

# ART + DESIGN : NEWS + NOTES

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN – NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – NEWARK, NEW JERSEY – MAY 2017

## Interior Design Students are Winners in 2017 IIDA Regional Student Showcase and Competition



**Chrysie Lozada**, a senior in the Interior Design program in the School of Art + Design at NJIT, won first place at the 2017 International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Showcase and Competition

held in the Haworth Showroom in Philadelphia on March 8.

Lozada's project, "The Green Lung, Co-working Office Space," was created in the third-year commercial design studio taught by adjunct instructor **Brian Holland**. Jurors stated they were particularly impressed with the coordination of the floor and ceiling planes as well as the dynamic and realistic renderings.

Senior Interior Design student **Elouie Gaspar** won first honorable mention for his project "In-Side-Out Co-working Office Space." The IIDA regional showcase was open to students from schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey. This marks the first time students from NJIT's Interior Design program participated in the event.

## Interior Design Students Milla and Ospina Selected as Participants for IIDA NeoCon Charette in Chicago



A pair of rising senior Interior Design students, **Arianna Milla** and **Pamela Ospina**, have been selected

to participate in the 2017 International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Student Charette at NeoCon in Chicago. The two will compete live, onsite, during a six-hour competition to develop a design solution, presentation, and pitch to be presented to a panel of judges. The June 13<sup>th</sup> event is sponsored by IIDA and Herman Miller.

## Princeton Review Names NJIT Among Top Schools for Video Game Design for the Fourth Time



For the second consecutive year, and the fourth time since 2012, NJIT has been named a top 50 school in which to

study video game design by *Princeton Review*. The only New Jersey school on the list, and the 12<sup>th</sup> ranked public university, the study of game design is a collaborative endeavor between NJIT's Digital Design program in the School of Art + Design and the Information Technology program (Game Design Specialization) offered by the Ying Wu College of Computing.

The ranking is based on factors important to prospective students that included academic offerings, graduates' successes in working for game design companies, faculty credentials, facilities and technology available for student use, and – an acknowledged strength at NJIT – opportunities for multi-disciplinary collaboration in game design.

## Industrial Design Ranked 16<sup>th</sup> Best Value for Undergraduate Programs in US by Value Colleges



Acknowledging that "Industrial Design and Product Design are, by necessity, highly interdisciplinary fields," *Value Colleges* ranked accredited colleges and universities "that

have demonstrated their ability to not only prepare students for the basic demand of the career, but to provide access to satisfying, rewarding, and potentially lucrative positions." The Industrial Design program launched in Fall 2006 and was initially organized by University Lecturer **José Alcalá '92** who subsequently became Coordinator of the broad-spectrum program that blends traditional product design with study of electronics, emergent materials, and technology in the context of a research university.

## Industrial Design Project by Shah and Work by Decker Featured in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*



Seed bombs: the novel use of hydrogel mixed with compost, fertilizer, and seeds to create a “starter medium” for planting. The project, designed in the third

year Industrial Design studio by student **Nahin Shah** under the guidance of Assistant Professor **Martina Decker**, Director of the Material Dynamics Lab, represents a look at product design from the materials and molecular levels in order to create applications that solve real-world problems. Featured in *Landscape Architecture* magazine in April in an article by Zach Mortice, the project has implications for improving the ability to plant in a number of conditions and Decker is currently investigating their use in drone-assisted planting.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual *Design Showcase* Hosted by NJIT



The College of Architecture and Design held the 11<sup>th</sup> iteration of its Annual *Design Showcase* on March 30, bringing together alumni, students, and faculty in an event that combined

networking opportunities, mini-trade show, keynote lecture (by Hilary Sample and Michael Meredith of MOS Architects), and a display of professional and student work during an evening reception. Chaired by alumni Mark Parette '83, principal at *Parette Somjen Architects* and Chuck Dietz '83, managing partner at *The Dietz Partnership*, the event is the largest and most successful fundraiser of the year for the College.

Awards for best student work in each program are also annually determined by an alumni jury. The 2017 winners from the School of Art + Design were **Nate Soto** (Digital Design), **Nicholas Warholak** (Industrial Design), and **Arianna Milla** (Interior Design, above).



