On May 25th, 220 men and women crossed the historic Great Hall stage at The Cooper Union to receive their degrees, along with the numerous accolades that they were due, having completed what are among the nation’s most demanding curricula. They came from all across the country and 30 were born outside of the United States, covering every region of the world: Israel, India, Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, the Dominican Republic and throughout Europe. Eighteen were first introduced to the serious study of art, architecture or engineering through our high school programs. Fourteen graduates have a sibling who is a Cooper alumnus, alumna or current student, and two are the children of alumni, impressive numbers given that we do not take legacies into account in the admissions process. Three members of the class earned both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in four years.

Once again, we recognized our graduates for an impressive array of external awards and honors. With this year’s Fulbright Scholarship winner, 32 have been awarded to Cooper Union graduates since 2001. An engineering graduate received one of the four Tau Beta Pi Fellowships awarded nationwide to mechanical engineering graduates this year. An architecture graduate won the prestigious German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship and eight art graduates gained admission to the highly competitive Graduate School of Art at Yale University. Electrical engineering students won first prize in the undergraduate student paper regional competition sponsored by the electrical engineering professional society, and chemical engineering students advanced to the finals of the Chem-E-Car competition aimed at finding more efficient energy sources.

Thirteen members of the class were scholar athletes, and our varsity athletics continue to set a national standard for combining academic achievement and athletic performance. The women’s tennis team has been undefeated for four years. This year we also won the Hudson Valley Athletic Conference Men's Tennis Championship for an unprecedented fifth year in a row and the Cross Country Championship for the fourth year in a row, all of this without our own gym or athletic field.

This has been an eventful year at Cooper Union, its students, faculty and alumni, beginning with the opening of our new building at 41 Cooper Square to broad international acclaim for its breathtaking design, its sustainability features and its functionality. Dr. Ronald Drucker (CE’62) completed what was a remarkable term of office as Chairman of The Cooper Union Board of Trustees, and was succeeded by Mark Epstein (A’76), who has been a trustee since 2004. The School of Art and The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture both completed their work and hosted Visiting Teams as part of their reaccreditation processes.

continued on page 31
Left to right, top to bottom:
Mace bearer John Bove leads the procession
Antonia Zaferiou (ME’10) leads the singing of the national anthem
Samantha Attard (CE’10) delivers the student address
Commencement speaker Kathleen Chalfant
President’s Citation Honoree for Architecture Shigeru Ban (AR’84) with Chairman of the Board Mark Epstein (A’76)
The Class of 2010
Trustee Audrey Flack (l) with President’s Citation Honoree for Art Leonardo Drew (A’85) and President George Campbell Jr.
Trustee William H. Sandholm (CE’63) presents the President’s Citation for Engineering to Ronald Brookmeyer (Eng’75)
Yoo-Rhim Choi (CE’10) greets President George Campbell Jr.
Final Great Evening in the Great Hall

On February 27, 1860, 1,500 people paid two bits apiece to hear a former one-term Illinois Congressman give a speech that would propel him to the Presidency of the United States. On February 25, 2010, The Cooper Union paid tribute to Abraham Lincoln and that speech in the same Great Hall in which he originally delivered it. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s “Right Makes Might” speech and to formally close The Cooper Union’s 150th anniversary year, the Department of Public Programs produced the eighth and final Great Evening in The Great Hall. The series of Great Evenings (which began in April 2009) commemorated The Great Hall’s role as a platform for abolition and civil rights, electoral politics, workers’ rights, science and technology, women’s suffrage, art and literature, and radical politics.

On this last of the evenings, Lincoln’s oratory was recreated by a cast of distinguished actors and statesmen. Historian Harold Holzer, author of (among many other books on Lincoln) Lincoln at The Cooper Union, introduced the evening by outlining the events that led up to Lincoln’s journey east to address New York members of the Republican Party.

The 2010 speech was divided into six sections with interludes of music between them. Actors Kathleen Chalfant (Tony Award-nominee and Obie Award-winner,) Andre DeShields (star of The Wiz and many other plays,) Academy Award–winner Richard Dreyfuss and Stephen Lang (most recently in Avatar) each read a section. Frank Williams, retired Chief Judge of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and noted Lincoln scholar, and Governor Mario Cuomo also read sections. The result of this rich variety of voices—male and female, black and white—was an utterly new version of an occasion that made history in The Great Hall.

Unlike the original event, Cooper’s recreation included a chorus singing campaign songs of the 1860 election and Spirituals that Lincoln was known to love. Projections, dramatic lighting and a panoply of patriotic bunting added a feeling of an authentic 19th century campaign rally.
Annual Student Exhibition 2010

From top to bottom, left to right: An installation view of work by students from The Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture; Student work from Sue Ferguson Gussow’s advanced drawing class; A sculpture by Susan Little (A’10); Sculptures by Grayson Revier (A’10); Work, from left by Will Simpson (A’10), Jory Rabinowitz (A’10) and Justin Allen (A’10);

Afterparty installation in 41 Cooper Gallery; An installation documenting the work of students Evan Buckland (Chem’12) and Alexander Gerofsky (Chem’12)

Photos: Joao Enxuto
Michael Sisti

Michael Sisti is drawn to many things about his job, but a love of problem-solving and building human relationships top the list. There's an allure in the beauty of his subject too.

Sisti is a neurosurgeon whose pragmatism and idealism have often led him down other routes than the traditional and the expected. He's an articulate man, who talks easily about his life, his speech picking up speed when he touches on topics about which he feels passionate. He is the co-director of The Center for Radiosurgery and James G. McMurtry III, MD Associate Professor in Clinical Neurosurgery at the Columbia University Medical Center.

Sisti's pragmatic side has had a great influence upon his career. From a very young age, Sisti knew he wanted to be a doctor. But, he also knew he wanted to approach medicine from a different angle than that taken by most doctors. As a student, he had a natural affinity for biology and anatomy, and a fascination with problem-solving. He was interested in how each problem was the unique triangulation of those three things, and therefore saw medicine as necessitating unique solutions. This would lead him down a different path: unlike most doctors, Sisti decided against a liberal arts degree. “Engineering is about taking the basic sciences—whether that's chemistry, physics or mathematics—and applying them to solve practical problems. Medicine,” he says, “is the same thing. In both cases, the process of applying scientific knowledge to the practical problems of the real world is exactly identical. As a doctor, you use this knowledge to help people with their illnesses. As an engineer, I see how solutions have to be specific not only to the disease, but to the affected person. So, the engineering solution has to be per individual.” For Sisti, a liberal arts degree couldn't have given him what an engineering degree would. “What I found,” he explains, “was that medicine is the most humanistic of the engineering disciplines.”

In a sense, it’s hardly surprising that Sisti chose engineering. He was born in 1955 into a family of engineers. His father, Charles, was a successful civil engineer, with a specialty in the marine environment, and his uncle, also named Michael, had been a Manhattan Project engineer, helping with the development of the first atomic bomb during World War II. Sisti and his family lived in Brooklyn, until he was six, when the family moved to Tenafly, New Jersey, where his mother, Emily, took a job as a secretary in the public school system. Family is a central part of Sisti’s life, and to this day, he feels that his parents are two of the most important people in his life and their values and ideals have shaped his own: “I was really lucky. They supported me, gave me encouragement and taught me to be a good person.” He also cites being hard-working and wanting to make a difference. “I’ll quote Steve Jobs here,” he laughs. “I’d like to make a dent in the universe.”

