

# COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE

## Strategic Plan Summary



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

## **1. Growth & Development of the Student Body**

The IIT CoA has a living legacy entailing one of the Modern Movement in architecture's most treasured figures: Mies van der Rohe. Previously presenting itself as a continuation of Mies' academic philosophy, the CoA will no longer project this stance as the ending point of its narrative to the general public and larger IIT community. The architectural profession is at the dawn of a new order. And to enable the repositioning of the CoA within the wider architectural discipline, nationally and internationally, the legacy of Mies will no longer be the singular voice. Therefore, the CoA has taken the first steps under my direction to define this new era of its history, building upon its treasured European roots.

## **2. Promote Innovative Thinking & Excellence Throughout the University**

After a year spent absorbing, learning, studying, and observing the CoA, my assessment is that the school is primed to be a leading architectural institution on the global stage. The school's new 'Master of Science' program, a reorganized administration, more fluid paths of study within its degree programs, combined with a renewed S. R. Crown Hall, will allow the CoA to recruit and expand its national and international student and faculty population, which will contribute to an increased quality of its multi-faceted output.

## **3. Elevate IIT's Visibility & Rankings**

- NOWNESS, the CoA's first printed publication under my direction presents and communicates the school's academic pivot towards the guiding notion of 'Rethinking Metropolis', placing great emphasis on 'progressive research' – that is, research that is speculative so not solely historical, research that is critical, strategic and comprehensive. This publication, and subsequent editions, will support the repositioning of the school as a living entity, allowing for an evolving conversation within the community the publication has created, as well as within the public at large. The publication also introduces the 'Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize', established at the CoA to promote excellence in architecture of the Americas and further position IIT, the CoA, and Chicago as the metropolis for architecture on the American continents.
- The IIT CoA continues to present challenges to the streamlining, and improvement of, its multiple communication mediums. In order to continually raise the CoA's national ranking and international prominence, it is important that its identity is distilled to its essence, and communicated in an effective and bold manner across these communication mediums. This expanded communication strategy will be supported by exhaustive debates, guest lecturers, and master classes, with the specific aim to more deeply involve those from outside the CoA in pollinating the school's cross-disciplinary explorations.
- The CoA directly benefits from its affiliation with the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitats (CTBUH), a research oriented institution that annually awards the title of 'World's Tallest Building'. The CoA will, during its upcoming academic year, strongly encourage engagement with the CTBUH on research based activities, publishing the results of this intensified cooperation in journals and on websites, as well as through the initiation of stand-alone exhibitions.

#### **4. Enhance IIT's Facilities, Infrastructure & Environments**

- The famed S. R. Crown Hall was extensively renovated in 2005, and current renovations continue to improve our CoA facility. Additionally, the Graham Library has been expanded, made possible by relocating the school's administrative offices to the upper floor from the lower level, housing them instead within glass partitioned spaces that have no ceiling, projecting transparency of the school's administration and strengthening the relationship between faculty, administrators, and students.
- In addition to the previously mentioned renovation of S. R. Crown Hall, the subsequent renovation of the adjacent 3410 building will serve to further integrate these two prominent organizations on IIT's Main Campus.

#### **5. Develop Resources to Enable Progress**

Kate Lux is the new 'Major Gift Officer' for the IIT College of Architecture, and joined the CoA in April of 2013. She has been assigned to work with alumni and friends of the college, and her primary responsibilities with the college are to enhance philanthropic relationships with the college's best friends and supporters, focusing specifically on prospective donors of \$100,000 or more. Kate came to IIT from the Adler School of Professional Psychology, where she served as the 'Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations'.

#### **6. Strengthen All of IIT's Colleges & Schools**

- As Dean I intend to further promote the CoA and IIT as an international center of knowledge excellence, innovation, and cross-collaboration, by further engagement with the City of Chicago. By working directly with the city, our doors are open to Chicago's leaders, adding a new layer of dialogue to the school's publicly accessible atmosphere. The additional establishment of the 'Chicago Biennale of Architecture' will create an engaging, informative, educational, and energizing platform for architecture and design within the city, intertwining with the school's endeavors, and thereby continuing to raise IIT's national and international prominence. Such initiatives will encourage the participation of IIT CoA alumni beyond their direct ties, allowing stronger ties to develop within this network, strengthening the school's reach.

While by no means exhaustive, as there will always be considerations for improvement, these goals and strategies will see their paths of implementation refined and set forth throughout the IIT CoA's 2013-2014 academic year. In addition to the physical improvement of the schools' facilities and daily functioning, defining the parameters for the University's new 'Innovation Center' will be a big challenge for IIT, but it will simultaneously allow for the creation of yet unexplored opportunities to engage in university-wide interdisciplinary research, further strengthening IIT across all its colleges and schools.