

living modern chicago

“Living Modern Chicago” is a collaboration of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the Mies van der Rohe Society/Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), in partnership with multiple cultural institutions in Chicago.

Building on the legacy of László Moholy-Nagy and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, who carried Bauhaus principles to Chicago, SAIC and the Mies van der Rohe Society are organizing exhibitions and programs that probe the presence of the Modern today. Marking the Bauhaus at 90 years, it coincides with the Burnham Plan Centennial and the opening of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Modern Wing.

These exhibitions and events will tell the Chicago chapter in the international story of modernism at a time of the modern’s reappraisal, looking at modernism’s continuing ideals of innovative interdisciplinary work intended to make a better world, and the legacy of the modern as a way of teaching and learning in both the academic and public realms.

featured programs

Learning Modern

Exhibition
September 26, 2009-January 9, 2010
Sullivan Galleries
The School of the Art Institute
33 South State Street, 7th floor

Bauhaus to Green Haus

Lecture Series
Spring-Summer 2009
The School of the Art Institute and
Illinois Institute of Technology

Moholy: An Education of the Senses

Exhibition
February 10-May 9, 2010
Loyola University Museum of Art
820 North Michigan Avenue

Bauhaus Labs

Student Workshops
May 26-June 12, 2009
Illinois Institute of Technology
S. R. Crown Hall
3360 South State Street



A collaborative program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Mies van der Rohe Society/Illinois Institute of Technology celebrating modernism in Chicago.

Learning Modern

Exhibition

September 26, 2009-January 9, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, September 25

Sullivan Galleries

The School of the Art Institute

33 South State Street, 7th floor

This major exhibition at SAIC's Sullivan Galleries brings the critical role of education in the mid-20th century into the contemporary critical practices of artists, architects, and designers.

Reconsidering the innovative design strategies and educational approach that emerged from the New Bauhaus/Institute of Design in Chicago in the late 1930s, the installations will examine how these principles influenced the artists, architects, and designers working then who were looking to the future. It begins with the work of Ken Isaacs and Charles Harrison, architect and industrial designers whose inspiration continues from the 1950s to today.

Contemporary work by international artists examines the way other architects and designers in the past were looking forward, including projects by Angela Ferreira, Andrea Fraser, Narelle Jubelin, Inigo Manglano-Ovalle, Helen-Maria Nugent and Jan Tichy, Staffan Schmidt, and Catherine Yass.

Meanwhile today's architects and designers, using the latest in computer-driven technology to create responsive architecture/designs and build a new future, are also featured in works by BlackBox/SOM, Thom Faulders, Walter Hood, and Arturo Vittori. This section is presented in conjunction with the ACADIA conference.

This spirit continues today in schools. At SAIC such work will comprise - "Modern Workshops" - rotating displays featuring class investigations and interactive public projects using the classroom and the city as a living laboratory, asking "what stake do we have in the modern today?"

For more information, please visit www.saic.edu/exhibitions, or contact Kate Zeller at kzelle@saic.edu, 312.629.6642

moholy: **an education of the senses**

Moholy: An Education of the Senses

Exhibition

February 10-May 9, 2010

Loyola University Museum of Art

820 North Michigan Avenue

This exhibition organized by SAIC in conjunction with the Mies Society examines the work of this great designer, photographer, artist, and visionary educator László Moholy-Nagy. It features his fascination with “light” as its central theme. The culminating component of “Living Modern Chicago,” it reconsiders the work of Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946, American, born in Austria-Hungary): the modern artist who brought Bauhaus pedagogy to Chicago. Curated by Carol Ehlers, this exhibition is a celebration of Moholy-Nagy, bringing to life his art and ideas in the community that was his last home—Chicago. It also aims to reignite interest and further investigation of this seminal figure, to engage a wider public with Moholy-Nagy’s multidisciplinary process, and to reveal to a contemporary audience the ongoing relevance of modernism’s life-improving message. Moholy-Nagy’s art and ideas were a revolutionary response to his time. Today we are experiencing another social and technological transition. With exhibition design by SAIC faculty, Helen-Maria Nugent and alumni Jan Tichy, this exhibition means to inspire Chicago with modernism’s great visionary of artistic and social change.

For more information, please visit: www.luc.edu/luma.

Bauhaus to Green Haus

Lecture Series

Spring-Summer 2009

**The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and
Illinois Institute of Technology**

This speaker series, to be held at SAIC, and IIT, will bring to Chicago European architects/designers and other practitioners drawing on Bauhaus interdisciplinary tradition and modernism's good-living principles to address today's sustainability challenges.

