Materials Education and Research in Art and Design: A New Role for Libraries

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Materials Education and Research in Art and Design: A New Role for Libraries

June 6-8, 2013 | Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI

The Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design is the recipient of a $50,000 National Forum Grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) to hold a symposium titled *Materials Education and Research in Art and Design: A New Role for Libraries*. From June 6-8, 2013, this unprecedented summit will convene international stakeholders, including artists, architects and designers, educators, researchers and librarians, to focus on the resources and documentation that are required to prepare art and design students for knowledgeable, responsible, and innovative use of materials in their professional work. Participants, including designers in the field, will speak to the current practical and expansive needs for information about materials; in addition faculty now teaching in art and design institutions will articulate the support they need to develop and collect material knowledge and share it to their students. Librarians in the process of building collections and databases of material samples will also be on hand to speak to the issues they have encountered. Respondents and other participants from Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) schools with materials collections, as well as faculty and librarians from these and other AICAD schools and university art and architecture programs at non-AICAD institutions will attend the forum. The symposium includes an evening keynote and reception, a day of sessions, and a half-day workshop. A white paper will serve as a record of the symposium and a guiding resource for the creation and development of materials collections.

Confirmed keynote speakers:
- Billie Faircloth, Research Director at KieranTimberlake, Philadelphia
- Liat Margolis, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at University of Toronto
- Chris Lefteri, Design Materials Specialist at Chris Lefteri Design Ltd., London
- Rosanne Somerson, Furniture Maker and Provost at Rhode Island School of Design

Confirmed designers/firms:
- Stephen Lane, Ximedica
- Nader Tehrani, NADAAA
- Mike Taylor, Steelcase
- Fiona Anastas, Material ConnexXion

Sponsored schools:
- Ball State University (Muncie, IN)
- California College of Arts (San Francisco)
- Columbus College of Art & Design (Columbus, OH)
- College for Creative Studies (Detroit)
- Emily Carr University of Art + Design (Vancouver)
- Harvard University (Cambridge)
- Holon Design Museum (Israel)
- Kent State University (Kent, OH)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (Baltimore)
- Ontario College of Art & Design University (Toronto)
- Otis College of Art & Design (Los Angeles)
- Pratt Institute (Brooklyn)
- Rhode Island School of Design (Providence)
- School of Visual Arts (New York City)
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Syracuse University
- University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Virginia (Charlottesville)
- University of the Arts (Philadelphia)
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the federal source for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Through grant making, policy development, and research, IMLS helps communities and individuals thrive through broad public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and lifelong learning.
Chris Lefteri, Chris Lefteri Design

Chris Lefteri is one of the most influential people currently working in design. He is an internationally recognized leading authority on materials and their application in design and his achievements in this area have changed the way designers and material industry consider materials. He has published eight books on design and material innovation, which have been translated into five languages. Over the last 10 years, they have been instrumental in changing the way designers view and use materials. He has delivered workshops on materials and design across Europe, North America and Asia. Chris Lefteri Design Ltd. has worked with several Fortune 100 companies and major design studios across Europe, the US and Asia, helping them formulate strategies for effective materials integration in the design process. He is editor and creative director of Ingredients magazine, which has a subscription of over 5000 designers across the world. He has delivered lectures for amongst others: Nike, Philips Design, LG Electronic, Samsung, Dyson, Hyundai, and Roca Sanitario, the studio also works with major material suppliers such as Corning Glass, Eastman Chemicals and Exxon Mobil helping them to market their products to the design industry. He was the Visionary in Residence at Art Centre College of Design in California in 2008 and has been a guest lecturer at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Design Academy Eindhoven, CCS, SCAD and LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts in Singapore. He is currently a Theme Champion for Smart Materials, for the UK’s Creative Industries Knowledge Transfer Network.

Billie Faircloth, AIA, LEED AP

Billie Faircloth, AIA, is the Research Director at KieranTimberlake, a prominent architecture firm established in 1984 and a leader in practice-based architectural research and environmentally innovative buildings. She leads a trans-disciplinary research group of nine professionals leveraging research, design, and problem solving processes from fields as diverse as environmental management, chemical physics, materials science and architecture.

As director, Faircloth fosters collaboration between disciplines, trades, academics and industries in order to define a relevant problem solving boundary for the built environment. In her professional and academic research, Billie pursues an answer to the question: “Why do we build the way that we do?” In addition to her practice, she teaches at the University of Pennsylvania and lectures on design research worldwide.

Billie received a Bachelor of Architecture from North Carolina State University and a Master of Architecture with Distinction from Harvard University.

