in using design as a way of having conversations about the impacts of technology on everyday life, to imagine how the future could be.’

Sputniko! holds a BSc in Mathematics and Computer Science from the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of London (‘06) and an MA in Design Interactions from the Royal College of Art in London (‘10). She is also a guest professor of Interaction Design at Kobe Design University. (Photo: Rasmus Nystroem)

Hironi Ozaki (Sputniko!), Assistant Professor, Media Arts and Sciences. Building on an interdisciplinary background in mathematics, computer science and interaction design, Sputniko! has earned an international reputation for art and design projects that facilitate discussions about social, cultural and ethical implications of technologies.

Her doctoral thesis studied the location and architectural language of buildings used for banking in Italy during the early modern period. Since 2004, Zhao has led the China Planning Network (CPN), an NGO focused on China’s urbanization and its implications for transportation, housing, energy and the environment.

She is currently working on a book exploring how topographic clusters of banks helped to define banking as a morally just activity, quelling charges of usury. This book project poses that a spatio-structural banking system in Italy and elsewhere helped set a path to post-industrial capitalism. It also addresses the history of banks as institutions that encouraged cultural hegemony.

‘My current research is engaged with studying systems—urbanistic ‘structures’ that are perhaps even more important than physical buildings themselves,’ she says. ‘The principal structural system I address is networks linked by monetary capital, I explore how the flow of money influenced the production of space and form, and the ways in which money and spatial systems, in turn, impacted cultural thought and vice versa. My research seeks to explain the ways in which this system produced and acted on capital-oriented cities, towns and neighborhoods.’

Jacobi holds a BA in Art History and English from Swarthmore College (‘98), an MA from the Courtauld Institute of Art (‘03), and an MA from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU (‘06) and a PhD in the History of Art from the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU (‘12). (Photo: Acadia Summer Arts Program)
A CHAT WITH DENNIS YESKEY
NEW CHAIR OF THE MIT CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE

In May, Dennis Yeskey was named the seventh Thomas G. Eastman Chair of the MIT Center for Real Estate, succeeding Tony Coxe who has joined the faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

For more than four decades, Yeskey has been a recognized thought leader and practitioner in developing successful businesses, capital and operational strategies. As a senior partner of Deloitte & Touche, he represented many leading real estate investors and developers and played a key role in building Deloitte’s National and Global Financial Services. While living and working abroad, he was also very much involved in their European and Asian practices.

Yeskey received an MBA in finance from Columbia, as well as both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh’s Swanson School of Engineering, where he was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2007. Shortly after he arrived at MIT, we sat down for a get-acquainted chat:

When you look at where the real estate market is today and where it’s been in the past several years, what do you see?

Well, I’m sure you’re aware, there was a big run-up from 2003 to 2007-2008 in both the residential and commercial markets, and then the bottom fell out of everything. But in last two years, the commercial market has been coming up again in the US as a desirable investment and now the residential market is also beginning to come up. Developers are getting excited again for the first time in five or six years, so next year and the year after, our graduates should be flowing into a much healthier market.

How do you think our masters program will best prepare our students for this re-emerging market? Will they need different skills than maybe they’ve needed in the past?

Different skills? Yes and no. They’ll need the basic skills like finance, commercial development, design, architecture, asset management—the things the Center has always taught. But now they’re also going to need... See, development stopped five or six years ago but technology didn’t, Neither did engineering. Over the last five to six years, while new technologies were being developed—all the things we now benefit from, like smart and connected buildings, sustainability, automated designs, robotics, building technologies, things like that—during that time real estate has been kind of asleep. The last time we had a construction boomlet was more than ten years ago. So we’re in kind of a unique circumstance—technology has been escalating and our sector has been more or less dormant. MIT is in a unique position to take a look at the development and construction industries globally and see where those technological advances can be applied.

As you set your course in this new position, what are your priorities?

I’ve been working in this industry for 40 years. Over the course of those years I’ve developed a pretty extensive body of knowledge about how the industry works on the ground, in very practical terms. I want to bring to the Center that experience to the enormous body of knowledge this Center generates through its research, to help it become even more of a resource than it already is. I also want to go global. A lot of our players in the past have been in the US. I want to keep that going, of course, but I also want to make more of a global push, particularly in Asia, as well as in other emerging markets, that experience the Euro has regained its strength, we’ll want to do more work in Europe.