Sisti married his high school sweetheart, Elena, right after he graduated Cooper. Elena, a Barnard graduate who has had a 25-year career in banking, has been a pivotal influence as well, having been with him throughout all the important developments in his life.

When it came time to apply to university, Sisti knew he wanted to get his engineering degree from Cooper Union. Throughout his childhood, he had heard a great deal about Cooper from his father and uncle, though they themselves were trained at NYU and Pratt, respectively. His father’s boss
was a Cooper graduate, and the excellence of the education that Cooper provided for engineers was well recognized. Cooper Union added another value to the foundation that his parents had already provided. “I heard a lot about the quality of the teachers and graduates,” says Sisti, “but I also knew it was tuition-free; in other words, it was freely given knowledge.” Sisti emphatically insists upon the importance of sharing knowledge freely—whether it’s with his patients or his students.

Though not many doctors train as engineers, two other men in Sisti’s year and department at Cooper also went on to become doctors. “One specialty—chemical engineering—produced three very good doctors that year,” says Sisti, “These guys are absolutely brilliant.” Sam Dower went on to specialize in diabetes and endocrinology, and Joel Yarmush became an anaesthesiologist. “In fact,” Sisti says with a laugh, “Joel went to medical school at Columbia. We’ve worked together a few times, when I was the resident participating in the surgery, and he was the anaesthesiologist. So there were times when there were two Cooper Union engineers doing brain surgery!”

Sisti graduated from Cooper Union in 1977, and went on to attend the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, graduating in 1981, and did his residency at the Columbia University Neurological Institute of New York. He had decided to become a neurosurgeon because of his love of complexity. “The difficulty of neurosurgery attracted me more than anything else,” he

“As a doctor, you use this knowledge to help people with their illnesses. As an engineer, I see how solutions have to be specific not only to the disease, but to the affected person. So, the engineering solution has to be per individual.”
says. He loved that the brain as an organ was so complex, but was also fascinated by how it produces consciousness. “We are our brains,” he states. “Consciousness is a by-product of secretions of the brain. Historically, the brain has been seen as electrical engineering; but the brain is not a computer, it’s much more of a secretory organ. So I’ve always said that the brain secretes the soul.”

“But, the fact that something so aesthetically beautiful can function so well has always surprised me.” He continues, “The actual anatomy of the brain is beautiful, the color of it, the way it looks. A lot of people don’t realize that the brain is mobile, it throbs with each heartbeat: it’s alive. It has an incredibly complicated, three-dimensional geometry that I think mathematicians would find fascinating.”

His training as an engineer gave him a different way of looking at medicine. “I went to a very good medical school,” he explains, “and a lot of my colleagues were very smart and very dedicated, but really didn’t have a practical appreciation of how to translate theoretical knowledge into real-world solutions. The engineering education I got at Cooper was very important in terms of the process of problem-solving I would apply to medicine.” Where his colleagues were thinking inside the medical school box, being an engineer allowed Sisti to think outside that box. Doctors have a way of thinking, a culture, he explains, and it is often hard to break out of the taken-for-granted rules of that culture. Essentially, Sisti was coming from another culture—engineering—and he applied the rules of his culture to the world of medicine. Neurosurgeons generally had a drill and cut culture, and Sisti was about to change the rules.

Upon finishing his residency, he was offered a position at Columbia in 1988, where he has been ever since. “In the 1980s, when I was doing my residency,” Sisti says, “there was the first inkling that computers could possibly play a role in medicine. Yet, computers were anathema in the 1980s to a lot of my colleagues. If you come from my background,” he continues, “you’re interested in solving problems however you can solve them. You don’t have any preconceived notions about what shape those solutions will take or what technology they’ll use. Using computers is intuitive to an engineer; it wasn’t intuitive to most doctors. Back then, using computers in medicine was radical and it was controversial.” It’s different now, he continues, where today’s generation of medical students turn to technology automatically. This generation will link the brain to computers for illnesses like paralysis or Alzheimer’s disease, Sisti believes, and students training today will be using technologies like neural augmentation and bioneural interfaces.

So, back in the late 1980s, it was lucky that Sisti’s mentor, Bennett Stein—the Chairman of the neurosurgery department at the time—was interested in the application of computers in medicine. Because of his engineering background, Sisti was the obvious man for the job of investigating this technology. “Basically, we wanted to use computers to solve the ‘needle in the haystack’ problem—how do we navigate within the brain? It’s a surveying problem.” He pauses briefly. “Call it GPS for the brain.”

At the time, this technology was not commercial, and so Sisti needed to build it from scratch. Stein sent him to speak with the head of Radiation Physics at Columbia, Dr. Howard Amols, who, as it turned out, was a Cooper Union graduate himself (Physics’70). The two men immediately got along. “One of the things I enjoyed the most in my early career,” says Sisti, “was working with Howard.”

Dr. Amols remembers that first meeting quite well too. “Mike told me that he wasn’t smart enough to be an engineer, so he decided to become a brain surgeon.” Amols can’t help laughing as he tells this story. “I suspect he may have said that tongue-in-cheek. He’s very modest—since he went to Cooper, I knew he had to be smart.”

Sisti’s goal was to use computers in the operating room for localization issues, so an operation could be done without cutting the patient open: in other words, he was interested in non-invasive surgery. “Howard could tell me exactly what needed to be done,” Sisti explains, “and because I was an engineer, it was very easy for me to understand the principles.” Together, they developed the first linear accelerator (a machine used to deliver high energy x-rays to radiate tumors) to be used in the tri-state area. “You can train these machines,” Sisti explains, “to
understand the anatomy of the brain, and to outline pathology.” By December of 1989, Sisti and Amols successfully treated their first patient, a first not just at Columbia but in the state of New York. “Today,” Sisti says quietly, “the radiosurgery program here at Columbia is one of the busiest in the country. We went from stone age to space age. We’ve treated well over 3,000 patients, and it all started with Howard and myself.”

“It was a wonderful experience,” agrees Amols. “It was a great project, and I think everyone who was involved was really proud of it.”

Neurosurgery turned out to be the perfect confluence of Sisti’s pragmatism—approaching medicine as an engineering problem—and his ideals of making a difference and giving knowledge freely to people. “This was my little dent in the universe,” he says. “Not only by bringing this technology to Columbia, but also because I’ve insisted that every neurosurgeon here is trained to do radiosurgery, having more options makes us better surgeons. I’ve also been instrumental in growing the neurosurgery department. When I joined the faculty, there were seven of us. As of this summer, there will be 25 of us. It’s the largest neurosurgery group in the United States and one of the most successful.”

