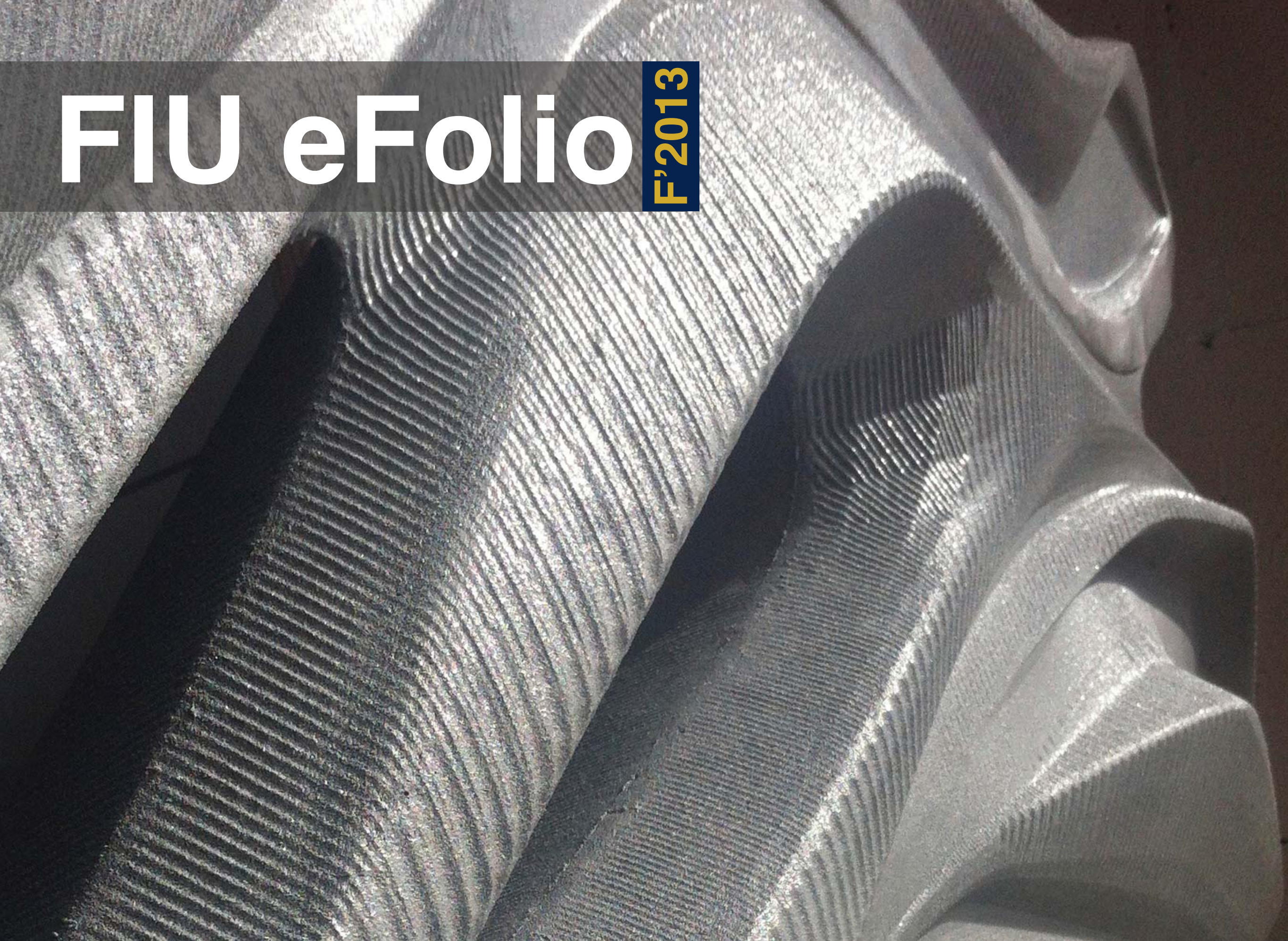


# FIU eFolio

F'2013





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F'2013



**Architecture**

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + THE ARTS

## Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the FIU Architecture eFolio, a semester's compendium of the work of the Department of Architecture at Florida International University in Fall 2013. This publication provides a look into the character and energy of our Department. In it, you will see students and faculty working together and individually to move the culture of Miami architecture forward.

