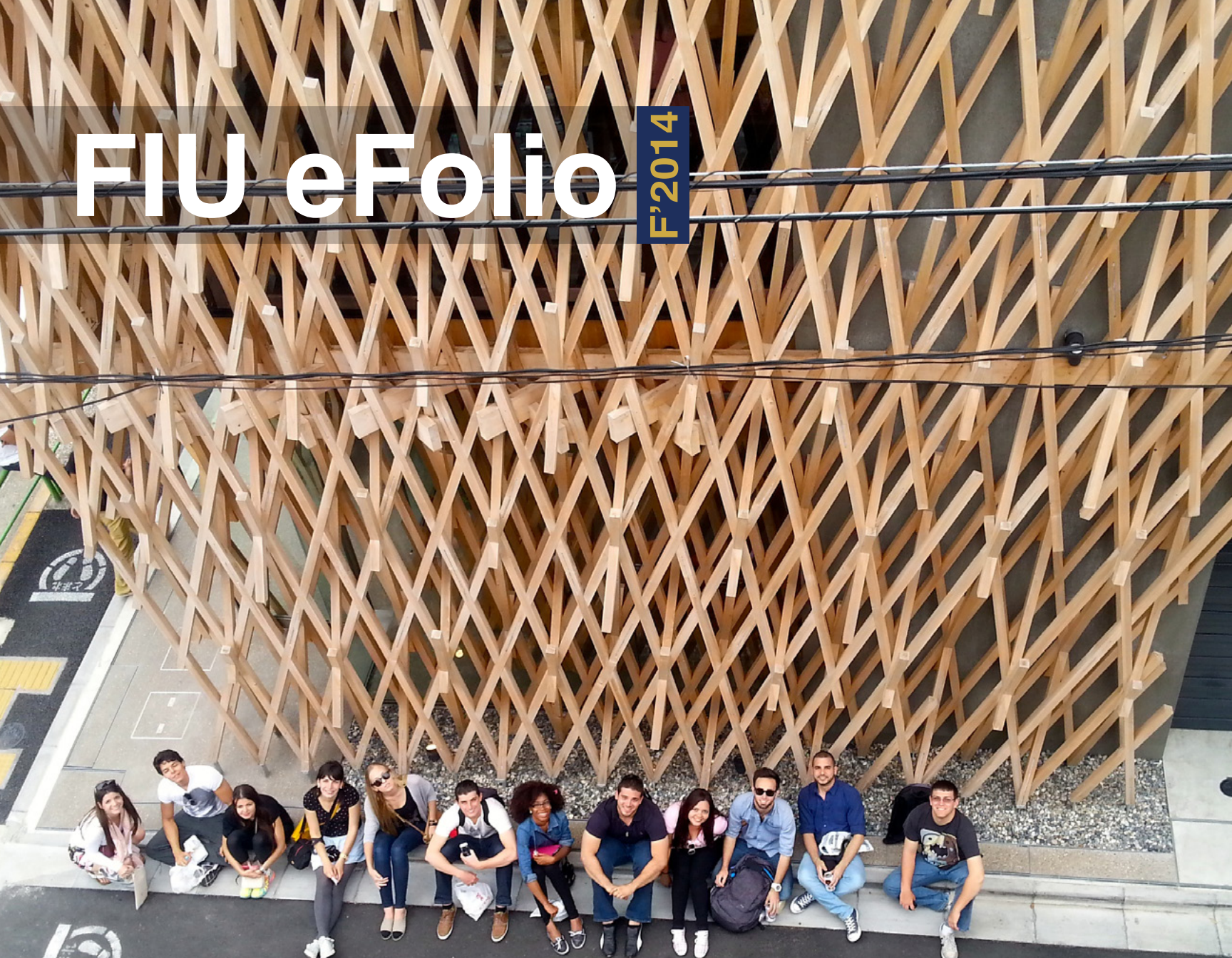


# FIU eFolio

F'2014



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## Introduction

Welcome to another issue of *eFolio*. In this issue we highlight travel abroad. Visiting great cities and experiencing significant buildings firsthand is a critical component of every architect's education, and it is the faculty's aspiration that all of our students participate in at least one of our many fantastic study abroad opportunities. In 2014, our faculty led 50 students in three summer programs: Japan, Paris/Milan and Berlin/London. Each program included two weeks of travel that served as the focus of a design studio and two seminars. In addition, 26 students, our largest cohort to date, studied in our semester-long Genoa program. Genoa is a multilayered city that serves as a great complement to Miami, since they are both port cities. Genoa exploits a dramatic sloping section while Miami is a paradigm of flatness. The work of our study abroad programs expands the notion of the "grand tour." No longer an experience of the privileged connoisseur, studying abroad provides necessary exposure to works and contexts that empower our students to solve the complex issues that confront our time.

This Fall 2014 included much to celebrate: Professors Andia and Spiegelhalter published their book entitled *Parametric Automation in Design and Construction*, the Coral Gables Museum hosted two FIU Architecture exhibitions (*Miami 2100, envisioning a resilient second century* and *All Buildings Great & Small, new building designs for a better city*), Professors Gelpi and Rovira won the Wynwood Gateway Park Competition, and our students and faculty continued to garner awards at the 60th Annual AIA Miami Design Awards Gala. There is plenty more, and you will find that this *eFolio* continues to reflect the great energy and work of our students and faculty.



Jason R. Chandler, AIA  
Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Architecture  
Florida International University College of Architecture + The Arts





### FIU Shines at 60th Annual AIA Miami Design Awards!

FIU's School of Architecture was recognized for various achievements at the 60th Annual AIA Miami Design Awards Gala on Friday, November 7th, which was held at the historic Alfred I. DuPont Building in Downtown Miami.

The following awards were given to students and faculty of the FIU School of Architecture:

#### **AIA Miami Student of the Year (FIU) - Ksenia Kosykh**

Ksenia Kosykh is a Master of Architecture candidate at Florida International University. Born in Moscow, Russia, Ksenia received her Bachelor's Degree in Architecture in 2013 at Moscow Architectural Institute, where she received a full-tuition scholarship. Ksenia chose FIU for her further architectural education because of her desire to bring the diversity into her qualifications, through graduate studies in a recognized university abroad. Ksenia is now interning at Moss Architecture and Design, where she is working on an Architectural Competition organized by the World Health Organization.

#### **Student Design – Merit Award (FIU) - Darius Bounds**

#### **Leadership in Education - Jason R. Chandler, AIA, Chair of the FIU Department of Architecture**

#### **Divine Detail-Merit Award - FIU Deuxième Maison Sky Lounge, Studio Roberto Rovira**



Photo provided courtesy of Al Ricketts Photo and AIA Miami



### Walk On Water Celebrates its 25th Year with Local Media Coverage

For the 25th year in a row, FIU Department of Architecture Professor Jaime Canaves challenged his students to create floating shoes and race across a 175-foot-wide campus lake on the north side of the Steve and Dorothea Green Library. The result was Walk on Water, the university tradition that comprised more than 40 students scrambling to cross without getting wet.

