

**T H E A R C H I
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L E A G U E N Y**

THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE PRESENTS

**“Proof”
Young Architects Forum
Exhibition and Lecture Series by Participants of the Twenty-sixth Annual
Young Architects Competition**

NEWS
RELEASE

The Architectural League is pleased to announce the winners of its twenty-sixth annual competition for young architects and designers. An exhibition of work by the winners will open to the public May 17th at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, New York City, and will remain on display through July 7th. The gallery is open weekdays (except Thursdays) and Saturdays from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission is free. The exhibition will also be open on the evenings of the lectures.

Competition winners will present their work in lectures followed by receptions. All lectures will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Urban Center. Admission is free; reservations are not required, but suggested.

Thursday, May 17

Ivan Hernandez Quintela, Iudens
Carlos Bedoya, Wonne Ickx, Victor Jaime, and Abel Perles, PRODUCTORA

Thursday, May 24

Dominic Leong, Jonathan Lott, and Brian Price, PARA
Jinhee Park, SINGLE speed DESIGN

Thursday, May 31

Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch, Aranda/Lasch
Chaewon Kim and Beat Schenk, UNI

Winners of the League’s annual Young Architects Forum are chosen through a portfolio competition, announced each fall by a call for entries. Entrants, who must be ten years or less out of undergraduate or graduate school and live in North America, submit a portfolio of their work, accompanied by a short text that addresses the competition theme. Winners receive an honorarium, exhibit their work, and present a lecture. Winners’ designs will be displayed on the Architectural League’s website (www.archleague.org), beginning in early May, and in a catalogue to be published by Princeton Architectural Press.

Theme

The theme for the competition is selected by the Young Architects Committee and changes every year to reflect current issues in architectural design and theory. Recent competition themes have included “Inhabiting Identity,” “Situating,” and “Instability.” The committee, a group selected each year from past participants in the Young Architects Forum, also invites distinguished members of the design community to serve with them on the jury. This year, in addition to committee members David Benjamin, Daniel D’Oca, and Lisa Hsieh, the jury included Michael Bell, Toshiko Mori, Calvin Tsao, and Sarah Whiting.

The competition theme, “Proof,” creates a rubric for entrants to frame their portfolios and critically evaluate their work. Proof is process, not product, as defined by this year’s committee, a process that begins in speculation and gains traction through subsequent testing, confirming, checking, and rechecking. As new building technologies and systems open up fresh possibilities, and as the scope of architecture expands, this unknown territory calls for proof. Architectural projects are thus trial sheets subject to constant review and change.

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The committee posed a series of questions for entrants to address: How do we carry out a proof within such a complex network? Which sources and proof texts do we use? What are the known and unknown variables? How do we screen, select, and interpret information? How do we tackle sub-proofs such as conceptual proof, material proof, technological proof, and structural proof? How do we balance innovation and independence with partnership and consensus? As the work is open-ended, how do we know when to stop? When do we consider a project finished? How do we anticipate an unknown future?

Young Architects 2007

Ivan Hernandez Quintela
ludens, Mexico City
www.ludens.com.mx

Ivan Hernandez Quintela founded ludens in 2002. Based in Mexico City, the firm critically studies “how objects and spaces tend to affect one’s behavior, not by becoming neutral or unaffacting mechanisms, but by becoming interactive mechanisms, capable of transformation by their users.” “Tools for Everyday Living,” his recent small-scale series of projects ranging from furniture to room installations, challenges assumptions of space and usage. The “segregator” explores the arbitrariness of security checkpoints; “bird houses” uses minimal architectural gestures to suggest potential inhabitations and possible appropriations. The “see-saw table” destabilizes the conventions of eating and conversation. ludens has exhibited work throughout Mexico and has been published in *Celeste* and *On Site*. Ivan Hernandez Quintela received his bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Texas, Austin and is adjunct design professor in the Architecture and Urbanism Department at the Universidad Iberoamericana. Ivan Hernandez Quintela will present his work on May 17.

