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

This year, SAP officially launched a major new research effort focused on the planning, design, construction, and retrofitting of urban environments for the 21st century. Under the leadership of Alexander D'Hooghe and Alan Berger, the Center for Advanced Urbanism will coordinate collaborations among existing efforts in SAP and with other MIT groups, as well as undertaking new projects at the Institute and with sponsors in practice. As one of its first major projects, the center joined forces with the American Institute of Architects in a new research collaboration focused on how design can help improve urban health. Through joint research, prototypes, and demonstration projects, the Center for Advanced Urbanism and the American Institute of Architects will develop guidelines and design solutions that support human and environmental health in and around cities.

Last fall SAP inaugurated the recently formed Singapore University of Technology and Design, conceived in 2009 as a collaboration between MIT and the government of Singapore. From the start, SAP has been deeply involved in designing its architecture program: our faculty members have created more than a dozen courses for the curriculum, and many of them will be going to Singapore to teach those courses; alumnus Andres Svetsuk is a resident member of the faculty there. The research component of the program will be codirected by John Fernandez.

In the spring, SAP signed an agreement with Malaysia's leading engineering and science school—the Universiti of Teknologi Malaysia—to develop new materials to strengthen the teaching of sustainable city development in the global South and around the world. Under the direction of Larry Susskind, the program will seek to shift the way urban

development is taught from an emphasis on economic growth to a greater emphasis on sustainable development, using Malaysia as a model.

Bish Sanyal was tapped, along with Amy Smith from MIT's D-Lab (Development through Dialogue, Design and Dissemination), to lead MIT's participation in a new five-year project intended to help meet the needs of the world's poor; MIT will receive up to $25 million in funding from the US Agency for International Development to create and evaluate useful technologies for developing countries around the globe.

Events

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.

In April the Institute hosted the annual MIT Real Estate Forum, jointly sponsored by the Alumni Association of the Center for Real Estate and the Urban Land Institute of Boston. The keynote speaker was alumnus Alexander Knapp, a former architect with Renzo Piano and currently a director with Hines London. Knapp explored the effectiveness of design in creating economic value.

In March the lead designer of Electronic Arts' new SimCity game, alumnus Stone Librande, came to MIT to give our students a sneak preview of the game and to talk with them about the process of game design in general.

On May 8, the Community Innovators Lab and the Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland cohosted a forum at MIT to announce key findings of a joint case study on how nonprofit institutions can improve local economies.

In May, a group of 40 to 50 alumni assembled at MIT to attend the last session of Julian Beinart's 4.241J/11.330J Theory of City Form, a class he had taught since 1977; initiated by alumnus Isaac Manning, 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.

In June, SAP's History, Theory, and Criticism of Art and Architecture program sponsored a symposium to reaffirm the program's commitment 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.

In March, the Toronto Symphony presented the world premiere of a new composition by SAP's Tod Machover, a collaboration between the composer and thousands of the city's citizens seeking to answer the question "What does Toronto sound like?"

On the third Thursday of every month from May through November 2012, a live online Twitter discussion on various topics related to cities was conducted by SAP's Community Innovators Lab under the hashtag #citychat.

Several internationally acclaimed artists were brought to campus for residencies this year by MIT's Visiting Artists Program and the Center for Art, Science & Technology, a joint initiative of SAP, the Office of the Provost, and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Of particular interest to the SAP community were the residencies of visiting artists Tomás Saraceno, an Argentinian architect-cum-artist famed for his speculations on alternative ways of living; Mel Chin and Rick Lowe, a pair of artist/activists who use public art to help build healthy communities; Vik Muniz, a Brazilian photographer exploring the nature of visual cognition; and John Akomfrah and Lina Gopaul, two British filmmakers whose work has transformed the craft.

Exhibits

After Katrina, an exhibit curated by Amy Glasmeier to commemorate MIT's efforts in New Orleans in the eight years since Hurricane Katrina, was on view in MIT's Compton Gallery from May 3 through September 15. At the opening reception, Karl Seidman signed copies of his book *Coming Home to New Orleans: Neighborhood Rebuilding After Katrina* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Frames for Living, on view in the Wolk Gallery from September to December, explored the work of William W. Wurster (1895–1973), a pioneer of 20th-century modernist architecture and one of the most influential architectural educators of the 20th century. Wurster was dean of architecture at MIT from 1944 to 1950.

