12 September 2016

Dear Yale School of Architecture Graduates and Friends,

I am honored to write to you as Dean, after getting to know many of you over the years in studios, seminars, and reviews. With students back and studios underway, I am also delighted to share some of the upcoming year’s highlights with you.

As you well know, our size is a great asset. We are a small architecture school with an expansive reach; the world comes to Yale and we engage with contemporary global issues. Students have access to great architects and thinkers in an intimate setting. This semester, visiting studio faculty include Marianne McKenna (’76 M.Arch.), Tod Williams and Billie Tsien (’71 B.A.), Michael Young, and James von Klemperer and Forth Bagley (’02 B.A., ’05 M.Arch.), teaching with Edward P. Bass Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Architecture Jonathan Emery. Peter Eisenman, Alan Plattus (’76 B.A.) and Mark Gage (’01 M.Arch.) are also teaching advanced studios. Edward Mitchell and Aniket Shahane (’05 M.Arch.) are leading the First Semester M.Arch. II Post Professional Studio.

In the spring 2017 term, Francine Houben, Pier Vittorio Aureli, Tatiana Bilbao, Tom Phifer, Andy Bow and Patrick Bellew, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk (’74 M.Arch.), Keller Easterling, and David Erdman will lead the advanced studios.

Kathleen James-Chakraborty (’82 B.A.) returned this term as Vincent Scully Visiting Professor of Architectural History and Tony Vidler will join us once again as the Scully Visiting Professor next spring. Todd Reisz (’96 B.A.,’03 M.Arch.) continues as the Daniel Rose ’51 Visiting Assistant Professor of Urbanism.

I am delighted to congratulate Kyoung Sun Moon on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. Trattie Davies (’94 B.A.,’04 M.Arch.) and Kyle Dugdale (’15 Ph.D.) were selected by the graduating class as the recipients of the 2016 King-lui Wu Teaching Award.

We will have two fascinating exhibitions this year. Oscar Hansen: Open Form is currently in the gallery, and will be up through December 17th; and; Archaeology of the Digital III: Complexity and Convention, which will be on display from January 12th through May 6th, 2017. A symposium, “Transit Point: Mitteleuropa,” organized by Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen (’94 M.E.D.), will engage with and compliment the current exhibition on September 8-9th. The J. Irwin Miller Symposium, “Aesthetic Activism”, organized by Mark Gage, will take place on October 13-15th. It is my pleasure to invite you to see the shows, come to the symposium if your schedule allows, and join us throughout the year for lectures, reviews and juries, and events on campus.

Further details of upcoming events and exhibitions, faculty profiles and studio descriptions are available at the School’s website: architecture.yale.edu; on-demand books are catalogued at architecture.yale.edu/school/publications/books. I hope that you will keep up with happenings at the School by following us on Facebook. You can also follow the progress of the 2016 Jim Vlock Building Project, located on Winthrop Street in New Haven’s West River neighborhood at facebook.com/YSOAJVBP/.
Our resources are accessible far beyond graduation. The career development program organizes a series of workshops, panels, lectures, on-campus recruiting events and online resources to help prepare students for career opportunities after Yale. I encourage recent graduates seeking employment information, and alumni in search of new staff or interested in taking part in on-campus recruiting to contact rosalie.bernardi@yale.edu or archcareers@yale.edu.

From mid-May to mid-June this year, for the first time, forty-eight students attended the Rome Seminar, with tuition, travel and housing costs covered thanks to the remarkable generosity of Ed Bass (’68 B.S., ’72 Arch., ’01 M.A.H.). This is a significant increase from the thirty students who had been able to attend up to now, and an important step towards our vision of accessibility. Bimal Mendis (’98 B.A., ’02 M.Arch.), coordinator, and Joyce Hsiang (’99 B.A., ’03 M.Arch.) were joined by Mirosława Brooks (’12 M.Arch.), Brennan Buck and George Knight (’95 M.Arch.) to lead the expanded Rome seminar. Guest Lecturers included Bryan Fuermann on our faculty, Jeffrey Blanchard, Jan Gadeyne and Stephen Harby (’76 B.A., ’80 M.Arch.). Stefano D’Ovidio, an art historian based in Rome, also assisted in the organization of the seminar. I had the pleasure of joining the group in June and was thrilled by the class’s enthusiasm and the quality of their work. Along with his immediate support for the summer 2016 Rome Seminar, Ed has endowed a fund in his own name that provides support for the seminar in perpetuity; he has named the program the Robert A. M. Stern Rome Seminar.

In 2015-16, our School received $9.926 million in gifts and commitments to benefit our students and faculty. Within that, gifts to the School of Architecture Alumni Fund provided $336,760 in invaluable resources for immediate use, with 22% of our alumni participating. We are grateful for this support and hope that you will make your gift this year at whatever level is best for you—either by returning the enclosed card, or online at: www.yale.edu/giveArchitecture.

With 86% of our students on financial aid and an average cumulative debt of $80,000 upon graduation, additional endowed scholarship support remains a vital and pressing priority. We are grateful to Gil and Ann Maurer, Anne Kriken Mann, Elisabeth Nan Martin (’83 M.Arch.), Michael Coleman Duddy (’85 M.Arch.), Marshall Ruben (’82 B.A.) and Carolyn Greenspan, who all endowed scholarships in their names in the past year for students at our School. Yansong Ma (’02 M.Arch.) once again created a term scholarship through his gift to the School of Architecture Alumni Fund.

Special thanks to Alexander Garvin (’62 B.A., ’67 M.Arch., ’67 M.U.S.), who has made an additional bequest to the endowed Alexander Garvin Urban Planning and Development Teaching Fund at our School, and to the others whose generosity has strengthened our curriculum.

I am delighted to know many of you from teaching over the years, and look forward to getting to know many more of you. With your support, we can build on the School’s history of excellence. Please stay in touch and do come visit.

Warm regards,

Deborah Berke, FAIA
Dean