

BUILDING/
INSIDE
**STUDIO
GANG**
ARCHITECTS

edited by **JEANNE GANG & ZOË RYAN**

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Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership



OWNER: Kalamazoo College
LOCATION: Kalamazoo, MI, USA
SIZE: 18,000 sf
STATUS: In Construction
Anticipated Completion 2013



Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership

Perhaps thanks to its association with today’s countless, homogenous conference rooms, the program of “meeting space” is often thought of as unexciting and unexceptional. At Kalamazoo College, however, the Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership makes a potent counterargument—demonstrating that spaces for convening can be some of our most powerful, both in their human impact and in their implications for architecture.

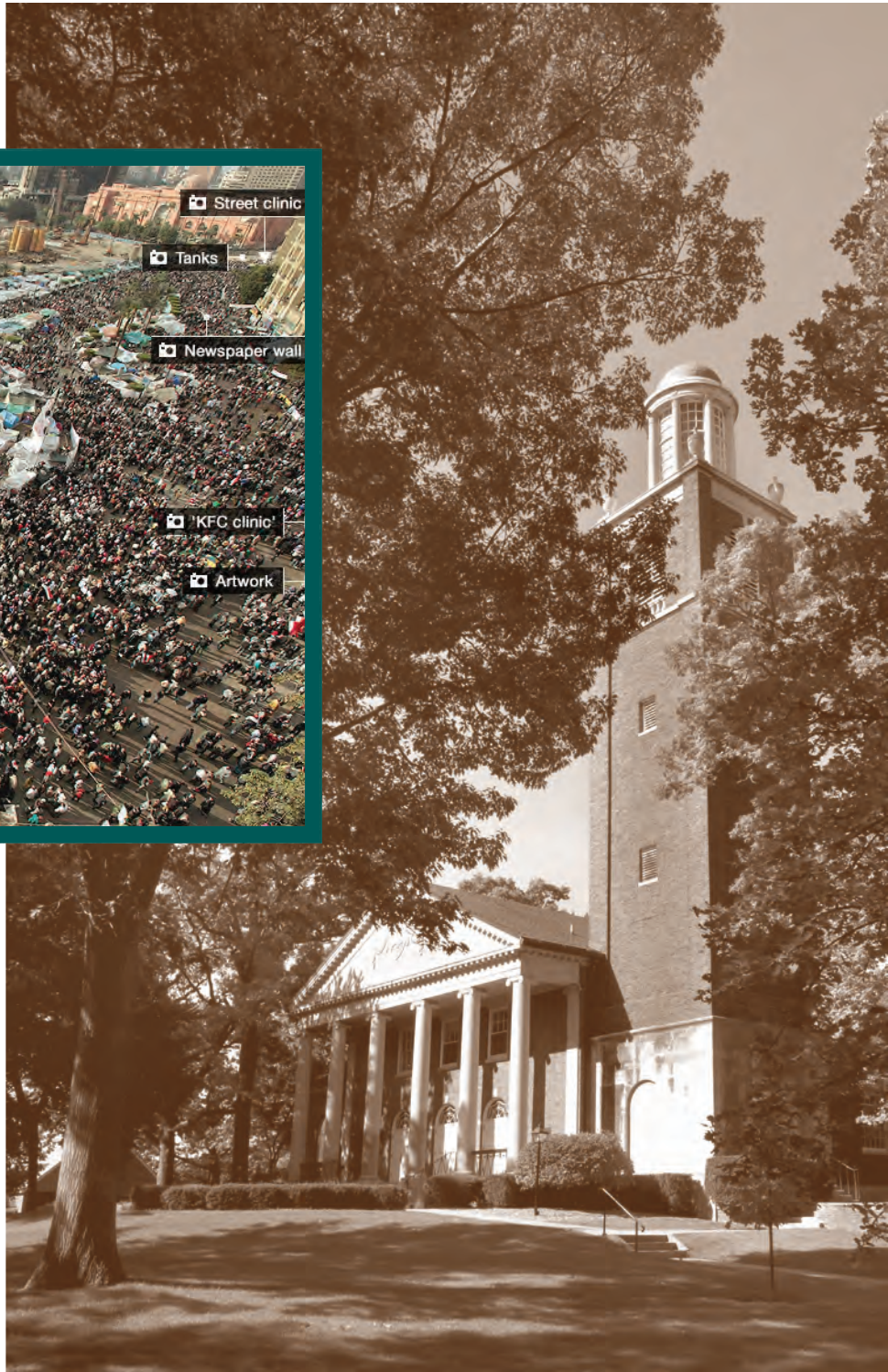
Founded in 2010 to catalyze positive social change, the Center’s mission is to develop emerging leaders and sustain existing leaders in the fields of human rights and social justice. Upon completion, their new building will become a study center and meeting space where students, faculty, visiting scholars, social justice leaders, and members of the public come together to engage in conversation and activities aimed at engendering a more just world.