Suspended City: L'Aquila After the Earthquake of 2009—Photographs by Michele Nastasi was on view in the Wolk Gallery from February to April, documenting the aftermath of the 6.3 earthquake that struck the medieval city of L'Aquila in central Italy. The exhibit was accompanied by public discussions among L'Aquila experts from Italy and MIT experts on geology, architecture, and dispute resolution exploring the obligations of scientists, city planners, and policymakers to predict and plan for the impact of natural disasters on local communities.

From Obsolescence to Sustainability: A Century of Architectural Change, on view in SAP's Wolk Gallery from May to August, traced the concept of obsolescence in the built environment through its evolution in architecture, economics, and culture and the subsequent development of sustainability. Curator Daniel Abramson of Tufts University gave a gallery talk on May 14.

Wheels + Legs, an exhibit of work by two research groups at the Media Lab—Kent Larson's Changing Places and Hugh Herr's Biomechatronics group—was on view in the Media Lab lobby from December 2012 to October 2013.

MIT and the Boston Public Library teamed up to present *Palaces for the People: Guastavino and America's Great Public Spaces*, the first major exhibition on the Guastavino Company and its architectural and historical legacy. That legacy was documented in a recent book by John Ochsendorf, *Guastavino Vaulting: The Art of Structural Tile* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010).

Publications

Aalto and America (Yale University Press), Stanford Anderson with Gail Fenske and David Fixler, editors

Eladio Dieste: Innovation in Structural Art (Princeton Architectural Press), Stanford Anderson, editor

Intellectual Birdhouse—Artistic Practice as Research (Walther König), Ute Meta Bauer (coedited with Florian Dombois, Claudia Mareis, and Michael Schwab)

ReThinking a Lot: The Design and Culture of Parking (MIT Press), Eran Ben-Joseph

Renée Green: Endless Dreams and Time-Based Streams (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts), Renée Green

The Atlas of Economic Complexity (Puritan Press), César Hidalgo and Ricardo Haussmann

Open for Business: Conservatives' Opposition to Environmental Regulation (MIT Press), Judith Layzer

Muntadas: Between the Frames: The Forum (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona), Antoni Muntadas

Design After Decline: How America Rebuilds Shrinking Cities (University of Pennsylvania Press), Brent Ryan

Planning Ideas That Matter: Livability, Territoriality, Governance, and Reflective Practice (MIT Press), Bishwapriya Sanyal and Lawrence Vale with Christina Rosan, editors

ReNew Town: Adaptive Urbanism and the Low Carbon Community (Routledge), Andrew Scott and Eran Ben-Joseph

Water Diplomacy: A Negotiated Approach to Managing Complex Water Networks (RFF Press), Lawrence Susskind

Recognition

Ed Boyden was named a recipient of the 2013 Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Prize, a €1 million award for the development of optogenetics, a technology that makes it possible to control brain activity using light.

Xavier de Souza Briggs received the 2011 Louis Brownlow Book Award for *Moving to Opportunity: The Story of an American Experiment to Fight Ghetto Poverty*.

Brandon Clifford and Ana Miljacki were featured with art installations in the Boston Society of Architects' third Design Biennial Boston from February to May. Also included in the exhibit were previous biennial winners from SAP J. Meejin Yoon (2008) and William O'Brien Jr. (2010). Pinkcomma Gallery, including PhD candidate Michael Kubo, was the guest curator for the show.

Mark Jarzombek's expansive tome, *A Global History of Architecture*, made the *Choice* list of the best academic titles for 2011.

J. Meejin Yoon was presented with the 2013 Irwin Sizer Award for the Most Significant Improvement to MIT Education. Yoon and her partner Eric Höweler won the Audi Urban Futures 2012 Award, a €100,000 prize, for their proposal to create a new kind of transportation platform in the Boston to Washington corridor.

