

# University of Notre Dame

## School of Architecture Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 13

2006



Featured is the Madonna and Child, an 1875 cast taken from the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris, before (left) and after (right) it was carefully restored by New York-based restorationist Treese Robb. It took Ms. Robb five weeks to clean and repair the cast, which stands nine feet high and four feet wide. The cast is now permanently featured in front of the east windows in the School's gallery.

When the cast arrived at Notre Dame "the plaster was sugary and brittle after suffering years of weather and animal damage," Ms. Robb says. "Columns were missing, the right side was in five pieces."

With the assistance of Prof. Robert Brandt, Ms. Robb added a new column (it is bass wood covered in white textured paint), inserted steel pins and burlap "bandages" to add support, and new plaster on the façade to restore the look of the sculpture itself.

### Restored Casts on Display

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF ADVISORY COUNCIL members and current chairs Matthew and Joyce Walsh of Chicago, the School recently formalized the transfer of 30 architectural and sculptural plaster casts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the National Archaeological Museum of Athens. Essential for teaching scale, proportion and the orders, casts have been a tool for architects, sculptors and artists since the 19th century.

Museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art once displayed plaster casts of great works of art and architecture with the purpose of inspiring a new generation of artists and architects. Until the middle of the 20th century, many schools of art and architecture had cast collections for the same reason. They were subjects of artistic study and models of aspiration. With this acquisition, Notre Dame students now have the rare opportunity to

regularly study and sketch casts to develop a deeper understanding of the art of building and design.

### High Rankings

NOTRE DAME WAS THE ONLY UNDERGRADUATE architecture program to receive top rankings from both the journals *DesignIntelligence* and *New Urban News*.

*DesignIntelligence* ranks programs based on responses from a cross-section of architecture firms about how well the college experience prepared their new hires for real-world practice. This year the School ranked 12th among more than 75 accredited bachelor's degree programs. Cornell University ranked first for the second year in a row.

This newsletter will be published once, instead of twice, a year. Taking its place will be features and news available on the school of architecture's web site <http://architecture.nd.edu>.

The School ranked second in the *New Urban News* poll. That ranking is based on input from new urbanists around the country. *New Urban News* called Notre Dame one of “the best physical planning schools in the U.S. right now.”

### Three Paths to Advanced Degrees

THE SCHOOL CONTINUES THE TRANSITION IN ITS graduate programs to a curriculum in which advanced study is a three-year sequence with a concentration in either Classical Architecture or Urban Design. Students in each concentration spend a semester in Rome. The first class of urban designers spent the spring of 2006 in Rome. In 2006-07, graduate students will be in Rome during both semesters (classical architects in the fall, urban designers in the spring).

Unique among architectural programs in Europe and the United States, the concentration-based graduate curriculum is designed to provide students an opportunity for an in-depth focus on either subject.

Graduate students now have three options to pursue within the School:

- Path A: Two-year post-professional Master of Architectural Design and Urbanism (M.ADU) degree.
- Path B: Two-year professional Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree.
- Path C: Three-year professional Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree.

Nine new Path C students began in the fall of 2005. We will welcome 13 more in 2006. That will increase the graduate student population to 35 for the upcoming academic year. By the fall of 2007, the School anticipates the combined total of all three paths to reach 45 to 48 students.

### Allan Greenberg

ON MARCH 25, ALLAN GREENBERG RECEIVED THE School's fourth \$100,000 Richard H. Driehaus Prize in recognition of built work and scholarship that has enriched the American architectural and cultural landscape. Mr. Greenberg's reputation has garnered him a broad residential, institutional and commercial client list including the U.S. State Department where he redesigned more than 30 rooms.

Through his teaching, writing and public lectures, Mr. Greenberg has furthered both architectural

scholarship and practice. He has written several books on the relationship between the United States constitution and American architecture, as well as on the dynamic and enduring qualities of traditional architecture and design. His most recent work, *Architecture of Democracy*, was just released by Rizzoli.

In conjunction with the Driehaus Prize, editor David Morton received the second \$25,000 Henry Hope Reed Award for the promotion of classical art and architecture. As a senior editor at Rizzoli International Publications since 1987, Mr. Morton has been responsible for developing architecture-related titles.