The first student to cross the lake was Anibal Herrera, who won a \$500 scholarship from FIU Architecture. All other students who crossed the lake received an “A” grade for the project and the opportunity to drop their lowest grade.

In addition to being a class assignment, Walk on Water was hosted by FIU in commemoration of Architecture and Design Month. This year, FIU President Mark B. Rosenberg and FIU College of Architecture + The Arts Dean Brian Schriener attended the event and supported the participants.

The event was covered by the ABC, NBC and CBS Florida news stations and Channel 7 News.



Anibal Herrera, first-place winner of the 25th Anniversary of Walk on Water  
Photo captured by Manuel Perez-Trujillo



### ***All Buildings Great & Small: FIU Infill Housing Exhibit opens to the public***

*All Buildings Great & Small: New Building Designs for a Better City*, an exhibit of projects by FIU Architecture students, saw many guests at its public opening on Friday, September 5th, 2014. The exhibition at Coral Gables Museum was the result of research conducted by students in Graduate Design 6 and Formative Studio 2. The courses were taught by Jorge Bonsenor, Alice Cimring, Sabah Corso, Adrian Heid, Nikolay Nedev, Andrea Perelli, Eric Peterson, Claudio Salazar, Nicolle Urbano, and Anna Drescher and coordinated by Chair and Associate Professor Jason Chandler, AIA.

The work of *All Buildings Great & Small* affirmed the value of small-scale development. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, American cities began their urban growth with small urban buildings. Before the high-rise, a fabric of one- to five-story buildings defined city streets. These buildings created lively urban spaces and neighborhoods; they were mixed use and did not have parking, elevators or air conditioning. In the best examples, as these cities grew throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, high-rises were added to this pre-existing urban fabric to create a complex urbanism that absorbed the demands of modern life, while maintaining the character of the older neighborhood.

Miami is a young city and did not inherit a small-scale, nineteenth and early twentieth century urban fabric. As a result, our high-rises coexist with surface parking lots, ill-defined streets and impoverished public spaces. The work of the architecture students in the FIU Department of Architecture re-conceived small-scale urbanism as a missing component of Miami's urbanism. This work understood the nature of the modern city as a complex collage of urban types, none of which can solve the concerns of a city on its own.

The focus of the student projects in this exhibition was the discrete infill project within a restricted urban site and its potential repeatability. As a repeatable unit, an urban townhouse becomes an urban proposition, a definer of the street, and the integral component of a neighborhood and city life. The site for this year's design projects was Wynwood, a new arts district undergoing an urban renewal. In addition to design proposals, students documented existing small-scale buildings in downtown Coral Gables and Wynwood.





**Paris to Milan: Five Points to Skycraper Urbanism**

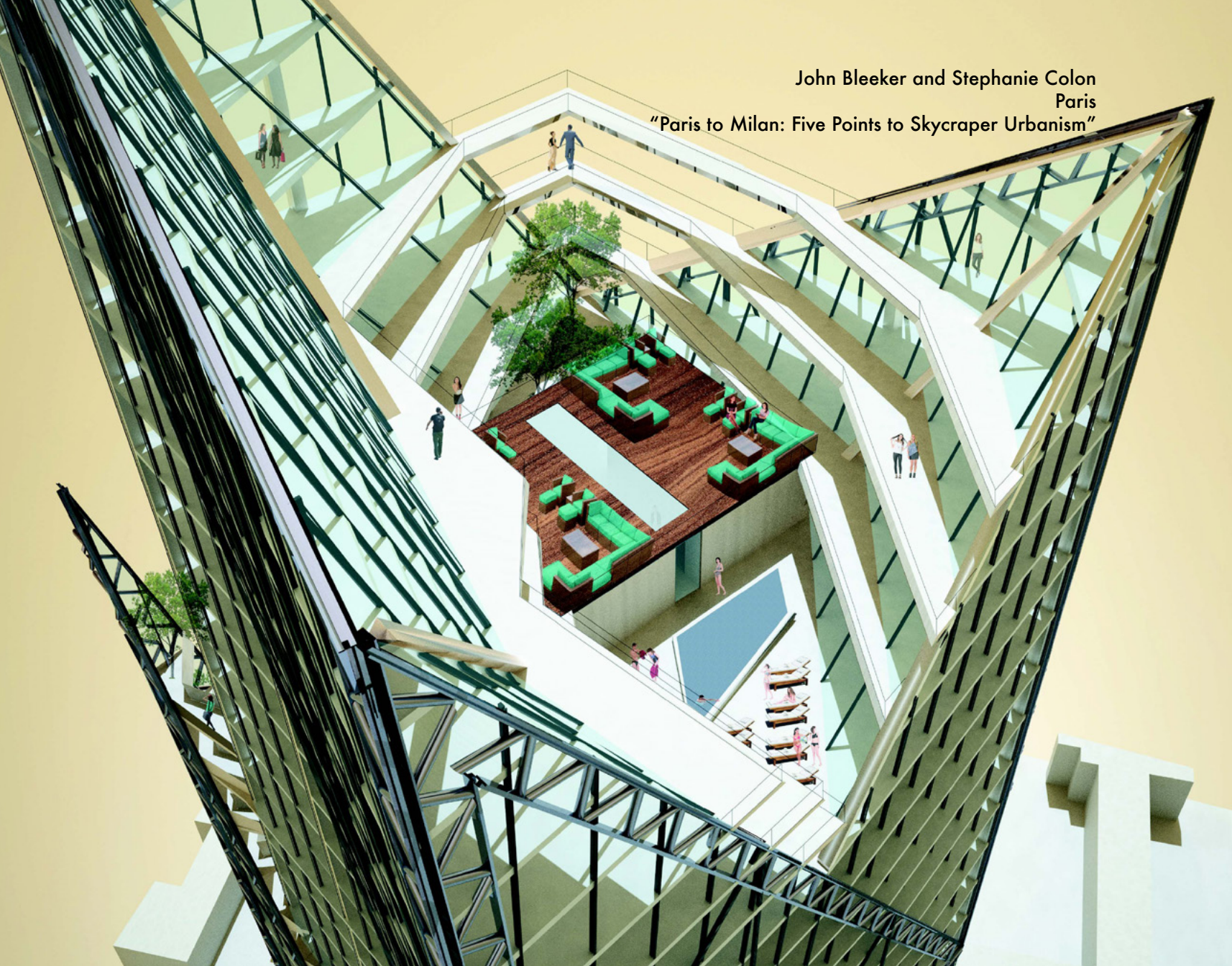
From May 12th to 25th, 2014, students traveled to Paris and Milan. David Rifkind (Professor), Malik Benjamin (Instructor and Director of Program Innovation), Nik Nedev (Instructor), and Shahin Vassigh (Professor) guided and taught the group of students.

The theme of this study abroad excursion was “Paris to Milan: Five Points to Skycraper Urbanism.”