What do you see as the Center’s greatest strengths?

Well its greatest strengths is its faculty, for starters. Including all of S4P and MIT—the thought leadership they provide. That intellec- tual capital is a great strength, and there’s tremendous benefit to be had from connecting that capital with the needs of this new wave of development. Also, our graduate students, our alumni and our industry partners combined are one of the major strengths of our model. We have 1000 alumni who are fiercely loyal, who practically glow about their experience here. They’re passionate, and that passion is a huge strength.

What particular strengths do you think you bring to the Center?

This is what I love to do. I am an industry person, I’ve had a hand in developing three other successful real estate practices. Now to be able to share my experience and my network to help the Center for Real Estate grow is an amazing opportunity. I am very excited about this new chapter. MUCH MORE: SAP+MIT.EDU

MIT’S Annual Real Estate Forum, jointly spon- sored by the alumni association of the MIT Cen- ter for Real Estate and the Urban Land Institute of Boston, was held April 5 at MIT. This year’s program featured in-depth content on modular construction, development partnership returns, major changes in real estate law and trends in design.

The keynote speaker at the event was alumnus Alexander Knapp (M/88, MSred’03), a former architect with Renzo Piano and currently direc- tor with Hines London, exploring the effectiv- eness of design in creating economic value. Covering a range of material from ‘starchitects’ to neighborhood business improvement districts, from the Eiffel Tower to One World Trade Cen- ter, his talk addressed how the intangible ‘soft qualities’ of design influence the hard facts of financial performance.

The forum also included finalist presenta- tions in the 2013 real estate CASE competition, an annual contest created and hosted by alumni from the Center for Real Estate. Graduate stu- dents in real estate and finance from across the country, and as far away as Hong Kong, were invited to make their own proposals for the J. Edgar Hoover Building site on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC.

(A) For this year’s CASE competition, graduate students in real estate and finance from across the country, and as far away as Hong Kong, were invited to make their own proposals for the J. Edgar Hoover Building site on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC.

(B) The MIT team’s proposal was deemed perhaps the most accessible, with wide pedestrian entrances to the site on all sides and the greatest number of shopping opportunities, as well as a 30,000-square-foot museum on FBI History. (Images: A/B: The MIT team, Jake van Trigt, Thursday So, Ron Buki, Bonnie Burgett)

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A CHAT WITH DENNIS YESKEY
NEW CHAIR OF THE MIT CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE FORUM FEATURES TALK ON VALUE OF DESIGN

MIT PLACES SECOND IN THIS YEAR’S CASE COMPETITION

MUCH MORE: SAP+MIT.EDU

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SA+P STUDENTS SWEEP VISUAL ARTS AWARDS
HONORS FOR WORK THAT INCORPORATES BOTH OLD AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Five graduate students from the School of Architecture + Planning—candidates for degrees in media studies, in architecture, and in art, culture, and technology—took all the top honors in this year's annual visual arts awards.

The Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts was established in 1996 through an endowment from Harold and Arlene Schnitzer of Portland OR to recognize excellence in a body of student artistic work; in recent years, SA+P students have regularly dominated the awards.

This year's first place prize of $5K went to Jie Qi, a graduate student in the High-Low Tech group at the Media Lab. Qi uses traditional art-making methods with electronics to produce works that are both playful and profound. ‘The goal of my research and my artwork,’ she says, ‘is really to share and empower people to use technology…to express themselves so that they too feel like they have these magical crayons to turn…what only exists in their dreams into reality…This idea of telling stories, of expressing yourself in new ways is the point that I’m hoping to share.’

The second place prize of $3K went to Rizal Muslimin this year, a graduate student in the School of Architecture, for his designs of modern buildings inspired by traditional weaving. ‘New design solutions don’t have to replace the existing ones,’ he says, ‘but rather to improve them to fit our current needs. There’s a lot to learn from traditional craftworks if we just let our eyes see them in a different way and learn to blur our disciplinary boundaries.’

The third place prize of $2K was a tie between Floor van de Velde, a graduate student in SA+P’s Art, Culture and Technology Program, and Amit Zoran a graduate student in the Responsive Environments group at the Media Lab.

