New Faculty Join the School of Art + Design

Now in its third year, the growing School of Art + Design at the New Jersey Institute of Technology welcomes new faculty members in the following programs:

INTERIOR DESIGN:

Linda Laucirica has joined the faculty as an adjunct and is teaching third year interior design studio. She comes to NJIT with more than fifteen years of experience in hospitality, commercial, and residential interior design having worked previously for the Rockwell Group and McCartan, both in New York, on projects that included Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, Watercolor Inn in Florida, and the Hotel Sax in Chicago. She is currently the Interior Design Director for Ismael Leyva Architects in New York City. Ms. Laucirica received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Franklin and Marshall and her degree in interior design from the New York School of Interior Design, is NCIDQ certified, and a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

Ernesto L. Martinez, a Texas native with a degree in architecture from Pratt Institute in New York, has a career that has geographically spanned from New York City to Maui, Hawaii and most recently, Austin, Texas where he received the “Innovator of the Year” award in 2008 from Art Alliance Austin for his work as co-founder and co-chair of the annual Temporary Outdoor Gallery Space (TOGS) International Ideas Competition. Mr. Martinez previously worked for Robert A.M. Stern Architects, is currently in private practice, and promotes art and architecture in the not-for-profit sector in Austin and New York. An active member of the American Institute of Architects and the AIA-NY Chapter, Mr. Martinez is teaching second year interior design studio.

Jennifer Jean Morris, principal of Spatial Design - a New York City interior design firm with a portfolio that includes residential, restaurant, and office design projects, has joined the faculty to teach a course in Materials and Methods to interior design students. Ms. Morris has taught at Parsons The New School for Design and worked for a variety of design firms in New York, including Zeff Design, Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Jeffrey Beers International, and Rockwell Group serving as designer and project manager for a number of projects that included Canyon Ranch Miami Beach, Bobby Flay’s Mesa Grill at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Emeril’s Miami Beach, and Emeril’s New Orleans Fish House at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Ms. Morris is both NCIDQ and LEED certified and is a graduate of the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning at the University of Cincinnati.

Alumna Barbara Littman, (M. Arch. ’94) is teaching the History of Furniture class. A graduate of Tufts University and New York School of Interior Design, Ms. Littman is a Certified Interior Designer in New Jersey with more than 30 years of experience in both residential and health care design, a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), and an Associate Member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). She has received both Gold and Bronze design awards in ASID Design Competitions in 2006 and 2008 and has had work published in House Beautiful, NY Savvy, Contract, and New Jersey Monthly magazines. Ms. Littman has previously taught at Kean University and New York University’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies (NYC SCPS).
DIGITAL DESIGN:

Taro Narahara has been appointed Assistant Professor of Digital Design where he will be teaching design studio and a variety of required and elective courses. Mr. Narahara holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Waseda University’s School of Science and Engineering in Tokyo, a Master of Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis, a Master of Science in Architectural Studies from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he was associated with the Media Lab, and a Doctor of Design from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Mr. Narahara won the Peter Rice Prize, the Digital Design Prize, an REAI Research Grant Award, and the Penny White Prize from Harvard University. He is a registered architect in the state of New York and has practiced in the United States and Japan. During this period, he was associated with firms that included Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and Gluckman Mayner Architects collaborating on several award-winning projects including Mori Arts Center, Hotel Puerta de America in Madrid, and the MoMA Store in New York City.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN:

Gabriel Ruegg, a product designer for Lifetime Brands in Garden City, New York joins the faculty as an adjunct in Industrial Design. Previously Mr. Ruegg was involved in product modeling and rendering for Maggie’s Pearls, Inc. and Lawrence Metal Products, Inc. - both in New York. Gabe Ruegg received his B.A. degree from Hampshire College and Master of Industrial Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and has had work exhibited at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) and Silas Marder Gallery in New York.

Brooks Atwood has been appointed Assistant Professor of Industrial Design after having served as an adjunct faculty member in both architecture and industrial design at NJIT and interior design at Parsons The New School of Design. Professor Atwood, who is teaching industrial design studios, received his B. Arch. from Illinois Institute of Technology and a Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design (MSAAD) from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. Professor Atwood is co-founder and principal of Pod Design+Media, a multi-disciplinary design laboratory that emphasizes a process-based design approach to develop built and conceptual projects. His international work varies from German-manufactured flatware for consumer use to medical/biomedical applications like the Listening Studio project at The Center for Hearing and Communication. His work has appeared in a variety of publications and exhibits that include The New York Times, Advocate Home Design, Architectural Record, Lucky Magazine, and the Samsung Museum of Art in Seoul, Korea. Most recently, Professor Atwood was selected as one of the designers for the original Showtime program “SHO House” to be aired later this year; and his competition entry for the Newark Gateway competition “This is Newark!” was shown at “Design Newark Exhibition” at 239 Collective. Brooks Atwood has also been named the Assistant Director of the Idea Factory at NJIT.
Faculty Coordinators Named for Art + Design Programs

As the School of Art + Design enters its third year with approximately 200 degree-seeking students, the programs have grown to the point where it is important to have an individual dedicated to the organization and day-to-day operation of each program. As such, we are pleased to announce the appointments of three full-time faculty members as coordinators of the programs. Assistant Professor David Brothers is Coordinator of Interior Design, University Lecturer José Alcala is Coordinator of Industrial Design, and University Lecturer Augustus Wendell is Coordinator of Digital Design.