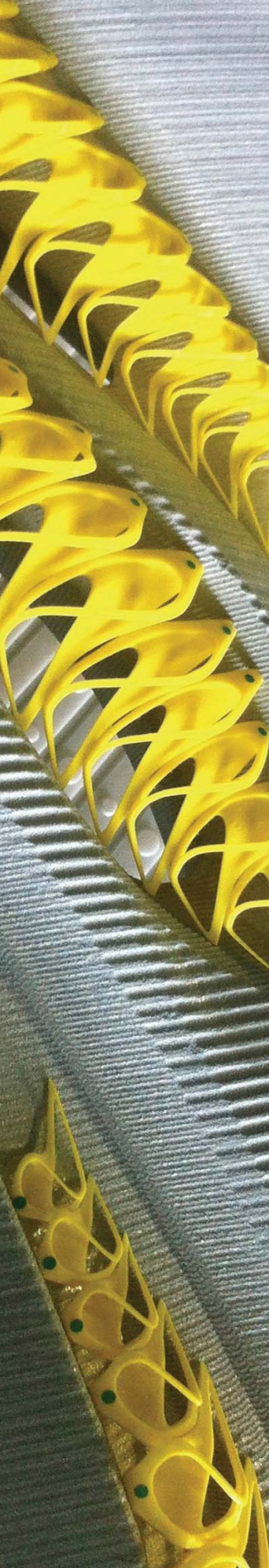
This first issue arrives as our Department continues to establish itself as a leader of the profession. Leading up to the opening of the spectacular Pérez Art Museum Miami, our students swept the student design awards of the Miami Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The evening of the award gala was a great moment for the Department. Our students shined and represented the commitment of our Department to the profession. Also, we are proud to say that all of the award-winning firms had FIU graduates as part of their teams. It was extremely gratifying to witness our students and graduates contributing to the shaping of our city.

I hope you enjoy reading about our Department's recent achievements, and please look for our Spring 2014 eFolio that will feature the work of our graduating master project students in May.

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

*Cover Image: "Stuck Together Pieces" at the 2nd Annual Miami Tech Summit & Holiday Bash. The image is provided courtesy of MONAD Studio/Eric Goldemberg + Veronica Zalcborg.*







# STUDENTS

A photograph of three students at an art reception. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair and glasses is smiling, looking towards the right. Behind her, another woman with long dark hair is looking in the same direction. To the right, a man is partially visible, also looking towards the right. They are standing in front of a large, complex sculpture made of thin, intersecting red and orange lines, which creates a web-like structure. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the sculpture and the interior of the gallery.

Students in the Department of Architecture are at the center of all school activities. While many of our students come from the Miami area, more and more are joining from other countries across the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, and Asia. Our diversity is one of our great strengths and provides us with a creative advantage above and beyond many other schools in the nation. Most importantly, the intensive environment of architecture provides our students with opportunities to grow together and form life-long friendships that develop into productive and satisfying professional networks.

Students at the opening reception of Professor Nick Gelpi's Force Frames at the BEA International Gallery; image captured by student Manuel Perez-Trujillo

## **FIU Students Recognized at AIA Miami Design Awards Gala**

On Friday, November 22nd, 2013, the American Institute of Architects Miami Chapter held its 59th Annual Design Awards Gala at its recently renovated Miami Center for Architecture and Design. The international architecture and design firm Arquitectonica was awarded the Sustainable Building Award for the FIU School of International & Public Affairs building. Additionally, three students from the College of Architecture + The Arts were awarded for their work through the Department of Architecture. The FIU Department of Architecture congratulates the following students.