Watch Billie on TEDxPhilly - "The beauty & mystery of the 2x4"

Rosanne Somerson

Rosanne Somerson was appointed Provost of Rhode Island School of Design in July 2012. As RISD’s 25th Chief Academic Officer, Somerson is responsible for leadership and administration of undergraduate and graduate academic programs, curriculum, faculty, academic governance and operating budget.

Liat Margolis

Liat Margolis is Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Toronto, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design. She is Principal Investigator of the Green Roof Innovation Testing Laboratory (GRIT Lab) at the Daniels Faculty. GRIT Lab is a multi-disciplinary research platform established in 2010 to test, evaluate and optimize green roof, green wall and solar photovoltaic performance in context of Toronto’s climate. For her work on GRIT Lab, Margolis received grants from the City of Toronto Environment Office, RCI Foundation, Ontario Centres of Excellence, Connaught Fund, MITACS and the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation. She is also the recipient of the 2013 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Excellence Award in Research. Prior to joining the Daniels Faculty, Margolis worked as a landscape architect...
Somerson received a BFA in Industrial Design from RISD and has been a member of the faculty since 1985. Throughout her career at RISD, she has held leadership positions including Program Head of Graduate Furniture Design, then as Department Head of Furniture Design from 1995-2005, a department that she played a significant role in founding in 1995. She served as interim Associate Provost from 2005-2007, during which she helped design the RISD Brown Dual Degree program and brought focus to academic facilities and technology.

Somerson maintains a robust creative practice by designing and creating furniture for exhibitions and commissions, and as a partner in DEZCO, a production furniture company.

Her work has been exhibited widely throughout the world and is represented in many prestigious private, corporate and museum collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Renwick Collection of the National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC, the Yale University Art Gallery and the RISD Museum of Art. She has served on the boards of the Haystack Mountain School, ME, the Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, is a named Fellow of the American Craft Council, and is the subject of an interview that forms part of the Smithsonian Institute Archives of American Art Oral History Program. As a sought after international lecturer, juror, exhibitor and evaluator she applies both local and global perspectives to her work.

She has received awards and citations for her work as a designer, artist, and teacher, including two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, and the James Renwick Alliance Distinguished Crafts Educator Award. In April 2012 she received the Award of Distinction for lifetime achievement in the field of studio furniture by the Furniture Society.
Session 1: Librarians

Librarians/managers representing existing materials collections discuss issues of acquisition, curation, organization, digitization, etc.

Moderator:
- Mark Pompelia, Visual + Material Resource Librarian, Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design

Speakers:
- Mark Pompelia, Visual + Material Resource Librarian, Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design
- Sydney Mainster, Curator, University Co-Op Materials Resource Center, School of Architecture at University of Texas at Austin
- Alix Reiskind, Visual Resource Librarian, Frances Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design at Harvard University
- Carolyn Schaeberle, Assistant Director, Center for Sustainable Design Studies at Pratt Institute
- Shira Shoval, Director, Materials Library at Design Museum Holon, Israel

Comments (0)

Session 2: Educators

Educators representing interactions with materials speak to critical approaches, life-cycle concerns, critical thinking of composition/process/properties.

Moderator:
- Pradeep Sharma, Dean, Division of Architecture and Design at Rhode Island School of Design

Speakers:
- Peter Yeadan, Associate Professor, Department of Interior Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design
- Martin Bechtold, Professor of Architectural Technology, Graduate School of Design at Harvard University
- Patrick Mather, Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the Syracuse Biomaterials Institute at Syracuse University

Respondent:
- Billie Faircloth, Research Director at KieranTimberlake
- List Margolis, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at University of Toronto

Comments (0)

Session 3: RISD Faculty

Faculty from Rhode Island School of Design representing Interior Architecture, Industrial Design, and Textiles detail their thoughtful interactions with materials.

Moderator:
- Carol Terry, Director of Library Services, Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design

Speakers:
- Mary-Ann Agresti, Critic, Department of Interior Architecture at Rhode Island School of Design
- Charlie Cannon, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Design

Comments (0)

Session 4: Designers

Designers respond to issues and synthesize ideas from throughout the day as voices from the field who directly encounter the need for recently graduated students to possess the ability to investigate and interrogate materials.

Moderator:
- Matt Grigsby, Founder of Ecoloot and Critic, Department of Industrial Design at Rhode Island School of Design

Speakers:
- Mike Taylor, Principal Researcher at Steelcase, Inc.
- Nader Tehrani, Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture at MIT and Principal of NADAA
- Stephen Lane, Chairman, Chief Venture Officer and Co-Founder, Xmedica

Respondents:
- Fiona Anastas, Material Specialist at Material ConneXion
- Chris Lefteri, Chris Lefteri Design

Comments (0)

Working Group: Librarians

Working group of librarians and managers synthesize ideas from the program toward a resulting White Paper that presents a framework for developing collections, metadata, taxonomy, database and website, and other resources for support of materials education and research in art and design libraries, as well as recommendations for collaboration.