Van de Velde, who experiments in sonic art, sculpture, electronics and photography, says: ‘Technology is most certainly a key feature in a lot of my work, but I don’t consider this an alibi, rather I think of it as playing a supportive role in my visual work in order to create an immersive experience for the viewers’.

And Zoran, whose work combines basketry with 3D printing, says: ‘I merge digital fabrication with traditional craft in a process that requires more than merely appropriating handmade methods in the production of automat ed artifacts…. Hybrid Basketry is a medium through which 3D printed structures are shaped to allow the growth and development of handwoven patterns.’

Finally, Xiao Xiao, a graduate student in the Tangible Media group at the Media Lab, received an honorable mention for Mirrorfugue, an installation for player piano that gives the impression that the ‘reflection’ of a disembodied pianist is playing the physically moving keys. ‘On Mirrorfugue,’ she says, ‘I can capture and confront other selves and converse with them through the piano. I can perform together with layers of myself or reflect on memories from long ago.’

The work of the five winners was on view at the Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Gallery through August. Established as a gift from the Class of 1983, the gallery honors Jerome Wiesner, former president of MIT, for his involvement in and support of the arts at the Institute.

Van de Velde's work was inspired by a traditional weaving technique. The hands can be arranged in two-dimensional compositions to create various ornamentations, and three-dimensional arrangements to create many types of structural configuration. (Photo: Floor van de Velde)

Hybrid Basketry, by Amit Zoran: 3D printed structures are shaped to allow the growth and development of handwoven patterns. While the 3D printed plastic elements constitute the aesthetics of the digital curvatures and motifs, the handwoven reed, jute and canvas fibers infuse the baskets with a unique organic identity. (Photo: Amit Zoran)

Eventide II by Floor van de Velde: Computer augmented sculpture. Wood, tape, video projection. (Photo: Floor van de Velde)
Monument: infrastructure for the long haul—explore.'

It’s an opportunity to source of funding, by which many people make d’Hooghe, was the notion of crowdsourcing as a specifics of the American scene.’

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challenges and opportunities in large-scale infrastructure, especially roadways, and on the changes and challenges and opportunities in large-scale design. An important take-away from the meeting, according to Center Director Alexander D’Hooghe, was the recognition that the US needs to come up with its own model for urban infrastructure renewal.

For the many great European projects cited, he said, there was a sense that solutions like theirs are not always fit for American cities. ‘We’re different,’ he says. ‘We’re largely suburban. The idea of using compact cities and railroads as basic drivers won’t be sufficient for America. We need to imagine a future for the specifics of the American scene.’

Another interesting take-away, said D’Hooghe, was the notion of a source of funding, by which many people make small donations toward something they’d like to see done—a sort of voluntary self-taxing where everybody donates what they can. If a million people give $100 each, he says, ‘you could build a new subway station. It’s an opportunity to explore.’

In April, the Center for Advanced Urbanism staged its first symposium—Infrastructural Monument: Infrastructure for the Long Haul—to consider how best to approach the challenge of replacing or reconstructing our urban infrastructure in ways that will address a widening range of urban problems. It was the first in a series devoted to a set of strategic design challenges facing cities worldwide.

To focus the day-long conversation, the discussion centered largely on transportation infrastructure, especially roadways, and on the challenges and opportunities in large-scale design. An important take-away from the meeting, according to Center Director Alexander D’Hooghe, was the recognition that the US needs to come up with its own model for urban infrastructure renewal.

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MORE: SAP/OUT/PLAN

Infrastructural Monument
The Inaugural Symposium of the Center for Advanced Urbanism

In May, SA+P’s Community Innovators Lab and The Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland co-hosted a forum at MIT to announce key findings of a joint case study on how nonprofit institutions can improve local economies.

The study examined a program undertaken by University Hospitals (UH) in Cleveland OH—a five-year, $1.2B growth plan that included commitments to purchase from local, minority- and women-owned businesses as much as possible during the largest expansion in the health system’s history. Lead author of the report was SA+P’s Farzana Serafin (MCP’12).

The program’s design and its success, it was the notion that American cities envisioned flexible, short-life, even expendable architecture that could accommodate rapid change and obsolescence. But there also emerged, in response to this erosion of long-held beliefs in durability, many architects envisioned flexible, short-life, even expendable architecture that could accommodate rapid change and obsolescence. But there also emerged, in response to the ephemeral nature of obsolescence, other efforts to reinstitute permanence and slow change.

