

Harvard Design: Chicago

Adaptive Architectures and
Smart Materials Conference

October 1–2, 2015



Harvard Design: Chicago kicks off with the “Adaptive Architectures and Smart Materials Conference,” which will investigate the potential of innovative processes and technology for architecture and industry. Made possible through the generous support of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, the Conference will feature over 20 thought leaders, academics, building scientists, and practitioners.

Histories

The Histories panel will situate contemporary material innovations and material based discourses within the context of historical material investigation. The panel will discuss topics such as the avant garde’s recurring obsession with new materials, its waning interest in the 1980s, and its return as marked by the *Light Construction* exhibition in 1995 at the Museum of Modern Art. Panelists, including Terence Riley, curator of the *Light Construction* exhibit and author of the publication of the same title, will discuss the particular moment in architectural discourse when there was a marked shift from form to surface and from theory to matter. The Histories panel will also examine the role of materials in contemporary architectural discourse, in particular the possibilities opened up by new smart materials and how these material cultures reframe larger attitudes towards the relationship between nature and architecture.



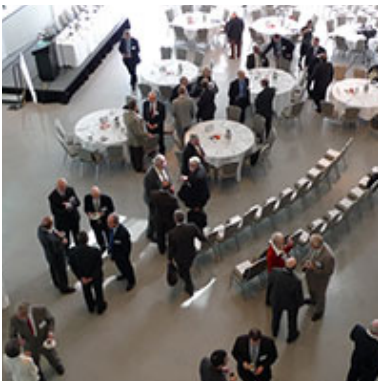
Participants Aaron Betsky, Eve Blau, Blaine Brownell, Todd Gannon, Terence Riley. Moderated by Eric Höweler.

Time/Location Thursday October 1, 2015 at 4:00 pm; Venue SIX10, Feinberg Theater



Harvard University
Graduate School of Design

Merck KGaA
Darmstadt · Germany



Adaptive Architectures and Smart Materials Conference

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The integration of new communication, interactivity, and display technologies fundamentally transforms spaces and places into networked, responsive environments. Within this context, architecture has become “smart” at scales that range from materials to equipment to facades. A building envelope is currently the site of intense speculation; the introduction of CNC fabrication techniques allows for increased formal complexity, while new material properties in glass, polymers, and fabrics offer new spatial, visual, and thermal properties. These new materials have the capacity to transform architecture—its optical properties, configuration, thermal qualities, and even architecture’s ability to regulate its appearance. They demand a radical rethinking of interior versus exterior, private versus public, exposure and (in) visibility within architecture and design.

Thursday 10.1.15

6 AIA learning units / 6 APA CM credits / ASLA credits pending

- 3:30 **Welcome** by Mohsen Mostafavi, Dean and Alexander and Victoria Wiley Professor of Design at Harvard University Graduate School of Design.
- 4:00 **Histories**, a panel discussion examining contemporary material innovations within the context of historic investigations. With Aaron Betsky, Eve Blau, Blaine Brownell, Todd Gannon, and Terence Riley. Moderated by Eric Höweler.
- 6:00 **Break**
- 6:30 **Keynote** by Elizabeth Diller, Professor of Architecture at Princeton University and founding partner of Diller, Scofidio + Renfro.
- 8:00 **Conclusion** of Day One by Eric Höweler, GSD Assistant Professor of Architecture.
- 8:00 **Smart Design Cocktail Reception**
Discuss the day’s events and connect with fellow GSD alumni and friends at a relaxing and fun reception to close Day One of Harvard Design: Chicago.

Friday 10.2.15

8 AIA learning units / 8 APA CM credits / ASLA credits pending

- 10:00 **Welcome** by Eric Höweler, GSD Assistant Professor of Architecture.
- 10:15 **Materials**, a panel discussion examining the emergence of a new approach to materials—moving from a more traditional view of their evocative qualities to a contemporary focus on performance. Featuring Gail Peter Borden MArch ’00, Sheila Kennedy MArch ’81, Jan Knippers, Monica Ponce de Leon MAUD ’91, and Skylar Tibbits. Moderated by Kiel Moe MDesS ’03.
- 12:15 **Lunch break** (buffet provided)
- 1:45 **Technologies**, a discussion on the interest in the surfaces of architecture as sites of expression, thermal performance, and material invention. Speakers include Anna Dyson, Chuck Hoberman, Hanif Kara, Dennis Shelden, and Marc Simmons. Moderated by Mariana Ibañez.
- 3:45 **Break**
- 4:15 **Ecologies**, which links projects that incorporate new materials, systems and strategies, including smart glass, kinetic envelopes, and innovative building systems. Panelists for the discussion include Frank Barkow MArch ’90, Jeanne Gang MArch ’93, Martin Henn, Michael Meredith MArch ’00, and Matthias Schuler. Moderated by Florian Idenburg.
- 6:15 **Conclusion** of Day Two by Eric Höweler, GSD Assistant Professor of Architecture.

Hotel Reservations—Renaissance Blackstone Chicago

\$269/nt rates valid 9.29.15 – 10.6.15 Reserve by 5pm 9.4.15. On-site valet parking not included.

[Click here](#) or call 312.447.0955 to reserve at the group rate

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