

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

111 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60603  
t 312.443.3626 f 312.443.0193 www.artinstituteofchicago.org



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 22, 2009**

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Erin Hogan  
(312) 443-3664  
[ehogan@artic.edu](mailto:ehogan@artic.edu)

Chai Lee  
(312) 443-3625  
[clee4@artic.edu](mailto:clee4@artic.edu)

**NEW ARCHITECTURE CURATOR JOINS ART INSTITUTE**  
**Alison Fisher Named Schiff Assistant Curator of Architecture**

The Art Institute of Chicago is pleased to announce the appointment of **Alison Fisher** as the **Harold and Margot Schiff Assistant Curator of Architecture in the Department of Architecture and Design**. Ms. Fisher, who arrived at the museum in August 2009, will join Joseph Rosa, the John H. Bryan Curatorial Chair of Architecture and Design, and Zoë Ryan, the Neville Bryan Curator of Design, in organizing exhibitions, conducting research, and managing acquisitions for the museum's extensive collections of architecture and design. Ms. Fisher will focus on the Art Institute's historic architecture holdings from 1850 to 1945, thus overseeing the architectural drawings, models, and archives of many of America's most important architects, such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Daniel Burnham, and Louis Sullivan.

"We are extremely grateful to Harold and Margot Schiff for their generous gift, which allowed us to create this endowed position," said James Cuno, president and Eloise W. Martin Director of the Art Institute. "Chicago is one of the leading architecture cities of the world, and the Schiffs have made it possible for us to have a permanent position that ensures the protection and growth of the collection that documents Chicago's rich history and its context to the world."

"The Department of Architecture and Design has experienced tremendous growth in the past several years," said Rosa. "With the opening of our dedicated galleries in the Modern Wing and the arrival first of Zoë Ryan, and now Alison Fisher, we are well positioned to research and showcase not only the museum's extraordinary permanent collection but also the work of contemporary architects and designers who we believe are leading the field today. Alison's familiarity with Chicago's past and present is a tremendous asset to the museum as we weave

together the story of Chicago's continuing international influence in architecture. And her already distinguished list of creative, thoughtful projects makes her the perfect choice for the Art Institute."

Ms. Fisher was previously a curatorial fellow at Northwestern University's Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art where she developed the original exhibition *Marion Mahony Griffin: Drawing the Form of Nature*. Ms. Fisher has also worked extensively with the Art Institute's Bertrand Goldberg Collection, the subject of a major upcoming exhibition. Ms. Fisher specializes in the field of modern architecture and is completing a doctorate in art history at Northwestern University under the direction of Professors David Van Zanten and Hannah Feldman. Fisher's dissertation, which was awarded the Bourse Chateaubriand in 2007-08, traces the legacy of modern design and technology in the architecture of post-World War II France. Her education in the history of architecture and art has equipped her with an extensive understanding of the modern period across different media, geographies, and histories, with a special focus on the architecture and urbanism of Chicago and Paris.

The Art Institute's Department of Architecture and Design encompasses national, international, and regional artifacts related to the built environment and urban planning, as well as design expressions and manifestations. The collection comprises more than 200,000 architectural models, drawings, and fragments dating from the mid-19th-century to the present day. Included in the collection are works by Louis Sullivan, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, Louis Kahn, Paul Rudolph, and Aldo Rossi, as well as works by today's leading voices in contemporary architecture, such as Elizabeth Diller and Ricardo Scofidio, Frank Gehry, ROY, Xefirotarch, and MOS. Examples of landscape architecture, structural engineering, and industrial and graphic design are also represented. With new spaces devoted to this collection in the museum's Modern Wing, the Department of Architecture and Design now has 8,000 square feet of galleries, the largest exhibition space of any museum, befitting one of the largest collections in the country.

# # # #

Web: [www.artinstituteofchicago.org](http://www.artinstituteofchicago.org)  
Twitter: [@artinstitutechi](https://twitter.com/artinstitutechi)  
[Become a Facebook fan](#)

**MUSEUM HOURS**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday  
10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday  
**TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm**

**SUMMER HOURS (from Memorial Day to Labor Day)**

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday  
10:30 am–9:00 pm Thursday, Friday  
10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday  
**TARGET FREE SUMMER EVENINGS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY AFTER 5:00 pm**

**FREE FEBRUARY 1 TO 28**

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

**ADMISSION**

**Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check**  
**Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check**  
**Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency**  
**Children under 14 always free**  
**Members always free**

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.

**The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.** Visitors can enter the museum via the Michigan Avenue entrance or the Millennium Park entrance on Monroe Street.