From a vitalized historic preservation movement and concrete brutalist monumentality to adaptive reuse, architectural postmodernism and green design, sustainability, in all these guises, has superseded obsolescence as a dominant paradigm for comprehending and managing change in the built environment.

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The program’s design and its success, it was seen as a promising new approach to community economic development through leveraging the resources of anchor institutions that have a vested interest in the success of their surrounding community. Place-based institutions such as hospitals and universities—often referred to as ‘eds and meds’—spend more than $3 trillion annually on goods and services; by rethinking the way they do business, such institutions can have a significant impact on local economies, the study found.

To maximize the impact of their program, UH established specific targets, hired a third-party organization to hold it accountable and voluntarily entered into a unique Project Labor Agreement to ensure buy-in from local trade unions. The determination on the part of the Mayor and UH’s leadership to build an inclusive economy was striking, according to report co-author J. Phillip Thompson, associate professor in SA+P’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Ultimately that determination paid off. UH exceeded its targets for including minority- and women-owned businesses and managed to procure $92% of goods and services from local and regional firms. The system has now begun to apply its new purchasing practices throughout its entire supply chain, including more than 2800 vendors in Northeast Ohio.

Ted Howard, Executive Director of The Democracy Collaborative and a third co-author of the report, noted that UH’s efforts ‘laid the groundwork for an extraordinary citywide Community Benefits Agreement that has really changed how business is done in Cleveland. [But] perhaps the real significance is that it lays down a marker for thousands of other hospitals and universities about how they can conduct their business to benefit their communities, in particular low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.’

This story is based on a report by David Zuckerman, a research associate at The Democracy Collaborative and author of the report, ‘Hospitals Building Healthier Communities: Embracing the Anchor Mission’. Toledo, Ohio. © Keith Beet Productions, Inc.

HELPING BUILD CITIES THROUGH ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

LEVERAGING NONPROFIT RESOURCES TO IMPROVE LOCAL ECONOMIES

In May, SA+P’s Community Innovators Lab and The Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland co-hosted a forum at MIT to announce key findings of a joint case study on how nonprofit institutions can improve local economies.

The study examined a program undertaken by University Hospitals (UH) in Cleveland OH—a five-year, $1.2B growth plan that included commitments to purchase from local, minority- and women-owned businesses as much as possible during the largest expansion in the health system’s history. Lead author of the report was SA+P’s Farzana Serafin (MCP’12).

The program’s design and its success, it was seen as a promising new approach to community economic development through leveraging the resources of anchor institutions that have a vested interest in the success of their surrounding community. Place-based institutions such as hospitals and universities—often referred to as ‘eds and meds’—spend more than $3 trillion annually on goods and services; by rethinking the way they do business, such institutions can have a significant impact on local economies, the study found.

To maximize the impact of their program, UH established specific targets, hired a third-party organization to hold it accountable and voluntarily entered into a unique Project Labor Agreement to ensure buy-in from local trade unions. The determination on the part of the Mayor and UH’s leadership to build an inclusive economy was striking, according to report co-author J. Phillip Thompson, associate professor in SA+P’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Ultimately that determination paid off. UH exceeded its targets for including minority- and women-owned businesses and managed to procure 92% of goods and services from local and regional firms. The system has now begun to apply its new purchasing practices throughout its entire supply chain, including more than 2800 vendors in Northeast Ohio.

Ted Howard, Executive Director of The Democracy Collaborative and a third co-author of the report, noted that UH’s efforts ‘laid the groundwork for an extraordinary citywide Community Benefits Agreement that has really changed how business is done in Cleveland. [But] perhaps the real significance is that it lays down a marker for thousands of other hospitals and universities about how they can conduct their business to benefit their communities, in particular low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.’