Students studied in the cities of Paris, Besancon, and Lyon in France and Milan in Italy. While in France, they visited the Louvre, the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, the Panthéon, the Arab World Institute, and Center Pompidou. They also visited structures like Maisons Jaoul, La Roche, Villa Planeix, Ronchamp, and La Tourette. In Milan, they toured the Duomo, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, the Castello Sforzeco, and Casa Rustici. Towards the end of their trip, students took a day trip to Lake Como by train to explore the villas along the lake.







John Bleeker and Stephanie Colon  
Paris  
"Paris to Milan: Five Points to Skyscraper Urbanism"



Claudia Fernandez and Zoe Russian Moreno  
Paris  
"Paris to Milan: Five Points to Skyscraper Urbanism"



**Japan: A Look into Contemporary Japanese Architecture and Environment  
Sustainablity Strategies for Tokyo**

Students studied abroad in Japan with Associate Professor Alfredo Andia, Associate Professor Camilo Rosales, Associate Professor Eric Goldemberg, and Associate Professor Thomas Spiegelhalter from May 12th to May 24th, 2014.

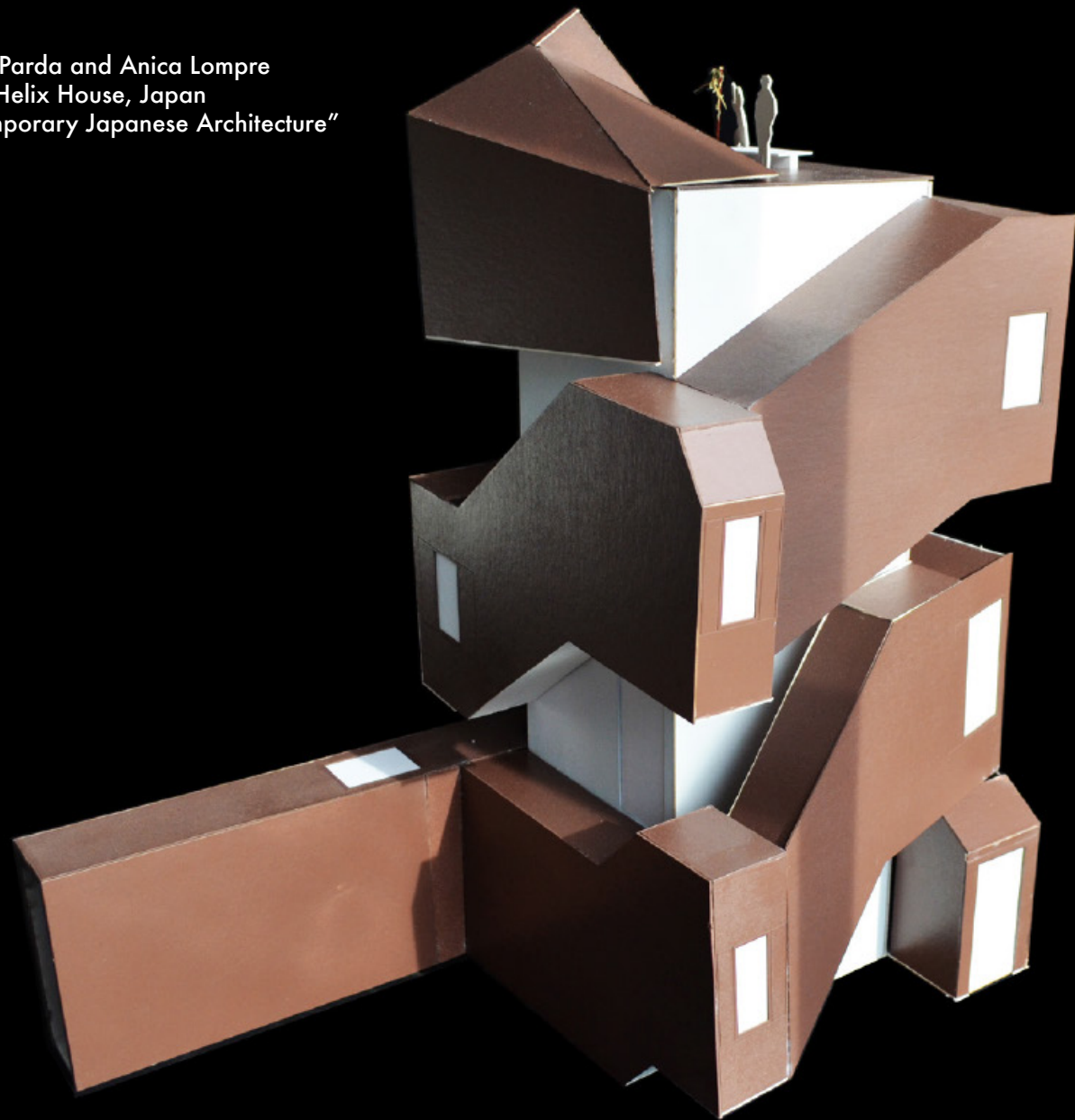
The study abroad program focused on visits to many examples of contemporary Japanese architecture, Japanese design, and environment sustainability strategies for the city of Tokyo.

During the program, students visited the Edo-Tokyo Museum, the Omotesando District, Odaiba Artificial Island, Shibuya, Ahoyama neighborhood, the National Art Center, and the Yokohama Pier. On their itinerary was also the Tokyo International Forum, the Senso-Ji Temple, the Imperial Palace East Gardens, Ueno Park, the Tokyo National Museum, and the Gallery of Horyuji Treasures. Additionally, students visited the firms of Takeshi Hosaka and O+H Architects.





Cynthia Parda and Anica Lompre  
Double Helix House, Japan  
"Contemporary Japanese Architecture"



Anabel Mendt and Ksenia Kosykh  
Weekend House in Sengataki, Japan  
"Contemporary Japanese Architecture"



**London/Berlin: ARCHITECTURE, TECHNOLOGY + THE CITY: Sustainability, Urban Infrastructure + Public Space**

From May 10th to 24th, 2014, FIU architecture students studied abroad in London and Berlin, under the guidance of Professor Marilys Nepomechie, Professor Jaime Canavés, Instructor and Fabrication Lab Manager Eric Peterson, and Instructor and Lower Division Coordinator Claudia Busch.

The capital cities of Germany and the United Kingdom served as classroom and base for their studies, allowing students to gain first-hand experience of urban centers rich in history and (re)invention. In each city students visited historical and contemporary projects - structures and spaces that have set new international standards for design and engineering practice. The visits supported research and critical thinking on the subjects of urban resilience and sustainability.

Studio and elective offerings engaged students through case studies; through the art and technology of film and videography; through emerging models of graphic analysis and visualization; and through the design of urban infrastructure and public space. In Miami, students designed two pedestrian bridges - one crossing the Thames River in London, and the other crossing the River Spree in Berlin. Through the two accompanying seminars, students created videos and maps to document, analyze, and interpret their experiences abroad.

