Penn IUR has been a central participant in an important effort to assess the implications of the new presidential administration’s 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for urban centers and their infrastructure systems. Developed at the request of former University of Pennsylvania Provost Ronald Daniels, this initiative brings together the resources of PennDesign, PennPraxis, and Penn IUR to convene a series of expert events, forums, and public interest lectures aimed at increasing understanding about infrastructure investment. The series has allowed Penn IUR to continue the discussions begun in its Urban Leadership Forum in April (see article below), which centered on the importance of a holistic approach to revitalizing our nation’s urban areas.

Supported by the William Penn Foundation, the series consists of three public events: “The Future of Cities: The World, The Nation, Philadelphia,” “The Competitiveness and Sustainability of American Cities and Regions,” and the “2009 Philadelphia Regional Infrastructure Charrette.” The goal of this series is to examine how cities and metro regions can take advantage of the tremendous opportunity presented by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the upcoming reauthorization of the Transportation Act, and other federal, state, and local initiatives. Since Philadelphia serves as a case study for older industrial cities around the nation, the discussion has focused on how to balance pressing immediate needs while developing long-term infrastructure investment plans that will enhance their competitive positions.

On May 14th, “The Future of Cities: The World, The Nation, Philadelphia” attracted more than 400 people to a public discussion with Philadelphia officials and world-renowned urban experts held at the Academy of Natural Sciences.
On May 15th, Penn IUR and the Penn Urban Studies Department co-hosted the Sixth Annual Penn Urban Doctoral Symposium to celebrate the achievements of graduating Penn doctoral candidates who have completed dissertations on urban-focused topics. Through presentations and discussion, the symposium highlighted their research findings.

Michael Katz, Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania, moderated as each doctoral student detailed his/her dissertation.

From the Department of History at the School of Arts & Sciences, Daniel Amsterdam, in “The Roaring Metropolis,” offered an interpretation of U.S. politics between the end of World War I and the onset of the Great Depression. Amsterdam recasts the decade as an era of aggressive governmental expansion, not of retrenchment and reaction, as it is often portrayed.

Nianbo Dong, Graduate School of Education, Division of Management and Evaluation, presented his dissertation entitled “Drawing Causal Inferences from a Longitudinal Cluster of Randomized Experiments with Crossovers.” His project investigated the effectiveness of the Distributed Leadership Training Program, funded by the Annenberg Foundation, in improving student learning in a group of Philadelphia elementary schools.

Alexander Eisenschmidt, PennDesign, Graduate Group in Architecture, discussed his dissertation, “The Formless Großstadt and Its Potent Negativity.” He investigated the concept of the “formless,” showing how it was not only a byproduct of the industrial metropolis but also a prevailing idea that stimulated modern architectural discourse.

Hillit Meidar-Alfi, Penn Design, Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, presented “Measuring the Utility of Urban Infrastructure Systems.” Her dissertation focused on measuring the utility of the aggregated benefits of infrastructure and determining the trade-offs among social services in the optimal provision of services.

Dan Moscovici, also of City and Regional Planning, used his dissertation, “Land Preservation’s Effect on the Environment, Economy, and Society of the Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and the Adirondack Region of New York,” to test the hypothesis that counties with higher acreages of preserved land exhibited a stronger correlation with economic, environmental, and social sustainability characteristics.

“The importance of the [Retooling HUD] report is that it focuses on how we can take advantage of the assets major cities have, such as anchor institutions.”

-Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-PA)

“A good and useful Retooling HUD report.”

-Todd Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy Development and Research, HUD

Visit www.upenn.edu/penniur to download the entire Retooling HUD report for free or to purchase a hard copy for $15.00.
RETOOLING HUD REPORT INFLUENCES POLICY DECISIONS IN THE CAPITOL

At last year’s meeting of the annual U.S. Conference of Mayors, presidential candidate Barack Obama spoke about the “new metro reality,” one that recognizes that “strong cities are the building blocks of strong regions and strong regions are essential for a strong America.” After winning the presidency, Obama appointed cabinet members, such as Shaun Donovan (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD]), whose experience and outlook are compatible with Obama’s positive view of cities and metros.