With the formation of the Bauhaus 90 years ago, creative individuals—artists, architects, designers, engineers—began to implement their dream of coming together and making a new and better world. They created new pedagogical structures to facilitate these practices. Incorporating function as well as form, they sought to bring students out of the academy and into the real world where they could make a difference. Today there is an increasingly urgent need to work collaboratively on an interdisciplinary level to solve the questions of urban life posed by acute changes to the environment.

This program features distinguished individuals working on the edge of practice who are forecasting and making change. Lectures include:

Arturo Vittori, Architecture and Vision (Italy)

Thursday, April 2, 6:00pm

Morton Auditorium, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Matthias Böttger, raumtaktik (Germany)

Thursday, April 30, 6:00pm

Morton Auditorium, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Andrea Deplazes, Bearth and Desplazes (Switzerland)

Thursday, October 8, 6:00pm

Morton Auditorium, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave.

Ben van Berkel, UN Studio (The Netherlands)

October 2009

"Bauhaus to Green Haus" is organized by the Goethe-Institut Chicago and: the Austrian Consulate General in Chicago, the Consulate General of Italy in Chicago, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Consulate General of Switzerland, the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Pro Helvetia, and Think Swiss. For more information, contact Kate Zeller at kzelle@saic.edu or 312.629.6642.

Bauhaus Labs

Student Workshops

May 26-June 12, 2009

Illinois Institute of Technology

S. R. Crown Hall

3360 South State Street

The Bauhaus story is an international one and since the days of its founding in Weimar, headquarters in Dessau, and siting in Berlin, it has influenced pedagogical thought, stylistic trends, and modes of making—providing new models for multidisciplinary learning and interdisciplinary dialogue. As an inspiration, it has assertively ushered in practices aimed at modernizing through their practical efficiency and social concern.

This course will revisit the intensive summer sessions initiated by visionary artist and educator László Moholy-Nagy who brought together a collective of teachers with a broad, multi-disciplinary view to work directly with students. Sessions will be held in Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's masterpiece, S. R. Crown Hall, at IIT. Moholy-Nagy established "The New Bauhaus" in Chicago in 1937, and its descendent school, the Institute of Design, is located at IIT. Students from IIT and SAIC, will be joined by those from the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and Betzalel Academy Tel Aviv.

In the first week, students participating in the "Bauhaus Labs" will carry out perceptual investigations of the city based on the "Visual Training" workshop developed for the IIT Architecture program by German émigré Walther Pederhans, based on the Bauhaus course. From this they will each create visual works, reflections on the concept of "modern" in Chicago.

During the second and third weeks, faculty and students will take up the Bauhaus mode of working in teams as they undertake a project that, if selected by the final review panel, will be put into production and presented in Fall 2009 as part of the "Learning Modern" exhibition opening September 25, 2009 at SAIC's Sullivan Galleries.

For more information, contact Kate Zeller at kzelle@saic.edu or 312.629.6642.

related programs

Chicago Model City

June 11-November 20, 2009

Chicago Architecture Foundation

Atrium of the Santa Fe Building

224 S. Michigan Avenue

This exhibition explores the inspirations, goals, and consequences of modernist urban planning in Chicago. It will feature models, digital visualizations, drawings, and photographs, along with profiles of important modernist decision-makers such as Ludwig Hilberseimer, of the Bauhaus and then Mies' colleague at the IIT College of Architecture, and Richard J. Daley. For more information, please visit www.architecture.org

Making Modern Design

June 13-July 25, 2009

SAIC Sullivan Galleries

33 South State Street, 7th floor

Showcasing design from SAIC's Architecture, Interior Architecture and Designed Objects (AIADO) and Fashion Design programs, "Making Modern Design" is the inaugural degree show of thesis work by SAIC students. Design disciplines at SAIC share an approach that values the user in respect to a wide field of factors, from the anthropological to the economic, from the ergonomic to the aesthetic. They aim to manipulate the market, redirecting desire as we deliver the good, responsible design that is needed everywhere. This is also the first U.S. presentation of three design projects returning from exhibition in Milan during the 2009 Salone Del Mobile: "New Tools for School and Home"--a collaboration with Danese Milano and Jonathon Olivares, "2000 Watt Living"-- sponsored by Motorola, and "Object for the Age of Obama: Change, Hope, Challenge and Allure." Additionally, the exhibition includes the Chicago premiere of "Objects that Entertain Us," a collaboration between SAIC, Moritz Waldemeyer, and DuPont Corian. For more information, please visit: www.saic.edu/exhibitions