This story is based on a report by David Zuckerman, a research associate at The Democracy Collaborative and author of the report, ‘Hospitals Building Healthier Communities: Embracing the Anchor Mission’.
A major exhibit opened at MIT’s Compton Gallery this spring, on display through December, documenting the remarkable depth and breadth of MIT’s involvement in the revitalization of the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. In the eight years since the storm, more than 250 faculty, students and alumni from SA+P’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning have worked in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast with a number of organizations on a multitude of issues, all of which have made substantial contributions to the region’s recovery. The Compton exhibit captures both the early days of MIT’s involvement in analyzing prospects for the region’s recovery, and the department’s action-based approach to professional education through practice, workshops, class projects, student theses and internships. Below, a brief look at some highlights:

Within months of Katrina’s strike in August 2005, faculty and students from SA+P’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning were on the ground in New Orleans, embarking upon an eight-year effort to assist the city in its recovery. The following spring, supported by MIT’s Graduate Student Council and the MIT Public Service Center, the department rented a house in the city’s Uptown neighborhood as a base from which the students could work. It wasn’t until a year later that Mayor Ray Nagin established an Office of Recovery Management, led by recovery czar Ed Blakely, but office operations in support of the planning process were stymied by a lack of money and staff. With funds from the Nathan Cummings Foundation—acquired by Dayna Cunningham, director of SA+P’s Community Innovators Program—MIT established an internship program for ten urban planning students to staff the organization during the summer of 2007. With support from then Department Head Larry Vale and professor Phil Thompson, and many others, the students set about envisioning a revitalized city. Organizing to work with local communities on forming plans for reviving their own neighborhoods, students and faculty helped the residents of the Broadmoor district create the Broadmoor Development Corporation—a nonprofit and an aggressive land-use and flood-control plan that appeared to turn several neighborhoods completely into parkland.

Over the course of several years, SA+P students worked with the residents of Broadmoor on a series of on-site, targeted projects including the redevelopment of an historic car dealership, the reopening of a library and the analysis of commercial financing options for neighborhood projects. Residents of the Village de l’Est neighborhood formed a community development corporation to help local businesses return and MIT students pitched in with support for small business development, commercial district market analysis and urban farming initiatives. Karl Seidman and Susan Silberberg chose the Broad Street neighborhood as the site for their ‘Revitalizing Urban Main Streets’ class; Eran Ben-Joseph and Anna Lisa Brada (PhD ’12) conducted a course with Mississippi State University that resulted in the conversion of a polluted bayou into a wetland nature park; and Jacquelyn Dalecki (MCP ’10) and Aditi Mehra (MCP ’10) put forth a prize-winning proposal to create a fresh-food hub on Broad Street—by January of this year a large food retailer announced its participation.

MIT alumni at the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority steered the construction of their new headquarters to the O.C. Haley Boulevard area, helping create a wave of redevelopment there that has begun to reclaim the neighborhood. MIT students also designed a plan to redevelop a neighborhood building as a business incubator and retail shop.

Essential to all the efforts above, the mission to restore New Orleans hinged to a large extent on who would return to the city. To help lure citizens back, MIT faculty and students focused a number of research initiatives on public transportation and reviving schools: six MIT alumni founded Transport for NOLA, a nonprofit think-and-do tank committed to enhancing access to transit and the equity it provides; and Cherie Abbahan’s undergraduate ‘City to City’ class has studied school reclamation efforts for the last several years.

In the summer of 2011, three MIT student interns worked on the goal of eliminating 10,000 blighted properties in the city and in the summer of 2012, six MIT student interns worked with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority to research ways to leverage vacant lots. Signs of continuing recovery and rebuilding now abound in New Orleans—neighborhoods are reviving, rebuilding and growing stronger; neighborhood institutions are resuming business; and the festivals, food, music and culture that make the Crescent City so unique are once again thriving. As the process of rebuilding continues, SA+P’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning is privileged to continue to play an active role in those efforts.

A booklet documenting the Compton exhibit in more detail is available online for download as a PDF (http://bit.ly/1q4Hnpj).
Yoon: Most Significant Improvement to MIT Education  
‘Expanding the Whole Notion of Design and Architecture’

J. Meejin Yoon has been presented with the 2013 Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Signifi- 
cant Improvement to MIT Education.

As director of the undergraduate program in architecture since 2010, Yoon has brought an inventiveness to the program in ways that are expanding the whole notion of design and architecture within an institute of technology, according to her nominator Nader Tehrani, head of the architecture department. ‘She has meticulously restructured the pedagogy and sequence of studios,’ he says, ‘bringing together a blend of architectural history, a connection to the arts and an equally critical link to science and technologies.’