Prior to Donovan’s appointment, Obama’s transition team called on Penn IUR to evaluate HUD and provide concrete recommendations for its improvement. Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, the initiative, led by Paul Brophy, Principal, Brophy & Reilly LLC and Visiting Lecturer at PennDesign, and Rachel Godsil, Bontecou Professor of Law, Seton Hall University, involved ten task forces of more than 100 academics, developers, policy makers, and nonprofit leaders. They produced Retooling HUD for a Catalytic Federal Government: A Report to Secretary Shaun Donovan.

Retooling HUD has specific recommendations on how to reposition HUD to become a stronger force in Washington and a more effective partner in housing and development initiatives. Organized into ten chapters, the report covers the following topics: (1) Preventing Foreclosure; (2) Improving the Private Multi-Family Housing Programs; (3) The ‘Hard to House’: Creating Housing Opportunities for those in Greatest Need; (4) Improving Communities Impacted by Foreclosure; (5) Strengthening America’s Neighborhoods; (6) New Strategies for a Metropolitan America: Extending HUD’s Urban and Regional Mission; (7) City-Focused Economic Development Agenda for the Federal Government and HUD; (8) Anchor Institutions as Partners in Building Successful Communities and Local Economies; (9) Facilitating Green Housing; and (10) Catalyzing Change at HUD: Building a More Effective Department.

In March, Brophy, Godsil, Penn IUR Co-Directors Susan Wachter and Eugénie Birch, and several chapter authors met with Secretary Donovan and his staff to discuss the report’s findings and recommendations, many of which found their way into the Secretary’s proposed 2010 budget.

Penn IUR has participated in ongoing meetings to disseminate the findings of the report. In April, Godsil, Birch, and other authors discussed the report at the national conference of the American Planning Association in Minneapolis.

In June, Penn IUR, the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, the University of Pennsylvania, and The Coalition of Urban Serving Universities hosted a Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill focusing on Chapter 8 of the report, “Anchor Institutions as Partners in Building Successful Communities and Local Economies.” Penn IUR Co-Directors Wachter and Birch introduced the report’s general findings followed by Ira Harkavy, author of the chapter and Associate Vice President and Founding Director of the Netter Center, who outlined the recommendations.

Representative Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus, and Representative Michael Turner (R-OH), Vice-Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus, spoke on the relevance of the HUD report and the role of anchor institutions in shaping urban areas. Fattah emphasized the role of Universities and Hospitals (“Eds and Meds”) in the success of cities. He explained that “the importance of the Retooling HUD report is that it focuses on how we can take advantage of the assets major cities have, such as anchor institutions.” Turner spoke about his experience as mayor of Dayton, Ohio where he worked with anchors to improve their surrounding areas.

Todd Richardson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Policy Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD, highlighted two departmental initiatives, the university community fund and the rural innovation fund, that came directly out of recommendations from Retooling HUD.

Next, Amy Liu, Deputy Director, Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution, moderated a discussion among participants from the chapter task force about strengthening the role of institutions in their surrounding communities. Wim Wiewel, President, Portland State University, and James Harris, President, Widener University, shared how their institutions are actively engaged as anchors with their communities. They emphasized the lessons learned from these ongoing activities. David Cox, Executive Assistant to the President and Professor, University of Memphis, provided insight into HUD’s historical support of anchor institutions through his expertise as the former director of HUD’s Office of University Partnerships and as a national leader in the field. David Maurrasse, President and CEO, MARGA Incorporated, outlined his efforts in buildings partnerships and working with non-profit organizations and community leaders to engage universities.

Retooling HUD can be downloaded for free and a hard copy can be purchased for $15.00 at www.upenn.edu/penniur.
Penn IUR’s Faculty Forums are an integral part of its commitment to fostering urban-based research across the University’s 12 schools. Over the past five years, Penn IUR has sponsored six forums which have leveraged outside grants and led to high-level scholarly publications. The two most recently funded Penn IUR Forums are “Globalization and Cities” and “African-American Males Transcending Urban Disadvantage.”

Over the course of the past year, the Penn IUR Faculty Forum on globalization and cities has brought together more than thirty faculty members and doctoral students. Participants came from the School of Arts and Sciences, the Annenberg School of Communications, PennDesign, Penn Engineering, Penn Medicine, Penn Nursing, Social Policy and Practice, Veterinary Medicine, and Wharton. They have presented research on world food supply, the engineering profession's place in international relief efforts, educational exchange and global health, and urban sociology.

