

# DCP News

Newsletter for Faculty and Staff of the College of Design, Construction & Planning

October 2003

## Message from the Dean

*On October 14, the dedication ceremony for M.E. Rinker, Sr. Hall was held. It was a very successful event thanks to the hard work of all who were involved. The dedication was a landmark in the history of DCP. Below is an excerpt from Dean Jay Stein's speech at the ceremony:*

It is indeed my privilege to accept this building on behalf of the University of Florida's College of Design, Construction and Planning.

I would like to thank the Rinker Family, Karl Watson and Rinker Materials, Marshall Criser, the Building Construction Advisory Council Executive Committee and all the donors and volunteers who helped to make this building a reality. We wouldn't be here today without you.

In addition, I would like to take a moment to recognize Robert Gould, Steve Carpenter and Gould Evans Associates; Randy Croxton and Croxton Collaborative Architects; Brad Wilson, Cathy Underhill and Centex-Rooney Construction Company; and JT McCaffrey, Carol Wilson and UF Facilities, Planning and Construction.

As President Young stated, the theme of our sesquicentennial is "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future." A few weeks ago, I attended the National

Trust for Historic Preservation Conference in Denver. Preservationists certainly honor the past. But, what about shaping the future?

I think all of us in the professions of the built environment, as we shape the future, have a special and unique responsibility to view every project we are involved in as a potential candidate for the National Register of Historic Places.

I have no doubt that this innovative, "green" building, M.E. Rinker, Sr. Hall, will one day be on the National Register – and that the students, faculty and staff who occupy the building – and the preservationists who study the building – will 50 to 100 years from now marvel and appreciate the wisdom of all those associated with it.

Pablo Picasso once spoke of the distinction between an "Artist" and a "Painter."

"There are Painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are 'Artists' who transform a yellow spot into the sun."

I think all of those involved with this building are Picasso's "Artist."



## Profile: Martha Kohen

Martha Kohen arrived at UF this summer to begin her appointment as director of the School of Architecture. She came to DCP from the School of Architecture, Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay where she served as professor of 5th year Studio for the past 18 years and as Director of Academic Cooperation Affairs for the past five years.

Kohen brings with her a wealth of

experience and a unique perspective into internationalization.

### Playing in the World Stage

Kohen believes that architecture can be practiced worldwide.

"You have to be able to understand and produce proposals in different cultural contexts," Kohen said. "You can't just transpose a model and say what works here works anywhere."

This theory can be applied worldwide, but also within the United States by understanding that there are multiple communities with different needs and

priorities.

"We must recognize diversity," Kohen said.

### Accepting Hybridation

Kohen explains hybridation as a cultural phenomenon that strengthens civilization by incorporating multiple cultural influences.

"There is no unique culture," Kohen said. "We all influence each other."

As an immigrant country, the United States has multiple cultures at its root, as do many countries in the Americas.

"We must recognize and accept the many components of our culture," Kohen said.

### Deep Involvement With Society

At the same time as we are looking to connect internationally, we must also connect on a local level, Kohen said.

"We must be citizens of our society," Kohen said. "We can't be negligent of the broader issues."

Kohen believes strongly in involvement on all levels: city, county, state and profession.

"We must promote charettes and seminars, involving the public, community leaders and the press," Kohen said. "We must be part of the feedback."

- ◆ **2004 Witters Competition** – Request for Proposals from faculty for the Spring 2004 Witters Competition. The faculty member whose proposal is selected will receive a \$1,500 cash award to organize the competition. The competition, sponsored by Col. Art and Bev Witters, was created to foster interdisciplinary communication and better understanding among all units of DCP.

Faculty members submitting proposals must identify one or more problem focus areas for the competition, indicate a strategy to involve the academic units in DCP and provide a general approach to organizing the competition. Proposals should be submitted to Associate Dean Anthony J. Dasta by Monday, November 10, 2003. For information about last year's competition, visit [www.dcp.ufl.edu/news/witters.htm](http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/news/witters.htm).

- ◆ **Honoring Former Governor Askew** – URP honored former Florida Governor Reubin Askew this month with the Ernest R. Bartley Distinguished Service Award. This award honors those outside of planning who have made significant contributions to the planning industry.
- ◆ **State of Florida's Housing 2003** – The Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing released State of Florida Housing 2003 this month. The report is an interpretation of housing trends over time and an inventory of housing and housing prices in the state.
- ◆ **Kohen Receives Top Honor** – Martha Kohen won the highest Latin American Award: the First Prize on the 5th Sao Paulo Bienal of Architecture. Her project "the Memorial in Remembrance of Disappeared Detained Citizens" Built 2002 Montevideo was selected from 320 entries from 15 countries.
- ◆ **Landscape Students Earn Top Awards** – Three LAE students were honored with awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Those honored were first place winner Sansern Kiatsupaibal and special commendation honorees Jeff Maxwell and Manuel Arencibia. In addition, Sigma Lambda Alpha, the honor society for landscape architecture, awarded scholarships to Kelly Hughes and Marjorie Hennessy.
- ◆ **Sukkot** – The Sukkot project continued this year, once again sponsored by the Beame Architectural Partnership of Coral Gables. This year, the sukkahs were designed by third year architecture students in Donna Cohen's studio and were on campus from October 10-19.

The Sukkot projects have earned ongoing recognition for the School of Architecture. Architecture graduate Jason Jensen was awarded an AIA Tampa intern design award for the sukkah he designed and built. Donna Cohen delivered a paper in Paris at the International Word and Image Conference titled, "The Roofed Letters: Sukkah, Text as Architecture."

- ◆ **Rinker Hall on the Weather Channel** – Rinker Hall was featured on the Weather Channel on October 17. The segment focused on the environmental features of the building.

*DCP News* is published monthly by the University of Florida College of Design, Construction & Planning. News and announcements contained in *DCP News* were submitted by DCP faculty and staff. To make a submission to *DCP News*, please call or email:

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## Calendar of Events

### October 24

Benefits Open Enrollment Ends

### October 30

UF Alumni Reunion at ASLA National Conference, 8 p.m.,  
New Orleans Marriott Hotel  
(Conference runs October 30 through November 3)

### November 3

Deadline for submitting nominations for DCP Teacher/  
Advisor of the Year

### November 4

ARC Brown Bag Seminar Series: "secrets,"  
Donna Cohen, 12:30 p.m.

### November 5

Conversations for a Sustainable Future: The Politics of  
Sustainability, Leslie Thiele, 12 p.m., 238 Rinker Hall

### November 7 & 8

Homecoming – No classes

### November 10

Deadline to submit proposals for the 2004 Witters  
Competition

### November 10

ARC Lecture Series  
Plexus r+d, Erik Lewitt & Jordan Williams, 6 p.m.,  
Harn Museum

### November 11

Veterans Day – No classes

### November 18

ARC Brown Bag Seminar Series: Digital Mantras & Zen  
Maintenance, John Maze, 12:30 p.m.

### November 20

Conversations for a Sustainable Future: Sustainable Water  
Resources, Richard Hamann, 12 p.m., 238 Rinker Hall

### November 24

ARC Lecture Series  
Lisa Rapoport, PLANT Architect Inc., 6 p.m., Harn Museum

### November 27 & 28

Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes

## Architecture Gallery

### November 3 - 11

Plexus r+d

### November 20-29

Digital Spaces: Virtual Places

### November 12-18

Environmental Technology,  
Lighting

### December 1-6

Architecture, Graduate Design  
Three

Items not included in this month's *DCP News* will be in the November issue. Don't forget to email your submissions for the November *DCP News* by November 7!