

Dean, School of Architecture and Planning

The [School of Architecture and Planning](#) (SAP) is composed of five main divisions:

- The Department of Architecture, the first such department in the nation (1865), which came to be known as a leader in introducing modernism to America
- The Department of Urban Studies and Planning, which began as the Program in City Planning in 1932, was the second of its kind in the country, and has evolved into the longest continuous planning program in the United States
- The Media Laboratory, the birthplace of multimedia computing (1985), which has come to be known around the world as a world-class incubator of new design ideas
- The Center for Real Estate, which established the nation's first one-year graduate program in real estate development (1984), becoming recognized worldwide as a leader in the field
- The Program in Art, Culture and Technology (2010), which was the result of a merger between the academic Visual Arts Program (1989) and the Center for Advanced Visual Studies (1967), a research program in visual arts

What follows are some of the highlights from the year. For more information, consult the divisions' individual reports.

New Initiatives

The new Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) was established with a four-year \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The center, a joint initiative of SAP, the Office of the Provost, and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS), is designed to advance MIT's leadership in integrating exploration in the arts with scientific and technological inquiry and to provide a model for incorporating the arts into research and curricula in other universities. The proposal for the center was co-sponsored by Dean Adèle Naudé Santos with Associate Provost Philip Khoury and SHASS Dean Deborah Fitzgerald.

As part of this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Dean Santos chaired the 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 current widespread interest in urbanism provides a catalyst for devising bold new models of growth, and, because of SAP's expertise in this area, the School is increasingly being approached for help in addressing this topic.

In Davos, the Global Action Committee launched a long-term effort to create an open-source online format for compiling case studies in urban dynamics, in hopes of generating a flood of good ideas for addressing the future. To launch the project, Santos distributed *Urban Anthologies: Learning from Our Cities*, a compilation of case studies coordinated and produced by the SENSEable City Laboratory, a research center directed by SAP's Carlo Ratti, who was also a member of the council. Featuring six stories of

innovative urban development, the booklet was followed in June by a more extensive anthology of case studies, and the collection will continue to grow online in an open-source format whereby success stories can be submitted by the public and posted for all to see.

In addition to Dean Santos' leading role, the World Economic Forum featured five professors from SAP—nearly half of MIT's entire contingent of 12 academics—delivering presentations that ranged from potentially transformational uses of social media and recent advances in neuroscience to the creation of a fabricator that could make almost anything by “simply” reassembling atoms. The extraordinary range of topics illustrates the remarkable reach and diversity of our faculty, a scope of particular note considering that SAP is the smallest of MIT's five schools.

Over the years, alumni of SAP have been prominent among the Institute's social entrepreneurs, with scores, perhaps even hundreds, of graduates holding leadership positions in well-established nonprofits. In recent years a growing number of those nonprofits have been founded by our alumni. Some of these efforts are as follows.

- CFY: Founded in 1999 by Elisabeth Stock ('90, MCP '95, SM '95) and Dan Dolgin, a lawyer and private investor, CFY is a national education nonprofit that helps students in low-income communities, together with their teachers and families, harness the power of digital learning to improve educational outcomes.
- NuVu: NuVu was formed in 2010 by entrepreneur and designer Saeed Arida (SM '04, PhD '11, architecture, design and computation) as part of his doctoral research in teaching creativity. Originally established as a for-profit organization and now transitioning to a nonprofit, NuVu is a magnet innovation center for middle and high school students and a professional development program for teachers and educators.
- Product Stewardship Institute: The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) was founded in 2000 by Scott Cassel (MCP '88, environmental dispute resolution), now its chief executive officer. A national nonprofit organization based in Boston, PSI brings together parties that have conflicting interests with the goal of jointly developing product stewardship solutions to reduce the health, environmental, and social impacts of consumer products.
- Consensus Building Institute: The Consensus Building Institute (CBI) was founded in 1993 by Lawrence Susskind (MCP '70, PhD '73), Ford professor of urban and environmental planning in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning; the current directors are Patrick Field (MCP '94) and David Fairman (PhD '98). CBI is a not-for-profit organization that works with leaders, advocates, experts, and communities to promote effective negotiations, build consensus, and resolve conflicts.
- Konbit: Developed in 2010 by Aaron Zinman (SM '06, PhD '11, media arts and sciences) and Greg Elliott (SM '11, media arts and sciences), both of whom were students here at the time, Konbit is not officially organized as a nonprofit entity but was established to support nonprofits engaged in disaster relief. Created in direct response to the earthquake in Haiti, Konbit helps organizations find and