## Third Year Interior Design Student Jihad Peoples Volunteers in Asempanye, Ghana



Third year Interior Design student and owner of *LADONN*, a multipurpose lifestyle brand, **Jihad Peoples** (center of image, left) of Neptune, NJ, made an almost 10,000 mile round-trip to

volunteer his time bringing his design and construction expertise along with his physical labor to help people in the Village of Asempanye, part of the Greater Accra Region in Ghana. Peoples spent ten days this semester refurbishing flower beds at the Konko Presby Primary School where he used the primitive tools available as he worked in extreme heat making bricks, mixing concrete, and tilling soil. Moved by his experience, he has also committed to donate 50 to 100 LADONN shirts to the people of Accra. Peoples, along with his friend and business partner Kyle Lewis, a student at Howard University, worked as a volunteer with the International Volunteer HQ (IHVQ) whose mission is to renovate and construct homes for people in the area.

## Danielle K. Reay Joins CoAD's Littman Library as New Art, Architecture & Design Library Specialist



The Littman Architecture and Design Library has added **Danielle Reay** as a new Art, Architecture, and Design Specialist. Prior to starting at NJIT, Reay worked as an Arts Librarian, Digital and Access Services at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where she had the lead role in the creation and maintenance of web-deliverable

information that supports public and digital services. Reay has more than six years of library experience and worked in various capacities at East Stroudsburg University, Rutgers University, and Princeton University, and brings expertise in image rights and copyright issues in a digital environment. She earned a BA in History from Drew University, an MA in Cinema Studies from New York University, and an MLIS, Digital Libraries from Rutgers.

## Gosser Opens Art Gallery in Newark



Curator of the NJIT College of Architecture and Design's Gallery, **Matthew Gosser** has opened up a new pop-up art gallery on the edge

of the NJIT campus at 270 Central Avenue. The first exhibit, *"Queen of Angels: When a Church Dies,"* features 32 artists working in a variety of mediums linked by themes associated with the demolition of an historic Newark landmark, the Queen of Angels church and school. Before it was demolished, this landmark was used by Gosser as a site for a Collaborative Design Studio for fourth year students in the School of Art + Design.

## Peñalba Exhibits at Drawing Center in New York



Adjunct faculty member in Interior Design, **Ana Peñalba**, has work exhibited in the group show *"Marginalia: Open Sessions 10"* at the Drawing Center in SoHo in New York. The museum is dedicated to the exploration of the medium of drawing as important to contemporary culture and art and features the work of seven contributors in this exhibit curated by Lisa Sigal and Nova Benway. According to the exhibit's catalog, Peñalba "investigates the intangible forms of the city. Her 'buildings' both distort and clarify the limits between reality and fiction. Her architecture is made of sounds, images, objects, and forms of the present, which remind us of the past while creating an architectural fiction for our future." The exhibit opened on April 14 and runs until June 11. *Open Sessions* is a hybrid exhibition and residency program sponsored, in part by "The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, the Tom Slaughter Open Sessions Fund, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council."

## Schwartz Presents Paper at CAADRIA in China

### CAADRIA 2017: PROTOCOLS, FLOWS AND GLITCHES

Assistant Professor of Industrial Design, **Mathew Schwartz** presented *"Efficacy of Localization Through Magnets Embedded in Infrastructure"* at the CAADRIA 2017 conference hosted by Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University in Suzhou, China, in early April. Co-authored by Associate Professor of Architecture and Digital Design **Andrzej Zarzycki**, the paper and presentation describes research done on testing the magnetic interference of various construction materials. Through these studies, magnets were embedded into a concrete slab before pouring, and used to center a wheeled robot.

## Goldman Has Five Photos Named as Finalists for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual TZIPAC Competition



For the second consecutive year, School of Art + Design Director Professor **Glenn Goldman** has photographs selected as finalists in the *Annual Zebra Awards* program celebrating the art of black and white photography and sponsored by the TZ International Photography and Art Community (TZIPAC). TZIPAC is dedicated to the expansion of photography as an artform and organizes a number of targeted juried competitions each year. Goldman had five different photographs selected – three architectural photographs and two photos of animals (bottom left and bottom right, above). "Looking up at the Library" a photograph of the Minneapolis Central Library (top left), "Roman Form," a photo of Zaha Hadid's Maxxi Museum in Rome (top right), and "Striped Houses" (not shown) taken in Marken, Netherlands, are among the finalists selected by the jury of professional photographers.