The curriculum has also been adjusted not only to accommodate the intensity of MIT’s General Institute Requirements but also to capi-
talize on them by redefining studio content and goals. As a result of those changes, an increas-
ing number of students are double-majoring or minor in another field, and the program is attracting minors from other fields across the Institute.

With support from the d’Arbeloff fund, the institute.

In May, a group of 40-50 alumni assembled at MIT from as far away as Europe and Asia to attend the last session of Julian Beinart’s class on the Theory of City Form, a class he taught since 1977.

Honoring Theory of City Form  
A Tribute to Julian Beinart

initiated by alumni Isaac Manning (SMArchS’70)—president of Trinity Works, a real estate development firm based in Fort Worth—the event was an opportunity for alumni who had taken the course to honor the importance of the class, and of Beinart, to their careers.

A seminal course at the intersection of architecture, planning, real estate, economics, history and theory, Theory of City Form exam-
ined examples of urban design over time, con-
centrating on the origins of the modern city and theories about its emerging contours, including the transformation of the 19th-century city and its organization. It also analyzed current issues of city form in relation to city-making, social structure and physical design.

The class has been taken by hundreds of students over the years since Kevin Lynch intro-
duced the subject in the mid-fifties—a nearly 60-year legacy that would be hard to overstate. ‘People have gone out and changed the world because of that course,’ says Manning. ‘It has touched a tremendous number of lives.’

In assessing the value of the class to him personally, Manning says ‘In my career I’ve practiced real estate development on a global scale, and that course gave me the vocabulary for doing that and its teachings are applicable to all the challenges we face today.’

In all the years the course was taught, it was somehow never recorded. So when Beinart announced his upcoming retirement, Manning took it upon himself to underwrite the video recording of all Beinart’s lectures for MIT’s OpenCourseWare program. The videos are now in post-production and will be added to the OCW website as soon as they are edited.

Celebrating ‘Deeper History’  
In Appreciation of David Friedman

In June, SA+P’s program in the History, Theory and Criticism of Art and Architecture sponsored a symposium to reaffirm the program’s commit-
ment to histories of architecture and the arts before the 20th century—what they termed Deeper History—and to celebrate the work of Professor David Friedman on the occasion of his retirement.

Friedman’s work has centered on the history of urban form and Italian Renaissance architec-
ture at the birth of capitalism, exploring how public spaces were produced through civic and architectural actions during an era when the interests of the financial world were focused largely on making property private.

In examining an era of history that is not customarily studied in professional architecture schools, the symposium not only reaffirmed the place of ‘deeper history’ here but also demon-
strated Friedman’s impact over the years on his students, many of whom have gone on to teach this kind of history elsewhere.

The day began with PhD students who are currently working on topics related to Fried-
man’s work, followed by some of Friedman’s stu-
dents and others now teaching in schools around the country and internationally, and culminated with Friedman in conversation with Henry Mil-
lor, one of the founders of the HTG Program and Dean Emeritus of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery, Washington, DC. Co-founders Wayne Anderson and Stan Anderson also took part in the event.

‘We don’t often get the chance in a major research university to just stop and celebrate three generations of teaching,’ said Caroline Jones, current head of the program. ‘It was a celebration not only of David’s fine work but of fine teaching in general.’

Urban Development in the Global South
A Five-Year Program to Strengthen University Teaching Materials

SA+P has recently signed an agreement with Malaysia’s leading engineering and science school—the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) —to develop new materials to strengthen the teaching of sustainable city development in the global South and around the world.

The MIT/UTM program is posited on the belief that strategies based on Malaysia’s experience should prove more relevant to the problems fac-
ing cities in the global South than approaches developed in the North.

While Malaysia has its share of environmen-
tal problems—partially the result of deforesta-
tion and rapid urbanization—it is ranked 25th on Yale’s Environmental Performance Index (out of 132 nations) and has made a strong commitment to promoting more sustainable development, especially with regard to air qual-
ity and managing maritime resources. It is also a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity—not an insignificant fact for a coun-
ty that hosts 20% of the world’s animal spe-
cies—and is working to preserve its important mangrove forests even as the country develops its own international port nearby.

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