### Rising in the East

MAJOR GROWTH POTENTIAL IN ASIA HAS SPURRED the School to develop ongoing summer programs in China and Japan. Dean Michael Lykoudis, Prof. Norman Crowe and Prof. Frank D. K. Ching of the University of Washington, along with several undergraduate and graduate students, spent a week in Japan establishing an itinerary and contacts for next summer's program. Visits to Hong Kong, Beijing,

Nanjing and Shanghai in the summers of 2004 and 2005 established a partnership with Nanjing University in China. Three Notre Dame credit hours will be offered for this four-week program — two weeks in Japan and two weeks in China.

The 2007 China and Japan program will explore the countries' best practices in urban

development, green architecture and environmental planning. Through the study of Asia's architectural traditions and their influence on high-quality modern urban living, the program will examine how architects and planners have responded to evolving social demands compared to their counterparts in the West.

On pace to become the world's largest economy by 2020, China is the world's most populous nation with 1.3 billion people living on the mainland alone. Kyoto will be the base in Japan, where students will visit villages, shrines, and temples, rich cultural reminders of its long history outside the influence of Western cultural and technological forces. New construction also will be studied to learn how the country reflects that heritage even as it evolves.



*The School has established a summer program in both Japan and China. Three Notre Dame credit hours will be offered with this four-week course.*



## Three Generations Conference

IN THE FALL, THE SCHOOL HOSTED “THREE GENERATIONS of Classical Architects: The Renewal of Modern Architecture”. The three-day conference attracted over 200 architects, theorists, Notre Dame alumni, students and classical architecture enthusiasts from the United States and Europe. They explored the classical architecture movement as it has evolved over the past 25 years, focusing on the “three generations” of classical architects:

- 1) Autodidacts who challenged contemporary attitudes toward architecture with building practices that have had a profound effect on the professional world.
- 2) The second generation, also self taught, who struggled to carve a place for themselves as practitioners and academics.
- 3) The third generation, made up primarily of students and employees of the earlier two generations, who have had the opportunity to learn unencumbered by the struggle for legitimacy.

London-based architect Robert Adam delivered the keynote address. Other featured speakers included legends like Léon Krier and newcomers like Dana Gulling (B.Arch '98, who now teaches at the Savannah College of Art and Design). Panelists discussed the historical context that drives modern classicists and how those ideals will shape the future of classical practice in the 21st century.



Over 200 classical architecture enthusiasts gathered at Notre Dame in fall 2005 for the “Three Generations” conference.

## Welcoming new faculty members

**T**he School of Architecture welcomes eight new faculty members including Imdat As, The James A. and Louise F. Nolan Chair in Architecture and Steven Semes, The Francis and Kathleen Rooney Chair in Architecture.

- Imdat As, who holds a Ph.D. in Design from Harvard and a Master's of Science from MIT, will instruct students in three-dimensional modeling, computer-aided design and other visualization computer applications. He joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor.
- Sallie Hood, a popular visiting professor who emphasizes community building and urban design, became a full-time faculty member as Associate Professor of Design.
- David Mayernik is an urban designer, architect, painter and writer. His project for the M. Crist Fleming Library at The American School in Switzerland recently won a prestigious Palladio Award from *Traditional Building* magazine. He joins the faculty as an Associate Professor.
- Steven Peterson and Barbara Littenberg, principals of Peterson/Littenberg Architecture and Urban Design, one of seven design teams selected by the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to present a

proposal to replace the twin towers of the World Trade Center, have joined the Rome Faculty for the 2006-2007 academic year as visiting professors.

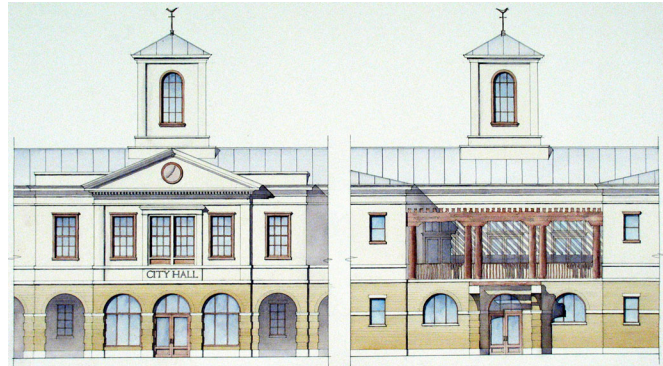
- Ingrid Rowland, who earned her Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Greek Literature and Classical Archaeology at Bryn Mawr College joins the faculty as professor. An expert on Classical Antiquity, the Renaissance and the Age of the Baroque, she is a frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books* and the author of several books including *The Culture of the High Renaissance: Ancients and Moderns in Sixteenth-Century Rome*. She is a Fellow of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the American Academy in Rome and the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles.
- Steven Semes comes from private practice in New York. He is author of *The Architecture of the Classical Interior* and a founding Fellow at the Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America.
- Krupali Uplekar, with a background in structural design and building technology, recently received her Ph.D. from the Technical University of Dresden, Germany focusing on urban planning in historical cities, comes as a Visiting Assistant Professor.