Among the sites visited in London were the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens; Royal Institute of British Architects Gallery; the Architectural Association; the John Soane and British Museums; Roman wall and amphitheater; the Tower of London and London City Hall; the Tower Bridge and Museum; Lloyds of London; St. Paul's Cathedral; the Millennium Bridge and Herzog de Meuron's Tate Modern; the offices of Zaha Hadid Architects and RTKL; Olympic Park; Thames Barrier the O2, and Canary Wharf. While in Berlin, students visited the Berlin Dom, Mies van der Rohe's New National Gallery, Scharoun's Philharmonic Concert Hall; Liebeskind's Jewish Museum, Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Memorial; Zumthor's Topography of Terror; Gehry's DZ Bank; Nouvel's Gallerie Lafayette; Foster's Reichstag; the Altes and Pergamon Museums; Potsdamer Platz, the IBA residential projects, and the Gropius Bauhaus Archives.

*This article was written with the help of the faculty who guided the London/Berlin study abroad trip.*







Jorge Fabregat  
Berlin  
"Architecture, Technology and the City: Sustainability, Urban Infrastructure + Public Space"



Elisa Leal  
London  
"Architecture, Technology and the City: Sustainability, Urban Infrastructure + Public Space"



**Winifred E. Newman and Shahin Vassigh conduct Mapping Workshop in Genoa**

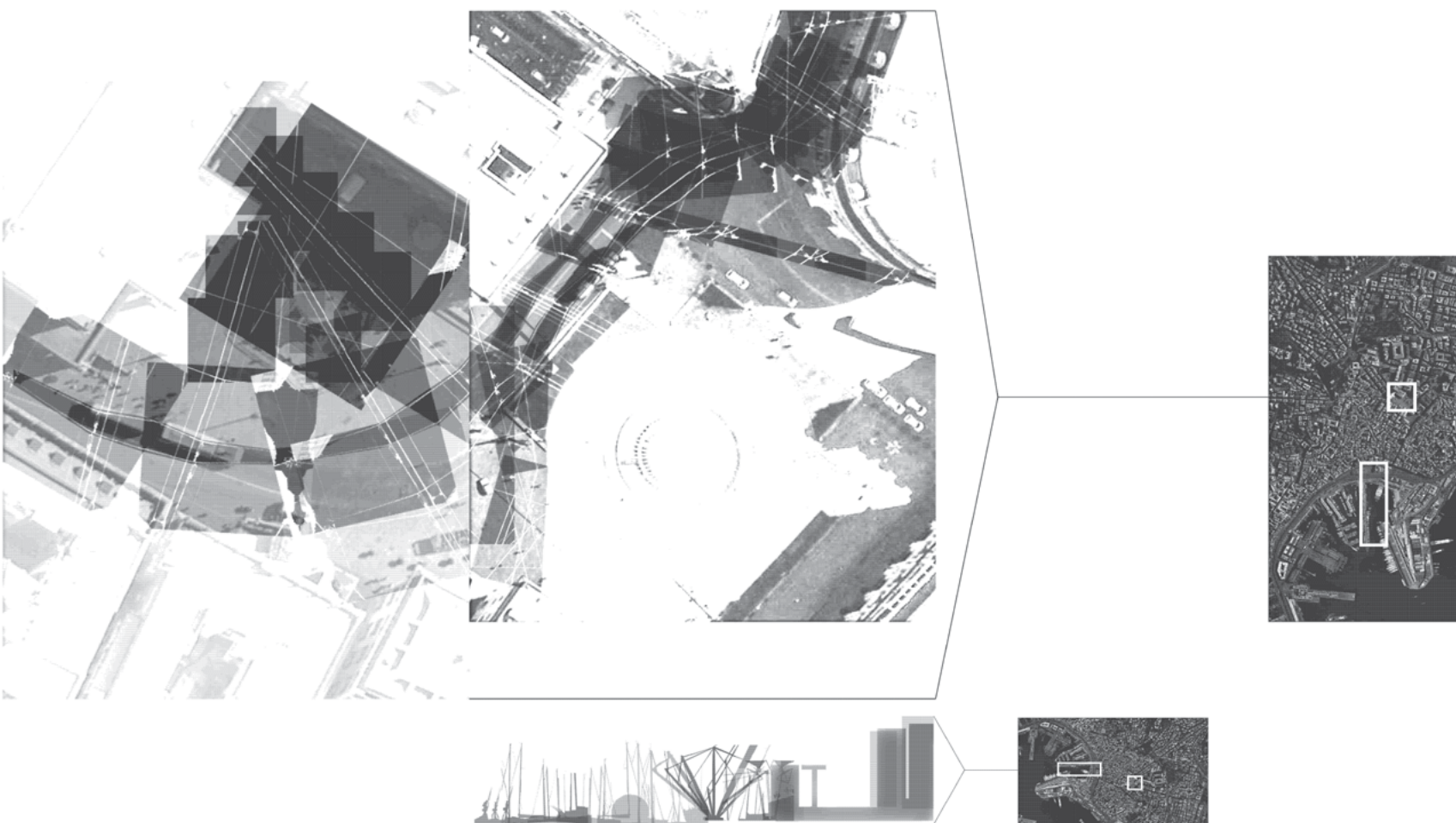
In Fall 2014, students studying abroad at the Università degli Studi di Genova (UniGe) were visited by Dr. Winifred E. Newman, Associate Professor and Shahin Vassigh, Professor, who conducted a workshop entitled *Mapping the City* from November 4th to 11th, 2014.

Students were divided into groups of two. The starting point for each group was a thematic reading of the city the students had made at the beginning of the semester, which their studio projects used as a design reference. Newman and Vassigh encouraged the students to revisit and deepen these readings and to incorporate video and more specific map-coding into the work. (Source: [fiugenoa.it](http://fiugenoa.it))

