

A Line Around an Idea

An Exhibition of Hand Drawings by James Wines for SITE

PROFESSOR SUZAN WINES

MY FATHER, JAMES WINES, always begins a project by asking, "What's the Big Idea?" Recently, he found one on the floor of the SSA Atrium Gallery where a retrospective of his drawings for SITE is on display through April 2013.

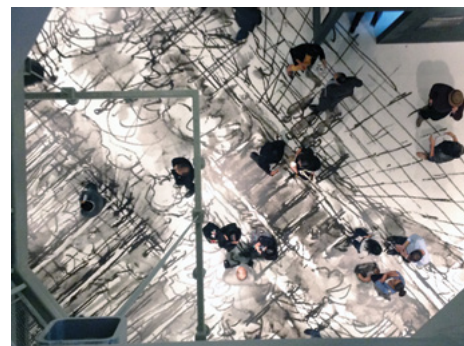
The exhibition opens with a video of

my father drawing. I immediately recognized the mesmerizing rhythm of his wrist and fingertips moving effortlessly back and forth across the page in pursuit of space, form, light, matter and the humorous engagement with people emblematic of SITE's work over the past 42 years. We follow the pen from the screen to the undulating lines on the floor where a 10,000% enlargement of James' sketch for the PAT Management Building in Nam-myeon, Korea, radiates across the space, creating a destabilizing anamorphic-like projection.

From the bridges above, visitors are subsumed within the valleys of a drawing that is at once elevation, perspective and a transformation of the gallery into a full-scale landscape of indeterminate depth.

The exhibit presents influential projects from SITE's repertoire as conceived by my father's "unfolding thought process...through the calligraphic advantages of mind-to-hand delineation." To demonstrate that lines do not simply describe an idea, *but often are the idea*, the ink blots have been liberated from the page to inform and transform the floor of the atrium which becomes increasingly profound when occupied by people. In order to see the framed drawings, one must literally walk on the art.

On the seven concept development panels showing SITE's recent work, hundreds of sketches, vignettes, trials and errors of projects in the making at different angles and scales affirm the necessity of drawing as a tool for thought. The Public Administration Town (PAT) panel presents numerous juxtapositions of building and landscape, until "eureka!"—in the lower right-hand corner a gorgeous render-



Overhead view of the enlarged sketch by James Wines, installed on the floor of the SSA Gallery.

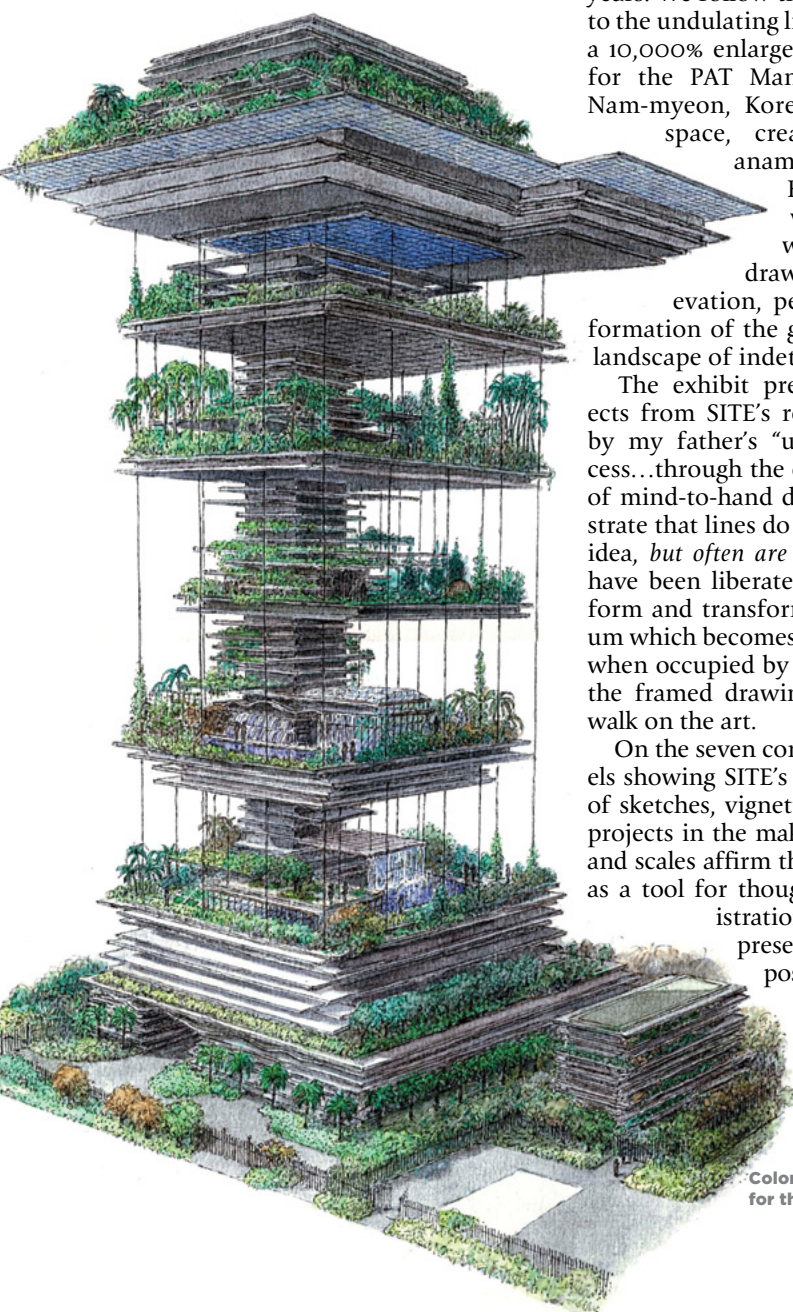
ing of the Convention Center as inverted mountain emerges from the pen-point. Students often remark at my inability to finish a sentence with words alone, but when I was a kid, my father would often proclaim: "If you want to be an artist when you grow up, you better practice drawing instead of talking." There was no separation between life, work and art where I grew up, and for James no greater joy than to draw.