Camila Borges, Assoc. AIA, FIU

Student Design Award for her 2013 Netherlands Study Abroad project “River Link Social Housing Complex”

Ana Benatuil, Assoc. AIA, FIU

Student Design Award for Planning for her 2013 Masters Project “Miami 2100 – Cut Fill City”

Gergana Panteva

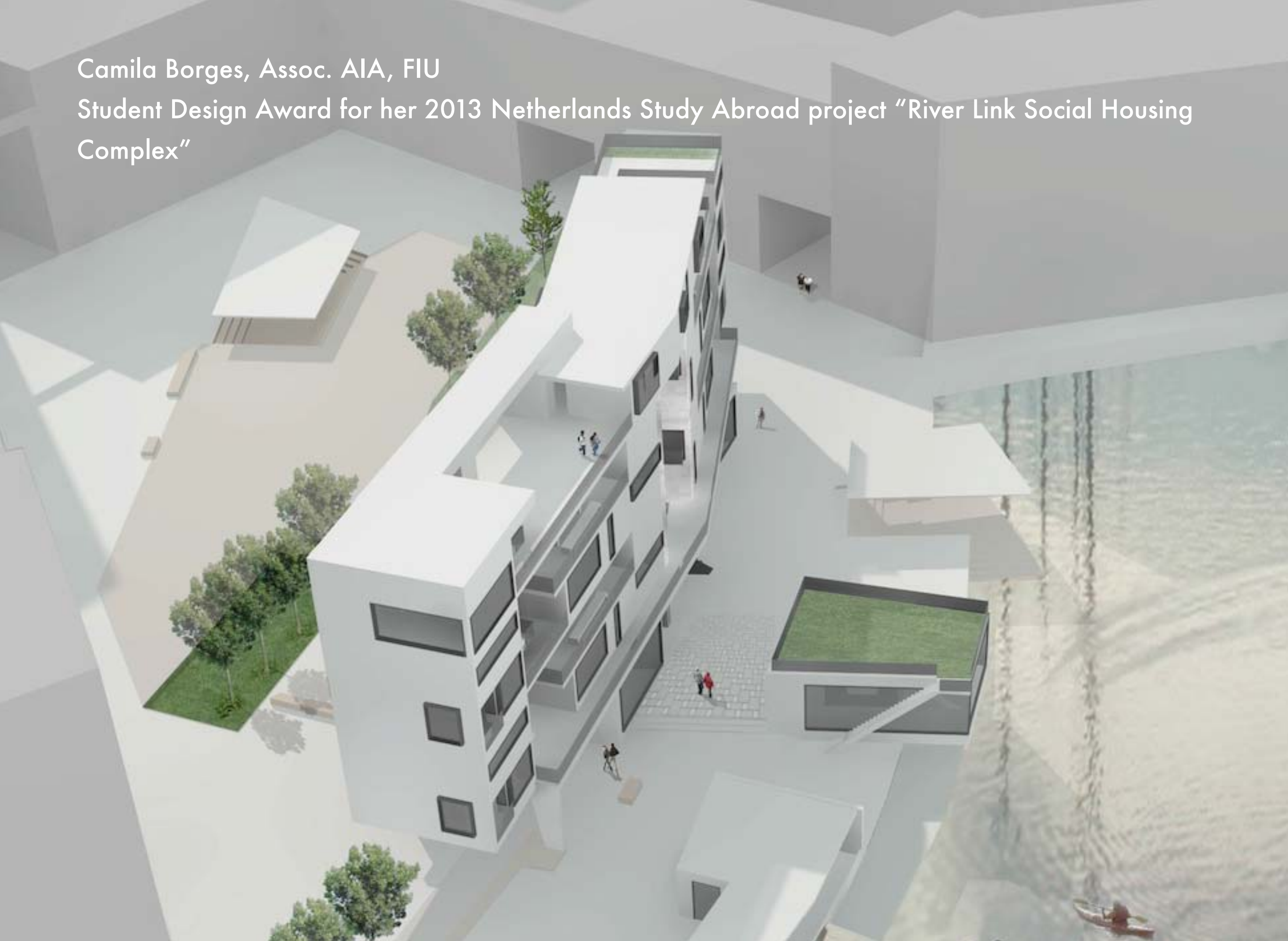
Student of the Year in the FIU Department of Architecture

Both Borges and Benatuil won recognition for work completed in design research studios directed by Professor Marilys Nepomechie. The same Chicago jury that reviewed the professional entries also juried the student work. No other architecture program was represented among the student design honorees this year.