### Sara Ebrahim and Arianna Milla Take First and Third Place in *Modernfold Styles* Design Competition



A pair of third-year Interior Design students, **Sara Ebrahim** (left) and **Arianna Milla** (right), won first and third place respectively in the *Modernfold Styles Office of the Future Design Competition*. Open to

students of architecture and interior design from New York, New Jersey, and the greater Philadelphia area, the design brief called for an office design for a New York City-based tech company and was evaluated, in part, on innovation, artistic and creative skill, and feasibility while promoting wellness in the designed environment. Professional judges included representatives from Perkins + Will, Huntsman Architectural Group, IA Interior Architects, TPG Architecture, and Gensler. Ebrahim received a scholarship award of \$3,750 and an internship at TPG Architecture; Milla was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. All work was created in the commercial design studio taught by the Coordinator of the Interior Design Program, **David Brothers**.

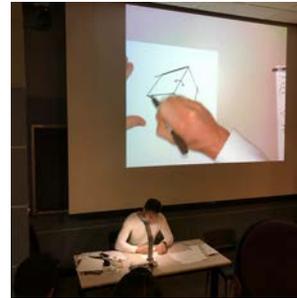
### Fourth Year Industrial Design Students Nita and Shah Present in Dana Knox Student Research Showcase



**Alexandra Nita** (left) and **Nahin Shah** presented innovative product design research at the annual *Dana Knox Student Research Showcase* at NJIT in April. Nita's project, "Calla" is an

environmentally friendly off-grid lighting solution that utilizes photovoltaic cells as well as a phosphorescent composite material charged by sunlight. Shah's work, "The Hydroseed Project," combats environmental degradation of farmland and green spaces with a self-deploying seed system ("seed bombs") using hydrogel to facilitate growth in arid regions. Both students worked under the advisement of Assistant Professor **Martina Decker** and exploited the use of innovative materials in their product designs.

### NJIT Student Chapter of the Industrial Designers Society of America Hosts Reid Schlegel Workshop



Invited and sponsored by the the School of Art + Design's student chapter of the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA), **Reid Schlegel**, Senior Industrial Designer at *frog design, inc.* presented a lecture and workshop on

April 6 that explored the journey of finding employment in the first year out of school.

Schlegel's 14-point lecture addressed the importance of studio culture, loving your job, and practicing hobbies to stay inspired. The full lecture hall followed his story from high school art classes to his university studies, followed by a highly competitive internship at Smart Design, and then frog.

Following his lecture was a 45-minute sketching workshop. Schlegel started with basic instructions and supplemented this with advice to cut the time one spends sketching in half, answering everyone's questions throughout.

### Barbara Kagan Littman: 1942 – 2017



Teacher, alumna, patron and philanthropist, and designer **Barbara Kagan Littman** (M. Arch. '94) succumbed to cancer in March. Beloved by all, and especially by her students in Interior Design, she developed and had been

the only teacher for the required course, History of Furniture, since the inception of the program in 2008. She was a certified interior designer and professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) whose work was widely published and awarded. She and her husband, Leonard Littman, were strong supporters of the College of Architecture and Design and the Littman Library is named for them in honor of their support. Upon her passing, her family donated approximately 1,000 books about architecture, interior design, and furniture design to the Library. A memorial service celebrating her life was held in the library on April 18.

## Digital Design Students Network and Visit Multi-disciplinary and VFX Digital Studios in New York



Organized by the student chapter of NJIT SIGGRAPH for Digital Design students, and with the assistance of New York City-based alumni, a group of about fifteen

students visited design studios this spring. A visit to digital experience and media production agency *GRAFX* on March 23 was facilitated by fourth-year student **Nathalie Carrasco** who had an internship at the studio during her final semester at NJIT; and a second visit to *Method Studios*, an award-winning visual effects group, was taken on April 21, facilitated by alumni **Mark Sanna** and **Ed Lopez** who, along with alumnus **Kevin Ratigan**, are working at the studio. The students were accompanied by University Lecturer and Coordinator of the Digital Design program, **Augustus Wendell**.

## Industrial Design Student Earns Graduate Scholarship with Success in International Design Competition

Graduating senior in Industrial Design, and winner of the NJIT Industrial Design Academic Achievement Award for 2017, **Alexandra Nita**, won second place in an international design competition for a scholarship to the prestigious *Domus Academy* in Milan. She will begin her graduate studies in Italy this August.