The architecture of the Center supports this important mission and its work in multiple ways. The building’s form is designed to respond sensitively to its varied adjacent contexts: residential neighbors, campus buildings, and a native woodland grove. Its tri-axial plan addresses all three contexts with arcing walls made of wood masonry. While challenging the colonial brick language of the campus’s existing architecture, this building design honors the craft of those masons who constructed the college’s earlier structures. Its stacked cordwood material also works as a figurative extension of the trees in the adjacent grove landscape. Inside, the building’s visually open and daylit interior is designed to support “convening” in many different configurations, that beginning to break down psychological and cultural barriers between people and helping to facilitate understanding.

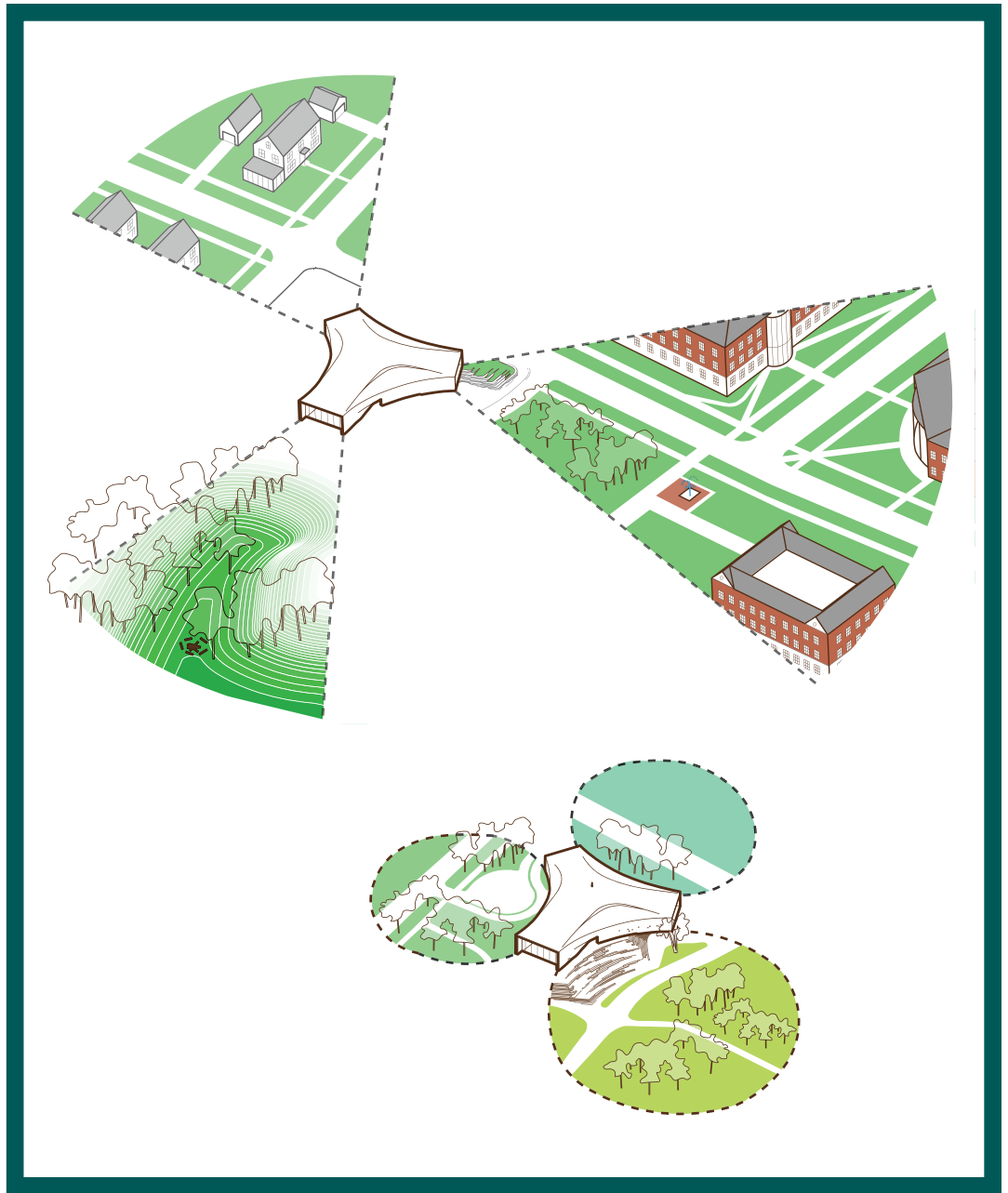
Gaining a deeper knowledge of social justice allowed us to find ways to integrate equitable practices into our architecture. From issues of accessibility to assigning gender to restrooms, many decisions about space that are made by architects on a daily basis or demanded by building codes have social justice repercussions—and offer the possibility to foster positive social transformation at every scale. ■