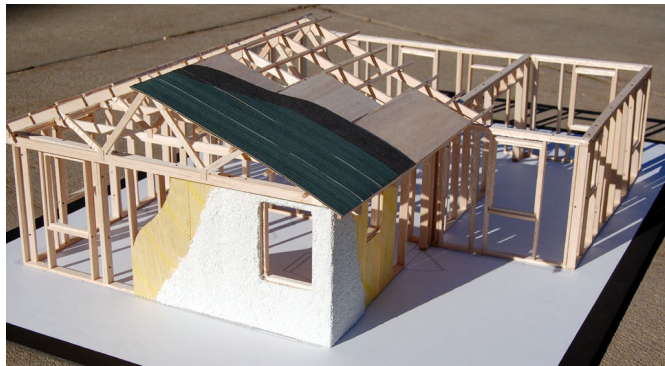
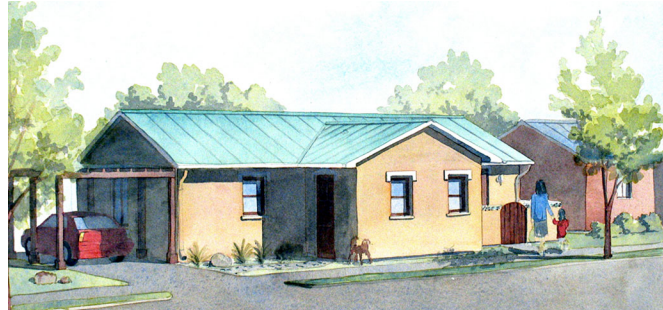
# Regional Studios

Fourth- and fifth-year design studios travel throughout the United States to study local traditional architecture. In the past this has led students to Boston, Greenville, Alabama, St. Augustine, Florida and now to Las Vegas, Mexico and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

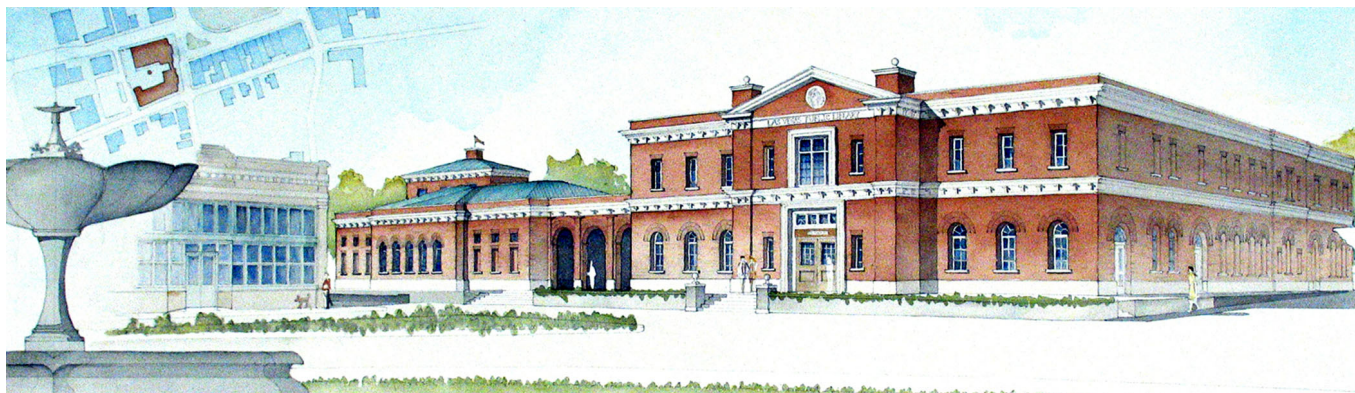
AS PART OF THE SCHOOL'S EMPHASIS IN PUBLIC outreach, 13 fifth-year students spent the fall semester studying regionalism in architecture and urbanism in Las Vegas, New Mexico. The small town of Las Vegas is the state's best example of 19th-century urbanism, incorporating a Mexican-colonial plaza system on the West side of town and the orthogonal grid logic of an American railroad boomtown on the east. The students' design proposals respect and understand the existing context, while aiming to preserve and build upon Las Vegas' unique architectural legacy. (Las Vegas boasts over 900 buildings on the National Register for Historic Places, while its population is only 14,400.) Students surveyed the town, met with government officials and interested citizens who expressed their ideas, concerns and aspirations for Las Vegas. The projects included an overall design proposal for Las Vegas, a new city hall, a new city library and adjacent community center, and a proposal for affordable single-family housing.



