



Radialsystem, Berlin

Letter from the Dean

OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR

This year has truly celebrated and reaffirmed the relationship between the Faculty of Architecture, its four professional programs, and the four professional associations with which these programs share a common goal. We have celebrated our Centennial in various venues, the two most noteworthy of which were large alumni events taking place in Vancouver and Winnipeg. The attendance was significant and the mood ebullient. The events facilitated exchange between alumni and faculty past and present allowing alumni opportunities to connect and reconnect. Most importantly, the events underscored the interdependence of education and practice, setting the stage for the development of

the Faculty of Architecture Strategic Plan. Undertaken in the Centennial spirit, this initiative culminated in a meaningful Faculty Retreat in late March, setting the stage for the remainder of this year, the first year of our second century. It is expected that this Strategic Plan will focus and extend the mission of the Faculty in service of students as future practitioners, in support of faculty as leading educators and researchers, and in outreach to professional and community stakeholders.

Further underscoring this commitment to the future, the University of Manitoba successfully completed the Visionary (re) Generation Open International Design Competition and the commitment

to “envisioning a sustainable campus community” incorporating the Southwood Lands and underscoring the importance of design for transformative change. The number of submissions to the Competition was significant, the deliberations of the Jury extensive, and the results embracing of all communities internal and external to the University. The Faculty and its students can be proud of their involvement in this process and in the results achieved. We all look forward to the unfolding of this project in the coming years. In support of the objectives of the University in its planning on the Fort Garry Campus, an important workshop addressing indigenous planning and design is scheduled for this November with the

full participation of the Planning Phase consultant team, led by Janet Rosenberg & Studio.

Aligning architectural with environmental design to achieve prominence in national and international arenas, this year saw the ongoing participation of the Faculty in the Warming Huts Competition in the form of SKYBOX, a successful contribution prominently positioned at the entry to the Red River Mutual Trail. This year's contribution was designed and implemented by Faculty students, Matt Hagen, Ryan Lewis, and Evan Taylor, under the very able guidance of longstanding MAA member Professor Herb Enns. In another cold-climate venue, Professor Lancelot Coar and Ralph Glor led two teams in the successful participation of the "Arctic Adaptations" entry to the Venice Architecture Biennale of 2014 where the work of Faculty students Caroline Ingles and Tyler Jones was showcased in the Canadian Pavilion along with the other entrants from Universities across Canada.

The Faculty of Architecture is also very pleased that the Partners Program, under the leadership of MAA member Jacqueline Jasinski, has undergone an extensive facilitation reviewing goals and objectives. Partners presented a refocused "Partner-in-Residence" Program at the Partners AGM in September, 2014. This innovative program imbeds members of industry in the Faculty, facilitating a much more immediate relationship to students and faculty members alike. The events of the evening included a well-deserved homage to Faye Hellner, whose enthusiasm and energy was instrumental in the founding of the Partners Program. And, in this spirit, it was a pleasure to announce Michael Robertson is assuming the Chair of the Partners Advisory Board and that Thomas Fougere of EQ3 has joined the Board. Both are important alumni of the Faculty and both will be engaged with both Partners activities as well as teaching this academic year.

Our initiatives with regard to internationalization continue to bear fruit. The Memorandum of Understanding signed last year with the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), one of Europe's leading design and research institutions, has resulted in our first student exchange (in both directions) and a summer faculty exchange with Dr. Mohamad Araji

appointed as a Visiting Researcher at the prestigious Oskar von Miller Forum as well as a Visiting Professor at the TUM's Faculty of Architecture. His work over the summer assisted in facilitating the first Environmental Design Workshop (September, 2014). Presenters at the Workshop included Transsolar's Thomas Auer, who now also holds a Professorship at the Technical University of Munich, and the Faculty's new Partner-in-Residence, Mark Pauls of Manitoba Hydro. A special thanks also goes to Tom Akerstream of Manitoba Hydro, an alumnus of the Faculty, for facilitating connections and offering support at crucial junctures with regard to our European connections as well as our new Partner-in-Residence Program.

This year, the Faculty will undergo a series of internal and external program reviews. The Environmental Design Program, which includes the U1/ED1 and ED2 years as well as the ED3 and ED4 option years, will undergo a comprehensive program review. In the fall of 2014 and the summer of 2015 respectively, the Graduate Programs in Architecture and Interior Design will undergo Self Evaluation Reports. In addition to these internal evaluations (all of which will include external reviewers), the three Graduate Programs of Architecture, City Planning, and Landscape Architecture will undergo their periodic professional accreditation reviews (all in the winter semester of 2015). These involve extensive resources and this past year the Faculty has provided substantial financial resources to assist Departments in preparing for successful evaluations and accreditations in the coming months.

Complementing these reviews, the Faculty is also undertaking searches for all our Heads of Departments. Currently external searches are underway for the Headships of Architecture and Interior Design. Headship appointments are cyclical in nature, but whether internal or external, searches provide opportunity for Departments to assess and reassess their own strategic goals and plans. Taken together with the Faculty's own Strategic Plan, this year will be a productive one for renewed focus, commitment, and energy towards the goals held in common with the Faculty and the Design Professions.

On a personal note, this past year I've also had the privilege of teaching two new

courses. The first, a seminar, was entitled "The Western: Cartographies of Ideology, Representation, and Landscape" that was offered as a Faculty-wide elective and cross-listed with Film Studies and Native Studies. It brought together students from diverse backgrounds ranging from Cree to Afghani, Turkish to Albertan. The second was the Interdisciplinary Berlin Studio, co-taught with Kim Wiese, an Instructor in Environmental Design and an alumna of both Interior Design and Architecture. This Studio brought together students from all the pre-professional options in Environmental Design starting with a field trip to Berlin and culminating in a final review with many local professionals.

Finally, the Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund, currently standing at a reserve of circa 1.3 million and funded over the years largely by student donations, has also undergone a periodic change of Chairpersonship. Past MAA President Michael Cox has been a wonderful and able Chair for the last two years and, in March, the Endowment Fund Committee elected Past MAA President John Petersmeyer. Michael and John, alumni of the Faculty, bring perspective and continuity to the long and proud tradition of professional design education at the University of Manitoba and it is exciting to report that in mid-October the Endowment Fund Committee passed a significant reorganization that will enable the Fund to better serve our students, faculty, and alumni. ■

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