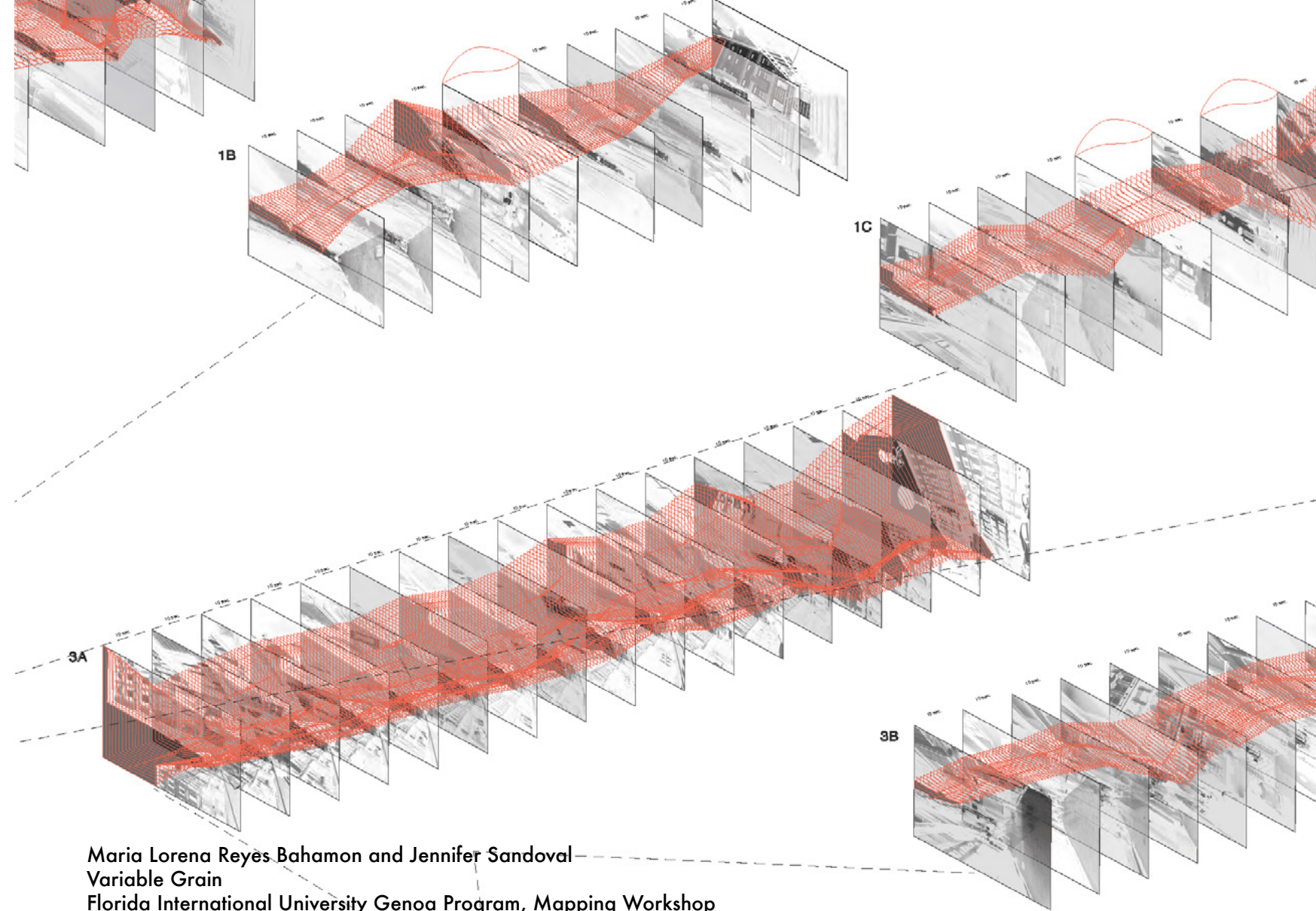
Alexis Ortega described her experience studying abroad in Genoa: “Making Genoa my home for this past semester was truly a life changing experience, both personally and professionally. Its authenticity inspired me and allowed me to find out a little more of who I am and what I want. Through our many trips in Europe, I have acquired a new vision of architecture, and I believe this has made me a better and more conscious designer. My experience was everything and more than what I had hoped for.”







Caitlin Bonet and Monica Rodriguez  
 City and the Machine  
 Florida International University Genoa Program, Mapping Workshop  
 Faculty: Winifred Newman and Shahin Vassigh



Maria Lorena Reyes Bahamon and Jennifer Sandoval  
 Variable Grain  
 Florida International University Genoa Program, Mapping Workshop  
 Faculty: Winifred Newman and Shahin Vassigh



## STUDENTS

### Students, semi-finalists for Miami Herald design entrepreneurship challenge

Tom Pupo and Daisy Nodal, Masters of Art in Architecture candidates became semi-finalists in *The Miami Herald's* 16th annual Business Plan Challenge. Their project *Moonlighter* joined a pool of 29 semi-finalists, after almost 200 projects were submitted.

*Moonlighter* “is a tech cafe and lounge that allows local designers, entrepreneurs and the public to co-create, prototype and retail new products,” as described by Pupo and Nodal. The project started in “Designing Models” (LAA6936), a Special Topics Landscape Architecture course taught by George Valdes and Adrian von der Osten, Adjunct Faculty. Pupo said that “Designing Models” aligned perfectly with the business timeline he and Nodal had for the *Miami Herald* Business Plan Challenge. Taking the course instilled in them more confidence regarding the development of *Moonlighter*.

“Essentially, the objective [of the course] is to expose design students to the practice-based concepts of entrepreneurship,” said Valdes and von der Osten. “Ultimately we want future Landscape Architects and Architects to have a macro level understanding of the way technology-driven fields are innovating through business models and methodologies so that they can begin to innovate in the same way in what we see as a very stagnant industry, with respect towards business development.”

*Moonlighter* has involved Pupo and Nodal in the critical thinking and skills behind design entrepreneurship. “[Design entrepreneurship is] critical,” said Valdes and von der Osten. “The concepts and methodologies that start-up founders tackle on a day to day basis can help designers think through their work in a focused, systematic way that considers not just the stakeholders involved in any given product/project, but also the flows of value that ultimately influence design and development.”

### NOMAS-FIU Chapter Represents University at 2014 NOMA Conference

From October 1st to 4th, 2014, students from FIU's National Organization of Minority Architect Students (NOMAS) represented The FIU College of Architecture + The Arts at the 42nd annual conference of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA).

The students who represented NOMAS-FIU in the conference's 2014 student design competition are: Santasha Hart, Jorge Rodriguez, Ebehi Ijewere, Allan Abrantes, Jasmin Jenkins, and Alfonso Aaliva.

Santasha Hart, president of NOMAS-FIU, said that the conference was a motivating experience. She also mentioned that individuals at the conference from NOMA and other institutions recognized FIU for its outstanding design work. Hart provided the following statement:

“Competing against 16 other schools, FIU's NOMAS Chapter held their own by placing top five overall. After presenting their boards and awaiting the results, they were pleased to hear the judge's accolades. It was truly an honor to receive such praise from both the judges and other competitors in the competition. Even Georgia Tech, the winning team, came up and demonstrated their admiration of our school's boards. FIU's NOMAS chapter definitely plans to go and compete again!”

## FACULTY

Wynwood Greenhouse Park  
Image courtesy of Nick Gelpi,  
Roberto Rovira, and Jim Drain



**Eric Goldemberg and MONAD Studio present *ABYECTO* – *Sonic Environment* at Miami Beach Urban Studios**

*ABYECTO* – *Sonic Environment* was on display at The College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios from August 11th to 29th, 2014.

The original 3D-printed installation and musical instruments of *ABYECTO* were created by Eric Goldemberg, Associate Professor of Architecture with MONAD Studio / Eric Goldemberg + Veronica Zalcborg, and a design team made up of FIU Architecture students John Gioello, Stephanie Colon, Matt Barnard, Manuel Perez-Trujillo, and Jack Garcia. The installation brought together architecture and music through the collaboration of faculty and students in both disciplines. MONAD Studio created a three-dimensional mural that serves as a sonic environment for the performances of Jacob Sudol, Assistant Professor in the FIU School of Music and Scott F. Hall.