Fifth-year student Christopher Eiland's city hall was designed to harmonize with Las Vegas' existing architecture.



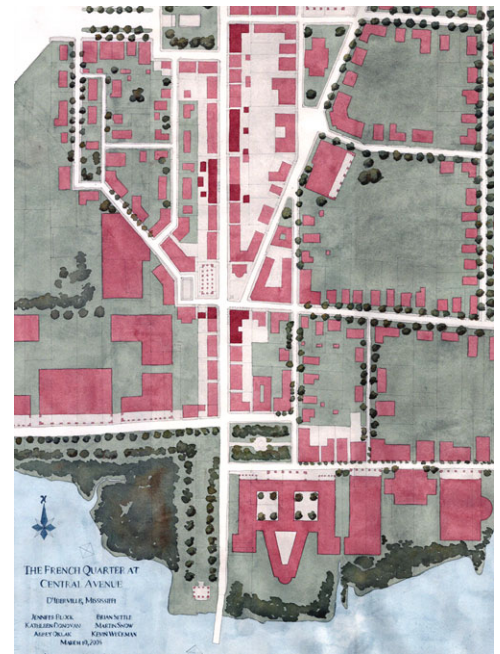
A model and drawings of affordable housing proposals designed and built by fifth-year architecture student Melanie Barge.



Fifth-year architecture student Megan O'Hara outlined a new library and civic center. She used "traditional brick" to give the building a "dignified civic presence appropriate for its function on the plaza."



EXPLORING THE DELICATE BALANCE THAT MAKES CITIES STRONG and how to best rebuild after disaster, 11 fourth-year students spent the spring semester looking at the Hurricane Katrina-devastated communities of D'Iberville and Biloxi, Mississippi. Under the direction of Prof. Philip Bess, the students prepared multiple designs for the redevelopment of the two Gulf Coast cities, including mixed-use commercial and residential structures, urban multi-family housing, civic buildings and churches. The students' goal was to design buildings that work within the intentions and constraints of the Mississippi Renewal Charrette that took place in October 2005. For eight days, 180 New Urbanist architects, planners, transit experts, sociologists, code writers, retail consultants, lawyers, affordable-housing experts, environmentalists and economists from around the world came to Biloxi to participate. The Charrette provided masterplan guidelines for redevelopment. With their designs, the students added their contributions to the rebuilding process.



*A proposed masterplan for D'Iberville's French Quarter designed as a group project.*



*Above and far left, perspective and site plan for fourth-year student Jennifer Block's D'Iberville Museum. Left and below, fourth-year student Greg Boll's infill mixed-use proposal for Biloxi's Howard Avenue.*





## Faculty News

PROF. PHILIP BESS recently received the university's Presidential Award for "outstanding performance and demonstrate service to the University of Notre Dame and its surrounding communities." Since coming to Notre Dame in 2004, Prof. Bess has expanded and greatly enhanced the graduate program. He has also widened the reach of the School overseeing urban design studios locally — looking at how to turn the community of Roseland from motel sprawl to a community campus gateway — and nationally — looking at how to redevelop the Katrina-devastated communities of D'Iberville and Biloxi, Mississippi. Prof. Bess also has a new book from coming out in September titled, *Till We Have Built Jerusalem: Architecture, Urbanism, and the Sacred* (ISI BOOKS).

PROF. ROBERT BRANDT recently exhibited his work at the Furniture Society's annual conference held at Indiana University / Purdue University at Indianapolis' Herron School of Art.

PROF. DENNIS DOORDAN was honored with a John A. Kaneb Teaching Award from the university. The award honors outstanding undergraduate faculty members who have demonstrated teaching excellence over time. An essay he published, "Scott Johnson and the Commerce of Ideas" will also serve as the preface for the forthcoming book, *The Big Idea: Criticality and Practice in Contemporary Architecture* by architect Scott Johnson. In March, Prof. Doordan also moderated a panel discussion with Ettore Sottsass and Frank Gehry as part of the inauguration of the exhibition "Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Design" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

PROF. RICHARD ECONOMAKIS was the co-organizer of the conference "Traditional Architecture in Britain: Teaching and Building in the 21st Century," held by the Traditional Architecture Group (TAG) at Notre Dame's Trafalgar Square London Center where he gave the talk, "Teaching Classical and Traditional Architecture Today." Recently Prof. Economakis was commissioned to redesign the Chapel at Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas.

