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 highlights from the year. For more information, consult the divisions' individual reports.

New Initiatives

In the fall, associate dean Mark Jarzombek taught his popular class, *A Global History of Architecture*, as a massive open online course presented through edX, the first edX course to be offered from SAP. Since 2011, Jarzombek has taught the course on campus to an average of 35 students per class. This year, in addition to his on-campus offering, he registered 25,000 students from all over the world, including a 90-year-old from Mississippi, a former Marine in California, a dentist in China, a professor of history in England, and a South African high school student, along with a number of global travelers who were simply interested in learning more about the world. At the end of the class, Jarzombek received a virtual flood of appreciation in the form of messages and photos of his students standing in front of local architectural landmarks and holding up signs reading "THANK YOU, MARK!"

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded SAP a one million dollar grant to help create the Global Architectural History Teaching Collaborative. Headed at MIT by Mark Jarzombek, the Collaborative will consist of scholars who will produce classroom materials for teachers and professors in charge of architectural history at the undergraduate or survey level. The materials will be made available free of charge to a global online audience.

With a $3 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SAP's Education Arcade designed, built, and researched a massively multiplayer online game to help

high school students learn math and biology; the project is one of several efforts at SAP exploring new approaches to education.

Events

In April, the Center for Advanced Urbanism (CAU) brought together more than 200 political leaders, infrastructural engineers, design professionals, and academicians to explore the question of shaping sustainable futures for cities around the world. Keynote speaker for the conference was Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel, author of the Chicago Infrastructure Trust—an effort to secure private investment for projects the city could not afford through its budget or traditional borrowing.

In April, the Program in Art, Culture and Technology—in concert with MIT's Center for Art, Science and Technology—presented a two-day symposium and an accompanying exhibit to celebrate the living legacy of artist and educator Antoni Muntadas, retiring this spring after 24 years of teaching. The symposium brought together more than 300 scholars, artists, architects, and planners from MIT and beyond to consider definitions of public space and the tools, tactics, and consequences of reclaiming it through architecture and art. The themes of the symposium drew from Muntadas' career at MIT and his artistic practice, a legacy that directly affected the work and philosophies of many of the invited speakers.

In February, a 60,000-square-foot grocery in New Orleans' Broad Street neighborhood, vacant since Hurricane Katrina, reopened its doors as a mixed-use community "fresh food hub," including fresh and affordable groceries, commercial kitchens for school meal providers, and retail and office space. The ReFresh Project, as it is known, is an initiative of Broad Community Connections (BCC), a nonprofit Main Street organization founded in 2008 to revitalize the city's historic Broad Street as a commercial corridor, a project with connections to SAP that run both wide and deep. Both the BCC and the grocery redevelopment project can trace their origins to a Spring '07 practicum taught by planning lecturers Karl Seidman and Susan Silberberg; with the assistance of Seidman and student Jeff Schwartz (MCP '08), community leaders went on to found the BCC, hiring Schwartz as its first executive director.

Also in February, Jennifer Pahlka, founder of Code for America—a nonprofit dedicated to promoting openness, participation, and efficiency in local government—was presented with the 2013–2014 Kevin Lynch Award. SAP presents the award every other year for outstanding scholarship and/or practice in urban design, planning, and landscape design.

Exhibits

Sidewalk City. On view in SAP's Wolk Gallery through November 15, *Sidewalk City* presented the latest experimental maps developed by the MIT Sidewalk Laboratory, 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.

Solidarity Works. On view in the Wolk Gallery from December to March, *Solidarity Works* presented recent work by Azra Akšamija, class of 1922 career development professor

in the Department of Architecture and assistant professor of the arts in the Art, Culture and Technology Program. Solidarity Works explored how art and architecture can act as vehicles for community making, both real and imagined, and generate a sense of solidarity in times of conflict and crisis.

Hans Scharoun: Architect and Visionary. On display in the Wolk Gallery from April to August, *Hans Scharoun: Architect and Visionary* focused on the graphic art of Hans Scharoun (1893–1972), known today for architecture that expresses profound humanism and expressionism. Extending from his earliest preserved drawings from 1908 to graphics for posthumous projects, the exhibit included rarely seen visionary and expressionistic watercolor renderings from the 1940s.

The Eye Is a Door: Landscape Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn. On view at the Smith College Museum of Art through August 31, *The Eye Is a Door: Landscape Photographs by Anne Whiston Spirn* was the first major exhibition to explore how Spirn's photographs encourage a deeper understanding of the natural and built environment through the development of visual literacy—seeing as a way of knowing, photography as a way of thinking.

Publications

The 2014 winter issue of MIT's *Spectrum* magazine—"The Future is Cities"— was a glossy 24-page production featuring oversize full-color spreads on current projects in urbanization, the lion's share of which were being conducted at SAP. With an introduction by President Reif, the issue addressed many of today's most important challenges—including poverty, energy, climate change, disaster resilience, transportation, and sustainability—and the often startling ways researchers are tackling those issues.

> Alan Berger and Andrew Scott. *Report on the State of Health + Urbanism.* SA+P Press, 2013.

> Arindam Dutta, editor. *A Second Modernism: MIT, Architecture, and the 'Techno-Social' Moment.* MIT Press, September 2013.

> Robert Fogelson. *The Great Rent Wars: New York, 1917–1929*. Yale University Press, October 2013.

> Mark Jarzombek. *Architecture of First Societies: A Global Perspective.* John Wiley & Sons, October 2013.

> Ana Miljacki, guest editor (with Amanda Reeser Lawrence and Ashley Schafer). *Praxis: Journal of Writing + Building, Issue 14: True Stories.* Praxis, Inc., January 2014.