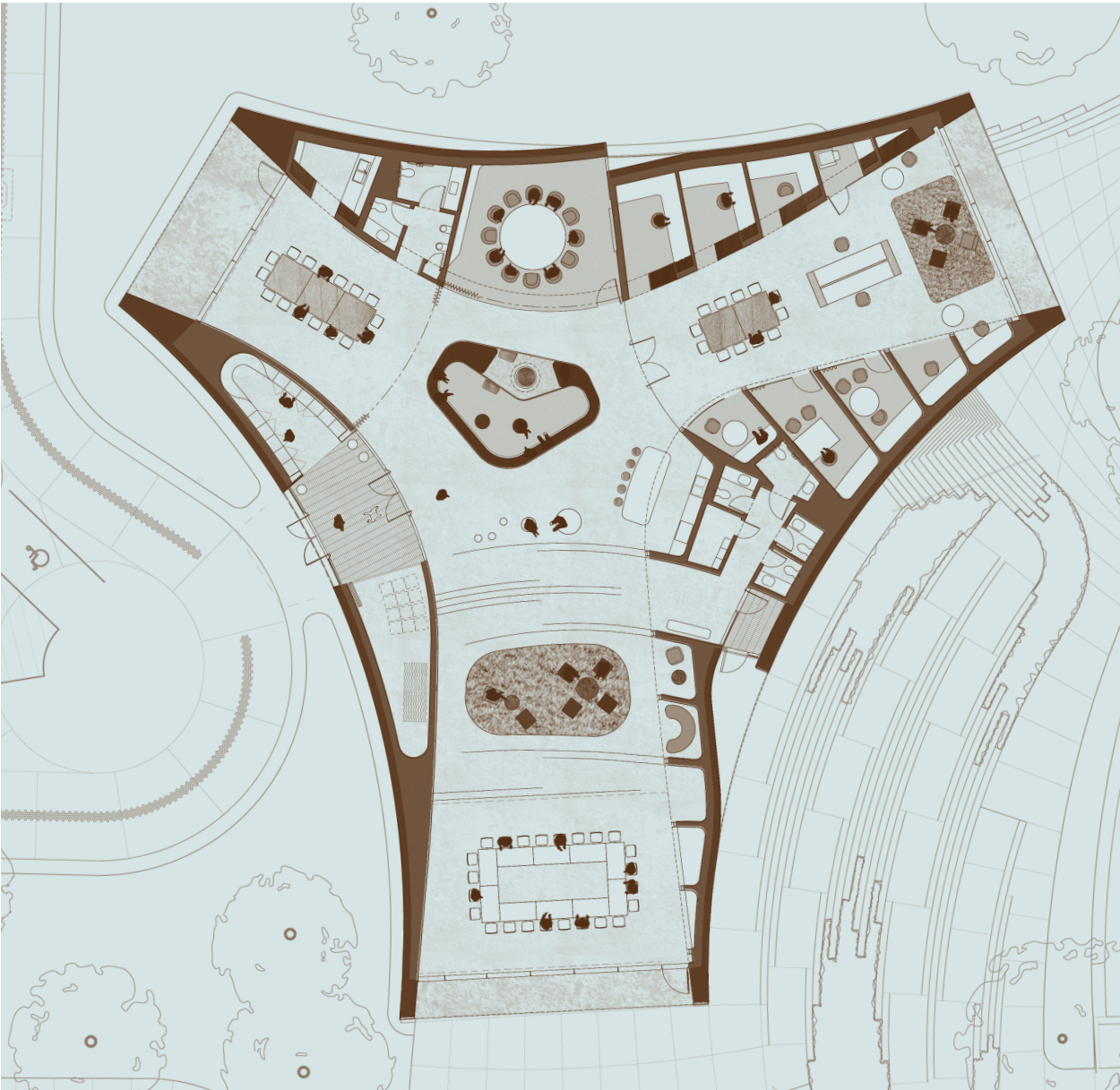
In 2011, the desire for “Bread, Freedom, and Social Justice” inspired the transformation of Cairo’s Tahrir Square into a self-organized community space. This and other spatial precedents, as well as the tenet that in a socially just world, each life is equally valued and the inherent dignity of all people is recognized, informed the organization of the Arcus Center. Image from BBC News.