This confluence is also what led him to emphasize the importance of the doctor-patient relationship. Engineering made him approach each patient differently—even if they had the same physical illness. For him, knowledge of a patient’s personality, personal circumstances and values and core beliefs is an essential part of diagnosis. “I’m a neurosurgeon,” he says evenly. “If I really want to know what the disease has done to a person, I need to have some idea of what kind of person they are. Imagine a musician with a tumor involving the nerve of hearing, which has very little capacity for regeneration from surgery or radiation. Managing the treatment of that disease to try to preserve a sense that is at the core of that person’s passion, identity and life is hugely important, and I can’t know that without developing some relationship with the patient. There is no one solution that works equally well for everyone.”

The driving passion for Sisti is the intense interactions that he has with people in order to help them with their diseases in the best way possible for them. And it’s what it keeps it exciting. “This is not a career where boredom plays a role!” he exclaims.

This one-to-one approach is also Sisti’s philosophy when it comes to teaching. “In neurosurgery,” he says, “teaching is master to apprentice, so I teach it one-to-one. We’re looking for masters, people who change the paradigm, and that takes time. It takes six to seven years after medical school just to become proficient, and then you need another three to five years to become an expert, not to mention the time you have to put in after that to become a master.” In fact, Sisti has found that in building relationships with his students through teaching and mentoring, through writing papers and doing research together, he also was able to find his future colleagues. Teaching is very important to Sisti. Part of it comes back to Cooper Union. “This knowledge was given freely to me,” he explains, “and I want to give it freely back to someone else.”

Sisti also understands that giving freely impacts the future. “I want the next generation of doctors to have the same advantages that I did, to never have to worry about what it would cost, so that they can just take care of the patient, like I did. I want them to have freedom to practice good medicine.” This means that one of his next challenges in his career will be to think about who will succeed him in his department. “I want to make sure that someone will pick up where I left off and take it to the next level.”

Sisti’s kids like to joke that he’s keeping the tradition of giving knowledge freely through free tuition alive as his two sons are attending Columbia, where Sisti’s status as faculty member means no fees. Alexander, who is 22, is doing neural augmentation research, and 20-year-old Jonathan is training to be an engineer. His daughter, Ariana, is 18 and is in her freshman year at Barnard.

Sisti feels that his career is a direct result of great mentors, a fantastic family, a strong education and good luck. But he does bring up what Louis Pasteur once said: chance favors the prepared mind. Sisti may have been in the right place at the right time, but he was also the right person to take advantage of the opportunities around him and take it to the next level.

“If I really want to know what the disease has done to a person, I need to have some idea of what kind of person they are. Imagine a musician with a tumor involving the nerve of hearing, which has very little capacity for regeneration from surgery or radiation. Managing the treatment of that disease to try to preserve a sense that is at the core of that person’s passion, identity and life is hugely important, and I can’t know that without developing some relationship with the patient. There is no one solution that works equally well for everyone.”
In the early 1980s, a 21-year-old self-proclaimed “skinny little kid” named Thomas O’Brien arrived in New York City. He came from the upstate New York town of Endicott via Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania, where as a third-year pre-law student he was following in the footsteps of his father, uncles and brothers: after graduation, like them, he would go to work for IBM in his hometown. But, by chance, O’Brien took a printmaking class and was introduced to a professor who happened to be a Cooper Union alum.

Today, Thomas O’Brien (A’86) is widely recognized as a leading American interior designer, home furnishing designer and tastemaker. His brand of “warm Modernism” is virtually everywhere—from the homes and retail stores of Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani to the shelves of Target and a handful of leading home furnishing manufacturers. In 2003 he was named Designer of the Year by Elle Decor. For the last decade, he has appeared annually on House Beautiful’s America’s Best 100 Designers list. Earlier this year, his long-anticipated first book, American Modern, was released by Abrams.

“Everybody said, ‘What are you doing?’” he says with a laugh, recalling his decision to transfer to Cooper Union just a dozen credits shy of graduation. “But I was thrilled by the whole idea—for me it was about both coming to Cooper Union and coming to New York City.” Three decades later, O’Brien exhibits that same enthusiasm as he walks around Aero, his SoHo design studio and store that showcases a mix of his own designs and vintage items he’s collected over the years. He points to light fixtures designed for Visual Comfort, furniture for Hickory Chair, tabletops for Reed & Barton, floor plans for the renovation of an apartment on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, and then to a new residence in Austin, TX. Molding profiles for a Pottery Barn store hang on a wall, new patterns for Target textiles and carpets for Safavieh sit on a shelf, and an 1820s Duncan Phyfe chair that O’Brien bought at auction is on display atop a table.

“The store is a mix of my designs and vintage items,” he says. “Sometimes some of the purely modern folks will be in here and say, ‘Why is there a Victorian this or a Georgian that?’ But I’m interested in the design of all things, and along with that, in its own time, everything was contemporary and modern. So it’s all up for grabs in terms of what I like to interpret.” O’Brien’s designs, which encompass the entire spectrum of interior furnishings, convey both a traditional look and a modern sensibility—or vice-versa—creating something of a complex, composite aesthetic on vivid display in the Aero store: the juxtaposition of traditional forms and sleeker, more modern designs. It is in this open-minded approach—that mix of formality and informality, history and modernity—that O’Brien has found his milieu, making his work accessible to clients with both traditional and more contemporary tastes.

“Very often I find people will be attracted to something other than what they live with, but won’t let themselves try it,” O’Brien writes in the introduction to American Modern. “The traditional client is drawn to modern things; the person from a modern world craves antique things. For those who find their way to me, my products, or my store, the major breakthrough is always seeing that these elements can coexist, and actually look better together than apart... when people ask about what I do, I might say that I help find the classic elements from past generations, and then edit them together for this one. An American idea of reinvention: traditional things for modern living.”

Mixing old and new means that O’Brien spends a lot of time carefully selecting vintage items, and he comes by his passion for collecting honestly. As a child, he would tag along with his father and grandparents when they went to estate auctions and antique shops. “When they would take apart a barn in a day-long auction, you would see generations of bedroom sets, din-
ing room sets, etc.,” he says. “Sometimes those items would go back to the 1820s or earlier. And then there were a lot of antique stores all over rural upstate New York with really knowledgeable proprietors.”

At Cooper Union, O’Brien focused on photography and sculpture. “Art school students tend to be cynical, but I was the one who loved it,” he says, noting that he particularly enjoyed art history classes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While he remembers faculty members like Arthur Corwin, Robert Slutsky, Hans Haacke and Dore Ashton as particularly influential, he says that it was the Cooper Union community—professors and students—that made his experience especially beneficial.

“For me, the critiques were important,” he says. “I watch people in this industry, and others, struggle with presentations—and I love doing presentations. At Cooper, the dialogue is really smart and a great thing to have been a part of. You learned how to communicate in the world of business and design—I feel that was really formative for me.”
When he graduated in 1986, O’Brien tried to parlay his education into work in short order. After stints as a graphic designer at Details magazine and as an interior designer with Mario Buatta, O’Brien wrote letters to the creative vice-presidents of a number of companies, including Polo/Ralph Lauren. “The Polo store had just opened, and I’d seen the Polo team going around town and it really intrigued me,” he says. “They were doing interesting things. I put the letter in the mailbox in the middle of the week, got a call at the end of the week and met with [creative director] Jeff Walker, and then was hired on my birthday. “My first job was doing the display on the fourth floor [of the Polo flagship store on Madison Avenue], which was the home collection, and ultimately I was transferred to the department that was working on Ralph’s new house in Bedford, NY. I went on dozens of trips to London and Paris with Jeff and Ralph over a couple of years, sourcing and buying furniture for Ralph’s house.”