> Ana Miljacki, editor. *Under the Influence: Symposium Organized by Ana Miljacki.* SA+P Press, 2014.

> Antoni Muntadas. *For a Project Methodology.* Monos Digital Books, September 2013.

> Anne Whiston Spirn. *The Eye is a Door: Landscape, Photography and the Art of Discovery.* Wolf Tree Press, May 2014.

Lawrence Susskind. *Good for You, Great for Me*. Public Affairs, June 2014.

Ethan Zuckerman. *Rewire: Digital Cosmopolitans in the Age of Connection.* W. W. Norton & Company, June 2013.

Recognition

The Center for Advanced Urbanism, in collaboration with others, was named a winner of the Rebuild by Design competition, sponsored by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address the challenges faced by coastal communities in the wake of Hurricane Sandy; the state of New Jersey will receive $150 million to implement CAU's winning proposal.

SAP was well represented at the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale. The US Pavilion was co-curated by architecture professor Ana Miljacki; the Kuwait Pavilion was curated by alumna Alia Farid (SMVisS '08); an installation of new technology from the SENSEable City Lab was a key component in the Central Pavilion; and the Biennale's highest honor—the Golden Lion—went to the Korean Pavilion, co-curated by alumnus Hyung-Min Pai (PhD '93, Architecture).

Joan Jonas, professor emerita with SAP's Program in Art, Culture and Technology, has been chosen to represent the United States next year at the 56th Venice Art Biennale, the world's most prestigious contemporary art event. She is the second artist from SAP to represent the US at the Biennale and one of several others from SAP who have represented their countries of origin and/or curated exhibits there. In 2011, SAP alumna Jennifer Allora (SMVisS '03) represented the US with her partner Guillermo Calzadilla. Faculty representing their country of origin at past Venice Biennales include Krzysztof Wodiczko representing Poland in 2009; Gediminas Urbonas with his partner Nomeda Urbonas, representing Lithuania in 2007 (singled out for honorable mention); Antoni Muntadas representing Spain in 2005; and Otto Piene representing Germany in 1971 and 1967. In 2005, Yung Ho Chang designed a prominent bamboo refuge for China's first official pavilion and in 2003 Ute Meta Bauer served as commissioner for the Nordic Pavilion (Finland, Norway, and Sweden).

Azra Akšamija was recognized with a 2013 Aga Khan Award for her part in the creation of an Islamic Cemetery in Austria. Akšamija received a PhD in 2011 from SAP's Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture; she is the first graduate of the program to be recognized with the highly prestigious Aga Khan Award.

Media Lab professor emeritus Marvin Minsky, a pioneer in the field of artificial intelligence, won the $540,000 BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in the information and communications technologies category.

John Ochsendorf, Class of 1942 professor of architecture, was named a 2014 MacVicar Faculty Fellow, one of a handful of professors recognized as exceptional undergraduate teachers, educational innovators, and mentors.

Five students from the School of Architecture and Planning—candidates for degrees in media studies, architecture, and art, culture and technology—took top honors in the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts.

Three students in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning were among the winners of the 2014 Affordable Housing Development Competition, sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston; since the contest was established in 2000, SAP has consistently been represented among the winners.

The MIT Corporation named the auditorium atop the new Media Lab Complex in honor of Alexander W. Dreyfoos '54, renowned inventor and philanthropist, and early advocate for the creation of the Media Lab.

Personnel

Adèle Naudé Santos, dean of SAP since 2004, stepped down from her post at the end of June. She will stay on the faculty of both the Departments of Architecture and Urban Studies and Planning, and remain deeply involved with the new Center for Advanced Urbanism while continuing to work with her prize-winning architectural practice, Santos-Prescott. Her tenure as dean has been marked by a notable increase in academic appointments: 40% of the school's current faculty was hired during her term, 38% have been tenured, and 55% promoted. At the same time, interest in the school's programs has risen dramatically: applications for the master of science in architecture studies and the SM in Media Arts and Sciences have both more than doubled; applications for the master of science in architecture studies have increased by 85% and applications for the master in city planning program have risen by 70% percent.

Mark Jarzombek was named interim dean of the School, effective July 1. Jarzombek has served as associate dean since 2007 and was director of SAP's History, Theory and Criticism Program from 1996–1999 and again from 2002–2007.

J. Meejin Yoon was appointed head of the Department of Architecture beginning July 1. The first woman ever appointed to that post, she succeeds Nader Tehrani, who served as department head from 2010–2014.

Ken Goldsmith was appointed assistant dean for finance and administration, succeeding Diane McLaughlin, who retired after 27 years at MIT.

Xavier de Souza Briggs was appointed vice president of the Economic Opportunity and Assets program of the Ford Foundation; he went on public service leave from MIT and started at Ford effective January 1.

Antoni Muntadas retired at the end of the spring semester to concentrate on his artistic practice, a global career spanning more than four decades. Muntadas first came to MIT in 1977 to join the Center for Advanced Visual Studies as a research fellow.

For the second year in a row, SAP hosted an intern from the Boston chapter of the nationwide Year Up program—a one-year intensive training sequence that provides

adults from underprivileged backgrounds who are between the ages of 18 and 24 with a combination of skill development, college credits, and professional experience. This year's Year Up student was Javon James, a finance intern who worked with Dineen Doucette in the dean's office and with Doug Le Vie in architecture headquarters. Last year, Analisha Centeno was at the Media Lab working with Peter Pflanz in information systems and technology; she is now employed there full time as an administrative assistant.

Wayne Andersen, professor emeritus of history, theory and criticism of art and architecture, died on January 6 at the age of 85.

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