In addition to these scholarly discussions, the Forum has developed a website (www.globalizationstudies.upenn.edu) and created a working group that brings faculty and students together to discuss methodological or theoretical issues in the study of global cities. On October 17, 2009 the Globalization Forum will sponsor “Globalization In Progress: World Urbanization and its Consequences” at the Penn Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology. This event seeks to introduce to the Penn community and the public the variety of research projects and initiatives at Penn that relate to globalization.

The Penn IUR Faculty Forum, “African-American Males Transcending Urban Disadvantage,” continues its research on the negative experiences of African-American males in urban contexts and the resources needed to ameliorate them. In Spring 2009, the Forum hosted three speakers. Tyrone Howard, Associate Professor of Education, UCLA, presented research on African-American boys in urban schools. Deirdre A. Royster, Associate Professor of Sociology, New York University, lectured on African-American men and employment. David Malebranche, Assistant Professor of General Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, spoke on the issue of sexual health of African-American males. The Forum will turn these talks and others lined up for Fall 2009 into an edited volume on similar issues. Future topics include crime and incarceration, fatherhood and families, homelessness and mental health, and hip-hop’s relation to the definitions of masculinity. For more information see www.upenn.edu/penniur.

FIFTH ANNUAL URBAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Vice President, Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution.

Shirley Franklin, a native Philadelphian and an alumna of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected Mayor of the City of Atlanta in 2001, becoming the first female mayor of Atlanta and the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a major southern city. In 2005, she was named one of the best leaders by U.S. News & World Report and Time magazine has ranked her as one of the five best mayors in America. In a time of steep and unexpected budget shortfalls, Mayor Franklin managed to keep sustainable development at the forefront of her agenda, overseeing a $3.2 billion overhaul of the Atlanta water and sewer system and making Atlanta a national frontrunner in number of LEED-certified buildings. She was one of the first to sign the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement.

In his more than 35 years of public service, Parris Glendening has been a champion of environmental issues. As Governor of Maryland, he made Smart Growth a central feature of his administration’s policies through initiatives, such as the Historic Preservation Tax Credit and the Rural Legacy Program, and worked tirelessly to show that economic growth and environmental concerns could go hand in hand. As president of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, he shares his experiences with communities and municipal governments around the nation as they seek to grow green.

Under Bruce Katz’s leadership, the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings has redefined the challenges facing cities and metropolitan areas through cutting edge research on major demographic, market, development, and governance trends. In 2009, he took leave from Brookings to serve as a Senior Advisor to Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan. He has served as Chief of Staff to Secretary Henry G. Cisneros, Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and as the Staff Director of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs. He has published widely, regularly advises governments and policy makers on urban revitalization strategies, and is the recipient of the 2006 Heinz Award in Public Policy.

At the Forum, Mr. Katz delivered an address on the state of federal urban policy followed by a panel with Glendening and Franklin moderated by Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter. They discussed the future of American cities, their relation to the national economy, ways to balance environmental conservation and economic development, and the challenge of marrying many competing interests to pass important legislative reforms.
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Penn IUR Faculty Associates Discuss Their Newest Books

Benefiting a year in which the election of an African-American president marked a major milestone in United States history, two Penn IUR Faculty Associates, Wendell Pritchett, Professor of Law, and Thomas Sugrue, Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Professor of History and Sociology, recently recalled critical moments in the intersection of urban America and the struggle for civil rights at two Penn IUR-sponsored book lectures. Pritchett is author of Robert Clifton Weaver and The American City: The Life and Times of an Urban Reformer and Sugrue is author of Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North.

On February 25th, Pritchett outlined the work of Robert Clifton Weaver, a crucial figure in the history of civil rights and the development of urban policy. He discussed Weaver’s career from his appointment as FDR’s “Negro Advisor” in the 1930s to his becoming the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (and the first African-American U.S. cabinet member) in the 1960s. Weaver, Pritchett observed, had a role in virtually every urban initiative in this 30-year period. He also discussed the issue of race, suggesting that Weaver’s career resonates with the election of President Obama. “Weaver’s life,” Pritchett asserted, “is a story of the ambiguities of race in America.” He recounted how Weaver negotiated these ambiguities and tensions, torn between his allegiance to the white power structure in which he was employed and the African-Americans whose lives he devoted his career to improving.