*This article was written with the help of Professor Marilys Nepomechie.*

Camila Borges, Assoc. AIA, FIU

Student Design Award for her 2013 Netherlands Study Abroad project "River Link Social Housing Complex"







Ana Benatuil, Assoc. AIA, FIU  
Student Design Award for Planning for her 2013 Masters Project "Miami 2100 – Cut Fill City"



## **Students Create Butterfly Garden with “Woodcrete” at Oleta River State Park**

The students of Assistant Professor Nick Gelpi and Chair of Landscape Architecture and Associate Professor Roberto Rovira are in the process of building a butterfly garden at Oleta River State Park. Four groups of students from the College of Architecture + The Arts are building four different sections of the garden, but all groups are using “woodcrete” to build their structures. The word “woodcrete” describes the mixed material made from concrete and the plant melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), which is an exotic, invasive tree that threatens the Everglades ecosystem. The result is porous structures, like stepping plates and seats in the garden, that allow for the easier drainage of rainwater. The project aims to use such an environmentally friendly material to add even more beauty to the park.

Jane Reilly is the President of Friends of Oleta River State Park, a support organization that raises funds for the park. Reilly had contacted the FIU Department of Architecture to express her interest in collaborating with its students and faculty. She connected with Professor Gelpi and his class, a decision she is proud to have made. “I was at the park for the student presentations. The mock-up structures and ideas were very exciting,” said Reilly. She commented on the students’ willingness to learn and to present their best work. “The professionalism of the architects in charge of the project is apparent in the enthusiasm and involvement of the students.”





Anna Drescher, FIU  
Rendering of design for Oleta River State Park  
butterfly garden



## **Architecture Students Team Up with Pinnacle Housing Group**

In Fall 2013, Professors Olivia Ramos and John Stuart taught a section of final-year Architectural Design 10 Studio focused on Affordable Housing. The theoretical project, which is located on the property of Beth David Congregation, is being generously supported by Pinnacle Housing Group and Louis Wolfson, III. Pinnacle Housing Group is one of the largest affordable housing developers in the nation, with over 40 developments in the state of Florida. Pinnacle prides itself on including public art displays in each of its communities, with guidance from Doris Meltzer of DM Art Enterprises, Inc. Pinnacle is able to bring art to those who might not otherwise experience it. Ms. Meltzer has been serving as a liaison between Pinnacle and the FIU architecture students, who have been studying all aspects of the project, including design and finances, codes, and the inclusion of public art in the facility.

Doris Meltzer had been meeting regularly with the students, and she observed that the “object of the class...[is] to deal with the planning of property in conjunction with artwork...that would be part of the development.” Meltzer explained that Pinnacle Housing Group believes that the artwork encourages residents to respect their homes and the urban fabric around them.

FIU Architecture students in the Architectural Design 10 Studio were awarded prizes by a jury of professionals from the Pinnacle Housing Group for their designs for affordable housing near The Roads in Miami. Prizes were awarded to the following students:

Santiago Arroyave (First Prize-\$500)

Matt Barnard (Second Prize-\$300)

Francesca Tagliabue-Ellerbe (Third Prize-\$200)

Renate Paris (Honorable Mention-\$100)

Audrey Reyes (Honorable Mention-\$100)

Nicolle Urbano (Honorable Mention-\$100)

On behalf of Pinnacle Housing Group, Louis Wolfson, III, Founding Partner, generously donated a total of \$5,300, which will be used to support students pursuing their studies of architecture at FIU. The students worked on the project at the Miami Beach Urban Studios under the generously volunteered mentorship of Doris Meltzer of DM Art Enterprises, Inc., art consultant to Pinnacle Housing Group.

