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PRESS ALERT

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For Immediate Release

Free Architecture and Art Week-long Event

**DesCours brings seven days of art, architecture, and music to the
French Quarter and CBD**

New Orleans, LA (December 7-13, 2009) This December, New Orleans will showcase DesCours, a week-long, 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 proposals from internationally recognized architects and artists, thirteen installations were chosen to nightly transform hidden spaces across the French Quarter and Central Business District of New Orleans.

During the week of December 7-13, this free, public event invites locals and visitors to view New Orleans historical spaces in a new way. The private courtyards, vacant buildings, and rooftops will be activated with an eclectic variety of site responsive installations by architects and artists including Francis Bitonti + Brian Osborn, Sadi Brewton, Marshall Brown + Dana Carter, Gregoire Diehl of Smoothcore, Hiroyuki Futai of F-TAI Architect, Christophe Gauspohl + Blue Hell Studios, Mary Hale, Jennifer Hiser, Rodolphe el-Khoury + Robert Levit + Steven Fong of KhouryLevitFong, Tiffany Lin + Mark Oldham, Leah Nanpei + Koko Hovaguimian of nan.ko studio, Virginia San Fratello + Ronald Rael of Rael San Fratello Architects, Junji Watanaabe, and Jimmy Stamp + Sergio Padilla. These artists represent cities from seven US states, including two teams from New Orleans, and the international cities of Tokyo and Paris. 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 art mediums to explore creativity, culture, and expression within urban settings. “With DesCours now in its third year, we are looking forward to increased exposure and awareness for this event, and the highest caliber of unique installations from top designers as we uncover more hidden spaces for the public to see.”, said Melissa Urcan, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects New Orleans Chapter (AIA New Orleans). “While DesCours is a great means of cultural outreach within the city, it also showcases the unique 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 Architectural Foundation, The Lupin 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.

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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