In May, PROF. SALLIE HOOD and PROF. RON SAKAL represented the School at the 44th International Conference on Making Cities Livable in Santa Fe. Prof. Hood's presentation, "Fix the Worst First or How the Worst Can Be Best," featured projects of their firm Sakal & Hood Architects and Urban Designers. Prof. Hood and Prof. Sakal also designed a new church complex and landscape plan for the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert, Michigan.

PROF. GIOVANNA LENZI-SANDUSKY received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to participate in "Shaping Civic Space in Renaissance Venice" a five-week summer seminar held in Venice.

Longtime Rome professor ETTORE MAZZOLA has a newly released book, *Architettura e Urbanistica, Istruzioni per l'Uso - Architecture and Town Planning,*

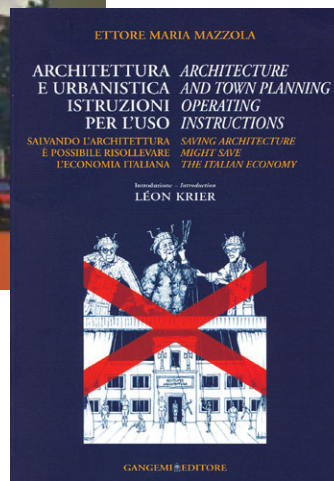
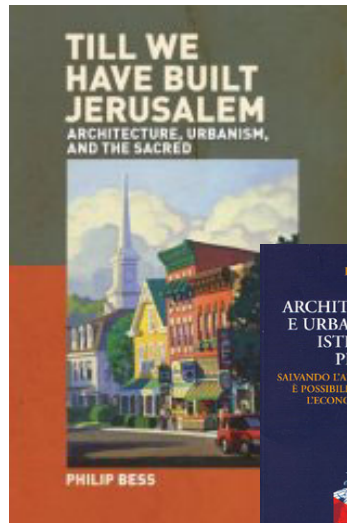
*Operating Instructions* that explores the importance of building structures that are sustainable and look to the past for guidance.

Construction of PROF. THOMAS GORDON SMITH'S designs for the Classical Galleries in the American Wing of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and his museum for the Historical Society of Decatur County in Greensburg, Indiana was recently completed. He was also commissioned to design a student center for California State University, Stanislaus.

PROF. JOHN STAMPER was named Educator of the Year 2005-2006 by the Notre Dame AIAS chapter. Yearly the AIAS-ND honors one outstanding faculty member.

PROF. DUNCAN STROIK received the AIA's Honor Award for the design of All Saints church in Kentucky from the Northern Indiana chapter. He also wrote the forward for *Heavenly City: The Architectural Tradition of Catholic Chicago* by Denis McNamara.

Last March PROF. CARROLL WILLIAM WESTFALL was an invited juror for the Congress for the New Urbanism's Charter Awards that selects winning entries that best embody and advance the principles of the Charter of the New Urbanism.



Prof. Philip Bess and Prof. Ettore Mazzola have new books this fall.

## Steven Semes: Designing Architecture of Our Time

Steven Semes' interest in traditional architecture can be traced to his youth in the southern Florida community of Coral Gables, which had been developed as a "traditional new town" in the 1920s. It was there, in the 1950s and '60s, that he was exposed to such Mediterranean Revival landmarks as Vizcaya (1916), the Coral Gables City Hall (1927) and the Venetian Pool (1924), where a young Semes took swimming lessons. His father and grandfather were both homebuilders, encouraging his interest in architecture and building from an early age. The Semes' family vacation home, in the mountains of North Carolina, was built to plans he drew at the age of 14.

A few years later, Semes headed to the University of Virginia. "I got an excellent Bauhaus education – in terms of skill level, it was a very good training. What was strange was the complete disconnect between what the architecture faculty taught in studio and all the classical buildings that were standing around us, which were never discussed."