hire local labor instead of relying on foreign workers, thus helping build the local economy.

- **Broad Community Connections:** Founded in 2008 by Jeff Schwartz (MCP '08), Broad Community Connections (BCC) is a nonprofit Main Street organization established to revitalize New Orleans' historic Broad Street as a vibrant commercial corridor.
- **Transport for NOLA:** Schwartz also founded Transport for NOLA in 2008 along with fellow SAP alumni Seth Knudsen (MCP '08), Stephen Crim (MCP '08), Jeff Hebert (MCP '06), Jackie Dadakis (MCP '10), Carey Clouse (SMArchS '07), Sean Escoffery (MCP '98), and Zach Lamb (SMArchS '11). This nonprofit think-and-do tank of New Orleanians is working to create a world-class transportation system in the greater New Orleans region based on equity, accessibility, and best practices.
- **Maa-Bara:** Maa-Bara was formed in 2011 as an outgrowth of thesis research by Ogheneruno Okiomah (MArch '11). Her thesis, *Maa-Bara: Catalyzing Change in Nigeria's Niger Delta*, focused on her homeland, a region where 10.8 million gallons of oil spill into the landscape every year. Maa-Bara, which means "water farm" in the region's Ogoni language, is a sustainable agricultural model that uses kitchen scraps as feed for the propagation of fish and vegetables in spite of water and soil conditions. Cofounded with Elisha Goodman (MCP '11), the project makes use of hydroponics to improve food security, increase employment, and empower local groups to cultivate their own fish and vegetables in almost any location, including places where food has never before been grown.
- **Hawai'i SEED:** Cofounded in 2002 by Elisha Goodman (MCP '11), Hawai'i SEED is a statewide nonprofit coalition of grassroots groups composed of farmers, doctors, scientists, lawyers, concerned citizens, and native Hawaiians. It aims to protect Hawaii and its people from the risks posed by genetically engineered organisms by promoting diverse, local, healthy, and ecological food and farming.

Major Events

A major exhibit on view in the halls of SAP throughout the summer presented 300 of the world's best thesis projects in architecture, urban design, and landscape architecture, featuring entries from 72 countries and 29 American cities. Sponsored by Archiprix International, the biennial exhibit is the largest such presentation in the world and offers a rare opportunity for assessing current trends in design education around the world and architecture in general. This year marked the first time the exhibit has been held in the United States. Hosted by SAP's Platform for Permanent Modernity, a research program headed by architecture professor Alexander D'Hooghe, the exhibit was part of a two-week international event that also featured intensive five-day workshops for 100 of the students represented in the show, led by prominent designers from leading architecture schools in the United States.

Two simultaneous exhibits at the List Visual Arts Center focused attention on MIT's historical contributions to contemporary art. *Otto Piene: Lichtballett* showcased light-

based sculptural work by Otto Piene, internationally noted artist and director of SAP's Center for Advanced Visual Studies from 1974 to 1994. The exhibit highlighted Piene's pioneering exploration of light as an artistic medium, bringing together several sculptures from the 1960s and 1970s along with two new works created especially for this exhibition. The second exhibit, *Hans Haacke 1967*, was organized by Caroline A. Jones, director of SAP's History, Theory, and Criticism program. The exhibit revisited Haacke's solo show at MIT in 1967, presenting a particularly cogent look at this artist's largely undocumented early work and casting new light upon the development of his later, better-known oeuvre. The exhibit catalogue included an essay by Jones.

