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MEDIA CONTACTS:
Erin Hogan (312) 443-3664 ehogan@atic.edu
Chai Lee (312) 443-3625 clee4@atic.edu

ART INSTITUTE GOES INSIDE STUDIO GANG ARCHITECTS

Major Exhibition Features Computer Animation, Diagrams, Plans, and Models


The Art Institute of Chicago is pleased to announce an innovative presentation of the work of Studio Gang Architects, led by founder and principal, Jeanne Gang, opening fall 2012. MacArthur Fellow Gang and her team of 40 architects, designers, and thinkers have produced some of the most inventive and award-winning architecture today. Featured not as a survey or retrospective, the projects of Studio Gang Architects (SGA) will be showcased in an engaging workshop-like environment that reveals the practice’s creative processes as they seek to answer pressing contemporary issues through architecture. The exhibition will also be accompanied by “Archi-Salons,” conversations with leading architects and planners engaged with themes central to SGA’s practice.


Founded in 1997, Chicago-based Studio Gang Architects has already established itself as one of the premier architectural firms working today. Best known for Aqua Tower, the undulating, 82-story mixed use high-rise in downtown Chicago, SGA is also distinguished by the great diversity of its
work, which includes the Hyderabad O2, a high-rise community in Hyderabad, India; an ecological revitalization project for Lincoln Park Zoo’s South Pond in Chicago; and Harbor Knot, a concert venue, maritime museum, and public park designed for Kaohsiung, Taiwan. All of these projects—which reflect the wide range of today’s built environment—are marked by an open-minded practice committed to research and experimentation with materials and technologies. Visitors will be able to see into SGA’s creative process and how the group tackles issues that lie locally (site, culture, people) and resound globally (density, climate, sustainability).

The installation—designed by SGA in collaboration with Zoë Ryan, the Art Institute’s John H. Bryan Chair and Curator, and Karen Kice, Neville Bryan Assistant Curator, both in the Department of Architecture and Design—consists of two interrelated parts. The first functions as a gallery with projects illustrated through a range of materials from sketchbooks and models to photographs, plans, and other drawings. This space will also feature a special series of installations, also designed by SGA, dedicated to the studio’s material research and formal explorations.

The second section of the exhibition replicates a workshop, complete with a large worktable, pin-up boards, full-scale mock-ups, and material samples. This space is a key component of the presentation and will serve as the location for two Archi-Salons—public programs that will further connect and place the work in the exhibition within the larger field of architectural discourse. The first Archi-Salon will be held on October 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will be led by Clare Lyster, assistant professor at University of Illinois-Chicago’s School of Architecture and founding principal of CLUAA (Clare Lyster Urbanism and Architecture). This salon will focus on architecture’s external influences, such as transportation networks.

The second Archi-Salon, to be held on November 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and led by Iker Gil, an architect, urban designer, and director of MAS Studio, will explore issues internal to architecture, such as context, materiality, and program. These conversations will be inspired by Studio Gang’s work but ultimately address larger issues in the field of contemporary architecture.
In addition, members of Studio Gang will be on site throughout the run of the exhibition to give tours, encourage dialogue, and promote greater understanding of the firm’s process-based work.

Through the installation design and public programs, this exhibition presents the research-based, explorative nature of one of today’s most inventive practices. Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects brings contemporary architecture to life, showing the full lifespan of the creative architectural process—how an idea becomes a building.

Jeanne Gang Biographical Note
A distinguished graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Jeanne Gang has taught at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and the Illinois Institute of Technology, where her studios have focused on cities, ecologies, materials, and technologies. Reveal, the first volume on Studio Gang’s work and working process, was released in 2011 from Princeton Architectural Press. In 2011, Gang was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship by the MacArthur Foundation. Her work has been honored and exhibited widely, most notably at the International Venice Biennale; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; and the National Building Museum.

Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects is organized by the Art Institute of Chicago. This exhibition is made possible by the generous support of Leslie Bluhm and David Helfand, Antheus Capital, LLC, the Arcus Foundation, Magellan Development Group, McHugh Construction Co., the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, the Architecture & Design Society of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. Annual support is provided by the Exhibitions Trust: Goldman Sachs, Kenneth and Anne Griffin, Thomas and Margot Pritzker, the Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation, the Trott Family Foundation, and the Woman’s Board of the Art Institute of Chicago. In-kind support is provided by Thornton Tomasetti.

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MUSEUM HOURS
10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10:30 am–8:00 pm Thursday
10:30 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday
Museum free to Illinois residents weekdays from January 2 through February 10 and on first and second Wednesdays of every month thereafter.
Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

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Adults $18.00 Includes all special exhibitions
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Members always free

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