What's Modern about American Art: 1900 - 1930

June 19-20, 2009

Chicago and Milwaukee

This symposium will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center on June 19 and in Milwaukee on June 20. It will address the question of American modernism through a series of talks and panel discussions investigating its manifestations in progressive painting and design between 1900 and the early 1930s. An examination of the varieties of modernism in the Midwest and Chicago during that period will be included. The symposium coincides with two exhibitions at the Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM): The Eight and American Modernisms, organized by the Terra Foundation for American Art (TFAA), in collaboration with the New Britain Museum of American Art and MAM; and The Artistic Furniture of Charles Rohlf is organized by MAM, the Chipstone

Foundation, and American Decorative Art 1900 Foundation (ADA1900). The symposium is being convened by TFAA, in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, MAM, and ADA1900. The program will be free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call 312.654.2278 or visit <http://terraamericanart.org/modernism-symposium>

Glass and Steel

August 8- September 28, 2009

Elmhurst Art Museum

150 Cottage Hill Avenue, Elmhurst, IL

“Glass and Steel,” a mid-century Modernist exhibition featuring glasswork from the Higgins Glass studio and Hedrich Blessing photographs of Mies van der Rohe at Crown Hall will be on display at Elmhurst Art Museum. The exhibition combines recent acquisitions to the Museum’s collection and pieces on loan from the Higgins Studio. The new works in the Museum collection expand the Museum’s growing Modernist art and architectural material archive which includes McCormick House, one of only three Ludwig Mies van der Rohe designed residences, an example of Modernist architecture also on view at Elmhurst Art Museum.

The Higgins Studio founded in 1948 by Michael and Frances Higgins became nationally known for their popular “Higginsware” after their partnership with Dearborn Glass Company of Chicago in 1957. Known for the combination of geometric and curved elements, bold color, and combination of functional elements and visual artistry in their fused glass creations, the Higgins glass studio remains in operation today under Louise and Jonathan Wimmer. A portion of the Higgins glass on display is a gift from the collection of Dudley Fisher.

Ken Hedrich and Henry Blessing formed the Hedrich Blessing architectural photography firm in 1929. By the 1950s, the firm with Bill Hedrich and Bill Engdahl both collaborated with Mies van der Rohe and the firm extensively photographed Mies’ works. The 16 Hedrich Blessing photographs are from the photo session at IIT’s Crown Hall with Mies to be used in the *Mies van der Rohe at Work* publication by Peter Carter first published in 1974. The Blessing photographs are recent acquisitions for the Museum. For more information, please visit www.elmhurstartmuseum.org or call (630) 834-0202.

Contemporary Works from the Cleve Carney Collection is also on display August 8, 2009-October 11, 2009 at the Elmhurst Art Museum.

Modern Earth Fall

September 9, 2009

This semi-annual event is hosted by The Elements Group, with the goal of providing an informative and lively networking forum for the exchange of ideas on the role that modern architecture plays with respect to the natural environment, conservation and sustainability. “Modern Earth Fall” features two exclusive presentations on nature-oriented and sustainable design projects: Aqua Tower, designed by the renowned architectural firm Studio Gang Architects, and Unity Green at Gill Park, a concept being designed by Site Design Group and Studio Gang Architects. The net proceeds will benefit The Unity Green at Gill Park Fund and

Openlands and its community greening and open space programs. For more information, contact 773.817.9829.

Barbara Crane: Challenging Vision

October 3, 2009-January 10, 2010

Chicago Cultural Center

78 East Washington Street

This major exhibition, organized by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs with guest curator Kenneth C. Burkhardt, surveys Institute of Design graduate Barbara Crane's many contributions to the field of contemporary photography, and honors an exceptional American artist based in Chicago. Crane helped pioneer image making through a lifetime commitment to pictures with her numerous series of works. This is the definitive, and by far, largest overview of her remarkable career. Crane's work is, foremost, about nature—both human nature and that of the natural world of intimate visual discoveries, either captured by the camera or created from pure imagination. For the past sixty years, Crane forged her own path, often as a lone woman in a male-dominated field and has continued to reinvent her vision, pursuing new subjects and compositional challenges, even in a digital age. Still today, as she fully embraces the emotional and formal aspects of the medium, Crane continues to "challenge vision." For more information, please visit www.chicagoculturalcenter.org

ACADIA 2009: reForm ()