O’Brien opened Aero on Spring Street in 1992—with items on loan from antique dealers and furniture from his own house—and it moved to its current location in 2004. Along with the interior design of apartments for Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani, O’Brien has worked on a wide variety of interiors over the years, ranging in scale from his own Manhattan apartment to 60 Thompson, a 12-story, 100-room boutique hotel in SoHo. Many of these projects are showcased in American Modern.

Released in April, O’Brien’s debut book, written along with Lisa Light, is a narrative and visual journey through O’Brien’s career. It is broken into seven chapters, each detailing a project in depth, and is generously illustrated with photographs by O’Brien’s Cooper Union classmate Laura Resen (A’87). O’Brien says he was careful not to write a how-to book, but American Modern is replete with information. Every item has a history, a reason for being implemented, and O’Brien shares these stories throughout.

For a client with a 1920s Dutch Colonial house in Connecticut with portions that date to 1834, O’Brien worked within a traditional vocabulary, sourcing many of the antiques from around New England. A 19th-century Sultanabad carpet was chosen for the living room, a collection of antique picture frames were fitted with handmade antique mirrors, and silver sconces and a Swedish table date from the 1920s. Aesthetic Movement William Morris wallpaper adorns the powder room, while in the dining room, two sets of chairs—one from the 1720s and one designed in the 1980s—stand on a hand-woven cotton chintz Belgian carpet.
In his own apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, O’Brien initially opted for a sleek, spare “urban modern” aesthetic expressed in the rigid geometry of furnishings and a pale palette of white, grey and cream colors. Years later, he redecorated, adopting a “vintage modern” style in which his growing art collection took over the previously bare walls. Works by Imogen Cunningham, Edward Weston, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Max Weber hang in the bedroom. In the living room, a case holds a Greek bronze helmet, a Gio Ponti pitcher and a 19th-century Dan mask, while an early Tang dynasty ceramic horse stands under a contemporary Laura Resen photograph.

In some cases, a client’s existing collection will provide the framework for an interior design. In a loft in the West Village, O’Brien mixed the client’s large collection of Jean Prouvé furniture with a variety of American Modernist pieces. An Isamu Noguchi paper lantern hangs about a Prouvé oak and metal dining table, which is paired with a set of vintage 1950s fiberglass Eames chairs. A 1950s Jens Rison credenza that was refinshed by Aero fits in a niche next to the fireplace; a tray from Aero—O’Brien’s take on traditional English butler’s trays—holds a silver bowl by Zaha Hadid.

The product design arm of Aero had been producing designs for leading furnishing manufacturers for over a decade. Since 1999, O’Brien has been creating furniture for Hickory Chair; lines include the modern Thomas O’Brien collection, the Neoclassical and early-Modernist influenced Bellport Collection, and a recent antique-inspired library collection, which includes sofas, chairs, bookcases, sideboards and tables. Bathroom fittings and hardware for Waterworks include the Aero, Aero Retro and Industrial Luxe collections. He’s produced several fabric lines for Groundworks; his tabletop collection for Reed & Barton includes flatware, dinnerware, crystal and decorative accessories. Hand-knotted carpets for Safavieh are created in handspun Tibetan wool and silk. Vintage modern lighting for Visual Comfort—chandeliers, pendants, sconces and table and floor lamps—are introduced twice a year. Last year, O’Brien introduced a collection of crystal chandeliers. New collections from Hickory Chair and Visual Comfort are out this summer.

But it was the Vintage Modern collection for Target that made O’Brien a household name. When it debuted in 2005, it was one of the biggest launches the company had ever done, with some 500 pieces. It also made the Thomas O’Brien brand accessible at a large scale. Products include bedding, towels, carpets, dishes, lighting, furniture, stationery and holiday decor.

“Target has been great,” he says, noting that when he first went into Target’s corporate offices, it reminded him of going to IBM as a child. “They have given me an enormous amount of support—I have a product design machine now, and I’m really excited by the process. They asked me to create a softer modern palette. It’s knowable but it’s new—I feel as if it’s intended to remind you of something.

“They were recently here to talk about some things, and I got a nice little present. There’s a new A-to-Z Target commercial, and I’m the T.”

The success of the Vintage Modern collection at Target is a reflection of O’Brien’s appreciation of history, his creative instinct, and his ability to adapt his product designs to a wide range of markets. By eschewing design orthodoxy and remaining open to the entire spectrum of influences, O’Brien has, in a sense, risen above changing fashions. His appeal, like his approach, is timeless. “Design can be many things to many people, but to me, it has always been about tradition in modern life,” he writes in American Modern. “I am guided by traditions, both inherited and studied, which I will bend to the moment I’m living in.”

Assorted interiors by Thomas O’Brien, photographs by Laura Resen (A‘87); American Modern by Thomas O’Brien, text written with Lisa Light, photography by Laura Resen, from Abrams.
For more than seventy years, The Whitney Museum of American Art has been opening its doors to their Biennial exhibition—an affair that today showcases an exciting spectrum of artists, often in their early career strides. The exhibition remains one of New York City’s most internationally visible and important exhibitions of living artists. Its curatorial direction changes from year to year, often moving to reflect the political temperature and aesthetic moods of its time. But inclusion in the exhibition itself remains a marker of distinction for artists across generations.

Art critic Jerry Saltz this year described the Biennial as a historic one: pared-down and serious, the curated artist list included far fewer names than recent and previous years. The show also included more women than men, another first for the exhibition as Saltz points out. Despite the rigorous selection process this year, Cooper Union alumni, as well as current faculty, represented nearly ten percent of the exhibition participants. You’ll see some images of their work on these next few pages.
Cooper Union alumni, as well as current and former faculty, represented nearly ten percent of the exhibition participants. You’ll see some images of their work on these next few pages.

Left:
Verne Dawson (A’80)
Pagans
2009–10
oiloncanvas

Below:
Piotr Uklanski (A’95)
Untitled
(The Year We Made Contact) 2010
jute, hemp, macrame, pigment, glue; and
Untitled (Red Dwarf) 2010
resin on fiberglass, aluminum
The Third Annual Brucennial: Miseducation

For three consecutive years, The Bruce High Quality Foundation—an anonymous collective comprised of several Cooper Union alumni—have been holding up a funhouse mirror to the Whitney Biennial in the form of a more-frequent Brucennial exhibition. Described as the Foundation’s “signature public program,” the Brucennial this year made the move from two previous sites in Brooklyn, to a donated space in downtown Manhattan’s SoHo neighborhood. Also different this year was the fact that the Whitney Museum had actually invited the oppositional collective to present work in the official Biennial. No matter for the Bruces though: the Brucennial exhibition was organized regardless, this year including more than four times as many artists as the show’s uptown counterpart—an unruly and irreverent response to the relatively stripped-down 2010 Whitney Biennial. The Brucennial, organized around the theme of “miseducation,” was a feat in social networking and included contributions from art students to well-established international artists. As is not uncommon with the Foundation, there was also a fair bit of media muscle flexing, as the group managed to produce, promote and win plenty of critical and media attention for their self-organized initiative.