Industry-Speak Seminar Series Begins with a Focus on Digital Design

Coordinated by Professor Andrzej Zarzycki, the Industry-Speak seminar series brings industry professionals in digital media, industrial design, interior design, and fine arts from the New York City/Northern New Jersey metropolitan area to speak with students and faculty in an intimate setting in the College of Architecture and Design Conference Room. The lineup of speakers in the series’ inaugural semester features professionals in digital media and visual communication. Scheduled to appear are Catie Liken (October 4) from Smoke & Mirrors: New York; Mary Nittolo (October 11) from The Studio; and Scott Sindorf (October 25) from UVPHACTORY. The companies represented are responsible for a wide variety of creative and highly regarded projects that range from music videos for Deadweather’s Treat Me Like Your Mother and Michael Jackson’s This Is It (Smoke and Mirrors) to textbook and medical illustration (The Studio) to promotional videos for SyFy Channel’s Warehouse 13 and Eureka, music videos for Black Stone Cherry’s Please Come In and Ashlee Simpson’s Out of My Head to commercials for Nike and Swatch (UVPH).

Bill Lazaroff, Senior Vice-President of Lifetime Brands Kicks Off Fall 2010 College Lecture Series

The lineup for lectures this semester has been expanded to include design professionals from the disciplines represented by the School of Art + Design. Representing Industrial Design, Bill Lazaroff, Sr. Vice-President of Lifetime Brands in charge of Product Development & Design is the first lecturer in the College of Architecture and Design Fall Lecture Series on Monday October 11. Lazaroff, whose lecture is titled “Inventive Problem Solving: Idea to Reality”, is responsible for a range of companies representing well-known products manufactured and marketed by Farberware, Kitchen Aid, Mikasa, Cuisinart, Pfaltzgraff and others. All lectures are open to the general public.

Student/Professional Organizations Started

The Digital Design and Interior Design programs have established student chapters of affiliated professional organizations: ACM/SIGGRAPH for the Digital Design students; and the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) for students in Interior Design. The organizations will provide networking opportunities for students and professionals working in the fields they hope to enter. Additionally, these programs will provide ancillary instructional support through guest/visiting lectures, field trips, and contact with students at other schools. Augustus Wendell will serve as the faculty advisor to ACM/SIGGRAPH and Linda Laucirica will serve as faculty advisor to the student chapter of ASID.

Locally, the Architecture Student Union (ASU) is now the Architecture and Design Student Union ( ADSU) and forms the base of student activity and service at the College of Architecture and Design at NJIT.
Interior Design Student Work Included at ARCH SCHOOLS 2010 Hosted by AIA-NY

The sixth annual architecture school exhibit of exemplary student work sponsored by the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects included, for the first time, student work created in the School of Art + Design. Emphasizing our metamorphosis into a comprehensive design school, second year interior design projects were featured in the electronic and printed exhibit along with work representing architecture, digital design, and industrial design. Among the projects selected for inclusion were the New York City nightclub projects by Jessica Uhlik, Adam Raiffe, Mina Liba, and Stephanie Kim and a café designed by second year student Max Gavilanez.

Digital Design Students Serve as Volunteers at SIGGRAPH 2010 in Los Angeles

Daniel Palma of Paterson, NJ and Benjamin Gross from Lambertville, NJ, two juniors in the Digital Design program from the School of Art + Design, were selected to serve in the Student Volunteer Program at the Association of Computing Machinery’s 2010 SIGGRAPH Conference. Attended by more than 22,500 individuals with more than 160 industry exhibitions, the conference is the world’s premier annual conference on computer graphics and interactive techniques and attracted “artists, research scientists, gaming experts and developers, filmmakers, students, and academics from 79 countries”.