The title “**ABYECTO**” is an ironic play on words, referring to recent discussions about object-oriented otology in contemporary design. The piece set up a productive ambiguity between object and environment, privileging multiple readings as the removable guitar was un-docked from its intense geometrical environment in order to generate sound, only to return to the interactive sonic environment as passive docked object. The geometry of the piece was generated by the multiplication and modification of the guitar’s profiles, extending the qualities of the object onto a larger rhythmic field of three-dimensional curves and subtle variations that resonated with the sonic ambiance of the music performance. The three-dimensional profiles of the extended instrument were magnified and disseminated throughout the space once the sonic qualities of the installation begin to reverberate, activating a multi-sensorial field of perception that ranged from the visual to the tactile and the aural. Ultimately, the room, the mural, the guitar, the performers, and the public were involved in the shaping of a complex, collective sensorial object. (Source: [www.monadstudio.com](http://www.monadstudio.com))

The surface of this complex topological environment was further activated and became interactive using computer-generated sounds created by composer/computer and musician/professor, Jacob Sudol. These sounds were emitted directly through the 3-D printed sculpture by means of handheld transducers that activated the installation.





### New Book on Automation Published by Alfredo Andia and Thomas Spiegelhalter

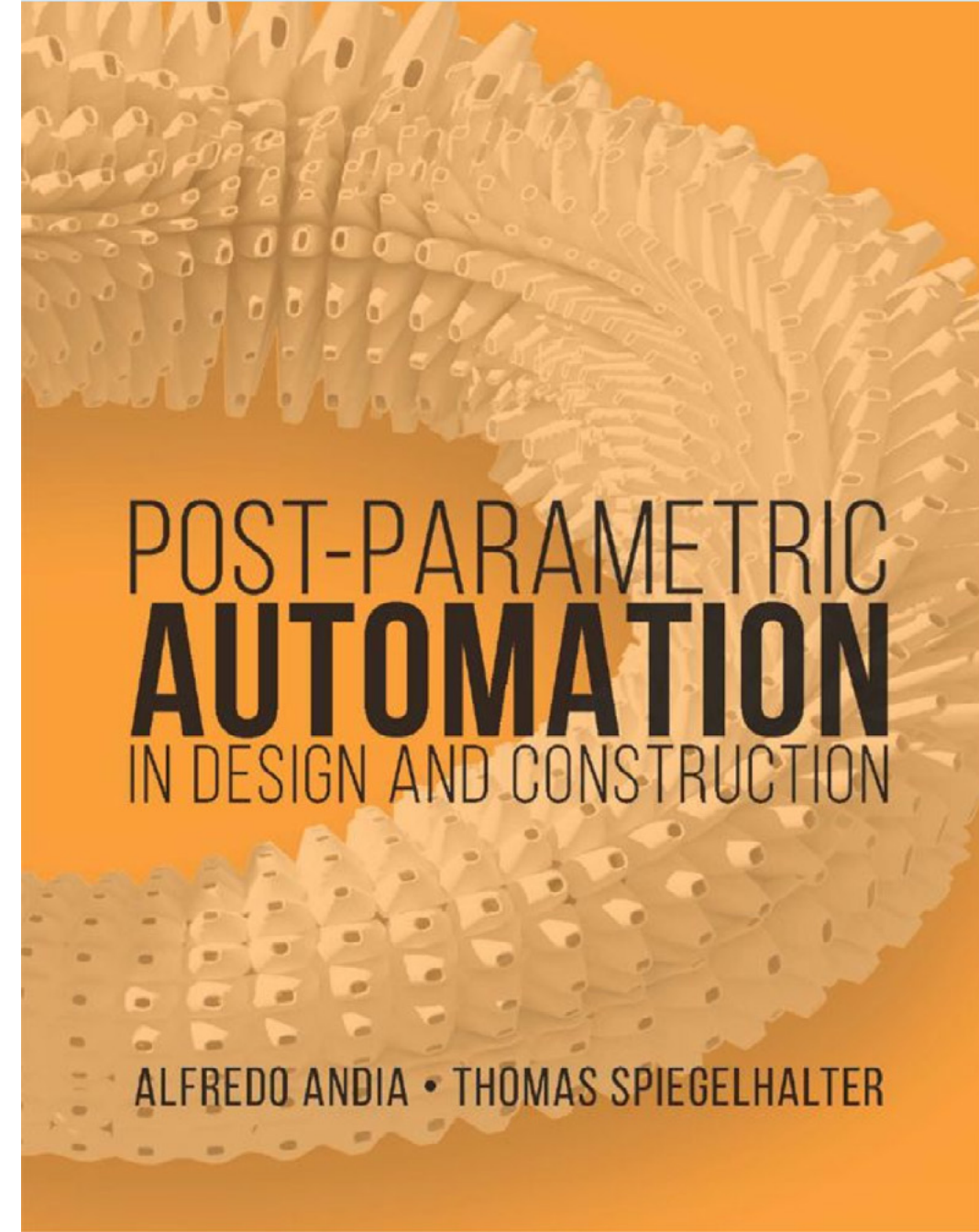
The College of Architecture + Arts' Alfredo Andia (Associate Professor) and Thomas Spiegelhalter (Associate Professor and Co-Director of the FIU Structures and Environmental Technologies Lab) published *Post-Parametric Automation in Design and Construction* (ARTECH HOUSE, 2014), a book that was released on September 30th, 2014.

The following synopsis of the book is provided by Andia and Spiegelhalter:

Automation, a mixture of algorithms, robots, software, and avatars, is transforming all types of jobs and industries. This book responds to one critical question for the design and construction industry: “How are architects, engineers, and contractors using information technology to further automate their practices?” Addressing the use of new digital technologies, particularly parametric automation for design and construction in the building industry, this book looks at how technologically advanced architectural and engineering practices are semi-automating their design processes by using sophisticated algorithms to transform their workflows. The book also documents a set of firms that are further advancing automation by using pre-fabrication, modularization, and custom designs via robotics.

Together, Andia and Spiegelhalter have previously published works such as “Topological and Parametric Temperatures in Architectural Academia,” a peer-reviewed research paper presented at the 2012 ACSA International Conference: CHANGE, Architecture, Education, Practices in Barcelona.

Andia earned his Ph.D. from the College of Environmental Design at the University of California, Berkeley. Spiegelhalter earned his Master in Design and Architecture from the University of the Arts in Berlin.





### Nick Gelpi and Roberto Rovira Win First Place in Wynwood Gateway Park Competition!

Assistant Professor of Architecture Nick Gelpi, FIU Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design Chair Roberto Rovira, and Jim Drain (artist and 2005 Bâloise Art Prize recipient) won first place in the DawnTown Wynwood Gateway Park competition with their design of “Wynwood Greenhouse Park.” Their design was selected from among 238 submissions from 23 countries. The inter-disciplinary team (Gelpi the architect, Rovira the landscape architect, and Drain the public artist) was the only one based in Miami.

