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**PRESS ALERT**

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**For Immediate Release**

**DesCours Preview Installation Featured at the Cabildo**

**DesCours takes part in the Louisiana Cultural Economy Summit**

New Orleans, LA (October 29<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009) Beginning on October 29<sup>th</sup>, AIA New Orleans is proud to offer a DesCours preview installation that will be showcased in The Cabildo of the Louisiana State Museum, featured first as part of the Louisiana Cultural Economy Summit and remaining in place through DesCours . DesCours is a week-long, contemporary architecture and art event held annually the second week of December that explores the latest in design and technology through the presentation of innovative, large-scale architecture installations. Tiffany Lin of LinOldhamOffice designed and installed the preview installation, titled Lateral Loop, which will nightly transform The Cabildo colonnade into an interactive space of interwoven, glowing bamboo archways.

The sculptural passage is assembled from 176 arced bamboo poles that mark a path from Pirates Alley to the Cabildo museum entry. This installation is inspired by the festive culture of New Orleans and creates a destination where visitors of Jackson Square can simultaneously be the audience and the spectacle as they walk through and glow with the installation. This project was fabricated from locally harvested bamboo poles and constructed with the help of Michael Greene, Nels Erickson, and countless other students from the Tulane School of Architecture. LinOldhamOffice is a progressive and emerging design collaborative established by Tiffany Lin and Mark Oldham. Their practice lies at the intersection of material research and architectural design. The philosophy of exploration and collaboration has lead to work ranging from domestic projects, institutional speculations, catalogs of vernacular architecture and modern translations of historic spaces.

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Lateral Loop acts as a fitting preview for the week of December 7-13, when DesCours invites locals and visitors alike to view New Orleans historical spaces in a new way. The Cabildo is an early example of the spaces, including private courtyards, vacant buildings, and rooftops that will be activated with an eclectic variety of site responsive installations during the event by architects and artists representing cities from seven US states, including two teams from New Orleans, and the international cities of Tokyo and Paris. During DesCours, all 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.

AIA New Orleans is presenting the event in partnership with the Downtown Development District (DDD), the City of New Orleans, the Louisiana Architectural Foundation, Loews Hotel, Associated Office Systems and JBA consulting engineers. Alcohol will be provided by Ketel One and NOLA brewery and media sponsorships include New Orleans Homes and Lifestyles, the Architects Newspaper, Azure magazine, and many others. 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](http://www.descours.us).

*About AIA New Orleans:*

*AIA New Orleans is a non-profit organization comprised of over 400 professional architects, and is a component of the national organization whose membership includes 80,000 professional architects worldwide. Founded in 1910, 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 60 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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