Architecture is a precarious balance between man and nature, mind and matter, and necessity and desire. Within the soft water-stained vegetation of the Bedford House drawing, site and structure dissolve into a volatile struggle between man and the environment. Ideas, space and nature are powerful, exacting, and in a constant state of flux. To fix them is to destroy them. My father's drawings make this indeterminacy palpable, buildable and inhabitable. ■

"A Line Around an Idea" is supported by 3M Corporation, Zahner Corporation, and National Reprographics Inc. An exhibition catalog is forthcoming.



CITY COLLEGE IS 



Color rendering of SITE's scheme for the Antilia Residence, Mumbai.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

In the last issue we reported on the MLA Program's participation as one of nine finalists in "Parks for the People: A Student Competition to Re-imagine America's National Parks", sponsored by the Van Alen Institute and the U.S. National Parks Service. I am delighted to follow up with the announcement that the resulting project "**Finding Common Ground**" received one of two awards of excellence!



View of Ellis to Nicodemus Trail by Adam Thyberg, from "Finding Common Ground."

Designed for the **Nicodemus National Historic Site** in Kansas—significant to the history of western settlement by African-Americans during Reconstruction—the project was developed by students in a first-year landscape studio led by by Profs. **Denise Hoffman Brandt** and **Andrew Zientek**. The awards were presented in September during the opening of a six-week exhibit of the finalists' work at the Octagon Museum in Washington, D.C. After viewing the design projects, U.S. National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "I came to this exhibit wondering 'Did they get it?' and the answer is yes, they got it."

There are a couple of new administrative faces at the school to introduce: **Michael Miller** is the SSA Director of Operations, capably filling a newly-created role, and **Esther Yang** joins us as the Assistant Director of the J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City. Welcome!

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STUDENT NEWS

Awards

CONGRATULATIONS to the following SSA graduating students who received top awards at the graduation ceremony last spring:

- ▶ MArch I Outstanding Design Project: **Lori Beppu**
- ▶ ASLA Awards: **Chiara Di Palma** (Honor) and **Shastine Van Vugt** (Merit)
- ▶ Rachel Carson Award (achievement in MLA and MUD): **Kjirsten Alexander**
- ▶ Matthew W. Del Guadio Award (BArch Best Thesis): **Adra Bubes**
- ▶ AIA Henry Adams Medal (BArch): **Yoo Jin Lee**
- ▶ AIA Certificate of Merit (BArch): **Jongsoo Kim**
- ▶ Alpha Rho Chi Medal (BArch): **Samuel Mikhail**
- ▶ Faculty History and Theory Award: **Lori Beppu** (grad), **Jennifer Jeffrey** (undergrad)
- ▶ Extech Award for Technology (BArch): **John Vlahakis**
- ▶ Olmsted Scholar (MLA): **Kjirsten Alexander**

