

OUR NEW DEAN: PROFESSOR RALPH STERN

Having been in Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba but a few short and very busy weeks, I can relate with great confidence that my original impressions of the city, the university, and the Faculty of Architecture have been repeatedly confirmed: inviting and uniting, passionate and compassionate, maintaining tradition and seeking innovation. These values have been articulated across a broad spectrum of the public, alumni (including the homecoming classes of 1950 and 1960), faculty, students, staff and administration. I am deeply honored to now be part of a tradition established with such clear vision and resonance by John A. Russell, a tradition ably developed with care and commitment by his recent successors Michael Cox and David Witty as well as, most recently, Richard Perron in his capacity as Acting Dean.

As much as I am honored to be part of this tradition and its commitment to core values and the education of the students of the Faculty of Architecture in all of its departments and programs, it is also my expectation to build on this foundation: refining, expanding, and networking (to borrow from the title of this publication) in a manner reflecting today's rapidly evolving social, cultural, and environmental challenges. This will require a vigorous concern for local and regional needs and goals, a strong commitment to national expectations and goals, and an ongoing engagement with global developments ranging from economic flux to climate change.

I believe that the Faculty of Architecture is well positioned to address the challenges awaiting us as we move into the second decade of the 21st century: integrating new technologies into existing practices, challenging outmoded disciplinary boundaries, and engaging knowledge creation in a manner that is socially inclusive and ethically responsive. Defining new goals will enable the Faculty of Architecture to continue a tradition of change and to best serve the design professions as they themselves continue to evolve. This, of course, is also the best manner in which to serve our students, to prepare with both the perspective and the tools with which to engage an increasingly complex world.



It is my position to assist in coalescing the hopes and desires of many into the goals and vision of the Faculty of Architecture. To this I bring my own experiences and perspectives, those developed as a professional, educator, and researcher on two continents that, I believe, have well served my students, colleagues, and the greater public.

In order to set the stage for defining and realizing this next move forward for the Faculty of Architecture, to guarantee that multiple voices are heard and to facilitate an inclusivist vision for growth, I will be spending much time over the next months engaging members of the university, professional, and civic communities. I very much look forward to meeting with you and hearing your concerns and hopes as they relate to the Faculty of Architecture. I maintain, for colleagues and students alike, an open door policy and I very much welcome your input in both formal and informal venues. In short, I greatly look forward to working with all of you, and am profoundly honored that we are all part of a "network" in the greatest sense of the term. ■

Professor Ralph Stern
Dean, Faculty of Architecture