The School's Wolk Gallery mounted two major exhibits this year. *REACH: Architecture of The Freelon Group*, featured 11 projects that exemplify the reach of the award-winning work of The Freelon Group, founded in 1990 by professor Phil Freelon (MArch '77). *Cities of the Dead: The Ancestral Cemeteries of Kyrgyzstan* featured photographs from Margaret Morton's travels throughout the Kyrgyz Republic visiting tribal burial grounds.

The annual meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture 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 and keynote and invited sessions and drawing approximately 500 attendees. Cochaired by SAP's Mark Goulthorpe, associate professor of architecture and founder of dECOi atelier, an architectural/design practice, and Amy Murphy, associate professor and vice dean at the University of Southern California'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.

In December, two SAP alumni conducted a workshop in Istanbul that brought together 24 young architects, planners, and engineers—half from Armenia, half from Turkey—for a weeklong series of lectures, discussions, and site visits focused on environmental sustainability. While the primary aim of the workshop was professional development, the organizers—Turkish native Birgul Colak (PhD '01, Architecture) and Armenian Alen Amirkhanian (MCP '97)—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.

Facilities

With the help of the center's generous alumni, the MIT Center for Real Estate and the master of science in real estate (MSRED) program settled into their new location this spring overlooking Massachusetts Ave in the heart of SAP. The new facilities put the center in closer proximity to the Department of Architecture, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and the SAP'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.

A new gallery was opened in the School, on the fourth floor of Building 7, as part of the continuing development of common spaces for the Department of Architecture. Given the historical diaspora of the department, this concentration of common space is of particular importance to the cultural life of the school and has been purposefully developed by a series of deans and department heads including, most recently, department head Nader Tehrani. A vest-pocket space at about 200 square feet, the Keller Gallery will show a steady stream of faculty, student, and experimental work, including work from alumni and friends.

Publications

Faculty in the Department of Architecture, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and the Media Lab published a number of new books this year (see individual reports for listings). Meanwhile, an important new book on SAP alumnus Robert Taylor (1892), the nation's first professionally trained African-American architect and the first African-American graduate of MIT, was released in January. Researched 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.

Recognition

Faculty and students received numerous honors this year (see individual reports for listings) in addition to the distinctions noted below.

Thirteen SAP students from programs in architecture, urban planning, and real estate development were members of teams that captured top honors in the 2011 Affordable Housing Development Competition; since the contest was established 11 years ago, SAP has consistently been represented among the top winners, including representation on every first-place team.

Kris Mattera, SAP's social media guru, was named by BostInno as one of Boston's top 10 tweeters about what's going on in higher education in the area.

SAP alumna Jennifer Allora (SMVisS '03), with her partner Guillermo Calzadilla—jointly known as Allora & Calzadilla, an artist team working in Puerto Rico—represented the United States at this year's prestigious Venice Biennale.

In May, alumnus I.M. Pei (BArch '40) was presented with the fourth annual Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts at a dinner hosted by secretary of state Hillary Clinton at the US Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

Personnel

SAP was engaged in over a dozen faculty searches this year in architecture, urban planning, artistic practice, and media studies (see division reports for the new hires). The opportunity this presents would be unusual in any school, but in a place as compact as SAP, it represents nearly 15% of our faculty. By hiring such a large cohort at once,

rather than one person at a time, we have the chance to assemble a group especially rich in synergies—among themselves, with the existing faculty in our school, and in the Institute at large.

In the dean's office, our staff was joined this year by Chris Santos, manager of alumni and donor relations; Kris Mattera, social media assistant (replacing Stephanie Hatch, who moved along to advise all of MIT on social media); Christine Wibby, administrative assistant in development; and Jared Eisenstat, who helps with finance, diversity, and human resource efforts.

Lois Craig, associate dean of SAP in the 1980s and early 1990s, died March 23 in Chicago after a long illness. She was 82. A trusted and valued advisor to many architecture 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.

Adèle Naudé Santos

Dean

Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies and Planning