It wasn't until years later, upon meeting Robert A.M. Stern, Henry Hope Reed and Alvin Holm, that Semes would begin to see traditional architecture as a viable alternative. "When I was at UVA, in the '70s," he says, "the structures being built on the grounds were traditional in the sense that they were red brick and had white trim. I was actually one of the students who was up in arms about these things, thinking that the university shouldn't be building these little Colonial buildings, but that it should be hiring architecture faculty to set the world on fire."

After receiving his BS in architecture in 1975, Semes took a position with the National Park Service Historic Preservation Projects Branch, traveling around the country gaining hands-on experience with historic buildings. Realizing his passion for old buildings, Semes planned on pursuing a career in preservation. "I was all prepared to do that when I heard Bob Stern speak in Washington in 1977," he says. "What he revealed was that you could make new buildings with some of the same qualities we admire in old buildings. It was the beginning of a renewed interest in historic architecture, so I went off to Columbia to see what he could teach me.

"At that time Columbia was a very interesting place – it was the late '70s, early '80s, so there was a huge amount of debate and openness about different kinds of

architecture. . . . It was the perfect place to be in school because you actually got the feeling that there were ideas, and that you could choose, so it was a very invigorating environment."

When Semes met Reed in 1981, he encouraged him to take a drawing class at Classical America taught by Alvin Holm. "That's what really turned me around – Henry and Al helped me to see that my interests were applicable," he says.

Semes' early professional experience included five years with Johnson/Burgee Architects, of New York and four years with David S. Gast and Associates, of San Francisco. Upon returning to New York City in 1993, Semes took a position with Cooper, Robertson & Partners, working closely with Jaquelin T. Robertson. "This was another mentorship for me," says Semes. "I explored period detail in a way that was informed but not necessarily correct in the sense of trying to replicate something – but really trying to speak the language anew, which is

something that I've always been interested in."

In his capacity as a fellow and faculty member of The Institute of Classical Architecture & Classical America, Semes taught traditional design for several years and lectured extensively on classical interior design, an extension of his book *The Architecture of the Classical Interior*. His current research focuses on preservation issues and new architecture in historic contexts. It will be published as the forthcoming *The Future of the Past: A Conservative Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism and Historic Preservation*.

"The idea of having very aggressive and contrasting buildings in historic settings has begun to become a problem – a problem that's now beginning to be recognized by the public. But the leaders of the preservation community have been reluctant to relinquish the principle that we can't get in the way of the 'architecture of our time.' The way that I, and some of my colleagues, respond to that is to say, 'Well, we are making the architecture of our time, and we'd appreciate it very much if you'd recognize that.'"



Steven Semes, who joined the faculty last fall, is The Francis and Kathleen Rooney Chair in Architecture.

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Each issue of this newsletter will profile a School of Architecture faculty member. This article by Will Holloway is excerpted from Clem Labine's *Period Homes*, January 2006.

## TO COME

For information on Notre Dame Architecture news and events visit  
[HTTP://ARCHITECTURE.ND.EDU/](http://architecture.nd.edu/)

**LECTURE: BUNNY WILLIAMS, SEPTEMBER 27**  
*Interior Designer and President, Bunny Williams Inc., New York*

**LECTURE: ALEXANDER TZONIS, OCTOBER 2**  
*Professor and chair emeritus of Architectural Theory and Design Methods at the University of Technology of Delft, Netherlands*

**LECTURE: LEONARD PORTER, OCTOBER 30**  
*Painter, New York*

**LECTURE: CHARLIE THORNTON, NOVEMBER 6**  
*Chairman and Engineer, The Thornton-Tomasetti Group, New York*

**LECTURE: ALLAN GREENBERG, NOVEMBER 13**  
*2006 Richard H. Driehaus Prize Laureate and Principal, Allan Greenberg Architect, Washington, D.C.*

**LECTURE: MARICÉ CHAEL, NOVEMBER 27**  
*Principal, Chael, Cooper & Associates, PA, Miami*

**LECTURE: DONALD MACDONALD, JANUARY 22**  
*Principal, Donald MacDonald Architects, San Francisco*

**EXPO ROMA 2007, FEBRUARY 16 - 18**  
*A weekend celebrating the class of 2008's year in Rome*

**CAREER FAIR, MARCH 29 - 30**  
*For more information visit [http://architecture.nd.edu/professional\\_development/career\\_fair07.shtml](http://architecture.nd.edu/professional_development/career_fair07.shtml)*

**THE RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY, MARCH 31**  
*University Club of Chicago, by invitation only*

**NOTRE DAME'S AIA 150 CELEBRATION, APRIL 13 - 14**  
*104 Bond Hall*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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