Admission to the Student Volunteer Program is highly competitive and provides participants access to network with industry leaders and the opportunity to attend short courses, presentations of production case studies, and technical paper sessions. Students provide a minimum of thirty hours of service during the conference which started on July 24 and concluded on July 30 this year at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Industrial Design Students among Competition Winners; Exhibited at 2010 London Architecture Festival

The work of ten industrial design students from the second year studio was selected for exhibition at the London Festival of Architecture during the summer (June 19 - July 4). The students’ “parametric smart modules” were generated in the Spring 2010 second year studio taught by Assistant Professor Brooks Atwood. Among the students whose work was exhibited are Philip Caleja, Monica Franco, Samantha Goldman, Avrami Rakovsky, Sara Jane Rin, and Samantha Tartaro.
Industrial Design Students Exhibit Work at 2010 International Contemporary Furniture Fair

For the first time, students in the new industrial design program at NJIT’s School of Art + Design were represented at the annual International Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) at the Jacob J. Javits Center in New York City last May alongside professionals, manufacturers, and students from other industrial and product design programs worldwide. The work of approximately fifty students from Industrial Design, Interior Design, and Digital Design was exhibited two-dimensionally in posters displayed in the NJIT booth. Additionally, nine students displayed physical prototypes including third year student Sarah Ovsiew’s lunchbox, lighting designed by fourth year students Joe Kasper and Allen Catbagan, juicers created by seniors Reina Gonzalez and James Miller, and “smart modules” that form the kernel of a variety of designs created by sophomores Philip Caleja, Samantha Goldman, Alex Kolesnikov, and Sara Jane Rin.

The booth was staffed and the exhibit created by student volunteers from the industrial design program along with five faculty members: Professors Brooks Atwood (Industrial Design), David Brothers (Industrial Design), and Glenn Goldman (Director, School of Art + Design) as well as University Lecturer José Alcala (Industrial Design) and adjunct/product designer Ran Lerner (Industrial Design) of Ran Lerner Design in New York. ICFF provides students with an opportunity to network with professional colleagues and potential employers (as well as a number of alumni attending the exhibit), and also exposes the school and programs to the design community creating new opportunities for industry-academic collaboration and greater visibility for the new School of Art + Design.

Director of the School of Art + Design Receives Master Teacher Designation

Professor Glenn Goldman, FAIA, IIDA, Director of the School of Art + Design, has been designated a Master Teacher at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Widely recognized as a pioneer in the introduction and use of digital media in architecture and design, Professor Goldman has twice (1989 and 2004) received teaching awards for innovation from the American Institute of Architects and in 2005 was cited by Campus Technology magazine as one of the top innovators in the use of information technology in higher education. He is a past president of ACADIA, the Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture and has been a member of the Education Committee at SIGGRAPH – the Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group in Graphics. Additionally, Professor Goldman was awarded the 2010 NJIT Excellence in Teaching Award for Undergraduate Instruction/Lower Division for his efforts in the revision of the first year program in the School of Architecture, and the establishment of, and teaching in, the foundation program in the School of Art + Design. Goldman is only the third design educator at NJIT to receive Master Teacher designation since the establishment of the School of Architecture more than thirty-five years ago.

Interior Design Student Participates in Autodesk Student Expert Program

Interior design student Anita Graham of Mullica Hill, NJ, was selected to participate in the Autodesk Student Expert Program and attended the Revit Bootcamp in San Francisco August 9 - 13. Twenty-two students from a variety of disciplines representing schools that included NJIT, Carnegie Mellon University, University of California at Berkeley, Georgia Tech, Penn State, Purdue, and Virginia Tech gathered to train with solution specialists to learn Revit and Ecotect or Autodesk Inventor so that they can, in turn, help students at their own schools. For Ms. Graham this was the second consecutive year she received a scholarship to participate and, for the second consecutive year, was the only interior design student selected. In addition to instruction, Ms. Graham stated that she was able to “hear presentations from the Vice President, Chief Technology Officer who talked about industry trends/cutting edge technologies” and have one-on-one discussions with a variety of Autodesk experts and executives.
Adjunct Faculty Exhibits Art Work in Galleries

Polina Zaitseva, adjunct faculty member teaching in Fine Arts and Foundation has work being exhibited in different venues this fall. *New Ink & Video Work* will be on display throughout October at Love-Sexy Live 104 Music & Art Gallery in Hoboken, NJ. Ms. Zaitseva, who has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from New Jersey City University, has an overlapping display and is a featured artist in *Dreamgaze*, a contemporary arts exhibit at the Barat Foundation Gallery in Newark.

School of Art + Design Participates in Newark Arts Week

The College of Architecture and Design (CoAD) Gallery continues to play an important role in the growing Newark art scene. *Details, Details, Details: Roberto Osti, Daniel Brophy, Gocha Tsinadze* opened on Friday September 24 as part of Newark's Open Doors 2010, a weekend celebration that included a Friday night gallery crawl and open studio tours. According to Matthew Gosser Curator of the CoAD Gallery and member of the Newark Arts Council, “Roberto Osti primarily uses watercolor and colored pencil to depict human, animal or hybrid organisms. Daniel Brophy, uses acrylic paint and markers to depict primarily natural and man-made environments. And Gocha Tsinadze uses ink on paper to give form to primarily abstract subject matter.” The exhibit is located in Weston Hall, home to the School of Art + Design, and is open to the general public. The day before the exhibit opened, Art + Design students participated in the Newark Arts Parade promoting the exhibit and arts activity at the school.