Thematic Sessions:
- Taxonomies. Leader: Jane Hutton, Harvard University
- Collection Development: Carolyn Schaeberle, Pratt Institute
- Collaborative Research: Laura Bartolo, Kent State University
- Funding: Ann Whiteside, Harvard University

AICAD Participants:
- Larissa Beringer, Emily Carr University of Art + Design
- Claire Elke, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Robert Lobe, School of Visual Arts
- Sue Maberry, Otis College of Art & Design
- Mark Pompelia, Rhode Island School of Design
- Alix Reiskind, Harvard University
- Gail Sboror, Columbus College of Art & Design
- Holly Tyleenda, College for Creative Studies
- Beth Walker, College for Creative Studies
- Tony White, Maryland Institute College of Art
- Janice Woo, California College of Arts

Non-AICAD Participants:
- Rebecca Cooper, University of Virginia
- Sydney Mainster, University of Texas at Austin
- Rebecca Price, University of Michigan
- Amy Trendler, Ball State University
- Shira Shoval, Holon Design Museum

Comments (0)
Program - Materials Education and Research in Art and Design: A New Role for Libraries - Research Guides at Rhode Island School of Design

- Mary Anne Friel, Assistant Professor, Department of Textiles at Rhode Island School of Design
- Neal Overstrom, Director, Nature Laboratory at Rhode Island School of Design

Comments (0)
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Travel & Lodging

AIR

- Theodore Francis Green (TF Green) Airport, PVD, is located about ten minutes south of downtown. A modern facility, it has just sixteen gates total so it’s extremely easy to navigate. You can catch a taxi right outside baggage claim though taxi rates are high. It is suggested that anyone using PVD look into using a different type of ground transportation. For example, the Boston Commuter Rail (MBTA) extended its Providence line to PVD airport in the past year; however, those trains do not operate too frequently, but it’s still an inexpensive option. Even more inexpensive is the RIPTA (Rhode Island Public Transit) bus, with just $2 express (bus 14) and local (bus 20) service to downtown. Catch RIPTA on the far curb outside baggage and to the left. Cautionary note: this is also a stop for outbound routes, so be sure that you are catching an inbound route; just ask the driver if he’s heading to downtown Providence/Kennedy Plaza. Again, the Fleet Library is diagonally opposite Kennedy Plaza.

- Boston Logan International Airport, BOS, is about 1.5 hours northeast. Take the free Silver Line shuttle to Boston's South Station for the Amtrak train or Metro Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) Commuter Rail to Providence. Taxis will be available at the Providence station to shuttle you to the hotel. Peter Pan bus lines also have a Logan Airport shuttle. Tickets may be purchased in advance and are good for any bus on that day. Buses arrive at Kennedy Plaza in Providence, one block away from the Fleet Library at RISD.

TRAIN

- Amtrak offers Acela express and Northeast Regional train service to Providence. The Providence train station is a few blocks from the Fleet Library but still accessible by foot even with luggage. Trains are lined up in the event of inclement weather or if you prefer not to walk. When arriving, you’ll take the escalator up from the platform to the station lobby, which has two exits opposite each other. Statehouse side and downtown side. You want the latter. Exit and veer to the right, then walk straight ahead along Exchange Street, down a slight hill. Continue on Exchange St. until Westminster St. and the Fleet Library will be almost immediately to your left. There is a Map and Directions link on the Providence station page on the Amtrak website.

- The Boston Commuter Rail system uses the same station on its Providence-Stoughton line.

BUS

- Providence is served by express bus from a number of origins. For example, Megabus or Peter Pan, offer service from NYC and Boston Logan airport. It’s cheap, direct, and has modern amenities such as electrical outlets and wi-fi that mirror more expensive travel options. Any bus arriving in downtown Providence will let off at Kennedy Plaza, extremely close to the Fleet Library and surrounding hotels, no further directions required.

Logging

The Hampton Inn Providence Downtown is pleased to offer attendees a special discounted rate of $129.00, which includes a free hot breakfast buffet each morning. This rate is based on single through quad occupancy and is subject to applicable state and local taxes. Reservations at this conference rate must be received by Friday, May 10, 2013; reservations made after May 10 are subject to availability. The Hampton Inn Providence is a two-minute walk from the Fleet Library at RISD. A $10 shuttle is available to T.F. Green Airport or other local transport hubs.

The Providence Biltmore offers the following rates: $92.00 per night for a Superior King and $112.00 for a Junior Suite with one king bed or two king beds with a living room. Rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. Please note: June 8 is a WaterFire night, which is a blackout date. Please call 401-421-0700 or 800-294-7709 for reservations and mention you are from Rhode Island School of Design.

Comments (0)