October 22-25, 2009

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture and Designed Objects, is proud to host "reForm()," the 2009 international conference of the Association of Computer Aided Design In Architecture (ACADIA), a conference about tomorrow's visionary architecture and the hardware, software and middleware systems that work to revolutionize our daily lives. "reForm()" will focus on how architects, engineers, artists and designers are using these various technologies to create a new tomorrow. For more information, please visit: www.acadia.org/acadia2009/

Trip to NYC + MOMA exhibition

December 4-6, 2009

Mies van der Rohe Society

Mies Society members will travel to New York City to explore "modern" through exclusive visits, guided by Frank Sanchis, to architecture studios, private homes and museums, including a special curator-led tour of "Bauhaus 1919-1933: Workshops in Modernity." This retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art is the first major show on the subject in decades and brings together material from Weimar, Dessau, and Berlin. Pre-registration is suggested. For more information contact Kelly Hyman, miesmembership@iit.edu or 312.567.5025.

Chicago Architecture Foundation

Ongoing programs, 2009

The CAF pursues their dedication to advancing public interest and education in architecture and design through comprehensive programs, including these that address Chicago's modernist legacy:

- *Farnsworth House PLUS by Bus* (twice monthly, April - October)
- *Modern Skyscrapers* (daily at 1pm, year-round)
- *Mies & Modernism: The IIT Campus* (twice monthly, April - October)
- *Architecture River Cruise* (multiple departures daily, May - November)
- *Sculpture in the Loop* (twice monthly, April - December)
- *Chicago Old & New* (Mondays and Wednesdays, April - November)
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In addition, CAF has organized a members-only tour, *Mid-Century Modernism at the University of Chicago*, which will take place on Saturday, March 21st. A series of lectures and an adult continuing education course addressing Chicago modernism will complement the exhibitions and tours in 2009. For more information on CAF's programming, please visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432 x 224.

Chicago Bauhaus & Beyond

Ongoing programs, 2009

Chicago Bauhaus & Beyond will organize several private house tours to showcase outstanding examples of modern architecture and interior design. Chicago Bauhaus & Beyond is a non-profit organization that celebrates and promotes 20th century modern architecture and design. Events are interactive forums in which to gather information and communicate about architecture and design from the vastly creative 20th century modernist era, roughly 1930s-1970s. The group hosts social events, educational seminars and tours relating to modern aesthetics and design concepts, product design, graphic design, arts, crafts, and architecture. For more information, please visit www.chicagobauhausbeyond.org

Architectural Tours of the Award-Winning IIT Campus

Ongoing programs, 2009

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's influence reaches every skyline in the world and is seen in every open-plan interior space. He inspired the most prominent architects of our time and continues that influence today. Nothing better expresses Mies' philosophy than the campus of IIT which contains his masterpiece, S. R. Crown Hall. Campus buildings by architectural stars Rem Koolhaas and Helmut Jahn, as well as a renewed interest in modernism, lead thousands of visitors to campus each year to experience this living museum of modern architecture, a recent addition to the National Register of Historic Places. IIT's Mies van der Rohe Society offers architectural tours daily except major holidays. Docent and self-guided audio tours leave from the Campus Information Center in the McCormick Tribune Campus Center, 3201 S. State Street. Fee: \$5 per person. For more information, visit www.mies.iit.edu/tours or email tours@iit.edu.

Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe

March 14-June 21, 2009
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Avenue

Organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art with the cooperation of the Fuller family, this exhibition is the first major American exhibition in decades devoted to the visionary mind and work of Buckminster Fuller, and the most inclusive show to date of Fuller's work. Fuller (1895-1983) was one of the great American creative thinkers of the 20th century. He is probably best known as the originator of the geodesic dome, but his theories and innovations engaged fields ranging from mathematics, engineering and environmental science to literature, architecture, and visual art. Today, his prophetic concepts are a touchstone for discussions of issues including environmental conservation, the manufacture and distribution of housing, and global organization of information. For more information, please visit: www.mcachicago.org

Lake Point Tower Tour

June 2, 2009
Chicago Architecture Foundation
Mies van der Rohe Society

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of Schipporeit and Heinrich's Lake Point Tower, members of the Chicago Architecture Foundation and the Mies van der Rohe Society will have a special reception and tour of this acclaimed residential complex. Highlights include a visit to a residential unit and a tour of the Alfred Caldwell-designed landscape, which comprises a two and one half acre park, a duck pond, and waterfalls three stories above ground. Members will enjoy a reception in Cité, the restaurant at the top of Lake Point Tower, which features spectacular views of the city and the lake. Experts Kevin Harrington and Edward Windhorst will discuss the history of the building, its progressive design and engineering, and its enduring legacy. For more information visit www.architecture.org or contact Kelly Hyman, miesmembership@iit.edu or 312.567.5025.