Once again this year, students from SAP dominated MIT's Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prizes in the Visual Arts and the Laya and Jerome B. Wiesner Student Art Awards. This year's $5,000 first-place Schnitzer Prize was awarded to Matthew Everett Lawson; the $3,000 second prize went to Narda Alvarado; and Elizabeth Anne Watkins was awarded an honorable mention of $1,000. Undergraduates Leah Brunetto and Farré Nixon were presented with $1,500 Wiesner Awards.

Several students from SAP 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. Diana Jue, who cofounded the Essmart team, won the grand prize of $50,000 in the 2012 Dell Social Innovation Competition. Jue's team also won $10,000 in the MIT IDEAS Global Competition, along with a seed grant from SAP's Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship.

Media students Matthew Blackshaw, Tony DeVincenzi, and Dávid Lakatos won $15,000 in seed funds for their proposed alternative to Craigslist, Peddl (an app for buying and selling goods and services online).

Several of our students made impressive showings in MIT's IDEAS Global Challenge. Everett Lawson was part of a team that won $7,500 for their proposal to provide a fast, portable, inexpensive screening tool for diabetic retinopathy. Arlene Ducao and Juhee Bae were part of the OpenIR team, which won $7,500 for their proposal to develop a web application to help save lives when disaster strikes by making infrared data easily accessible. Leonie Badger was half of the Fula&Style team, which won $7,500 for their proposal to manufacture and sell business apparel in West Africa; Fula&Style also won seed funding from the Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship.

Other grants from the Legatum Center went to students Slobodan Radoman, Vasco Miguel De Portugal Dias Rato, and Caleb Harper for their proposal to develop an eco resort in Skadar Lake National Park, and to Libby McDonald, Lucia Fernandez, Anna Gross, and Claire Markgraf, part of a team that won a grant for their proposal to assist women waste pickers in India with the development and franchising of small biogas businesses. McDonald was also part of a team that won funding for a proposal to convert household organic waste in Kenya into charcoal. Ella Peinovich was part of a team that won a grant for its proposal to promote distributed global trade for women in underserved communities through a peer-to-peer marketplace.

Some of our students also took part in the competitive fellowship program administered by the Legatum Center. This year's fellows included Mihir Sarkar, Kira Intrator, and Slobodan Radoman.

For the second consecutive year, a team of MIT students won double awards in the Better Buildings Case Competition conducted at the White House by the US Department of Energy. The competition's case studies were written this year by alumna Elena Alschuler, a member of last year's MIT team who was hired by the Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office to help develop tools for collecting and analyzing data on building energy performance.

A team of students from MIT took second place in the 2013 real estate case competition, an annual contest created and hosted by alumni from the Center for Real Estate.

SAP's new Media Lab building was awarded the Harleston Parker Medal by the Boston Society of Architects. Five of MIT's buildings have now been honored with the award—four of them designed at least in part by SAP alums—as have a number of other buildings designed by our alumni and faculty.

Personnel

Eran Ben-Joseph took over as head of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning in January, succeeding Amy Glasmeier, who stepped down after four years in the post to focus on teaching and research.

Gabriella Carolini was appointed assistant professor of urban studies and planning.

Brandon Clifford was appointed first holder of the Belluschi Lectureship in the Department of Architecture, a new three-year teaching and research post named for Pietro Belluschi, dean of the School from 1951 to 1965.

Anton García-Abril was appointed professor of architecture.

Joel Lamere was appointed assistant professor of architectural design.

Miho Mazereeuw was named an assistant professor in the Department of Architecture.

Albert Saiz was appointed associate professor of urban studies and planning.

Walter Torous was named a senior lecturer in the Center for Real Estate for a five-year term, a joint appointment with the Sloan School of Management.

Sarah Williams was appointed assistant professor of urban studies and planning.

Dennis Yeskey was named the seventh Thomas G. Eastman chair of the Center for Real Estate, succeeding Tony Ciochetti, who joined the faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Adèle Naudé Santos
Dean
Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies and Planning