

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EZIO MANZINI, LEADING EXPERT ON SUSTAINABILITY IN DESIGN, TO LECTURE AT SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO (SAIC)

Chicago, November 4—The School of the Art Institute of Chicago brings **Ezio Manzini**, Professor of Industrial Design at **Milan Polytechnic** and one of the world's leading experts on sustainable design, to Chicago on Monday, November 14 at 6 p.m. as part of SAIC's **William H. Bronson & Grayce Slovet Mitchell Lecture Series**. The event is free and open to the public, and will be presented at the SAIC Columbus Auditorium, 280 South Columbus Drive. Seating is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. For more information, call 312.629.6650 or e-mail aiado@saic.edu.

POST LECTURE PANEL DISCUSSION

Following the lecture, there will be a panel discussion exploring intersections between the lecture content and design implications in the City of Chicago. The panel will be moderated by **Victor Margolin**, Professor Emeritus at University of Illinois at Chicago, and will include **John Tolva**, Chief Technology Officer for the City of Chicago, **Karen Weigert**, Chief Sustainability Officer for the City of Chicago, **Dan X. O'Neil**, Executive Director of Smart Chicago, **Marisa Novara**, Project Manager at the Metropolitan Planning Council, **George Aye**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture, Interior Architecture, and Designed Objects (AIADO) at SAIC, and other guests.

ABOUT THE LECTURE

Manzini will discuss the theme of "regeneration" as a result of social innovations and new ideas of quality in design. The presenter notes, "In a small, densely populated, highly connected planet, social resources are by far the most abundant ones. In other words, people's sensitivity, knowledge, creativity, and entrepreneurial capabilities are potentially the most powerful drivers for sustainable changes. Therefore, one of the most promising strategies towards sustainability is to create the conditions that catalyze these diffuse social resources, transforming these potentialities into concrete initiatives capable of generating large systemic changes. This is what design for social innovation is about and what this lecture will introduce and articulate in lines of action."

ABOUT EZIO MANZINI

As a design strategist, Ezio Manzini focuses on design for social innovation and sustainability, and developing design solution scenarios that encompass both environmental and social quality. Manzini has written numerous books, including *The Material of Invention*; *Artifacts: Towards a New Ecology of the Artificial Environment*; *Solid Side: The Search for Consistency in a Changing World* (with Marco Susani); and *Sustainable Everyday*. He is professor of Industrial Design at Milan Polytechnic and founded Design for Social Innovation Towards Sustainability (DESIS), a network of

university-based design labs. *DESIS Labs* are groups of professors, researchers and students who orient their design and research activities towards social innovation. They can operate at the local scale with local partners and, in collaboration with other *DESIS Labs*, they can engage in regional and global large-scale projects and programs.

RECENT SAIC FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Assistant Professor **Tristan d'Estrée Sterk** (AIADO), founder of the technology and design firm [ORAMBRA](#), received the **Unbuilt Design Award** from **AIA Chicago** on October 28 for his project "Prairie House for a Fashion Pattern Maker & Fiber Artist." A design concept produced by ORAMBRA (the Office of Robotic Architectural Media & The Bureau for Responsive Architecture), the Prairie House uses actuated tensional-integrity systems, in conjunction with soft cladding systems, to produce a house that is estimated to emit less than half of the carbon of a typical house in Illinois. "Tristan's award reflects well on him, and we offer our congratulations," said Anders Nereim, Professor in Architecture at SAIC and former Department Chair. "As a colleague, his excellent work brings special focus to our newly accredited Master of Architecture program, and demonstrates how our faculty pursue the edge of architecture, and that those pursuits are recognized and valued by the profession."

In September the **International Union of Architects** (UIA) and **Children Golden Globes Award** bestowed a **Special Mention Award** to Professor **Linda Keane** (AIADO) for her educational nonprofit **NEXT.cc**. The UIA & Children Golden Cubes Awards were founded to honor people and organizations that help children and young people to understand architecture. [NEXT.cc](#) is a 21st century EcoWeb of researched resources dedicated to transforming teaching and learning of design into a relevant, fun, anywhere and anytime activity. It offers a collection of tools, languages, discovery, and design opportunities aimed at increasing children's awareness, understanding, and engagement of the importance of the built and natural environments. Recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Design Education supporting grants, two Graham Foundation Grants, and a US Green Building Excellence in Green Building Education Award, NEXT.cc was chosen as the sole US architecture educational program out of 300 entries from 19 countries.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from around the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures and performances. For more information, please visit [saic.edu](#).

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