

## ***MIT SMArchS Computation Alumni Symposium***

**Friday, February 13, 2009**

**Bartos Theatre, MIT Media Lab**

**Building E15 (Weisner Bldg)**

**20 Ames Street**

**Cambridge, Massachusetts**

### ***Overview***

The goal of the symposium is to build a stronger network within the MIT Design and Computation community and to provide exposure of this unique group to the broader architectural student body. Our hope is to establish an annual meeting where alumni can come together and share their ongoing work, thoughts, and concerns regarding the state of design computation at MIT, other academic institutions, and in professional practice.

The purpose of the symposium is to bring people together and provide a platform upon which to engage the current state of computation and design within architecture education and practice. Through the symposium young and established alumni will have the opportunity to present their work and discuss how the SMArchS and PhD programs have influenced them and their career. Current computation students will have the opportunity to be more fully exposed to the broader network of the design and computation group beyond MIT in a couple of ways. Thesis students will be able to solicit feedback and advice from their peers in professional practice in the early stages of their thesis work. First year students, as they begin to consider the decisions which will define the trajectories of their own research, will be exposed to the influence the SMArchS and PhD Computation degrees have played in the lives of their predecessors. Many of the Computation alumni have become leaders in education and professional practice around the world. Therefore, because this will be an open event, the symposium will also benefit all architectural students who have an interest in design computation by offering them the entire chance to hear from a truly unique group of experts.

Perhaps most importantly, everyone will have the opportunity to network, establish new relationships, and re-kindle old ones that may have lapsed.

This event is open to the public.

We would like to thank SMArchS candidate Yaniv Ophir, PhD candidate Kasutuv DeBiswas, and all the students, faculty, and alumni that participated in Design and Computation Exhibition last fall whom have provided generous support for this event.

## **Schedule**

9 – 9:30am	Opening Remarks
9:30 – 11am	Presentations, Group 1
	9:30-9:45     Yanni Loukissas
	9:45-10:00   Carlos Barrios
	10:00-10:15   Shouheng Chen
	10:15-10:30   Taro Narahara
	10:30-10:45   John Rothenberg
	10:45-11:00   Dimitris Papanikolaou
11am – 12pm	Open Discussion (Innovative Thinking)
12am - 1:30pm	Break for Lunch
1:30 – 3:30pm	Presentations, Group 2
	1:30-1:45     Projjal Dutta
	1:45-2:00     Rachelle Villalon
	2:00-2:15     Josh Lobel
	2:15-2:30     Onur Yuce Gun
	2:30-2:45     Greg Demchak
	2:45-3:00     Lira Nikolovska
	3:00-3:15     Dennis Shelden
3:15pm - 4pm	Coffee Break
4pm - 5:30pm	Open Discussion (Value in Design and Computation)
5:30 - 6pm	Closing Remarks

## **Presentation Topics**

Yanni Loukissas (SMArchS 2003, PhD 2008) Visiting Lecturer, Cornell University  
*\*The Google Earth Studio\**

Carlos Barrios (PhD 2006) Assistant Professor, Catholic University  
*\*Thinking Parametrically\**

Shouheng Chen (SMArchS 2006) Shouheng Design and Technology, Inc.  
*\*RHIKNOWBOT: knowledge-based parametric design system\**

Taro Narahara (SMArchS 2007) DDes candidate, Harvard University  
*\*Recent Work\**

John Rothenberg (SMArchS 2007) Founding member, Sosolimited; Art Director, Small Design Firm  
*\*ReConstitution and the development of Sosolimited\**

Dimitris Papanikolaou (SMArchS 2008) Research Fellow, Smart Cities Group, MIT  
*\*Recent Work with the MIT's Smart Cities Group\**

Projjal Dutta (SMArchS 1997) Director of Sustainability Initiatives, MTA NYC  
*\*Sustainable Design and Carbon Accounting Initiatives\**

Rachelle Villalon (SMArchS 2008) Digital Technology Manager, CO Architects  
*\*BIM in professional practice with CO Architects\**

Josh Lobel (SMArchS 2008) Consultant, Front, Inc.  
*\*Recent Work with Front, Inc.\**

Onur Yuce Gun (SMArchS 2006) Head, Computational Geometry Group, KPF NYC  
*\*Recent Work with KPF\**

Lira Nikolovska (PhD 2006) Senior User Interaction Designer, AutoDesk  
*\*Development at AutoDesk / SIGGRAPH 2008: Computation and Design Exhibition\**

Greg Demchak (SMArchS 2000) Product Designer, AutoDesk – Revit Architecture  
*\*Development at AutoDesk\**

Dennis Shelden (PhD 2002) CTO, Gehry Technologies (PhD 2002)  
*\*Recent Work with Gehry Technologies\**

## ***Organizing Committee***

Josh Lobel	Organizer, SMArchS 08	joshlobel@alum.mit.edu
Prof. Terry Knight	Faculty Advisor	tknight@mit.edu
Daniela Stoudenkova	Area Asst., Computation	danielas@mit.edu
Kaustuv DeBiswas	Student Rep, PhD candidate	kkdb@mit.edu