## NJIT Hosts 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New Jersey Industrial Designers Society of America Student and Alumni Showcase



Senior **Dalal Esheikh**, president of the NJIT student chapter of IDSA, along with her fellow students, organized the first showcase of student and alumni work for

Industrial Design programs in New Jersey. Held the third weekend in April, the exhibit featured student work from NJIT and Kean University. The exhibit was also open to, and included products from, young alumni showing their start-up products currently available or in development including *Brew Watches* by **Jon Ferrer** ('14) and *Architrays* by the 7thFI, founded by **Natalia Szabla** ('16) and **Fabio Castellanos** ('16) (shown above).

## Maya Gervits Receives Distinguished Service Award from Association of Architecture School Librarians



**Maya Gervits**, Director of the Littman Architecture and Design Library at NJIT, received the *AASL Distinguished Service Award* for her sustained service to a program with exceptional creativity, innovation, leadership and scholarship. A

resource to the entire College, Gervits was recognized last year for outstanding contribution to teaching by non-instructional staff at NJIT.

## Interior Design Students Visit Showrooms and Attend Workshops in New York and New Jersey



Interior Design students and their instructors took advantage of their location and augmented their classroom studies with trips in both New York and New Jersey.

In March, the second year students in the Building and Interior Systems class spent a day in lighting workshops at *Philips Lighting Application Center* in Somerset, NJ, accompanied by Lecturer **Julio Figueroa**, where they worked in small teams to experiment with ways to illuminate spaces and objects. Third year students attended the *Museum of Modern Art* exhibit, "How Should We Live? Propositions for the Modern Interior" as well as showrooms for *Steelcase*, *Herman Miller*, and *Knoll* as part of their commercial design studio. The furniture design class visited the North American headquarters and assembly factory of *Dauphin North America* in Boonton, NJ, for a tour led by Industrial Design alumnus, **Matthew Negron** ('13). Negron currently is a Market Manager for Dauphin after working as a Lead Product Design Engineer for more than three years. Students witnessed the production and assembly processes for commercial furniture including millwork, upholstery, general assembly, packaging and shipping. They were accompanied on these visits by Senior University Lecturer and Interior Design Program Coordinator **David Brothers**.

## Interior Design Students Compete in Bi-Annual Regional IIDA Fashion Show



The NJIT Student Center of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) participated in the fifth “*Fashion Meets Finish 2017: Battle of*

*the Decades*” contest and show held at the Union County Performing Arts Center to support interior design education in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The sixteen-team competition paired designers (both professional offices as well as student groups) with manufacturers of products used in interiors. Teams were required to design and construct the outfits out of the materials used to make the products supplied by the manufacturer. In addition, as part of the theme, each team was assigned a decade to represent. NJIT’s student group was paired with Kimball Office, makers of chairs and other office furniture products, and assigned the decade of the 1950’s.

Sixteen students worked on weekends, in the evenings, and on spring break to create and “build” a dress with materials such as web from seating for the dress, upholstery fabric, and even wood edging for the hoop and additional elements. The exercise served as a test of ingenuity as students gained a visceral appreciation for the properties of the materials used. The IIDA student group was rewarded with a \$2,500 prize at the end of the show.

The team was organized by IIDA Student Center President **Cathrine Fahmy** along with her classmates: **Victoria Birritteri, Sara Ebrahim, Albeirys Francisco-Parra, Elouie Gaspar, Emily Gutierrez, Hagar Kandil, Taylor Kline** (who modeled the outfit), **Chrysie Lozada, Arianna Milla, Caitlin Morris, Pamela Ospina, Stephanie Peralta, Dakshita Supawala, Kristen Sweeney, and Alma Villalba.**



## Digital Design Graduate Nathaniel Soto Receives A+D Medal at Commencement Celebration



**Nathaniel Soto** became the third Digital Design student to receive the Art + Design Medal at Commencement, the highest award the School offers, representing

excellence in design and academic achievement. Soto, a resident of West New York, NJ, and a graduate of High Tech High School in North Bergen, NJ, leaves a legacy of accomplishment at NJIT.

During his tenure at NJIT, Soto earned awards for both design and overall academic achievement. He was selected to the competitive SIGGRAPH Student Volunteer program and served in 2016 in Anaheim. Additionally, his academic and creative efforts have been exhibited in the curated Student Work Exhibits at SIGGRAPH in 2014 and 2015. He also served as the multi-year president of the student group, NJIT SIGGRAPH and was a regular participant and group leader in the annual Global Game Jam.

While a student, Soto interned at *KWD* in Brooklyn and upon graduation will be working on projects for multi-disciplinary digital, experiential and media production, and branding agencies *GRAFX* in Manhattan and *1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Machine* in Brooklyn.