*This article was written with the help of Professor John Stuart and Doris Meltzer of DM Art Enterprises, Inc.*



Santiago Arroyave, FIU Design 10 Studio  
First Prize by Pinnacle Housing Group Jury





## **Student Spotlight: Andrea Perelli, MAA Student Shows Work at Miami Mini Maker Faire**

College of Architecture + The Arts student Andrea Perelli was selected to exhibit her work at the Miami Mini Maker Faire at The LAB Miami on November 16th, 2013. Under the supervision of Associate Professor Alfredo Andia and Associate Professor Eric Goldemberg for her thesis, Perelli has been working with the Digital Lab at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture building to study the design of prosthetics.

As part of her applied research for her MAA, Perelli is interested in the shift from “mass production to mass customization,” in which technology allows for objects to adapt to an individual’s needs and desires. In the case of mass customization, the user is in control. Perelli takes this notion and applies it to the subject of prosthetics in her project “The UN-STANDARD,” which she presented next to 60 other chosen presenters at the Miami Mini Maker Faire. “Rather than [individuals with prosthetics] being forced into scenarios and conditions [in which they] have little to no say in how they must function,” said Perelli, “the goal is to empower them, allowing them to decide [on] how to adapt to their unique bodies and, at a larger scale, how they fit and function within their environment.”

Besides her accomplishment at the Miami Mini Maker Faire, Perelli collaborates with Professor Eric Goldemberg’s MONAD Studio. With MONAD Studio, she said, she is able to “[work] with experimentation in architecture, and [produce] extensive formal explorations at the macro- and microtectonic level.” Perelli intends to apply all that she has researched through the FIU Department of Architecture and MONAD Studio to her future career in the field. She wants to work in a firm that focuses on different types of material and architectural research, and she is interested in starting an organization that aids people through design and manufacturing.

*All Images courtesy of Andrea Perelli.*



“The UN-STANDARD” by Andrea Perelli



## Studio Exhibits Infill Housing Designs at Bas Fisher Invitational

*URBAN\_VARIANTS*, an exhibit by faculty and students of the College of Architecture + The Arts' Department of Architecture, opened at Bas Fisher Invitational on November 1st, 2013. The exhibit featured new designs for Miami urban buildings that focus on infill housing.

Graduate Design 6 and Formative Studio 2, along with some faculty of the Architecture Department, traveled to Savannah, Georgia in Spring 2013 with Chair and Associate Professor Jason Chandler, AIA. There, they studied the infill housing structures and how they generate a balance between private and public life in the city. "Infill urbanism is the incremental development of scattered sites over time with modest buildings," said Chandler, who is the coordinator of this studio. "...To infill is to occupy an existing condition. In an urban context, infilling is the construction of a building that occupies the entire lot." Through the studio, students learned about this design method, and made contrasts with Miami's urban, high-rise condominiums and its suburban flat, vacant lots. Students and faculty envisioned a Miami with a "[neighborhood] of a middle scale," as Chandler put it. "In other cities," he said, "such urban neighborhoods are often the most vibrant...."

Each student studied the buildings in downtown Miami and designed their own models of infill housing for the city. Collectively, students created more than 100 designs, some of which were displayed in *URBAN\_VARIANTS*. Chandler and the studio hope that this exhibit will encourage architects to focus more on sustainable design that, at the same time, helps to energize and beautify the urban environment.

The studio behind *URBAN\_VARIANTS* is supported by the Knight Foundation and Townhouse Center.



Image taken by and provided courtesy of Iain Steel.



## **Students Exhibit *Palletcraft* at the Coral Gables Museum**

From November 1st to December 1st, 2013, students from FIU Architecture exhibited *Palletcraft* in the Anthony R. Abraham Family Gallery of the Coral Gables Museum.

Over a period of three years, Instructor Eric Peterson worked with students building furniture and researching the material potential of shipping pallets. This exhibition was both a retrospective of this work and an invitation for us to reconsider how we value humble materials.