Just as Pritchett turned attention to a figure absent from many histories of civil rights in America, Sugrue reminded his audience that civil rights was not a struggle confined to well-known hot spots—Birmingham, Selma, Memphis—on which most histories tend to focus. As he explained, racist practices and attitudes, and the movement against them, shaped not only large cities in the American North—Chicago, Detroit (where Sugrue himself is from), and Philadelphia—but also smaller ones. Sugrue showed that racial problems did not “trickle up” from the American South but were long present in Northern cities.

Together, these authors have reopened the history of race relations and American cities to illuminate often overlooked actors and events to provide a more complete understanding of U.S. progress toward racial equality. Robert Clifton Weaver and The American City: The Life and Times of an Urban Reformer and Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North are both for sale at the Penn Bookstore.

The volme is edited by Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, and contains papers presented at The Shape of the New American City conference, held October 23-24, 2008 at Penn.

*Location TBA. For more information, visit www.aapss.org and upenn.edu/penniur.

BOOK TALK SERIES

Sept 9th, 6pm Jon Calame, Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia
Upper Gallery, Meyerson Hall, 34th & Walnut Streets

Sept 21st, 6pm Peter Hendee Brown, On the Waterfront: Port Authorities and Urban Redevelopment
Philadelphia Center for Architecture, 1218 Arch Street.

Nov 11th, 6pm Randall F. Mason, The Once and Future New York: Historic Preservation and the Modern City
Philadelphia Center for Architecture, 1218 Arch Street.

This series is co-sponsored with PennDesign’s Historic Preservation Program and AIA Philadelphia. AIA credits will be available for each event. Visit www.upenn.edu/penniur for updates.

PUBLICATION RELEASE

The Shape of the New American City, special issue of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

Release date: November 2009
Reception & discussion: December 2nd*

The volume is edited by Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, and contains papers presented at The Shape of the New American City conference, held October 23-24, 2008 at Penn.

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in downtown Philadelphia. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Andrew Altman, former Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and Alan Greenberger, Acting Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development, discussed the city’s infrastructure plans. These Philadelphia-specific considerations were put into a broader national and international context by urban experts Bruce Katz, Vice President and Founding Director, Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution and Ricky Burdett, Chief Adviser on Architecture and Urbanism, Olympic Delivery Authority, Director, Urban Age Programme, and Centennial Professor in Architecture and Urbanism, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Participants in “The Future of Cities” discussed infrastructure investments that ranged from ground-level projects to the large-scale systems that connect metropolitan regions. They emphasized that both kinds of investment can provide economic growth. Andrew Altman gave an example of such efforts in his description of Philadelphia’s efforts to create green-collar jobs in weatherizing existing building stock as part of its larger effort to make Philadelphia the greenest Central Business District in the United States. Altman’s focus on job creation echoed Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s emphasis on “what works”—his phrase for a city that functions smoothly and one with a dynamic economy in which its residents can be employed.

It was clear from their remarks that Philadelphia means to build on its strengths—its existing housing stock, its wealth of educational institutions, its tradition of manufacturing and its information-savvy 21st-century workforce. A concrete example of Philadelphia’s efforts to take advantage of its strengths could be found in Alan Greenberger’s description of “the Arc,” a ring of underutilized brownfield sites in Philadelphia that might be redeveloped as an enormous network of interconnected parks and greenways.

The series continued on May 21st, when more than 150 people attended “The Competitiveness and Sustainability of American Cities and Regions” at the National Building Museum in Washington D.C. The event featured opening remarks by Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Founding Principal, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ) and Dean, School of Architecture, University of Miami, followed by a keynote address by Derek Douglas, Special Assistant to President Obama for Urban Affairs.