Installation and performance view courtesy of the Bruce High Quality Foundation.
Through the lens of my architectural education from Cooper Union, the primary focus of my work has been residential interior design. I seek to cultivate with every client an authentic language of design that transcends the narrow bands of style in order to create a uniquely personal portrait remarkable to each project, expressed through the selection of color, materials, furniture and objects.

My intention as an interior designer is to give voice to the intangible, intuitive, poetic and the practical; enhancing the sense of place within an architecture so that those living inside might feel a belonging. The practice of interior design has also meant the art of collaboration. Every design solution realized is a cooperative effort between client, architect, designer, builder and craftsman. The mystery of collaboration happens in the ever changing open spaces between people.

The featured project is the renovation/restoration of a house in Beverly Hills, California, designed originally in 1947 by Harwell Hamilton Harris for Harold English. Harris, a California modernist who was inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra, realized his most prestigious commission in the house for English, heir to the United Gypsum fortune. I, along with architects Annie Chu and Michael Matteucci and landscape designer Jay Griffith, were the collaborative team responsible for breathing new life into a once beautiful, now aging, ruin. The house sat vacant for five years, having endured several ill conceived renovations in past decades as well as deterioration caused by water and neglect. We were called upon to re-envision the work of Harris and to create a modern environment which reflected the spirit of our clients who were young architectural enthusiasts with a substantial art collection.

The architects were fully engaged in resurrecting the integrity of the structure and creating a new language of architecture compatible with Harris that would allow for changes to be made. They masterfully reconfigured spaces, designed new cabinetry and updated all systems to accommodate a new program, a new lifestyle.

Spectacularly sited on a hilltop overlooking all of Los Angeles, Harris intended each room of the house to have a unique view of the surrounding canyons, cityscape and ocean. The strong visual link between inside and outside informed the color palette I developed for the house and its furnishings. The greens, browns, reds, orange, lavender and gold colors of this particular landscape fill the house. Color—and the system of its application—acted as a kind of structure which reinforced the architectural detailing throughout. The formal feeling of the house was balanced by the accessible nature of the palette. The intensity and saturation of the wall colors provided a strong, suitable backdrop for the art of Morris Louis, Jules Olitski, Helen Frankenthaler, Kenneth Noland, David Hockney, Wallace Ting and Sam Francis. The rugs I created with V’Soske were designed to anchor and animate each space in response to the architecture and art. The furniture is a collection of vintage pieces by Vladimir Kagan, Robsjohn-Gibbings, Paul Frankl, Gio Ponti as well as pieces I designed specifically for the house with furniture designer and craftsman David Albert: an assemblage intended to create harmony and comfort.

My love of color, passion for materials, ability to read the essence of a space, confidence in the poetic and alchemical, strength as an artist—all essential skills cultivated during my time at Cooper—served me well. The project continues after ten years and remains a work in progress. In 2006, we received the National AIA Interior Architecture Honor Award.

Two interior views of the Harwell Hamilton Harris House in Beverly Hills. Deep, saturated earth toned walls emphasize the scale of the Living Room while providing a rich backdrop for the art of Jules Olitski, Morris Louis, Wallace Ting, Kenneth Nolan, and furniture by Vladimir Kagan. T.H. Robsjohn-Gibbings, David Albert and Kay Kollar. The color palette of the Living Room was inspired by its constant relationship to the landscape and view of Los Angeles.
Dear Friends,

Another amazing school year packed with one achievement and celebration after another.

Our all-school reunion in October celebrated 150 Cooper years and was held at our new academic building at 41 Cooper Square. It was outstanding, and very well attended with almost 600 guests.

We continue to receive top press coverage of 41 Cooper Square, which has also been featured as a backdrop on several TV shows and advertisements. Owing to this popularity, and for overall security considerations, alumni who would like to visit must contact the school and schedule a guided tour. We are currently planning summer tours, so as not to disrupt classes.

Our annual Phonathon was a huge success with 137 dedicated volunteers phoning 4,000 alumni and parents and securing pledges to the Annual Fund of over $448,000 shortening the event to four nights. For those who have never volunteered, I invite you to come next year. It’s a fun way to spend an evening and a great way to keep in touch with fellow classmates and alumni.

In December, I was honored to join Ron Drucker (CE’62), Chairman Emeritus, Board of Trustees; Steven Lam, Associate Dean, the School of Art, and Lauren Sampson, Annual Fund Manager, in attending Art Basel at the Miami Beach Convention Center. We met first for a private luncheon at Emeril’s Restaurant with a group from our Florida alumni chapter prior to viewing the prestigious art show, which I am proud to say included many works from Cooper Union alumni and staff.

Our Alumni Council meetings have changed this year. We’ve taken some time from our regular meetings to split the group into several simultaneous sub-committee meetings. This gives everyone a chance to participate and work on a series of individual forward-looking goals that we’ve set for ourselves this year, such as enlarging a chance to participate and work on a series of individual forward-looking goals for the first couple of meetings are any indication, I’m confident that we are well on our way to achieving them.

Finally, our new Alumni Directory has been published. It lists alumni by year, discipline and locality. There are also interesting bios sprinkled throughout that I have enjoyed reading, as well as a section of photos, which are nice additions.

I invite you to please stay in touch with us and with your classmates. You can always log on to cualumni.com to find out what’s happening at Cooper. Please save the date, October 23 for Art Auction and Casino Night, more details to follow.

As always, I look forward to hearing what you’re up to, and seeing you at upcoming events.

MaryAnn Nichols (A’68)
Chair of the CUAA Faculty Committee and on the Annual Fund and Editorial committees. He participates in Engineering Career Evening and Phonathon. Rob served as Vice President/Faculty & Student Liaison this past year.

Secretary/Treasurer: John Leeper (AR’85)

John is Project Director of the National September 11 Memorial Project at the World Trade Center site. He serves on the Editorial and John Q. Hejduk Award committees and co-chaired the 2006 Founder’s Day Dinner Dance. He participates in Phonathon and Engineering Career Evening. He is one half of a Cooper Couple with Gilly Youner (A’82). John served as Secretary/Treasurer this past year.

Nominating Committee Chair: Marilyn Hoffner (A’48)

Marilyn is the retired Director of Development and Alumni Relations at The Cooper Union. She is an award-winning Art Director of Latin American magazines and was the guest Art Director of Print and Graphis magazines. She was the 1969 Alumnus of the Year and received the Outstanding Service Award in 1991. Marilyn has served as President of the CUAA, Vice President of Alumni Activities, Chair of the Nominating Committee and on the Constitution and Augustus Saint-Gaudens Award committees.

Alumni Trustee: John Huddy (AR’85)

To be nominated for trusteeship at The Cooper Union Board of Trustee’s December 2010 annual meeting. John is Senior Project Manager for Zubatkin Owner Representation, LLC. He serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Albert Nerken School of Engineering. He was the CUAA Vice President of Alumni Activities and the 2009 Alumnus of the Year. He has served on the Alumni Council, the Annual Fund Committee, was a Phonathon nightly chair and was Co-chair of the 2008 Founder’s Day Dinner Dance. John is a member of the Sarah Amelia Hewitt Society, the Architecture Dean’s Circle and the Society of 1859. He is Class Rep AR’85.