Shipping pallets are made in many different countries: the majority of finished consumer products and many building materials, foods, and raw materials are transported around the globe on standard wooden shipping pallets. Pallets change hands, travel across oceans and continents, are damaged and repaired multiple times over their useful life-cycle. These ubiquitous devices play a fundamental role in supporting our consumer culture and yet go largely unnoticed in our daily lives

The furniture and architectural material prototypes displayed in this exhibit dispensed with the notion of a predetermined material nobility. Instead, wood from shipping pallets was investigated for its potential properties, such as cladding, surface, structure, or spatial modulator. Through the investment of human labor, *Palletcraft* exposed the hidden qualities of an overlooked material resource and asked us to reconsider the ramifications of our participation in global material and product transportation networks.







## **Professor Rosales's Students Design Master Plan for Expansion of Schnebly Redland's Winery**

Associate Professor Camilo Rosales' Design sections 7 and 8 have represented the College of Architecture + The Arts in their design of a master plan for Schnebly Redland's Winery. The architecture students met with owners Peter and Denisse Schnebly on October 31st, 2013. Separated into four groups, the students presented four different design models for the expansion of the Schnebly property. The goal of Schnebly Redland's Winery is to include the addition of a brewery, wedding chapel, restaurant, banquet facilities, and distillery to their current property, with green and sustainable technology in mind.

The Schneblys decided to team up with the FIU Department of Architecture because of the dedication they see in its students. "People who are competing at the Master's degree level...are going to work even harder than the person you normally would hire," said Peter Schnebly. Additionally, the Schneblys feel that they are contributing to the educational community by placing their trust in Professor Rosales's students. For the owners, it feels especially rewarding to collaborate with FIU students that are in the process of learning their practice. Peter Schnebly said, "It has far greater reaches for me, working with the students[, Professor Rosales,] and the university... [There are] long lasting relationships...[and t]here's a [special] atmosphere that a campus has."

## **New Organization On-campus Supports Diverse Community of Architecture Students**

In Fall 2013, a new student organization started at the College of Architecture + The Arts' School of Architecture. Founded by students Santasha Hart, Jorge Rodriguez, Naaly Pierre, Maria Sol Rivera, and Jasmin Jenkins, the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students-FIU (NOMAS-FIU) promotes the diversity of the student body in the School of Architecture. In only its first semester, the organization had already attended the National Organization of Minority Architects 41st Annual Conference & Exhibition in Indianapolis.

The organization's president, Santasha Hart, is a third-year student taking the five-year accelerated track toward a Master of Architecture. She said, "The purpose of [NOMAS] is mainly to create a tight-knit community within FIU's School of Architecture that is heavily based on the idea of bringing together a variety of cultures, in the hopes of learning from one another and becoming better individuals in the process." NOMAS-FIU's goal is not only to support students that are within the minority community, but also to encourage professional camaraderie between minority and non-minority groups. The organization welcomes students of all backgrounds. "Ultimately, we realize the importance of creating relationships [and] embracing your culture," said President Hart, "and allowing [your culture] to impact your career[,] which is what we as an organization aim to do."

The National Organization of Minority Architecture Students-FIU meets twice a month, on either Tuesdays or Thursdays at 6:30PM.



# FACULTY

Our faculty has a broad range of expertise and includes some of the best-known architects, designers and academics working in the field today. With degrees from UPenn, Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, University of Florida, Cornell, and numerous other important schools, the faculty members in the FIU Department of Architecture bring to their studios, courses, and research projects a depth and intensity of inquiry that propels our students and the work they produce forward into the professional and academic realms.

