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## **City Tech Symposium Draws International Leaders in Architecture, Engineering and Construction to Discuss High Profile Projects**

City Tech's Department of Architectural Technology is hosting "Intersections 2014: Conversant Technologies for Building Collaboration" on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Atrium Amphitheatre, 300 Jay Street. Selected presenters include project teams from Tappan Zee Bridge Constructors, Michael van Valkenburgh Associates and Bjarke Ingels Group whose W57 housing development in Manhattan has received global attention for its unusual façade design. Sheila Kennedy of KVA-MATx and MIT and Michelle Addington, Yale School of Architecture, are the featured speakers.

The Tappan Zee Bridge represents one of the largest scale infrastructural projects currently in progress in New York. It is being designed and built by **Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC (TZC)**, a consortium of some of the world's best-known and most highly-regarded design, engineering and construction firms who will send a team to City Tech to discuss the project.

During President Obama's recent visit to the Tappan Zee Bridge, he unveiled plans to expedite federal permits for major projects. Calling on Congress to pass a \$302 billion transportation bill, Obama touted the \$3.9 billion project to replace the 58-year-old Tappan Zee as a model for cutting through red tape.

**Michael van Valkenburgh Associates'** Brooklyn Bridge Park design has put them at the forefront of public green space reclamation in complex post-industrial areas. Danielle Choi and Scott Streeb from MVVA will talk about the Jacob Javits Plaza project, which achieves the intimacy of a neighborhood park in a high-profile civic landscape, and the Waller Creek competition in Austin, Texas, which is the largest urban creek in the U.S. to undergo this level of transformation for public use and conservation.

Nick Leahy of Perkins Eastman, Michael Stellato of David Shuldiner Inc., and Michael Ludvik of ML Engineering collaborated on the winning competition entry for the **TKTS Times Square** project. The TKTS all-glass structure is now a distinctive icon for the theater district; the design team will discuss the challenges of designing and building a transparent structure to accommodate the demands of the busiest intersection in Manhattan.

Robert Campbell and Alex Coulombe from **Fisher Dachs Associates** will discuss immersive 3-D video gaming technology (virtual reality) to visualize theater sight lines. Fisher Dach's is a well-known theater lighting design company with projects in all parts of the world. The use of this technology represents an innovative approach to communicating highly technical information to collaborating partners.

Terra Cotta, a historic building material used extensively in New York City has been transformed into a 21<sup>st</sup> century material via new processes for its design and fabrication. Mike Fritz of **Boston Valley Terra Cotta**, Michael Chen of the **Pratt Institute**, and Omar Khan and Mitchell Bring of the **University of Buffalo** will present a unique public (academic) - private partnership with Boston Valley Terra Cotta, the nation's most specialized manufacturer.

**Keynote Speaker:** Sheila Kennedy is Professor of the Practice of Architecture at MIT and a Principal of Kennedy & Violich Architecture Ltd. (KVA), an internationally recognized design practice. Kennedy directs MATx, the materials research unit at KVA, which works with business leaders, manufacturers, cultural institutions and public agencies. The MATx Portable Light Project, a non-profit global initiative that enables people in the developing world to create and own portable energy harvesting solar textile kits has been recognized with a 2012 Energy Globe Award and a 2009 US Congressional Award and the 2008 Tech Museum Award for technology that benefits humanity.

**Endnote Speaker:** Michelle Addington, Hines Professor of Sustainable Architectural Design at Yale University School of Architecture, is both an architect and engineer whose teaching and research explore energy systems, advanced materials and new technologies. Her engineering background includes work at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, where she developed structural data for composite materials and designed components for unmanned spacecraft, and she spent a decade at Dupont as a process design and power plant engineer. In 2009, Architect magazine selected her as one of the country's top ten faculty in architecture.

The event is free and open to the public. The Symposium is sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and City Tech: Department of Architectural Technology & Department of Construction Management & Civil Engineering Technology.

Continuing Education Credits are available to registered architects.

To register go to <http://www.nycctfab.com/#!intersections2014/cj6t>

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