

UCSD School of Architecture appointed founding faculty members

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UCSD SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE ANNOUNCES FOUNDING FACULTY

After a vigorous international search, the School of Architecture at the University of California, San Diego, has appointed four founding faculty members--three architects associated with U.S. universities and an internationally acclaimed historian from France.

They are Dana Cuff, architectural sociologist, now at the University of Southern California; William Curtis, architectural historian who currently resides in southern France; Craig Hodgetts, architectural designer affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania and Southern California Institute of Architecture, and M. Susan Ubbelohde, an architect and specialist in environmental technologies, University of Minnesota.

"The choice of these four experts reveals a lot about our aspirations for the new school," commented School of Architecture Dean Adele Naude Santos, who received more than 400 applications for the faculty positions. "Collectively, their talents and knowledge encompass four important aspects of the architecture curriculum: design, architectural history and theory, building technology, behavioral sciences and the architectural practice."

"In our search, we were seeking individuals who were exceptional, not only in the sense that they were unusually accomplished within their area of expertise, but in their willingness to explore, to be experimental," Dean Santos noted, "since the school's first challenge is to rethink the nature of architectural education."

Hodgetts and Curtis are joining the UCSD faculty this fall; Cuff and Ubbelohde will be in residence in January, 1992. However, Dean Santos said, working sessions devoted to curriculum development will be held with the founding faculty this fall in preparation for the first class of graduate students. Students will be recruited during the 1991-92 academic year for admission to the masters program in the fall of 1992. The initial class will be limited to approximately 20 members.

Cuff, currently on the School of Urban and Regional Planning and School of Architecture faculty at USC, previously taught at Rice University and the University of Colorado. She received her B.A. in psychology and design at UC Santa Cruz, and her Ph.D. in architecture from UC Berkeley. Her research relates to the processes by which environments are actually designed and includes not only architects, but developers and governmental agencies and the interaction between them. The original nature of her research is evident in her latest book, "Architecture: The Story of Practice," published this spring by MIT Press.

Curtis is an internationally renowned architectural historian whose books range from broad topics such as his widely used text, "Modern Architecture Since 1900," to specific areas of his scholarship such as "Le Corbusier: Ideas and Forms." "Curtis' interest in architecture is global, not simply Western," notes Santos, who believes important architectural innovations in Third World cultures have gone largely unexplored. A native of England, Curtis received his B.A. in the history of art from London University and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has taught at universities in England, the U.S., Australia, Asia and Mexico.

Hodgetts is a designer whose innovative work is reflective of his breadth of training--from industrial, to architectural, to urban design. He received his B.A at Oberlin College, studied automobile engineering at General Motors Institute, theatre arts at San Francisco State, architecture at UC Berkeley, and received a master's degree in architecture from the Yale School of Art and Architecture. Throughout his career, Hodgetts' projects have been published internationally and have won awards for architecture, set design, industrial design, exhibit design and urban design. He currently is a guest critic and lecturer in the Department of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, and an advisor for the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-arc).

Recognized nationally for her pioneering research and teaching of environmental technologies, Ubbelohde currently serves on the faculty of the Department of Architecture, University of Minnesota. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Oberlin College, a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Michigan and a master's of architecture from the University of Oregon. "Although building technology is central to the making and experience of architecture, it often is marginally taught at many schools of architecture," said Santos. "Ubbelohde is one of the few who has earned a national reputation as a dynamic teacher of these technical, often quantitative, subjects." Her writings are extensive, and include co-authorship of "Inside Out," a text widely prescribed in architecture schools.

The search for additional faculty will continue this year, Santos said.

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