COLLEGE OF **DESIGN** UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

catalyst
lectures
2011

MARCH: 07-11

**KICKOFF: Mon 03-07
10 am, Rapson Courtyard**

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

Jeff Sylvestre. Gloria Mark, Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine. Enrique Rabasa-Diaz, Polytechnic University of Madrid. John W. Cuningham, FAIA, NCARB, LEED A P, Founder, Cuningham Group Architecture. Brian Stacy, ARUP, New York. Gil Akos & Ronnie Parsons, Studio Mode, New York.

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tue 03-08 11:00 am - Murphy 100
GLORIA MARK, PhD

"When the Unimaginable Becomes the Routine: How ICT's Enable Resilience in Environmental Crises "

Environmental crises such as natural disasters or wars can have highly disruptive long-term effects on people's lives. People may not be able to engage in their normal activities such as work, social life or travel. In this talk I will discuss ongoing empirical studies of citizens living in conflict zones (Israel and Iraq) and will describe how information and communication technologies (ICTs) played a major role in enabling people to be resilient. Based on qualitative and quantitative analyses of interviews, blogs and Internet archival data, I will discuss properties of resilience that ICTs enable such as reconfiguring social networks and repairing trust in information. I will explain how the blogosphere is changing how people experience living in a conflict zone. Last, I will show how topic modeling as a methodology can uncover blog topics that relate to war events over time. In most cases, the use of ICTs led to more of a reliance on virtual work and interaction and in some cases to deeper structural changes. I will describe broader implications for how ICTs can support people in being resilient when their society experiences disruption.

Gloria Mark is a Professor in the Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine. Her principle research areas are in human-computer interaction and computer-supported cooperative work. Her research focuses on the design and evaluation of collaborative systems. Her current projects include studying multitasking of information workers, IT use for resilience and adaptation in disrupted environments, and mobile platforms for telemedicine. She received her PhD in Psychology from Columbia University. Prior to joining UCI in 2000, she worked at the GMD in Bonn, Germany (now Fraunhofer Institute). In 2006 she received a Fulbright scholarship where she worked at the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She has been the technical program chair for ACM CSCW'06 and ACM GROUP'05 conferences, is the technical program chair for ACM CSCW'12, and is on the editorial board of Computer Supported Cooperative Work: The Journal of Collaborative Computing, ACM TOCHI, and e-Service Qu@rterly. Her work has appeared in the popular press such as The New York Times, Time, and The Wall Street Journal.

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tue 03-08 5:00 pm - Rapson 100
ENRIQUE RABASA-DIAZ

"Efficient and Causeless Solutions in the History of Stereotomy"

Architects and masons of the medieval times developed an ingenious and efficient geometry to construct their buildings. During the 18th century a paradox emerges when the academic science of geometry intervenes in construction issues; instead of improving the building solutions geometricians use architecture to illustrate complex and abstract geometric problems. The solutions then become causeless. This lecture will embrace the difference between designing architecture from the perspective of the construction/constructor and designing architecture from an idealized form that deals with its materialization as an afterthought. The underlying topic of this talk will touch upon the science of geometry and the geometry of making rather than the geometry of the form that we are used to see in contemporary practice of architecture.

Dr. Architect, Professor Enrique Rabasa-Diaz works at the Superior Technical School of Architecture in Madrid, Spain. He is the director of the Graphic Architectonical Design Department and also directs a very active stonecutting shop where students experiment with masonry compressive structures. Prof. Rabasa-Diaz' research focuses on history of descriptive geometry and construction, especially stereotomy and stone-cutting craft and techniques. He also collaborates with the Centro de los Oficios de León (stonecutter's school in León, Spain). Dr Rabasa-Diaz has several publications in forms of books and articles about stereotomy and stone-cutting. His research work is well recognized in Europe and he is part of the Scientific Committee of the International Congress of Construction History

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wed 03-09 5:00 pm - Rapson 100
JOHN CUNINGHAM, FAIA

"Local and International Urban Design: 10 Principles of Public Spaces"

This lecture will touch upon urban design locally and internationally. The topic will be revealed though 10 principles working in favor of public spaces. The questions rely on the elements that make a successful open spaces in terms of operation and identification space-user.