Alumni Council

The objectives of the Alumni Council are to provide service to alumni, service to the college, financial support to the college and recognition of alumni. Each of the 36 Alumni Council members serves a three-year term. The following newly elected members, whose terms run from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013, will join those continuing on the Council.

Anne Dudek Ronan CE’83/MCE’84
Mary Lynch ChE’82
Peter Lynch AR’84
Barry Malta EE’73
Frank Napolitano ME’88/MME’88
Darrell Low EE’89
Carl Meinhardt AR’62
Barry Silberstang AR’67
Julian LaVerdiere A’93
Paul Villinski A’84
Teri Gandy-Richardson A’90
Xenia Diente A’99

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee identifies alumni who will lead the CUAA in years to come. Composed of the two most recent CUAA past presidents and 10 elected members, the committee will nominate the Executive Committee slate for 2011-12.

Marilyn Hoffner A’48, Chair
Samuel Anderson AR’82
Carl Meinhardt AR’62
Melanie Chung CE’07
Barry Silberstang AR’67
Robert Tan AR’81
Julian LaVerdiere A’93
Paul Villinski A’84
Teri Gandy-Richardson A’90
Xenia Diente A’99

Recent Past Presidents

Carmi Bee AR’67
Don Toman EE’55

Results of Electronic Ballot Introduction:

This year, alumni were able to vote electronically for the first time, saving paper for a greener and more easily tallied ballot. This option increased voting by 19%.

Voted by paper ballot: 58%
Voted electronically: 42%

Mechanic to Millionaire: The Peter Cooper Story

is being offered to PBS stations by American Public Television. The broadcast will be on October 3 when stations can download a free copy. WNET and WLIW are among 85 stations committed to broadcast. If you live outside of New York City, please call the programming department of your local PBS station and urge them to program it. The presenting station is South Carolina Public Television. www.petercooperstory.com
2010 Founder’s Day Dinner Dance

The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) recognized outstanding alumni, honored a retiring dean and celebrated Peter Cooper’s 219th birthday at the Founder’s Day Dinner Dance on April 16. Two hundred and seventy-five alumni, guests, students and other members of The Cooper Union community gathered at The Roosevelt Hotel for this festive annual event at which four accomplished alumni and a dean were honored for their professional achievements and service to The Cooper Union and the CUAA.

During a private reception before the dinner, 23 members of the Class of 1985 and their guests celebrated their 25th year anniversary reunion. In addition, 31 members of the Class of 2010 joined the festivities for dessert and dancing.

CUAA President MaryAnn Nichols (A’68) expressed her appreciation to dinner co-chairs Anne Dudek Ronan (CE’83/MCE’84) and Gregory Ronan (ME’81/MME’82) for their leadership and support. She also acknowledged the 10 members of the Alumni Hall of Fame attending the event.

President George Campbell Jr. congratulated the award recipients and recounted some of the highlights of the Sesquicentennial year including the opening of 41 Cooper Square. At the conclusion of the awards presentations, members of The Cooper Union Ballroom Dance Club performed several dances choreographed by Maria Georgescu (IDE’12), Sam Glauber (ME’10) and Eglind Myftiu (ME’11) to an appreciative audience that danced until midnight to the music of the Cal James Orchestra.

The 2010 Alumni Award Winners

Alumnus of the Year
Charles Cassella (EE’68) was recognized for his outstanding service, dedication and commitment to the CUAA and to The Cooper Union. Charlie has served several terms on the Alumni Council and chaired many committees and annual events, including Alumni Day and Phonathon, which has allowed him to stay connected to his classmates. He has served on the Alumni Recruitment, Alumni/Student Career Dinner, Cooper Couples Evening, Gano Dunn Award, Mock Interview Night and PE Review Course committees. He is currently a member of the Alumni Council and serves on the Annual Fund, Events and Nominating committees. In 2009, Charlie and his wife Judith Cassella (EE’71) were inducted into the Sarah Amelia Hewitt Society.

Charlie is a Frequency Management Officer with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Since 1984, he has worked in Spectrum Engineering and Frequency Management with the FAA. He is a member of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Honorary Alumnus of the Year
Eleanor Baum, Dean of the Albert Nerken School of Engineering, received this award, presented on special occasions to a non-alumnus, for devoting extraordinary time and effort towards the well being of The Cooper Union. Dr. Baum has served as Dean of Engineering and Professor of Electrical Engineering since 1987. During her tenure, The Cooper Union has been perennially ranked among the top undergraduate engineering colleges in the country. She has been a role model and an advocate for young women and minorities in engineering. Her leadership in engineering education nationally and internationally and the numerous awards she has received have heightened The Cooper Union’s recognition. This visibility has attracted exceptional faculty and extraordinary students who have themselves received a disproportionate share of prestigious national honors, fellowships and awards during her tenure.

Dr. Baum’s recent election to the prestigious National Women’s Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to her long and distinguished career. She is Executive Officer of the C.V. Starr Research Foundation at The Cooper Union, serves as a director on many boards, and speaks frequently at international conferences on diversity, technology policy, program evaluation, international educational cooperation, education and research.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens Award for Art
Steve Brodner (A’76) was recognized for his professional achievement as a leading satiric artist with 30 years of illustrating experience. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorker, and his vivid colors and sharp social commentary are printed on the pages of Esquire, Mother Jones, Rolling Stone, Time and Newsweek. His work has been...
published in Harper’s, National Lampoon, Sports Illustrated, Playboy and Spy. Using visual essays, he covered over 50 journalism stories. His documentary short “September, 2001” was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, and his “Naked Campaign” short films documented the 2008 Presidential Campaign for NewYorker.com.

Steve’s numerous honors include the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism, Society of Illustrator’s Hamilton King Award and National Cartoonists Society’s Reuben Award for Best Magazine Illustration of the Year. In 2008, he had a major career retrospective at the Norman Rockwell Museum. Currently, he is working on projects for the Sundance Channel and PBS, while teaching at the Fashion Institute of Technology and School of Visual Arts.

**John Q. Hejduk Award for Architecture**

Laurie Hawkinson (AR’83) was recognized for her professional achievement as Principal of Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects which she formed in 1983 with Henry Smith-Miller. The firm’s work ranges in scale from urban design and public space to furniture. Significant completed projects include the Corning Museum of Glass and the Wall Street Ferry Terminal, and collaborations include the North Carolina Museum of Art Amphitheater and Site Master Plan, the Museum of Women’s History and the NYC2010 Olympic Village. The firm’s work is in the collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Fonds Regional d’Art Contemporain du Centre (FRAC), and has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the National Academy of Design and the Museum of Modern Art.

