

PRESS ALERT

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For Immediate Release

New Orleans' Free Architecture Event in December
DesCours brings ten-days of architecture, art and music to the
French Quarter and CBD

New Orleans, LA (December 3-12, 2010) This December, New Orleans will showcase DesCours, a ten-day, contemporary architecture and art event that explores the latest in design and technology through the presentation of innovative, large-scale architecture installations. After a competitive review of 75 proposals from internationally recognized architects and artists, 14 installation teams (comprising 27+ architects from across the world) were chosen to nightly transform 'hidden' spaces across the French Quarter and Central Business District of New Orleans.

During the ten days of DesCours, December 3-12, this free, public event invites locals and visitors to view New Orleans historical spaces in a new way. The 'hidden spaces,' including private courtyards, vacant buildings, and rooftops, will be activated with an eclectic variety of site responsive installations by architects and artists including: Eric Bury + Farid Noufaily, Elizabeth Chen + Arthur Terry + Jerry Blanchard, Chimera+, Clark I Richardson, Architects, Michael Cohen +Sarah Weisberg, Hamilton Anderson Associates, Hariuka Horiuchi, John Kleinschmidt +Andy Sternad, Luftwerk, John Manaves (Protostudio), Eric Nulman, Gernot Reither, and Wendy Teo Boon Ting. These artists represent eight cities across the US states, including four teams from New Orleans, and the international cities of London and Toronto. The installations will be paired with nightly changing entertainment by musicians and a total of three public parties will be held to commemorate the start, midpoint, and end of the event.

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DesCours goes beyond traditional design and artistic mediums to explore creativity, culture, and expression within urban settings. “With DesCours now in its fourth year, we are looking forward to increased exposure and awareness for this event, and the ability to provide a platform for experimentation for new and emerging design talent for the public to see,” said Melissa Urcan, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects New Orleans Chapter (AIA New Orleans). “While DesCours aims to showcase both local and international contemporary design work, it also features the unique historical architectural identity of New Orleans and puts our city on the map with other major art destinations worldwide.”

AIA New Orleans is presenting the event in partnership with the Downtown Development District (DDD), the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council, New Orleans Arts Council, and numerous private businesses, organizations, and individuals. DesCours is recommended to be viewed either on foot or by use of bicycle, and will have self-guided and docent-led tours leaving from the new Center for Design on Lee Circle on a nightly basis during the event. More information can be found on the website, www.descours.us.

About AIA New Orleans:

AIA New Orleans is a non-profit organization comprised of nearly 500 professional architects and associate members,, and is a component of the national organization whose membership includes 80,000 professional architects worldwide. Founded in 1911, AIA New Orleans mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. The chapter hosts more than 75 different events each year for its members and the public, including a lecture series provided in partnership with Tulane School of Architecture, continuing education classes, building tours, architecture exhibitions, an annual architecture film presented with the New Orleans Film Society, an annual Design Awards program and an annual architecture and art event, “DesCours.” Most recently, AIA New Orleans opened the ‘AIA New Orleans Center for Design’ which serves its members and the public through offering architecture and design education opportunities in the forms of lectures, a study center, special events, and more. AIA New Orleans Center for Design is also the only dedicated architecture and design exhibition space in the state of Louisiana.

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