In addition, top scholarship awards to continuing students include:

- ▶ Dean's Design Scholarship sponsored by Frank J. Sciamé, Jr.: **Michael Luft-Weissberg** and **Laura Sanburn** (grad), **Filipp Blyakher** (undergrad)
- ▶ Frederick Bainnson Memorial Scholarship (MLA): **Michael Mason**
- ▶ NYC ASLA Scholarship (MLA): **Sheila Moss**
- ▶ Ennead Architects Scholarship (BArch): **Steve Ramirez**
- ▶ Gerner, Kronick & Valcarcel Art of Architecture Scholarship (BArch): **Steven De Laurentiis**
- ▶ Carol J. Weissman Kurth Scholarship (BArch): **Sarah Saada** (BArch)
- ▶ CCNY Architecture Alumni Association Scholarship (BArch): **Steven De Laurentiis** and **Diana Chang**
- ▶ Brooklyn Architectural Foundation Scholarship (BArch): **Sarah Saada**
- ▶ J. Max Bond Center Scholarship: **Michelle Flournoy**

- ▶ Bernard L. Spanier Memorial Scholarship (BArch): **Idan Saragosti** and **Wilson Serrano**
- ▶ VAI Megan Lawrence Memorial Award: **Yun Ki Hong**
- ▶ WX Women in Real Estate Scholarships: **Sheila Moss** and **Danae Alessi**
- ▶ AIA NYC Eleanor Allwork Scholarship (BArch): **Anthony Carrion**

The Spitzer Travel Fellows this year are **Yoo Jin Lee** and **William Schaefer** (BArch) for the proposal "Post Colonial Lessons in Southeast Asia: Jakarta and Yangon," **Lori Beppu** (MArch) for "Tracking the Scent of Cinnamon: Connections between Food and Architecture," and **Chiara Di Palma** (MLA) for "Self-Made Public Space: Studying the Ad Hoc, Informal, Incremental yet Purposeful Actions of Public Space in Berlin, Germany."

The J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City and the Harlem School for the Arts have been awarded the 2012 Community-Based Participatory Research Grant from the CCNY Colin Powell Center for Leadership and Service. The initiative seeks to: introduce African-American and Latino youth to the field of architecture, demonstrate how it plays an influential role in breaking down long-standing social and physical barriers, and strengthen connections between the community and the campus.

Milestones

THE MLA PROGRAM published the inaugural issue of *PLOT*, a new student-edited journal advised by Prof. **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson**, on the theme of "marginal street." Kudos to all involved!

Two recent graduates presented papers at the 2012 Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture conference in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. **Kjirsten Alexander** (MLA '12) presented the paper "Coalscape: Reclaiming the New Appalachian Plateaus" and **Michael King** (MLA '11) presented "Designations," about landscape and language. King entered the PhD in Landscape Architecture program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this fall.

BArch students **Diana Chang**, **Artur Dabrowski**, **Jamie Edindjiklian**, **Tate Sumner** and **Polina Tymoshenko** recently performed field investigations to help determine the energy retrofit potential of vernacular buildings in Corona and Bushwick for the Preservation Green Lab of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Green Lab seeks to advance research that investigates the value that older buildings bring to their communities, and pioneer policy solutions that make it easier to reuse and green older and historic buildings.

Travel & Trips

FIRST YEAR STUDENTS in the MLA Program participated in the "Stewardship of Central Park's Woodlands" conference, presented by the Cultural Landscape Foundation and the Central Park Conservancy. The students—**Xiaochao Dai**, **Ashley Drexler**, **Anina Gerchick**, **Andrea Johnson**, **Geoffrey Lenat**, **Julia Millea**, **Alanna Rios**, **Marie Salembier**, **Eli Sands**, **Fern Lan Siew**, and **Christopher Valencia**—also served as guides for TCLF's "What's Out There Weekend" tours at parks throughout the five boroughs. ■

Students in the seminar "History of Architectural Drawing," taught by Prof. **Lauren Jacobi**, visted the Morgan Library where they viewed up close this volume of architectural plans made of French royal palaces, ca. 1747-49.