Derek Douglas outlined the need to invest not only in “hard” projects—like fixing potholes or retrofitting buildings—but in “soft” initiatives like education and workforce training. Douglas began by outlining the need for immediate investment in physical infrastructure. He called for aggressive investment in transportation infrastructure in order for the U.S. to remain competitive with India, China, and Europe. He stated that improving America’s urban infrastructure will require a broad approach, employing three critical levers: investment in people through education and workforce development programs; investment in innovation by encouraging businesses and municipal governments to take advantage of regional clusters and associations; and investing in connectivity by strengthening those systems—like the 5 billion dollar investment in broadband technologies included in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—that connect the nation’s regional economies to one another.

These investments, Douglas emphasized, are necessary not only to forward environmental sustainability and economic competitiveness, but to fulfill the American political commitment to equity, to ensure that all citizens have a chance to be fully participating members of urban economies.

The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring Andrew Altman, Marina Khoury, Director, Town Planning, DPZ, Harriet Tregoning, Director, Office of Planning, Washington D.C., Paul Farmer, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners, and Robert Yaro, President, Regional Plan Association of New York.

The speakers offered their reflections on a number of urban themes: revitalized neigh-
The University of Pennsylvania Press has recently released *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia*, the latest book in “The City in the 21st Century” series edited by Penn IUR Co-Directors Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter. Its authors, Jon Calame and Esther Charlesworth, experts in historic preservation and conservation, draw from fieldwork, scholarly research, and interviews to compare the repercussions of “self-imposed apartheid” across five cities. They examine the origins and social and economic impact of intra-city boundaries erected for reasons of ethnicity (Jerusalem and Mostar), nationality (Nicosia), or religion (Belfast). They show how decisions on where, how, and who to divide are often made by uninformed and biased policymakers and/or disconnected foreign agencies or governments. They argue that these divisions have an enormous cost but are also often gradual, predictable, and avoidable occurrences. The authors suggest policy approaches to ameliorate these divisions.

The third event in the series, the “2009 Philadelphia Regional Infrastructure Charette” was held at PennDesign from July 27th to 29th. Organized by Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Dean and Paley Professor, PennDesign and Harris Steinberg, Director, PennPraxis, the charrette brought together leading thinkers and designers to develop a framework to position Philadelphia as the center of a prosperous, 21st-century metropolitan region. Design groups focused on three areas: transportation, natural systems, and the Philadelphia International Airport. At the close of the charrette, teams presented their plans. The main themes were fostering transit-oriented development, identifying investment corridors and their anchor points in order to activate place, filling gaps in current systems, and leveraging existing infrastructure and ongoing investments to catalyze change.

To culminate the charrette, Penn IUR sponsored a Philadelphia 360° Public Interest Lecture, “Reshaping the City: New Visions for Urban Infrastructure,” on July 29th at the Academy of Natural History with presentations by Alex Krieger, Founding Principal, Chan Krieger Sieniewicz, and Professor of Practice, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Trent Lethco, Senior Transportation Planner, Arup, Inc. Krieger gave a brief overview of the history of U.S. regional planning. He cited three examples of places that are actively rethinking infrastructure at three different scales: Toronto (regional scale), Arlington County, Virginia (county scale), and New York City (city scale).

The two experts were joined by officials from the City of Philadelphia: Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor for Transportation and Utilities; Michael DiBerardinis, Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation; and Alan Greenberger, Acting Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. Marilyn Jordan Taylor facilitated the discussion, which allowed the audience a glimpse into city officials’ struggle to balance goals, expectations, and budgets to rethink Philadelphia’s infrastructure networks.


Derek Douglas, Special Advisor to the President for Urban Affairs, delivered the keynote address at “The Competitiveness and Sustainability of American Cities and Regions” on May 21st.
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PENN IUR IN THE NEWS for breaking news visit www.upenn.edu/penniur

John Timoney, Penn IUR Advisory Board Member, states “the takeaway from the Henry Louis Gates arrest and subsequent uproar is that we all need to chill until the facts are in” in a Miami Herald op-ed on August 2nd. See http://www.miamiherald.com/news/issues_ideas/story/1167040.html?storylink=pdl.

Susan Wachter, Penn IUR Co-Director, provided expert insight at the Congressional Joint Economic Committee’s hearing, “Current Trends in Foreclosures and What More Can Be Done to Prevent Them” on July 28, 2009.