Froebel Blocks Workshops

May 30-31, 2009
Illinois Institute of Technology
S. R. Crown Hall
3360 South State Street

In the early nineteenth century, Friedrich Froebel, a German educator, developed a series of educational "toys" to introduce children to pattern-making, beauty, harmony, aesthetics, and structure. The Froebel workshop was adopted by Joseph Itten, taught at the Bauhaus, and later adapted to a children's curriculum at the New Bauhaus in Chicago. In a single-session

workshop, participants are introduced to the geometric shapes that underlie nature, art, and design and work with the shapes to create structures. They experience principles of balance, tension, composition, symmetry, asymmetry, and spatial relationships. These workshops are organized by the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust.

Modern Earth Spring

April 22, 2009, 5:30 – 9:00pm

Spertus Institute

610 S. Michigan Avenue

Hosted by The Elements Group, this Earth Day event features a reception and two presentations on the role that modern architecture plays with respect to the natural environment, conservation and sustainability. The presentations will focus on the nature-oriented and sustainable design projects: The Spertus Institute (by Krueck + Sexton) and Project GreenHaus, a concept being designed by IIT architecture students in collaboration with Krueck + Sexton. Tickets are \$50 (\$25 for Mies van der Rohe Society members). Net proceeds will benefit The Project GreenHaus Fund, Openlands, and its community greening and open space programs. To register, contact 773.817.9829

Max Bill: The Master's Vision

Film Screening

April 4, 2009, 3:00 p.m. and April 7, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Gene Siskel Film Center

164 N. State Street

A documentary feature film by Swiss cinematographer Erich Schmid, moves between the dynamic fields of art, aesthetics and politics, focusing on the career of Max Bill (1908-1994). Bill, a student of the legendary Bauhaus in Dessau, was probably one of the most important Swiss artists of the 20th century. He was an ardent anti-fascist and his avant-garde work as an artist, sculptor, architect, and typographer showed a social responsibility and environmental awareness throughout his life. For more information please visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org.

Ecology. Design. Synergy

March 28-May 17, 2009

Loyola University Museum of Art

820 North Michigan Avenue

Architects Behnisch Architekten and the engineering firm Transsolar have collaborated to investigate how high-quality built environments can be realized with less consumption of natural resources. "Ecology. Design. Synergy" is a reflection of the five human senses, whereby topic and form incur a synthesis. Its intent is to affect visitors not only intellectually but personally in order to illuminate the fact that a sensible and responsible relationship to the built environment concerns everyone. For more information, please visit www.luc.edu/luma

Yigal Gawze: 100 Years of Architecture in Tel Aviv

March 5-29, 2009

Illinois Institute of Technology

Hermann Hall

3241 S. Federal Street

Photographs by Yigal Gawze showcase the extensive presence of Bauhaus-style buildings that led Tel Aviv to be named a UNESCO World Heritage site. This exhibition and related artist lecture are sponsored by: art@IIT, Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest, Hillels Around Chicago Hillel/JCRC Israel Initiative, IIT Hillel, Mies van der Rohe Society, and Stand With Us. For more information, contact 312.922.1900.

ORD: Documenting the Definitive Modern Airport

January 15-May 1, 2009

Chicago Architecture Foundation

John Buck Lecture Hall Gallery

224 S. Michigan Avenue

This exhibition presents a selection of photographs by Hedrich Blessing and Robert Burley that highlight Chicago O'Hare Airport's status as a twentieth-century, international model for jet-age airport design. For more information, please visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432.

György Kepes: Languages of Vision

January 15-February 27, 2009

Illinois Institute of Technology

Kemper Room Art Gallery

Galvin Library

35 West 33rd Street

Born in Hungary in 1906, György Kepes trained as a painter at the Hungarian Academy of Fine Arts in Prague and quickly became a member of the avant-garde arts communities in Prague and Berlin. In 1937, at the invitation of his friend and colleague László Moholy-Nagy, Kepes came to Chicago to head the Light and Color Department at the New Bauhaus, today's Institute of Design/IIT. This exhibition brings together a representative selection of the various phases of Kepes's career from 1936 to 1987, courtesy of the Kepes Visual Center in Eger, Hungary.

contact information

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