

Achieving New Heights in Interior Design Education

# **RAISING THE ROOF**

Toronto  
Ontario

October  
24-25,  
2008

## **IDEC EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

**LATEST UPDATE ON THIS NOT TO-BE MISSED EVENT:**

**MARK THE DATES AND START PLANNING: TORONTO IN THE FALL BECKONS (NO BLIZZARDS-WE PROMISE!); THE HOTEL IS BOOKED; THE RATES ARE GOOD AND IT'S JUST STEPS FROM THE CAMPUS. COME JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES TO SHARE IDEAS, CONCERNS AND NEW EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES.**

Those of you who were at IDEC in Montreal received our announcement postcard so you already know that the theme for this year's regional East Conference is "Raising the roof" How do we make room for innovation and change in today's interior design curriculum? It is the aim of the regional conference to probe how we can respond more quickly and effectively to the changing face of interior design education.

Change in society and culture now occurs at such a pace that only the truly nimble can keep up let alone lead the way. While embracing this change is part of the currency of the interior design profession, schools typically respond at an institutional pace: a pace often influenced by traditional values and structures, accountability and a relatively stable workplace.

The overreaching questions about the role of theory in interior design, ongoing radical changes in the technologies of the build environment and new development in the materiality of interior space, challenge us to sort the wheat from the chaff, the dross from the items of value. We need to raise the roof to make room for new ideas and achieve new heights in the education of our students.

**PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE (NOTE THIS IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS BUT TIMES FOR THEMES ARE SET).**

### **FRIDAY OCTOBER 24**

9:30 International living Learning Centre (ILLC) 240 Jarvis Street  
Opening Speaker (yet to be finalized but we're close: more news to follow)

10:15 Coffee Break

10:30 Session 1: Theory and the Classroom

11:15 Session 2: Theory and the classroom/ Materiality and emerging technologies

12:15 Lunch at ILLC

1:30 Session 3 Materiality and emerging technologies

2:30 Tour Ryerson School of Interior Design (including 60th anniversary exhibition) 302 Church Street

4:00 High Tea at School of Interior Design

5:30 Royal Ontario Museum: Daniel Liebskind "Crystal" visit to building and the exhibition *Shanghai Kaleidoscope* which is "... unprecedented view of one of the world's most dynamic cities examines Shanghai as a laboratory for 21st-century urban creation. Leading artists, architects and fashion designers provide an insider's view of the high-speed, high-density, high-rise culture that is rapidly emerging in China's largest city." Also *Shanghai 1860-1949: Historical Photographs: A complement to Shanghai Kaleidoscope, Shanghai 1860-1949* presents eighty historical photographs that document Shanghai's architecture, inhabitants and way of life in the hundred years up to 1949.

Evening: Dinner with Colleagues, Sightseeing and Shopping

## **SATURDAY OCTOBER 25**

9:00 Business Meeting and Breakfast: Rogers Centre--- Dean's Boardroom, Faculty of Communication and Design, 80 Gould Street

10:30 School of Interior Design Session 4 New communication technologies

11:15 Session 5 New communication technologies

12:15 Walk to China Town via Ontario College of Art ( Wil Alsop) and the Art Gallery of Ontario ( Frank Gehry)

1:00 Lunch Dim Sum in China Town with colleagues for the gastronomically adventurous.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS, PANELS ETC.**

If you still want to submit a paper proposal or lead a panel we are extending the deadline for submission to August 25. You can find the relevant material to send on the IDEC website under EAST Regional Conference.

## **GETTING TO TORONTO**

The Hotel: we have booked a block of rooms in the Ramada Plaza:

300 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2C5

PH: (416) 977-4823

Toll Free: 1-800-567-2233

FAX: (416) 977-4830

E-Mail: [reservations@ramadaplazatoronto.com](mailto:reservations@ramadaplazatoronto.com)

Cost: \$129.00 per night and suites are available for a \$10.00 per night upcharge. Mention the conference and Ryerson University to get the group rate. They will keep the rate until 2 weeks before the conference.

If you are traveling from across the border remember to have a passport that is within 6 months of its expiry date if you want to get back into the States. There is a train from New York---long long---so airplane or even driving is a better option. Porter Airlines flies into the downtown island airport from Newark. Otherwise all the

conventional airlines fly into Pearson Airport on the outskirts of the city. Arrive for Thursday night and come to the opening of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition at the school. You are all invited of course.

Questions: email Jana Macalik: [jmacalik@ryerson.ca](mailto:jmacalik@ryerson.ca) or Annick Mitchell: [mitchell@ryerson.ca](mailto:mitchell@ryerson.ca)

**SEE YOU SOON,  
JANA MACALIK & ANNICK MITCHELL AND ALL OF US HERE AT RYERSON UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF  
INTERIOR DESIGN**