The importance of social justice at the college is seemingly at odds with the colonial hierarchy of its existing campus architecture. The desire to resolve this dissonance inspired new design directions for the Arcus Center.



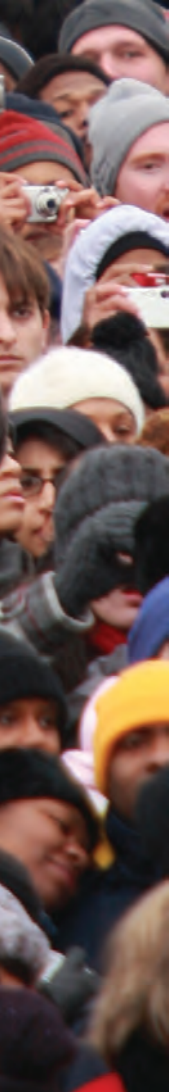
(Top) The building's tri-axial organization addresses three adjacent contexts with transparent façades. **(Bottom)** The gently arced walls of the building's exterior embrace three distinct outdoor areas that serve the programs of the Center.



The three wings of the plan intersect at an informal meeting space: a crossroads for conversation. Smaller meeting areas and individual workspaces are nestled into the poche bordering the main assembly spaces.



A diverse assembly of faces captured during President Obama's inauguration ceremony in January 2009.



Tree sections of different shapes and sizes—each with its own unique set of growth rings—are assembled together to form the exterior walls of the Center.



A map showing the geographical range of white cedar—a resilient, sustainably harvested wood to be used for the building’s exterior.



Studio members Schuyler Smith, Claire Halpin, and Todd Zima practice the construction method of wood masonry—a low-carbon, highly thermal method of building that Studio Gang updated to meet twenty-first century criteria for the Arcus Center project.

1015: ACSJL	
05/18/2010	1" = 1'-0"

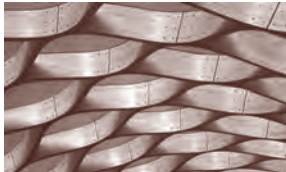


The building's cascading levels and differentiated interior spaces continue the topography of the surrounding grove.



Northerly Island Framework Plan

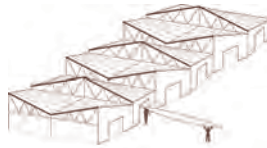
Jeanne Gang, Mark Schendel, Claire Cahan, and William Emmick with Claire Halpin, Jay Hoffman, Thorsten Johann, Wei-Ju Lai, Jeana Ripple, Rodia Valladares Sanchez, Beth Zacherle. Landscape Architect/Coastal Engineer: JJR. Ecologist: Applied Ecological Services, Inc. Financial Consultant: Applied Real Estate Analysis, Inc. Sustainability Engineer: dbHMS. Consultant: Fish Transportation Group, Inc (transportation). Graphic Designer: Studio V Design, Inc



Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo

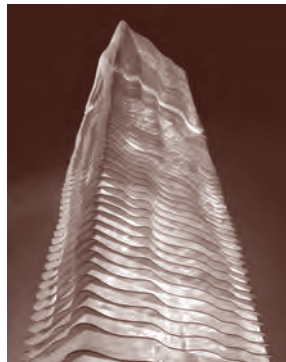
Jeanne Gang, David Gwinn, Harry Soenksen, Beth Zacherle, and Mark Schendel with Kara Boyd, Beth Kalin, Jeana Ripple, Todd Zima. Program Manager, Coordinating Engineer and Master Planner: Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. Project Architect: Shaw Sustainable Design Solutions of Illinois, LLC. Landscape Architect: WRD Environmental. Engineers: Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (hydrology),

Magnusson Klemencic Associates (structural). General Contractor: Pepper Construction Group, LLC. Pavilion Contractor: Cosgrove Construction, Inc. Sub Contractor: Fox River Components. Fabricators: RLD Company, Shelton Lam and Deck, Atomic Props, Sunrise Fiberglass.



Chicago River Boathouses

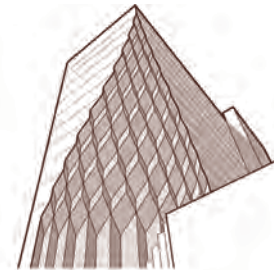
Jeanne Gang, Jay Hoffman, Mark Schendel, and William Emmick with John Castro, Wei-Ju Lai, Angela Peckham, Christopher Vant Hoff, Michan Walker, Todd Zima. Engineers: dbHMS (MEP, fire protection), Matrix (structural), SPACECO, Inc. (civil), AECOM (waterfront civil). Landscape Architect: Terry Guen Design Associates, Inc.



Aqua Tower

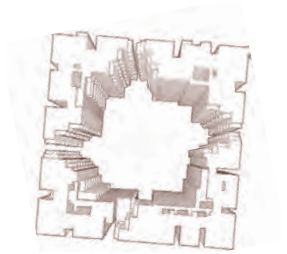
Jeanne Gang, Thorsten Johann, Mark Schendel, and Mauricio Sanchez with Kara Boyd, Margaret Cavenagh, Yu-Ting Chen, Lynda Dossey, David Gwinn,

Claire Halpin, Jay Hoffman, Heather Kilmer, Phillip Leers, Miriam Neet, Sophia Sebti, Schuyler Smith, Kimberly Tseng, Hannes Wingate, Beth Zacherle. Architect of Record: Loewenberg Architects. Engineers: Magnusson Klemencic Associates (structural), IE Consultants, Inc (civil), Advance Mechanical Systems, Inc. (mechanical), Abbott Industries, Inc (plumbing), Gurtz Electric (electrical), Northstar Fire Protection/McDaniel Fire Systems (fire protection). Landscape Architect: Wolff Landscape Architecture, Inc. General Contractor: McHugh Construction. Consultants: Khatib and Associates, Inc (energy), Hugh Lighting Design, LLC (lighting), Horvath and Reich CDC (façade), dbHMS (LEED).



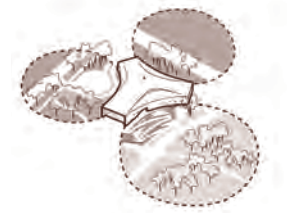
Solar Carve Tower

Jeanne Gang, Mark Schendel, and Weston Walker with John Castro, Juan de la Mora, William Emmick, Wei-Ju Lai, Rolf Temesvari, Todd Zima. Engineers: Arup New York (structural), Arup New York (MEP & fire protection), Langan Engineering (civil). Landscape Architect: SCAPE/Landscape Architecture, PLLC. Cost Estimator: Davis Langdon.



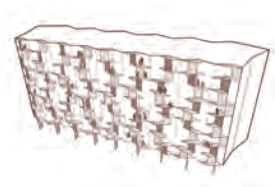
Hyderabad 02

Jeanne Gang, Thorsten Johann, Mark Schendel, David Gwinn, and Akhil Badjatia with Margaret Cavenagh, Federico Diaz de Leon Orraca, Lynda Dossey, Claire Halpin, Lindsey Moyer, Schuyler Smith, Rolf Temesvari, Weston Walker. Engineers: Tadjer Cohen Edelson Associates, Inc. (structural), Spectral Services Consultants Pvt., Ltd. (MEP and fire protection), Buro Happold (environmental), FS Engineers Pvt., Ltd (geotechnical). Consultant: Carl Walker Parking Consultants (parking).



Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership

Jeanne Gang, Todd Zima, and Margaret Cavenagh with John Castro, Ana Flor Ortiz, Claire Halpin, Wei-Ju Lai, Lindsey Moyer, Rolf Temesvari, John Wolters. Engineers: Thornton Tomasetti (structural), Viridis Design Group (landscape architect/civil), Diekema Hamann Engineering (MEP, fire protection). Cost Estimator: Davis Langdon.



City Hyde Park

Jeanne Gang, Thorsten Johann, Mark Schendel, and Mauricio Sanchez with Akhil Badjatia, Angela Peckham, Natasha Pirondi, Harry Soenksen, Rolf Temesvari, Rodia Valladares Sanchez, Michan Walker, Weston Walker. Engineers: Magnusson Klemencic Associates (structural), WMA Consulting Engineers, Ltd. (MEP), SPACECO, Inc. (civil). Landscape Architect: Terry Guen Design Associates, Inc. Consultant: Jenkins & Huntington, Inc. (elevator).



Kaohsiung Maritime Cultural & Popular Music Center

Jeanne Gang, Weston Walker, Jay Hoffman, Schuyler Smith, Mark Schendel, and William Emmick with Claire Cahan, John Castro, Stephen Claey's, Juan de la Mora, Lynda Dossey, Ana Flor Ortiz, Thorsten Johann, Wei-Ju Lai, Boryana Marche'va, Natasha Pirondi, Rodia Valladares Sanchez, Rolf Temesvari. Associate Architect: JJ Pan & Partners. Engineers: Arup Dublin (structure), Arup Hong Kong (MEP/BP, fire protection), DHV (acoustics). Scenography: dUCKS scéno.

Landscape Architect: SCAPE/ Landscape Architecture, PLLC.



Writers' Theatre

Jeanne Gang, Kara Boyd, and Mark Schendel, with Claire Cahan, Stephen Claey's, Lindsey Moyer, Christopher Vant Hoff. Project Advisor: AMS Planning and Research. Theater Consultant: Auerbach Pollock Friedlander. Engineers: Halvorson & Partners (structural), dbHMS (MEP, fire protection), SPACECO, Inc. (civil). Consultants: Threshold Acoustics (acoustical), Lightswitch Architectural Chicago (lighting). Landscape Architect: Coen + Partners.



Columbia College Chicago Media Production Center

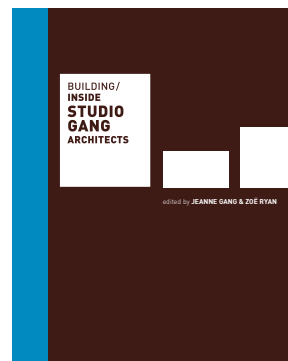
Jeanne Gang, Kara Boyd, Margaret Cavenagh, William Emmick, and Mark Schendel with Kysa Heinitz, Beth Kalin, Brandon Pass, Angela Peckham, Dominique Price, Christopher Tomlan, John Wolters. Engineers: dbHMS (MEP), Magnusson Klemencic Associates

(structural), SPACECO, Inc (civil). Landscape Architect: SITE Design Group, Ltd. Consultant: Threshold Acoustics (acoustical). Project Manager: US Equities.



Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects (Exhibition)

Jeanne Gang, Mark Schendel, Claire Cahan, and Schuyler Smith with Alissa Anderson, Juan de la Mora, Laura Ette'dgui, Thorsten Johann, Chris Ortloff, Teo Quintana, Natalie Thomas, Weston Walker. Curators: Zoë Ryan, Karen Kice. Structural engineer: Thornton Tomasetti. Metal Fabrication and Design: Active Alloys. Steel Ring Fabricators: Chicago Rolled Metal Products. Suspension System Consultant: Chicago Yacht Rigging. Model and Display Fabricator: Jason Lewis Furniture. Furniture Maker: Mode Carpentry.



Building: Inside Studio Gang Architects (Book)

Jeanne Gang and Alissa Anderson with Claire Cahan and Weston Walker. Co-Editor: Zoë Ryan. Art Direction and Design: Margot Harrington and Chad Kouri. Contributors: Michael Halberstam, Karen Kice, Zoë Ryan, Brett Steele, Sarah M. Whiting. Copy Editor: Mairead Case.

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Jeanne Gang and Zoë Ryan

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