Eugénie Birch, Penn IUR Co-Director, published “Rethinking Urban Policy 1970 to Present” and “Certifying Quality: Accreditation of U.S. Programs in City and Regional Planning” in June 2009.

Wendell Pritchett, Penn IUR Faculty Associate and Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania, was named Chancellor of Rutgers-Camden Campus. See http://news.rutgers.edu/medrei/news-releases/2009/04/wendell-pritchett-na-20090331.

Robert Inman, Penn IUR Faculty Associate and Richard King Mellon Professor of Finance, Wharton School, delivered the keynote address on local revenue sources and cities at The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in June 2009.

Eugénie Birch, Penn IUR Co-Director, shares the conclusions of the urban design manifesto created by attendees of “Re-Imagining Cities: Urban Design After the Age of Oil” in the American Planning Association’s Planning May 2009 issue. See http://www.upenn.edu/penniur/pdf/ManifestoPlanning2009.pdf.

John Timoney, Penn IUR Advisory Board Member, shares his views on drug sentences in the U.S. http://www.miamiherald.com/851/story/1022795.html.


Tom Sugrue, Penn IUR Faculty Fellow, wrote an op-ed in Sunday’s Detroit Free Press on President Obama’s urban policy. To access this op-ed, visit http://rustbeltintellectual.blogspot.com/2009/02/obama-must-rise-to-urban-challenge.html.

Susan Wachter, Penn IUR Co-Director, was quoted in the Wall Street Journal on February 20th in “Finessing ‘Moral Hazard’ Is Tough in Housing Plan.” http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123517426207837283.html.

Warren Karlenzig, Growing Greener Cities contributor, releases study ranking the largest 50 U.S. cities by their readiness for a new era. To download the full report, visit http://www.commoncurrent.com/pubs/MajuscCityPost-OilPreparednessRanking.pdf.

Manny Diaz, Mayor of Miami and Penn IUR Advisory Board Member, receives the 2009 Keystone Award from the American Architectural Foundation. For more information, visit http://www.miamigov.com/cms/Files/PR_Mayor_Keystone.pdf.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
“Cities and Women’s Health: Global Perspectives”

Penn-ICOWHI 18th International Congress of Women’s Health
Wednesday, April 7 - Saturday, April 10, 2010, University of Pennsylvania

The aim of the conference is to deconstruct urban planning in terms of its potential to better support women’s health. We invite you to submit an abstract to be considered for an oral or poster presentation. The focus/content of your abstract must relate to one of the six following themes: (1) Women’s Health, Urban Planning and Development; (2) Diseases and Conditions of Women and Girls in Urban Environments across the Lifespan; (3) The Social Environment and Health: Context of Risk and Resiliency for Urban Women and Girls; (4) Building Partnerships, Collaborations and Opportunities to Promote Urban Women’s Health; (5) Translating Interdisciplinary Research to Policy and Practice: Advancing Women’s Health in Cities; (6) Human Rights, Women’s Rights and Justice: Fostering Health in Urban Settings

For program information, abstract submission guidelines, and updates, visit www.icowhi.org.
When Penn IUR’s Amy Montgomery and Daniel Stout recently visited with Marilyn Jordan Taylor, they asked her about her career, her values, and goals as Dean of PennDesign. Taylor, a former member of the Penn IUR Advisory Board, is a current member of the Penn IUR Executive Committee. She holds faculty appointments in PennDesign’s departments of Architecture and City and Regional Planning.

Taylor described the beginning of her design career by talking about how she had narrowly avoided becoming a lawyer. Taylor recounted how she’d disappointed her family’s expectations of law school and a career in government, choosing instead to take seriously the “immediate and strong fascination” with cities she had felt ever since moving to Washington, D.C. from Iowa at age 11. A master’s degree in architecture from MIT led to a 35-year career at Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM) where she established herself as an expert in reshaping urban communities through transit. In 2001, she became the firm’s first woman chairman. She founded SOM’s Airport and Transportation sector and worked on projects such as: Terminal 4 at New York’s JFK Airport, Sky City at Hong Kong International Airport, Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, and projects on all 15 intercity rail systems between Washington D.C. and Boston. From 2005-2007, Taylor served as Chairman of the Urban Land Institute.