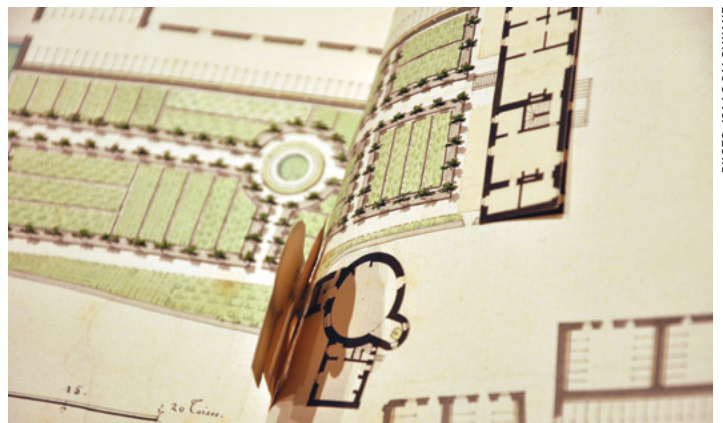


PHOTO: ISAAC SALOUWANE

FACULTY NEWS

JOE TANNEY of [Resolution: 4 Architecture](#) returns as Distinguished Visiting Professor. His firm had two projects, the [Union Square Duplex](#) and the [Warren Street Townhouse](#), featured on the 2012 City Modern Home Tour, co-hosted by *Dwell* and *New York* magazines. RES4's Connecticut Pool House project recently won an AIA Connecticut 2012 Merit Design Award.

Distinguished Visiting Professor **John Hong** is founding principal with Jinhee Park of the firm [SsD](#), known for the [Big Dig House](#) in Boston and many other innovative projects. The firm received a 2012 Emerging Voices Award from the Architectural League of New York.

A house designed in Amagansett, New York, by Assistant Professor **Nandini Bagchee** and partner Tim Furzer was recently [completed](#) and featured on the cover of the *New York Times Style Magazine* (May 4, 2012). She participated in a panel discussion of the urban design research project "Streetscape Territories" at the Flanders House in New York City.

A study by Professor **Hillary Brown**, FAIA, "Integrated Critical Infrastructure for Leogane, Haiti," developed with students in the Sustainability Program, is being used by the Haitian Energy Ministry as a template for energizing rural "eco-districts."



Amagansett House by Nandini Bagchee and Tim Furzer.

PHOTO: NANDINI BAGCHEE

It is a backbone of Haiti's energy master plan under development by the Global Energy Model Institute, an organization Brown co-founded.

ACSA Distinguished Professor **Lance Jay Brown** co-edited the timely book *Beyond Zucotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space* (New Village Press). He authored the chapter "Public Space Then and in the Future." He also authored the concluding chapter "Occupy the Edge, Harvest the City" in the publication *The Harlem Edge: Cultivating Connections*, documenting the recent ENYA-sponsored competition. Brown recently lectured or moderated panels at the AIA's Center for Architecture and the Central Park Armory, and presented

an illustrated "PlaNYC Report Card" at the "Transformações urbanas e patrimônio cultural" symposium in Rio de Janeiro.

Adjunct Professor **Alberto Foyo** conducted a design-build workshop in the Amazon basin as part of his ongoing initiative in collaboration with the indigenous Mundurucu tribe. Foyo showcased the built intervention, an agroforestry compound, in the lecture "Mobility+ Culture" presented at Columbia University's Studio-X Rio, an event coordinated with the Rio+20 sustainability conference in Brazil.

"[American City Interrupted: What Spontaneous Interventions Can Teach Us About Taking the City Back](#)," by Professor **Toni Griffin**, Director of the J. Max Bond Center, was published in the August 2012 issue of *Architect* magazine. She delivered the lecture "Legacy Cities + Innovative Landscapes" at the 2012 ASLA Annual Conference.

Adjunct Lecturer **Daniel Hauben** and his frieze paintings commissioned for Bronx Community College were featured in the *New York Times* article "[Battled and Beautiful: His Bronx](#)." The paintings—one of the largest public art commissions the Bronx has seen since the late 1930s—feature classic Bronx vistas and neighborhood street scenes.

