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**PRESS ALERT**

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**For Immediate Release**

**DesCours**

**New Orleans' Free Architecture Event in December**

New Orleans, La. (December 3-12, 2010) Join AIA New Orleans for DesCours, our 4<sup>th</sup> annual architecture, art and design exhibition featuring nightly live musical performance and special events. This presentation explores the latest design and technology innovations through 15 large-scale, site-specific installations in 14 'hidden' locations across the French Quarter and downtown New Orleans. This year's installation teams are comprised of more than 28 architects and artist representing four local teams, eight national teams and two international teams.

This year's installation teams include: Eric Bury + Farid Noufaily's *Flicker*, Elizabeth Chen + Arthur Terry's *Systemics of Super-Saturation*, Chimera+'s *Offshore*, Clark I Richardson Architect's *L'ouvert*, Michael Cohen + Sarah Weisberg's *Microbial Palette #1*, Hamilton Anderson Associates' *DICH2OTOMY*, Haruka Horiuchi's *Breathing Boundary*, John Kleinschmidt + Andy Sternad's *Drip*, Luftwerk's *Driftless*, Eric Nulman's *Night Flowers*, Protostudio's *Modulemobil*, Gernot Riether's *Intense Correlations*, Doris Sung's *WAIST TIGHTENING*, Wendy Teo Boom Ting + Mingli Chang's *The Living Garden*, and TZCO's *The Union*.

DesCours also features live musical performances and nightly special events, including three landmark parties celebrating the opening, mid-point and conclusion of the event. This year's performances will include the following musicians: Daron Douglas + Sinead Rudden, DJ Joey Buttons, John Paul + Friends, James Westfall Trio, The Generationals, Talk Hassan Trio, Tom Marron, plus three surprise guest performances.

DesCours installations activate historic, private or abandoned spaces, providing an opportunity to engage with them from a new perspective. This year six installations are located

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in the lower Canal Street area, which bridges the French Quarter and downtown New Orleans. With a focus on lower Canal, a place which is on the brink of economic revitalization, DesCours' presence aims to boost the awareness and overall cultural economy of this historically active, but currently devoid area. DesCours also has global relevance in the architecture, design, and art fields by providing a platform for experimentation for young and emerging designers.

Now in its fourth year, DesCours, "aims to showcase both local and international contemporary design work, feature the unique historical architectural identity of New Orleans, and puts our city on the map with other major art destinations worldwide," said Melissa Urcan, DesCours founder and curator as well as the Executive Director for AIA New Orleans.

"DesCours also provides a unique platform for experimentation for new and emerging design talent for the public to witness, something rare in the world of built architecture projects."

AIA New Orleans presents DesCours in partnership with the Downtown Development District (DDD), City of New Orleans, Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, and in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council and New Orleans Arts Council. In addition, DesCours is supported by numerous private businesses, organizations and individuals including aos, The Azby Fund, Letterman's Blue Print & Supply, The Lupin Foundation, Pyramid Audio Productions, and The Vinyl Institute,. Complete details regarding this year's DesCours presentation is available by visiting <http://www.DesCours.us>.

*About AIA New Orleans:*

*Founded in 1911, AIA New Orleans is a non-profit whose mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. AIA New Orleans is a component of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which serves over 80,000 professional architects. Serving over 500 local professional architects and associate members, the chapter hosts more than 75 events annually for its members and the public. Most recently, AIA New Orleans opened the 'AIA New Orleans Center for Design' which serves its members and the public by 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 the only dedicated architecture and design exhibition space in the state of Louisiana.*