John W. Cuningham, FAIA, NCARB, LEED® AP, Founder, Cuningham Group Architecture, P.A. John Cuningham has been practicing architecture since his graduation in 1962. After receiving his master's degree from Harvard in 1964, he was awarded the Rotch Traveling Fellowship, which enabled him to spend a year working in Germany. John describes it as one of two "seminal experiences" (the other was a trip to the South Pacific) that helped broaden and redefine his personal and professional perspectives. In 1968 he founded Cuningham Group, and his leadership, foresight and personal attention have helped grow and lead the firm to design some of the most innovative and exciting designs in the Twin Cities, as well as nationally and internationally. Cuningham Group has won dozens of awards for its work, including three 25-Year Awards and five Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects Minnesota.

While emphasizing the need to produce architecture well-aligned with the needs and values of clients, John believes good architecture contributes to community life. "I'm not as interested in the single building as I am in the community," explains Cuningham. "Being a good architect—doing good architecture—has to do with being in service to society," he says. "The kind of architecture that interests me is the kind that builds community."

John's community-based approach is further underscored by his personal passion for sustainable design. As the firm approaches 43 years in business, John continues to advocate creating memorable places that respect the earth—an advocacy he has upheld throughout his professional career and before the rise in recognition of "green design."

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thu 03-10 5:00 pm - Rapson 100
BRIAN STACY

"Lighting Design on a World Stage and Emerging Trends in Daylighting"

In an era of active material investigation, light has become an increasingly important ingredient in the pursuit of optimal and unforeseen material effects. One notable trend has been the adoption of fiber optic principles of bending and extending light to a variety of materials—such as light pipes, acrylic tubes, and mirror ducts. These principles have been harnessed to produce responsive material effects at the scale of a detail, as well as smart day lighting and energy optimization strategies at the scale of a building.

Brian Stacy is a highly acclaimed lighting designer with ARUP a firm that brings together professionals from diverse disciplines and with complementary skills, on a uniquely global scale. The depth of expertise and the sheer numbers of specialists allow Arup to take on complex, strategic projects that no other firm could have delivered. Bryan has worked on many notable international works including Asymptote's Yas hotel. In this third installment of light-oriented design with 3M, Brian is coming to Minnesota to fine-tune interface proposals for the 3M Light Guide system which is currently being installed in the second level Rapson studio space.

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fri 03-11 2:00 pm - Rapson 100
GIL AKOS & RONNIE PARSONS

"Advanced Digital Model and Digital Fabrication"

This lecture will introduce participants to the conceptual and technical domain of parametric design by engaging systemic processes which register and respond to a range of diverse ecological criteria. The parametric modeling plug-in Grasshopper in conjunction with digital fabrication technology will be the primary platform for design research. The lecture will investigate the Urban Archipelago as an architectural catalyst for tectonic and spatial innovation. The archipelago, a chain of islands grouped either geographically or geologically, is a diverse ecology that differs vastly from that of its land-based counterparts in its capacity to accelerate the adaptation of material systems. This lecture will show the catalyst work produced under the direction of Akos & Parsons, which developed a collection of architectural prototypes related both spatially and logically that range in scale from the wearable to the occupiable.

Studio Mode/modeLab is a Brooklyn-based design studio and research collective founded by Ronnie Parsons and Gil Akos. As a studio committed to design as a form of applied research, Mode engages in practices that have a requisite and deep connection to material and the processes by which it is formed and informed. While we are interested in intense iterative design processes, we believe the evolution and contextualization of these procedures in a broader social and cultural domain is both our primary objective and the means for embedding interest and significance into design.

Ronnie holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Science in Architecture and has studied abroad at The Architectural Association, London, The Institute for Experimental Architecture, Innsbruck, and The University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Ronnie has taught at Stevens Institute of Technology as well as the Pratt Institute and has assisted in design studios at Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture and Princeton University School of Architecture.

Gil holds both a Master's of Science in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University and a Master's of Architecture from the University of Kansas. Gil has taught at the Product Architecture Lab | Stevens Institute of Technology and Pratt Institute and assisted in design studios at Columbia University and Princeton University.