Associate Professor **Denise Hoffman Brandt** participated in the [Civic Action Charrette](#) by Urban Omnibus, a project of the Architectural League of New York. Hoffman Brandt

presented "City Sink" and participated in a panel discussion at the "Urban Planet: Emerging Ecologies" symposium at the Cooper Union. She also presented the MLA Program's contribution to [Slum Lab: Last Round Ecology](#), the publication jointly produced by the CCNY Landscape Architecture Program and ETH Zurich's Urban Design Program, at the 2012 Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture conference in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

The new [office headquarters of OriginalMedia](#), designed by Berman Horn Studio, the firm of Assistant Professor **Brad Horn**, was published in *Interior Design* magazine (Sept 2012).

Assistant Professor **Fran Leadon** is writing the book *Broadway: A History of New York City in Thirteen Miles* (W. W. Norton & Company). Leadon's book traces New York City's most complex street through time and space, from its beginning in 1625 as a line sighted through a Dutch surveyor's transit to its position, by 1899, as Manhattan's main street.

Adjunct Professor **Irma Ostroff** exhibited "Location Series," a show of recent paintings, at the offices of RKT&B in Chelsea.

Associate Professor **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson**'s article "Feral Bestiary" is in *(Non-) Essential Knowledge for (New) Architecture*, Volume 15 of 30/60/90. She was an invited speaker at the conference "DredgeFest NYC" at Columbia University's GSAPP.

continued on page 4



Map illustrating the integrated critical infrastructure scheme for Leogane, Haiti, developed by SSA students with Hillary Brown.

continued from page 3

Distinguished Professor **Michael Sorkin** has been awarded the New York State AIA Educator Award. His lectures this fall include the University of Rotterdam, MIT, Fordham, the CUNY Graduate Center, Columbia, and Washington University. Articles have recently appeared in *Landscape Architecture*, *Lotus*, *AD* and *Architecture* and the books *While We Were Sleeping*

and *Beyond Zuccotti Park*. Sorkin is serving on the jury for the Veronica Rudge Green Prize in Urban Design, given by Harvard University. The Sorkin Studio recently completed a study of the Zeytinburnu neighborhood in Istanbul and is working on an office building in Xi'an, China and a housing development in An Kang, China. The Institute for Urban Design, of which Sorkin is President and numer-

ous SSA faculty are Fellows, was the sponsor of the U.S. Pavilion at this year's Venice Architecture Biennale. The show, "*Spontaneous Interventions*," was given one of four jury awards, the first time an American Pavilion has won such a prize.

Work by Associate Professor **Elisabetta Terragni** was included in the "Inhabiting the City" exhibition at the Green Social Festival in Bologna and the Albanian Pavilion at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale. The permanent architecture collection of the MAXXI Museum in Rome now includes a model by Terragni. Her *report* on first Young Architects Program (YAP) installation at MAXXI, designed by Urban Movement Studio, was published on the *Arbitare* website.

Adjunct Associate Professor **Albert Vecerka** recently photographed a new sculpture by **Dee Briggs** at the Warhol Museum (Briggs is a City College graduate who then went to Yale School of Architecture and now makes

sculpture in Pittsburgh). Vecerka's photos are in an *exhibit of Esto photographers' work* at the Boston Society of Architects.

Associate Professor **June Williamson** co-authored a chapter in *Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America* (U of Texas Press). She appeared in the PBS documentary "*Designing Healthy Communities*," hosted by Dr. Richard Jackson, and was awarded first place in the AuthenticITY 2012 urban design competition for a scheme to retrofit a strip mall and surroundings in West Palm Beach, Florida. She delivered public lectures at Catholic University and the Phoenix Urban Research Lab of Arizona State University.

I-Beam Design, the firm of Adjunct Associate Professor **Suzan Wines**, welcomed over 600 visitors to a project on the Lower East Side featured in *openhousenewyork*. I-Beam Design's work was recently *featured* in *Bydleni iDNES*, a popular Czech newspaper and *Design Like You Give A Damn (2)* the latest compendium on humanitarian design by Architecture for Humanity. ■

Location I by Irma Ostroff, 2012, oil on canvas, 30" x 40".



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