Professor Shahin Vassigh works with students at the Florida International University Structural and Environmental Technologies Lab (SET Lab)

## Students Present with MONAD Studio/Eric Goldemberg + Veronica Zalcborg at Miami Tech Summit

On Thursday, November 7th, 2013, MONAD Studio, founded by Associate Professor Eric Goldemberg and architect Veronica Zalcborg, presented a project at the 2nd Annual Miami Tech Summit & Holiday Bash. Sponsored by The LAB Miami and assisted by students representing the College of Architecture + The Arts, MONAD Studio created a piece that focused on musical rhythm and its potential relationship to architecture. Called “Stuck Together Pieces,” the project – a six-and-a-half-foot by four-foot piece designed and created in only three weeks – was exhibited at Marlins Park Stadium, center field for the celebration. The Tech Summit was sold out and attended by more than 12,000 people, who viewed “Stuck Together Pieces” and discussed it with MONAD Studio and the FIU Architecture students.

“Stuck Together Pieces,” according to Professor Goldemberg, was created to represent rhythmic affect through design. “[It was] created using the best of our digital fabrication equipment here at FIU,” said Goldemberg, “[and was a collaboration with] a really focused group of students who participated enthusiastically in the execution.”

The project aims to show layers of musical rhythm woven together in a concrete format. “How do you create...architecture that feels like a painting, and also feels like a piece of music?” Goldemberg wants to remove the boundaries between disciplines – in this case, architecture, art, and music.

The following students assisted MONAD Studio with the project:

### DESIGN TEAM:

Andrea Perelli, John Gioello

### FABRICATION TEAM:

Patrick Soares, Manuel Perez-Trujillo, Hex Ceballos, Ralph Santos, Jamie Musgrave, Fresnel Hernandez

*This article was written with the help of Professor Eric Goldemberg. All images are provided courtesy of MONAD Studio/Eric Goldemberg + Veronica Zalcborg.*





"Stuck Together Pieces" by MONAD Studio





## Professor and Family Build a House of Recyclables

The house built by College of Architecture + The Arts Associate Professor David Rifkind and his wife, Holly Zickler, was featured in the September-October 2013 issue of *Residential Architect*. Published by the American Institute of Architects, the magazine used their home as an example of sustainable construction methods in an article on “net-zero” buildings, which generate as much power as they consume. Rifkind and Zickler’s house is not yet net-zero – its photovoltaic panels generate about three-quarters of the electricity they use – but they intend to bring the house up to net-zero standards by expanding their solar array.

The house has a number of other ecologically sustainable features. Most of the materials used in its construction are recycled or rapidly renewable, and the house produces about two-thirds of its drinking water by filtering rainwater. The house was awarded the Florida Water Star Gold certification and Florida-Friendly Landscape certification, and was part of the sold-out AIA Miami Earth Day Tour of Green Homes in April 2013.

Rifkind and Zickler built the house using a steel structural frame – which is seventy-five percent recycled – and light steel framing – which is one-hundred percent recycled. The steel proved to be more efficient than concrete and wood in enclosing the space, since less energy and resources are used in the building process. In addition to focusing on sustainable resources for the construction of the home, Rifkind and Zickler paid attention to the natural environment surrounding the house. Their goal was to help the environment regain its full potential. “...[W]e’ve designed a house that used little energy to build...,” said Rifkind to *Florida/Caribbean ARCHITECT* magazine, “uses little energy and water to operate (through conservation, electricity generation and water filtration), is highly durable (against wind, termites and mold) and provides natural habitat, compared to conventional construction methods in South Florida.”

*The Department of Architecture’s Associate Professor David Rifkind assisted in the writing of this article. Information for this article was drawn from HGTV FrontDoor and Residential Architect. All images are provided courtesy of David Rifkind and Holly Zickler at [somigreenhouse.blogspot.com](http://somigreenhouse.blogspot.com).*





Home of Associate Professor David Rifkind and Holly Zickler - Courtyard

### **Professors Present on Sustainable Design at ACSA Regional Conference**

Between October 17th and 18th, 2013, professors presented their research projects at the 2013 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Regional Conference. The fall conference, called “Subtropical Cities,” was held at Florida Atlantic University and hosted by FAU, Broward College, and Queensland University of Technology. “Subtropical Cities” focused on how efforts such as those made by the professors are being put at the forefront in urban, coastal cities. An important factor of these efforts is an emphasis on designing buildings that promotes community and efficient, sustainable construction methods.