The Wynwood Gateway Park competition sought the design of an urban park and garden in Miami’s Wynwood neighborhood. The winning submission, “Wynwood Greenhouse Park,” was designed to serve as the intersection of art, architecture, and landscape for a local community with global presence, according to Rovira, Gelpi, and Drain. “We are truly honored to be selected from among such a prestigious group of competitors,” said the team. “We look forward to working with the city of Miami and Metro 1 to realize an ambitious vision that acknowledges the vibrancy of the Wynwood neighborhood and that emphasizes the unique natural wonders of South Florida. We hope that our park will be a place where people come together with nature and art in an urban environment, where everyone can feel at home and where people and nature thrive together.” (Source: Wynwood Greenhouse Park)

In second place in the competition was “Graffito Green” by Meyer + Silberberg – Land Architects from Berkeley, California, and in third place was “Wynwood Commons” by Solid Objectives – Idenburg Liu / SO-IL from Brooklyn, New York.

The winners of the competition were selected by an esteemed panel of expert judges that included:

Enrique Norten – Founding Principal, TEN Arquitectos  
Terrance Riley – Principal, Keenan/Riley  
Raymond Jungles, ASLA – FASLA, PLA, Founding Principal of Raymond Jungles, Inc.  
Allan Shulman FAIA, Principal, Shulman + Associates  
James Russell, FAIA, architecture critic and journalist  
Andrew Frey – Development Manager, Codina Group  
Tony Cho – CEO and Founder, Metro 1  
Moderator: Joachim Perez, Executive Director of DawnTown



Image courtesy of Nick Gelpi, Roberto Rovira, and Jim Drain



### ***Miami 2100* Exhibit on Sea Level Rise Opens at Coral Gables Museum**

***Miami 2100: Envisioning a Resilient Second Century*** — an exhibition co-curated by FIU College of Architecture + The Arts faculty Marta Canavés (FIU LAEUD Associate in Design) and Marilys Nepomechie, FAIA (FIU Professor of Architecture) – opened at the Coral Gables Museum on November 7th, 2014. The exhibit took a comprehensive look at the topic of climate change and sea level rise, with a focus on our region and the history of research on the topic. FIU Architecture Instructor Eric Peterson, working with a team of architecture and landscape architecture students, configured the exhibition galleries and constructed a large-scale model of Miami, depicting the predicted effects of sea level rise on the city if no corrective action is taken. The College of Architecture + The Arts own Dean’s Distinguished Fellow Alastair Gordon took part in this project, by participating in a video work that commented on the subject emphasized by the exhibition.

Supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the Cejas Family Foundation, and the CINTAS Foundation, the multi-media exhibition integrated broad expert and community voices as it posed key questions regarding climate science, while presenting both the challenges and the opportunities created by changing environmental conditions and rising sea levels. The exhibit incorporated student projects completed over a 3-year period through graduate research studios and seminars in the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture + Environmental and Urban Design at Florida International University. Exhibit curators Marta Canavés and Marilys Nepomechie directed academic explorations that informed the important community planning that will allow Miami to remain a vibrant and increasingly desirable place to live in for years to come. (Source: Coral Gables Museum)

#### **The *Miami 2100* Model**

A team of students and faculty began working on the model in June 2014. The initial study models were produced over the summer by Tom Pupo and Daisy Nodal under the direction of Eric Peterson. In the fall, Peterson and four fabricators developed the final design of the model. The team consisted of student team leader Julia Sarduy and Erika Olson, Monica Cordera, and Claudia Fernandez. A team of 3D modelers developed files for 3D printing the buildings and laser cutting the land masses, roads, and infrastructure. This team, led by MAA student Marny Pareda consisted of Dontavious Pittman, Bobbi Walker, Miguel Pio, and Branko Micic. This team was equally instrumental in developing the final design of the model. All teams met regularly with Professor Nepomechie and Professor Canavés to review the design and ensure that they were able to produce a model that demonstrated the information and ideas that they wished to convey.



Photo captured by Manuel Perez-Trujillo



## Nick Gelpi, Gray Read, and Felice Grodin Participate in FALL SEMESTER, an Initiative for Public Discussion

On October 9th and 10th, 2014, Nick Gelpi (Assistant Professor of Architecture), Gray Read (Associate Professor of Architecture), and Felice Grodin (Adjunct Faculty) participated in FALL SEMESTER.

FALL SEMESTER is a new independent initiative for public discussion on contemporary society and culture, aiming to test what can be achieved in the sped-up production of discourse and what can happen when new material is introduced into local discourse – a bomb-drop of new data. Having the general scheme of public lectures and a digital platform, FALL SEMESTER invites a group of international theorists and architects to take on topics of urbanization, turning their focus on the very city in which it is happening - Miami - since this city may, itself, be a model of what the contemporary city is slowly becoming. Founded in Miami in Summer 2013 by artists Odalis Valdivieso and Lidija Slavkovic, FALL SEMESTER seeks to bring together a diverse group of theorists, critics, researchers, and interested individuals to engage in multifaceted discourse on contemporary society and culture available across multiple platforms at no cost to participants. FALL SEMESTER structured its first iteration around four basic thematic lines: The Urban Real; Architectural Weather; Plasticity of the City; and The Urban Unreal. The following are abstracts for the talks that were given by Gelpi and Read. (Source: [www.fallsemester.org](http://www.fallsemester.org))

### *Material Consequences, Nick Gelpi*

“Cities are more than just the abstract property boundaries of land ownership; in fact, taken collectively, cities represent large scale concentrations of specific materials. These materials don't fit neatly into the zoning maps of city ordinances. In fact, the consequences of certain materials reach far beyond the property lines of site and produce significant disruptions and interruptions at an urban scale. Foregrounding larger scale consequences of the materials and configurations utilized in the construction of our built urban environments, this talk will highlight several large-scale and wide reaching effects that the city exerts on its surrounding environment with specific projects that highlight potentials for interacting with material consequences as new opportunities for design.”

### *Second Landscape, Gray Read*

“In a warming world, Miami is already suffering death by pavement even before the waters engulf us. Relentless asphalt of both roof and street feed the urban heat island of the city, turning the urban tropics into an inhospitable desert. We ask, What if Miami reclaimed its roofs as a second landscape and invited the rich, tropical ecosystem of South Florida to the heart of the city? We suggest specific architectural strategies for mitigating urban heat island effect and envision the roofscape of downtown Miami as a living landscape inhabited by both people and wildlife.”





## Discover the I-CAVE, a new virtual reality system in development at FIU

The Department of Architecture's Dr. Winifred Newman (Associate Professor and Director of Advanced Studies) is leading a team of seven FIU faculty members designing and developing a new Virtual Reality (VR) system on campus. The new instrument is called the I-CAVE (Integrated – Computer Augmented Virtual Environment). The FIU School of Architecture and School of Computing and Information Sciences have finalized the location of the facility and made plans to move towards its completion. Dr. Newman and the FIU I-CAVE team were granted \$502,489.00 for the project through the university's Tech Fee. The team will be working with several industry partners in South Florida, California, and China to develop a way to field test equipment, look at alternatives, and develop practices as they finalize the design. The I-CAVE is a large room with wall-to-wall and floor LED flex-screens and a surround-sound system that creates an immersive virtual reality experience. The room, a 15-feet by 11-feet cube, tracks how a person moves within the space with a four-camera shutter-synchronized tracking system. This system eliminates the need for the equipment that is usually needed for movement tracking on other platforms, such as gloves or headgear.