Carlos Bedoya, Wonne Ickx, Victor Jaime, and Abel Perles
PRODUCTORA, Mexico City
www.productora-df.com.mx

Carlos Bedoya, Wonne Ickx, Victor Jaime, and Abel Perles are the founding members of Mexico City’s PRODUCTORA. Beginning its designs with an “anarchic series of intuitive explorations,” PRODUCTORA develops its ideas through active design and continuous production, rather than an adherence to a formal methodology. Recent and current projects include the Museum of Contemporary Art in Lima, Peru; a memorial proposal in Oslo for the victims of the 2005 Tsunami; the C.S.I. Corporate Headquarters in Mexico City; and the residences, Casa Musso in Oaxaca, Casa Granados in Chihuahua, and Casa Mixcoac in Mexico City. The firm, formed only a little over a year ago, has presented work in Mexico, Peru, and Beijing. Carlos Bedoya received a degree in architecture and urbanism from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and a masters degree in architecture from Escuela Tècnica Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona. He currently teaches at Tec de Monterrey. Wonne Ickx holds a degree in civil engineering and architecture from the University of Ghent, a masters in urbanism and development from the University of Guadalajara, and is currently teaching at the Centro de Diseño in Mexico City. Victor Jaime studied architecture and urbanism at Universidad Iberoamericana and is now teaching at Mexico City’s Centro de Diseño. Abel Perles completed his undergraduate study in architecture from the University of Buenos Aires. The members of PRODUCTORA will present their work on May 17.

Dominic Leong, Jonathan Lott, and Brian Price
PARA, New York
www.para-project.org

Brian Price, Jonathan Lott, and Dominic Leong are the principals of PARA, the firm they founded in 2005 in New York City. Conceived of as an incubator for architectural and urban strategies, the firm is involved in projects of varying

scales and media, from commercial, institutional, and residential work to events and international competitions. PARA operates as a prefix, approaching each project as a collaborative effort guided by the specific needs and curiosities of diverse clientele. Recent projects include a proposal for the Times Square Recruiting Center for the Department of Defense; 'Lifting Mies, a project that transforms the Seagram Building through the conceptual strategies of plastic surgery; and the Rorschach project, which takes the "formless-form of the inkblot" to question today's fetish with iconic architecture. In 2006, PARA organized the symposium, "Paratheses: Current Trajectories in Architectural Design Research," at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation. The project received a Graham Foundation Grant for a forthcoming publication. Dominic Leong, Jonathan Lott, and Brian Price each received bachelor of architecture degrees from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Dominic Leong received a master of science in advanced architectural design degree from Columbia's GSAPP, where he currently teaches a studio with Bernard Tschumi. Jonathan Lott and Brian Price each received master of architecture degrees from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. The members of PARA will present their work on May 24.

Jinhee Park
SINGLE speed DESIGN, Cambridge
www.singlespeeddesign.com

Jinhee Park is a principal of SINGLE speed DESIGN, the firm she founded with John Hong in 2001. Based in Cambridge, SINGLE speed DESIGN seeks the "convergence of form and content" which "engages the multifaceted physical, social, cultural, and ecological dimensions that define a site" in an urban context. Recent projects include a proposal for the Czech National Library in Prague; the Asian Cultural Complex in Gwangju, Korea; the Big Dig Building in Cambridge, MA; and HBNY (Parenthetical Space) in New York City. In 2004, SINGLE speed DESIGN was awarded the Next Generation Prize by *Metropolis* magazine and was recently featured in the *New Yorker* magazine for its Big Dig Building and HBNY (Parenthetical Space). Jinhee Park received a bachelor of fine arts in industrial design degree from Seoul National University and a master of architecture degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is a guest critic at Harvard GSD, Columbia, MIT, and the University of Michigan and is currently the Sasaki Distinguished Visiting Critic at Boston Architectural College. Jinhee Park will present her firm's work on May 24.

Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch
Aranda/Lasch, New York
www.arandalasch.com

Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch founded Aranda/Lasch, a New York-based architectural studio, in 2003. Recent projects include "Grotto," a landscape installation, which was a finalist for the 2005 MoMA/PS1 Young Architects Competition; "Baskets," a collaborative project with Native-American basket weaver Terrol Dew Johnson, exhibited at Artists Space; and the winning design for the Gateway to Las Vegas Design Competition, the project "10-Mile Spiral." Additionally, Aranda/Lasch's video work under the name terraswarm has been shown at numerous international media and film festivals and includes "The Brooklyn Pigeon Project," recently shown on PBS. Aranda/Lasch was featured on the covers of October's *Architecture* and the latest *Verb:Natures*. terraswarm is currently showing at Columbia University in its exhibition, *Color Shift*. Benjamin Aranda received a bachelor of arts in architecture degree from the University of California Berkeley and a master of architecture degree from Columbia University. Chris Lasch received his bachelor of arts in architecture degree from the University of Illinois Urbana and his master of architecture degree from Columbia University. Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch will present their work on May 31.

Chaewon Kim and Beat Schenk

UNI

www.uni-a.com

Chaewon Kim and Beat Schenk are partners of the firm UNI, which they founded in Cambridge, MA in 2003. A design/build company, UNI acts simultaneously in the roles of architect, builder, owner, developer, and broker, seeking innovative design solutions, while addressing economic and zoning pressures. The firm's most recent project includes four houses—XS, S, M, L—either renovated or newly built on a small lot in Cambridge, MA, that test and explore design solutions to housing problems. For example, in “XS,” UNI, facing a tight lot, stacked and rotated three plywood boxes to achieve a minimum number of windows for privacy and a maximum number of skylights for light. In “S” house, the firm wrapped cor-ten steel over the structure and employed translucent polycarbonate siding to create a beautiful and unorthodox form, while using affordable and durable materials. The innovative project has been widely published and was recently featured in the March 2007 edition of *Dwell* magazine. Chaewon Kim and Beat Schenk both received bachelor of architecture degrees at the Southern California Institute of Architecture. Chaewon Kim received her master of architecture degree from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and Beat Schenk received his master of science in advanced architectural design degree from Columbia University. Chaewon Kim and Beat Schenk will present their work on May 31.

General Information

Since its inception in 1981, the Architectural League's Young Architects Forum has provided many of the leading talents of succeeding new generations of architects and designers a valuable opportunity to present their work and ideas. Winners from the early years of the competition include Ross Anderson, Karen Bausman & Leslie Gill, Neil Denari, Tom Hanrahan & Victoria Meyers, Steven Holl, Carlos Jimenez, Sulan Kolatan & Bill McDonald, Ralph Lerner, Mark Robbins, and Billie Tsien. More recent winners include Architecture Research Office, Sunil Bald & Yolande Daniels, Della Valle Bernheimer, Rick Joy, nArchitects, Shih-Fu Peng & Roisin Heneghan, SERVO, SYSTEMarchitects, Monica Ponce de Leon & Nader Tehrani, and J. Meejin Yoon. More information, as well as the Young Architects 25th anniversary web installation, highlighting past winners, their work, and each year's poster designs, may be found on the League's website, www.archleague.org.

The Architectural League of New York is an independent forum for creative and intellectual work in architecture, urbanism, and related design disciplines. The League promotes excellence and innovation in architecture and urbanism by furthering the education of architects and designers, and by communicating to a broad audience the importance of architecture in public life. Through its lectures, exhibitions, and other programs, the League creates a stimulating venue for contemporary work and ideas, supports the work of talented young architects, creates opportunities for exploring new approaches to problems in the built environment, and fosters a stimulating community for dialogue and debate.

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