Taylor’s story of her early career—which sets parental expectations against the emotional pull of urban design—seems to fit a familiar narrative in which the artist foregoes a more stable option like the law in order to follow her individual, creative path. “The pursuit of art,” Taylor acknowledges, “is a personal endeavor.” But this version of the story understates just how important issues of politics and government have remained both to Taylor’s professional accomplishments, her thinking about design, and her commitment to “pushing architecture and design into the solution of large-scale problems.”

Though she may not have become a lawyer, Taylor is clearly a designer aware of the political complexities of major public projects and the need for government to play an active role in developing successful and sustainable urban environments. “Certain projects,” she says, “can be public-private, but there are certain projects that can only be public.” Taylor found examples of the investments the U.S. ought to be making, from China’s high-speed rail system to Singapore’s effort to achieve water self-sufficiency, if it is to “eliminate the kinds of dependences that make [it] vulnerable.” Not surprisingly, then, Taylor asserts that the greatest influence on her career has not been an architect or a planner, but the late U.S. Senator from New York, Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

For Taylor, the “great [political] tactics” of someone like Moynihan are simply what is required if one is “to take a leadership role in designing places the public can really use.” By its very nature, she argues, urban design engages many political, economic, and social interests. Negotiating the complexity of what Taylor calls “real territory” requires the ability to “connect with all the people involved in the design process” and “get the message out to the general public, the officials, and the other key players.” Beautiful design might be an individual pursuit; but Taylor made clear that beautiful, built design is a group process.

Taylor is an eloquent advocate for the benefits of interdisciplinary design education. She cites cross-disciplinary initiatives like Penn Praxis and Penn IUR as signs of Penn’s strength in encouraging links between theory, design, and research. “One of the things that has been particularly interesting about the University of Pennsylvania,” Taylor said, “is that we are combining an aspiration to the beautiful with a commitment to the pragmatic, to actually seeing a project through and getting it built.”

So while Taylor declined a life in law and government, her commitment to the individual pursuit of the beautiful exists alongside her commitment to the pragmatic and the political. Her belief that “the pursuit of beauty and the pursuit of economy do not have to be contrary”—and that, when working on “metropolitan problems,” they can’t be—ensures that the two areas are never really separate. Design shapes peoples’ “perceptions of, and participation in, their world in very important ways.” And in this sense, both design and government seek “to balance personal endeavor with public usefulness.” “That’s a difficult conversation,” Taylor concedes, “and it’s an even more difficult quest.”

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MARILYN JORDAN TAYLOR

ANDERSON DISCUSSES AGAINST THE WALL: POOR, YOUNG, BLACK, AND MALE

On May 13, 2009 more than 100 people crammed into the Living Room at the Inn at Penn to hear Elijah Anderson, William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University, and other authors of Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male, speak about the new book.

The authors of Against the Wall argue that social distance increases as alienation and marginalization within the black male underclass persists, thereby deepening the country’s racial divide. They assert that too many young black men, typically residing in areas of concentrated urban poverty, are trapped in a horrific cycle that includes active discrimination, unemployment, violence, crime, prison, and early death. This toxic mixture has given rise to wider stereotypes that limit the social capital of all young black males. Choice named Against the Wall an “Outstanding Title,” describing it as “indispensable” and “the most important [collection] on this subject to come along in the past 30 years.”


Against the Wall is part of Penn IUR’s City in the 21st Century book series published by Penn Press.
Although the U.S. is in the midst of a deep recession that has hit the real estate sector particularly hard, Arthur “Chris” Nelson, Presidential Professor, College of Architecture, University of Utah, spoke about the future growth and demand for development in the U.S. in the next 50 years at a Penn IUR Public Interest Series Lecture on March 17th, in Houston Hall. In his talk entitled, “Mega Trends: Thinking Beyond the Crisis” Nelson identified several megatrends regarding America’s population growth. He noted that the U.S. population will increase by 100 million by 2032 and another 100 million by 2050. “America adds 100 million people faster than any other nation except India and Pakistan – and faster than China,” he asserted. He argued that by 2030, the U.S. will need a total of 204.1 billion square feet of space: 106.8 billion square feet of new development and 97.3 billion square feet of retrofitted space. He declared that despite the current slump, the demand for new development is not far off.