“The I-CAVE enhances instructional technology in a number of ways,” said Dr. Newman. “First, using a total immersion environment as an instructional space offers new and exciting possibilities for all departments to incorporate animations, large-scale imagery, and virtual realities into their curriculum. Second, students will be able to propose their own projects for the I-CAVE, thus learning to plan, design and work through issues related to data visualization, basic computing skills, and information fusion. Third, CAVEs are dynamic instruments that require constant development and adjustment for research.” The new facility will be available for use by FIU students and instructors across all disciplines. According to Dr. Newman, “this facility will offer state-of-the art imagery and user-friendly interaction so that students and faculty can develop projects quickly and with minimal start time.”

Currently, there are CAVE facilities located on most major research universities in the United States and abroad. This includes the Computer Graphics Group at Brown University, the Visualization Research Lab at the University of New Hampshire, the Electronic Visualization Lab at the University of Chicago, and the Calit2 at the California Institute of Telecommunications and Information Technology. The FIU I-CAVE will be only the second Virtual Reality environment built in the Florida university system, after the facility at the University of Central Florida. The I-CAVE will be located on the FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus, at the Engineering & Computer Science building. It will be designed, constructed, developed and maintained by FIU's School of Architecture, School of Computing and Information Science, Department of Electrical Engineering, Instructional & Research Computing Center-High Performance Computing, and University Technology Services.

FIU faculty members involved in the development of the new I-CAVE are: Dr. Winifred Newman (College of Architecture + The Arts | School of Architecture), Dr. Scott Graham (School of Computing and Information Sciences), Mr. Eric S. Johnson (School of Computing and Information Sciences), Mr. Mike Kirgen (Division of Information Technology, Instructional & Research Computing Center-High Performance Computing), Dr. Shu-Ching Chen (School of Computing and Information Sciences), Dr. Nezih Pala (Electrical and Computer Engineering), and Mr. Steve Luis (School of Computing and Information Sciences).





**NC-Office Ranked Among Top 50 in Sustainability in *Architect Magazine*!**

NC-Office – a firm founded by the College of Architecture + The Arts’ Nikolay Nedev (Department of Architecture Instructor and First-Year Design Coordinator), Peter Nedev, Cristina Canton, and Elizabeth Cardona – has been ranked the 10th best architecture firm in the nation by ***Architect Magazine*** in the category of Sustainability. Among the firms listed in the magazine’s top 50 are EYP Architecture & Engineering, Gensler, HOK, and Perkins+Will.

“We feel quite honored to be a part – and towards the top – of such an elite group,” said Nikolay Nedev.

NC-Office is a firm that works in fields such as master planning, landscape design, and commercial and residential architecture, among others. NC-Office has produced winning urban design proposals for Somerville, Massachusetts (Edge as Center-Boston Society of Architects) and Biscayne Bay in Miami (Build in the Bay), and its work has been exhibited in New York, Boston, and Stockholm. Several projects have also been published in various architectural journals and newspapers, including ***Archivos de Arquitectura Antillana, Azure, Florida InsideOut, The Miami Herald,*** and ***The Boston Globe***. NC-office received an award for ‘Excellence in Interior Design’ from the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for the Cafe Bustelo project in Miami Beach. Most recently, NC-Office received an honorable mention for their entry in the Dawntown Seaplane competition.

**Nick Gelpi is a 2014 Curbed Young Gun**

Assistant Professor Nick Gelpi was recognized as a 2014 Curbed Young Gun by ***Curbed*** during the Fall 2014 semester.

Curbed Young Guns is an annual search for the next wave of up-and-coming architects and interior designers. Curbed Young Guns finds these individuals, showcases them, and celebrates them. To qualify, nominees must be under the age of 35 or have been in the profession for under five years, and they must be based in the United States. Once nominations are in, ***Curbed*** shows the work of nominees to a panel of industry leaders, which includes top architects, interior designers, and design thinkers and who help pick the best of the nominees. (Source: Curbed)

Gelpi has been named a Curbed Young Gun based on how he works technology into his passion for material analysis and innovation. He is principal of his own design office based in New York, and his practice has been producing a diversity of projects from experimental structures and pavilions to commercial retail design and high-concept furniture and prototypes. Gelpi’s research is concerned with materials and representation, often incorporating procedures of fabrication and the conventions of testing through Mockups.

**Academics**

The Department of Architecture offers the Master of Architecture degree and the Master of Arts in Architecture degree. Whether you are a high school graduate, possess a 2- or 4-year college degree, or have a professional degree in architecture, our architecture program offers customizable tracks that range from 1 year to 6 years.

**Master of Architecture**

MArch (6-Year)	MArch (5-Year)
MArch (3-Year)	MArch (2-Year)

**Master of Arts in Architecture**

MAA (1-Year)
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We also offer the **Graduate Certificate in the History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture**.

**NAAB Accreditation**

In the United States, most state registration boards require a degree from an accredited professional degree program as a prerequisite for licensure. The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), which is the sole agency authorized to accredit U.S. professional degree programs in architecture, recognizes three types of degrees: the Bachelor of Architecture, the Master of Architecture, and the Doctor of Architecture. A program may be granted a 6-year, 3-year, or 2-year term of accreditation, depending on the extent of its conformance with established educational standards.

The Doctor of Architecture and Master of Architecture degree programs may consist of a pre-professional undergraduate degree and a professional graduate degree that, when earned sequentially, constitute an accredited professional education. However, the pre-professional degree is not, by itself, recognized as an accredited degree. The Department of Architecture offers the following NAAB-accredited degree programs: M. Arch. (high school degree + 175 credits), M. Arch. (pre-professional degree + 60 credits), and M. Arch. (non-pre-professional degree + 105 credits). The next accreditation visit is scheduled for 2017.

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You can visit us in the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture Building, Office 272, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Call (305) 348-2765 or email us at cartaadv@fiu.edu to make an appointment.



FIU Architecture eFolio, Fall 2014

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### **The Department of Architecture**

The FIU Department of Architecture trains students in the profession of architecture to become thoughtful practitioners, critical thinkers, and broad visionaries with the skills and knowledge to enhance their communities and the built environment around them. The Department has a world-class faculty engaged in architectural practice and research on issues of design, sustainability, history/theory/criticism, sea-level rise, digital fabrication, and a whole host of interdisciplinary areas that advance knowledge in South Florida and across the globe.

### **The College of Architecture + The Arts**

The College of Architecture + The Arts engages our local and global communities by deploying the power of architecture + the arts to create, innovate, and inspire solutions to social, economic, and environmental problems. Offering 9 graduate and 8 undergraduate degrees within 7 academic departments, our more than 2,500 majors have the unique experience working with our award-winning faculty, in nationally ranked programs, in the heart of Miami — one of the country's most vibrant, diverse, and creative cities! For more information, visit us at <http://carta.fiu.edu/>.