The following presentations were given by the professors: “The Unflat Pavilion: Responsive Materialism + Adaptive Fabrication” by Nick Gelpi; “Compelling Evidence of Premeditation – Mocking The Museum” by Nick Gelpi; “Mitigate, Adapt, Sustain: Emerging Workflows and Design Protocols for Carbon Neutral Subtropical H2 Cities” by Thomas Spiegelhalter; “Miami 2100: Envisioning our Second Century” by Marta Canavés and Marilys R. Nepomechie; “Birds of Lincoln Road” by Gray Read.

### **Professor Camilo Rosales Awarded Grant for Sustainable Energy Proposal**

Associate Professor Camilo Rosales, AIA, has been awarded the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Grant by the U.S. Department of State. Rosales, along with a team of researchers that he led, received a total award amount of \$791, 531. Through this grant, Rosales and his team will work to create programs that support energy reduction. Rosales’s investigation group teamed up with three Latin American Universities and the three cities of Valdivia (Chile), Goiania (Brazil), and Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago). The group will apply their research and findings to these geographical areas. “This is a great opportunity for FIU to give something back to Latin America,” said Rosales. He also stated how rewarding it is to contribute to the well-being of the region.

Professor Rosales received a Bachelor and Master of Architecture from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Architecture II from Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

### **Malik Benjamin Hosts the First CreativeMornings/Miami Chapter**

Malik Benjamin, Instructor and Director of Program Innovation at the College of Architecture + The Arts Department of Architecture, is hosting the first CreativeMornings/ Miami chapter in partnership with the InterContinental Miami and The LAB Miami. CreativeMornings, started by Swiss designer Tina Roth Eisenberg in September 2008, is a free monthly lecture and breakfast event. It provides an educative platform on which individuals can teach and learn about a given, global theme of the month. There are currently 60 chapters of CreativeMornings across the globe, with the Miami chapter recently starting in November 2013.

The talks hosted by CreativeMornings/Miami in 2013 were:

- Mike Tomás (CEO of BioHeart)  
Part of a series on the theme of Bravery
- Denise R. Jacobs (Speaker + Writer + Creativity Evangelist)  
Part of a series on the theme of Make

### **Professors Present at the ISES Solar World Congress**

On November 4th and 7th, 2013, Professors Shahin Vassigh and Thomas Spiegelhalter presented research projects at the International Solar Energy Society Solar World Congress 2013.

Vassigh and Spiegelhalter presented “Integrated Design Pedagogy for Energy Efficient Design: Tools for Teaching Carbon Neutral Building Design,” an analysis of the professors’ book and DVD called “Best Practices in Sustainable Building Design,” co-authored with Ebru Ozer. The work discusses an environment that teaches sustainable methods of design and construction, through seven learning modules: building form, envelopes, structures, climate control systems, renewable energy, lighting, and landscape design. Additionally, Spiegelhalter presented his own research project, “Energy-Efficiency Retrofitting and Transformation of the [Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture building] into a Net-Zero-Energy-Building in 2018.” Net-zero-energy is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy 2020 policy and the American Institute of Architecture 2030 Agenda on energy conservation, efficiency benchmarking, and carbon neutrality for buildings.



## 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)

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.

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.

Aisha L. Williams, Academic Advisor

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Student Services and Advising Center

College of Architecture + The Arts

Florida International University

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](mailto:cartaadv@fiu.edu) to make an appointment.





FIU Architecture eFolio, Fall 2013

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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 award-winning faculty of the FIU College of Architecture + The Arts (CARTA) successfully blend theory, practice, global experiences, and practical internships to produce highly sought, skilled graduates. Consisting of 7 academic departments offering 8 undergraduate and 9 graduate degrees, CARTA provides students with the unique experience of learning in the heart of Miami---one of the country's most vibrant, diverse, and creative cities! For more information, visit us at [carta.fiu.edu](http://carta.fiu.edu).