Laurie is Professor of Architecture at Columbia University where she is also Director of the Advanced Studios at the Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation. She has been a Visiting Professor at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Harvard University, Yale University, Parsons The New School of Design and the University of Miami. Smith-Miller + Hawkinson has been recognized with the AIA New York Chapter Medal of Honor, a U.S. General Services Administration Design Award and the Arnold W. Brunner Prize in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**Gano Dunn Award for Engineering**

Dr. Naomi Harley (SCE’59) was recognized for her professional achievement as Professor at the Institute of Environmental Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine. Her extensive research on environmental radioactivity, radiation carcinogenesis, radiation measurement and radiation risk modeling and assessment has been published in 150 articles and eight book chapters. She holds five patents, including those in gamma-ray and radon detection and atmospheric particle size measurement.

Naomi was Head of the Special Projects Group at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Health and Safety Laboratory. She is a member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, Association for Aerosol Research, American Chemical Society and Health Physics Society. She served on four National Research Council committees and chaired a Rand Committee that produced a review of Gulf War health effects from depleted uranium. A Fellow of the Health Physics Society and the American Association for Advancement of Science, she has received research grants from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S. Department of Agriculture, American Cancer Society and U.S. Department of Energy.

The Cooper Union Alumni Association welcomes nominations for the 2011 awards. Please submit nominations to alumni@cooper.edu
Members of the Class of 2010 were welcomed into the ranks of The Cooper Union Alumni Association (CUAA) by alumni who graduated over the past 15 years at the annual On the Rooftop party on May 20. The event was held for the first time on the Alumni Roof Terrace of 41 Cooper Square. CUAA President MaryAnn Nichols (A’68) offered congratulations to the students, noting that once they graduate, they are automatically members of the Alumni Association, no dues required. She charged the students with taking advantage of ways to stay connected to the school and to each other through the CUAA website (cualumni.com) and by joining the CUAA Facebook page and networking professionally on the CUAA LinkedIn group.

Event chairs Jacob Mautner (AR’09), Keyleigh Kern (AR’09), and Samantha Vernon (A’09) greeted the class members, expressed congratulations on behalf of Kemi Adeyeba (ChE’09) who was unable to be with them, and encouraged the soon-to-be-alumni to stay connected to The Cooper Union and each other through the CUAA.

On behalf of the class leaders, Gerson Kaplan (ChE’60) presents the class gift to President George Campbell Jr.

Class of 1960 Returns to Cooper Union for its Golden Legion

The Great Hall Gallery in the Foundation Building was abuzz as 75 alumni and guests of the Class of 1960 gathered on May 7 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their graduation from The Cooper Union. Although many had not been back to the school or seen each other in 50 years, they soon were sharing anecdotes about their student days, comparing notes about professors, athletic teams, fraternities and weekends at Green Camp, as well as photos and memorabilia.

President George Campbell Jr. welcomed everyone to The Great Hall and opened the Golden Legion ceremony. Describing highlights of the Sesquicentennial and other milestones of the academic year, he focused on the opening of 41 Cooper Square that has brought national and international attention to the school. Director of Alumni Relations Susan Moyle Lynch showed a new video featuring current students noting how they interact across disciplines in the new academic building. She introduced class leaders Gerson Kaplan (ChE’60), Lynn Lander (ChE’60) Nicholas Fasciano (A’60) and Jean (Cunningham) Marcellino (A’60), acknowledging William Clark (AR’60) who was unable to attend. Gerson presented the class gift of $80,000 to President Campbell who expressed appreciation on behalf of The Cooper Union.

During the luncheon that followed in the Benjamin Menschel Board Room of 41 Cooper Square, deans, faculty members and administrators joined the Golden Legion members and their guests as Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes offered a nostalgic and humorous recounting of what life was like when the Class of 1960 attended Cooper Union. President of The Cooper Union Alumni Association MaryAnn Nichols (A’68) offered her congratulations to the class members.

Guided tours of 41 Cooper Square and the respective schools were the highlight of the afternoon’s activities which culminated in a reception and viewing of the work of Tom Wesselmann (A’59), hosted by Claire Selley Wesselmann (A’59) in the Wesselman Studio.

Class of 2010 Joins Alumni on the Rooftop

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Top to bottom, left to right:
Pre-Commencement Excitement!
From left: Laura Saether (AR’10), Eunil Cho (AR’10) and Michael Samuelian (AR’09)
From left: CUAA President MaryAnn Nichols (A’68) with event chairs Samantha Vernon (A’09), Keyleigh Kern (AR’09) and Jacob Mautner (AR’09)

On behalf of the class leaders, Gerson Kaplan (ChE’60) presents the class gift to President George Campbell Jr.

Photos: Lisa Berg
Photos: Juliana Thomas
A panel discussion for an enthusiastic crowd of Cooper Union engineering alumni and juniors, seniors and graduate students took place the evening of Thursday, March 25 and addressed the pressing question: What does it take to work in the financial services industry today?

Moderators—and co-chairs of the Alumni on Wall Street affinity group—Raymond G. Falci (ME’86), Managing Director, Cain Brothers and Company, LLC, and Lawrence Ng (EE’78), Managing Director, Wall Street Systems, Inc., led a panel of four senior Wall Street professionals consisting of Arthur Caramichael (CE’89, MCE’90), Managing Director, Standard & Poor’s Risk Solutions; Helen Chien (EE’92), Senior Quant Developer, WorldQuant, LLC; Sanjeev Handa (CE’84), Managing Director, TIAA-CREF; and Jeffrey S. Hersch (EE’87), Managing Director, UBS Securities.

Moderators and panelists alike spoke with candor, clarity and passion about their experiences after they graduated from The Cooper Union and about how, over time, with the acquisition of advanced degrees and the application of an extraordinary work ethic, they rose to leadership positions. They described their current jobs and explained how their work fits into the broader context of their companies and of the financial services industry as a whole—for example, whether they worked on the “buy side” or the “sell side,” or in their company’s technology or business units. They then spoke about the career paths that led them to Wall Street and about how current Cooper Union engineering students or recent graduates might emulate them.

Finally, they talked about the most valuable skills Cooper Union graduates can bring to their search for jobs on Wall Street. The speakers were unanimous in agreeing that the three biggest advantages students at the Albert Nerken School of Engineering have in the competition for admission to prestigious graduate schools and entry into the Wall Street workforce are that they have no fear of advanced mathematics, they are accustomed to working incredibly hard, and they are outstanding problem solvers.

After the formal presentation, the moderators opened the floor for a very lively and substantive discussion and question-and-answer session between the audience and the panelists. The takeaway for junior Kevin Yeung (ENG’11): “Reading about how to get into finance and actually hearing about it are two completely different things. The latter can give you lots of little—but important—tidbits of information you just won’t find in books or on websites.”

Then the whole group enjoyed a reception where conversation and one-on-one networking lasted well into the evening.

Following the event, Eric T. Hirschhorn (ME’89), Managing Director, Citigroup Global Markets Inc., took over from Larry Ng the co-chairmanship of the Alumni of Wall Street group. Under Eric’s and Ray Falci’s intrepid leadership—and with the assistance of one of The Cooper Union’s newest alumni, Rohan K. Chauhan (IE’09, MCE’10), who is starting in the equity trading division of Credit Suisse Group AG in July—we have launched the “Cooper Union Alumni on Wall Street” LinkedIn group for students and alumni interested in pursuing or advancing in financial services industry careers.
Phonathon Volunteers at 41 Cooper Square!