Nelson next focused on how demographic changes will affect demand for redevelopment. He argued that by 2040, the number of households without children will rise, shaping the character of housing demand. Nelson predicts that these demographic shifts will correlate with an increased preference for living in cities or suburbs close to cities, thus fueling revitalization in existing cities and inner-ring suburbs.

Finally, Nelson forecasted that global warming and depleted fossil fuels will make the use of sustainable materials in development the norm. Nelson concluded with the following advice: “With the markets down, now is the time to position ourselves for a new economy based on sustainability.”
UPCOMING EVENTS  visit www.upenn.edu/penniur for event locations & details

Sept 9 - Penn IUR Book Talk: Jon Calame, author of Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia, will discuss and sign copies of his latest book. Upper Gallery, Meyerson Hall, 34th and Walnut Streets. Co-sponsored by PennDesign’s Historic Preservation Program (HSPV) and AIA Philadelphia.


Oct 1 - Penn IUR Exhibition Opening & Discussion: Re-Imagining Cities: Urban Design After the Age of Oil exhibition opening and discussion at the Municipal Arts Society (MAS), 457 Madison Avenue, New York. The exhibition will be on display through December 2nd.

Oct 6 - Penn IUR Public Interest Event: “Arts in the City.” Philadelphia experts and Penn scholars discuss the role of arts in city-building. 8th Floor, Huntsman Hall

Oct 17 - Penn IUR Faculty Forum Event: Globalization in Progress. A day of short interactive sessions on selected projects of research and application from different parts of the campus. Penn Museum: Rainey Auditorium and Mosaic Gallery.

Oct 21 - Penn IUR Reception: Undergraduate Urban Research Course (UURC) reception and information session for sophomores and juniors interested in enrolling in UURC in the spring at Penn IUR, Meyerson Hall G-12, 210 S. 34th Street.


Nov (Date TBA) - Penn IUR Public Interest Event: “Re-Imagining New York: Feeding the City.” Journalists, scholars, food producers, and urban planners discuss the imperative to change how we feed cities in order to become more self-sufficient and environmentally responsible. MAS, 457 Madison Avenue, New York. Co-sponsored by MAS.


Nov 15-17 - Penn IUR Expert Event: Down town Leadership Research Council (with the Philadelphia Center City District). Location TBD.

Dec 2 - Penn IUR Publication Release: Reception and discussion to celebrate the release of The Shape of the New American City, a special issue of The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Location TBD.

NEW VISION FOR URBAN POLICY

Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch was among the 30 participants at the “New Vision for Urban Policy” roundtable convened by Adolfo Carrión, Director of Urban Affairs, The White House, and Derek Douglas, Special Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, on July 13th in Washington, D.C.

The group spent the morning discussing the components of a new vision, focusing on an integrated, regional approach in pursuit of three core goals: competitiveness, sustainability, and opportunity/inclusion. Senior cabinet officials including Shaun Donovan (HUD), Raymond LaHood (Transportation), Hilda Solis (Labor), and Lisa Jackson (EPA) as well as Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell and Seattle Mayor Gregory Nicholls joined the group for an afternoon session on their planned urban initiatives.

The meeting ended with an address by President Obama who reiterated his commitment to metropolitan areas and announced a three-city “listening” tour to Philadelphia, Kansas City, and Denver to be undertaken by the White House team.

The tour, “National Conversation on the Future of America’s Cities and Metropolitan Areas,” kicked off in Philadelphia on July 23rd. The team toured exemplary projects in Philadelphia, such as the work of Pennsylvania’s Fresh Food Financing Initiative, and held a public discussion on food, health, economic development, workforce development, and neighborhood revitalization.

Visit http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/A-Fresh-Conversation-on-the-Future-of-Americas-Cities-and-Metro-Areas/ to read Carrión’s blog entry about the visit to Philadelphia.
About Penn IUR

Comprehensive in scope and integrative in practice, the Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is dedicated to fostering understanding of cities and developing new knowledge vital to charting the course of local, national, and international urbanization. Drawing on the University’s unique strengths, Penn IUR addresses the many challenges, opportunities and creative possibilities of urban life and has a special focus on developing knowledge in two critical areas: the sustainable 21st century city and anchor institutions in urban development.

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