This year was the first Phonathon held in our new academic building at 41 Cooper Square! One hundred and thirty-six volunteers including alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff made this year’s Phonathon a success by raising $448,137 in cash and pledges exceeding the goal of $400,000.

The success of Phonathon would not have been possible without the outstanding leadership of the nightly chairs. Ron Weinstein (CE’67) and Yash Risbud (EE’93, MEE’94) set the tone for the first year’s Phonathon a success by raising $448,137 in cash and pledges including alumni, parents, students, faculty and staff made this year’s Phonathon a success by raising $448,137 in cash and pledges exceeding the goal of $400,000.

The Cooper Union is fortunate to have these dedicated volunteers devoted to keeping Peter Cooper’s vision alive. A whole-hearted thanks goes out to all of our volunteers for their commitment and support!

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2010 Phonathon volunteers
Art Basel Miami Beach Tour and Luncheon

The Florida Chapter of the Cooper Union Alumni Association hosted a luncheon and tour of Art Basel Miami Beach on Saturday, December 5, 2009. MaryAnn Nichols (A’68), President of the Cooper Union Alumni Association and Lauren Sampson, Annual Fund Manager, welcomed guests and extended greetings at the luncheon at Emeril’s Miami Beach Restaurant. Dr. Ronald Drucker (CE’62), President of the Florida Chapter and Chairman Emeritus of The Cooper Union Board of Trustees, also welcomed guests and expressed his enthusiasm for the continued support of this event. Associate Dean of The School of Art Steven Lam reviewed highlights of Art Basel Miami Beach and identified Cooper Union affiliated artists exhibiting at the convention center for the self-guided tour of the exhibits that followed.

Cooper Union alumni whose works were exhibited at the Miami Beach Convention Center:
Mitch Epstein (A’76)
Yuri Masnyj (A’98)
Oscar Tuazon (A’99)
Garth Weiser (A’03)
Alex Katz (A’49)
Tom Wesselman (A’59)
Leonardo Drew (A’85)
Jack Whitten (A’64)

Florida Alumni Celebrate Cooper Union’s 150th Anniversary

The annual Florida Founder’s Day Luncheon, hosted by the Florida Chapter of the CUAA at the Lauderdale Yacht Club, provided the perfect opportunity for area alumni to celebrate Peter Cooper’s 219th birthday and the 150th Anniversary of The Cooper Union.

Chapter President and Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees Ronald W. Drucker (CE’62) welcomed President George Campbell Jr. who spoke about the many openings and dedications that had taken place during the Sesquicentennial year, highlighting the excitement around 41 Cooper Square. Newly appointed Board of Trustees Chair Mark Epstein (A’76) offered his perspective on this outstanding facility, and Susan Moyle Lynch extended greetings from the Alumni Association.

National Constitution Center Site of Philadelphia Reception

Alumni and guests from the Philadelphia area enjoyed reconnecting during a reception at the National Constitution Center on November 5, 2009, facilitated by Director of Exhibits, Stephanie Reyer (A’95). President George Campbell Jr. spoke about the recent opening of 41 Cooper Square and the national media attention that the school had experienced since. Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes described highlights of the 150th anniversary including the All Cooper ReUnion and the new Great Hall Exhibition. James (Jeb) Brookman (AR’96) accepted Susan Moyle Lynch’s invitation to keep the local group connected and organized a trip on January 23, 2010 to tour 41 Cooper Square and view the Rites of Passage:1995–2009 exhibit.

Northern California Alumni and Parents Gathering

President George Campbell Jr. was guest speaker at a reception for Bay Area alumni and parents held on April 6, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. He spoke about the milestones that The Cooper Union has reached in the past year, focusing on how 41 Cooper Square is changing the way students interact. Vice President for External Affairs Ronni Denes described the exciting features of the 150th Anniversary. Susan Moyle Lynch acknowledged the dedicated leadership of Art Zigas (ME’44) and Lauren Mallas (AR’68) in keeping Bay Area alumni connected in the past. She thanked Hsu-Wei Shueh (EE’90) and Trustee Bruce Pasternack (ME’68) for their vision for the current Bay Area Alumni Chapter.

Above right
From left: Jeb Brookman (AR’96), Bill Cafiero (ChE’96), guest Kevin McCarthy and event chair Stephanie Reyer (A’95)

Right
From left: Warren Ser (AR’87) and Diane Emery with Lewis (AR’70) and Regina Cooper

Below right
From left: Lauren Mallas (AR’68), Irma Zigas, Hsu-Wei Shueh (EE’90), Art Zigas (ME’44), Aaron Lim (AR’08)
Jack Casazza (EE’44) and Frank Delea
Engineers Casazza and Delea updated their straightforward examination of the electric power industry and the government and economic policies and regulations around it.

The Art of Seeing, 8th Edition
Paul Zelanski (A’55) and Mary Pat Fisher
Prentice Hall, 2010, 560 pages
Professor and artist Zelanski’s exploration of art from the artist’s point of view continues to introduce students to artistic techniques and aesthetic principles.

Sherlock: An Autobiography
Eddie Schairer (EE’64)
Trafford Publishing, 2009, 436 pages
From his childhood as an American in Nazi Germany to his career as an engineer with Bell Telephone, Schairer documents a dynamic 50 years in his autobiography.

Todos Santos
Deborah Clearman (A’74)
Black Lawrence Press, 2010, 280 pages
Clearman’s debut novel follows a children’s book illustrator as she reevaluates her marriage and rebuilds her life, while exploring Guatemala.

Building (in) the Future: Recasting Labor in Architecture
Peggy Deamer (AR’77) and Phillip Bernstein, Editors
Princeton Architectural Press, 2010, 216 pages
Architect Deamer co-edited this examination of the impact of new technology and human relationships on contemporary practices.

Paper in Architecture
Shigeru Ban (AR’84)
Rizzoli, 2009, 232 pages
Forty projects representing Ban’s 20 years of paper constructions are chronicled in this large-scale monograph with essays by Riichi Miyake.

Mike Mills: Graphics Films
Mike Mills (A’89)
Damiani, 2009, 176 pages
This first retrospective of Mill’s work traces his career in contemporary creative culture, from art to music videos to feature films.

Die Hunterklasse
Megan Sullivan (A’98) and Susanne Kappmeier
FN-Verlag, Warendorf, 2006, 120 pages
Sullivan co-authored this artist’s book and an equestrian manual while she was a research fellow at the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Perfect Summer Tees:
- Black Tee with THE COOPER UNION on chest 100% cotton preshrunk $15
- Gray Tee with THE COOPER UNION on chest 90% cotton preshrunk, 10% polyester $15
- White Tee with logo and THE COOPER UNION on chest 100% cotton preshrunk $15

And a bag to go with it:
- BOAT TOTE with logo on front pocket $35
- Cooper Union Cap 100% black cotton, one size elastic back logo front & back $20
- Flip Flops with CU logo pattern available in black or white straps $12

NEW:
- Grey Hoodie with logo on sleeve 50% cotton, 50% polyester preshrunk $30
- Black Hoodie with logo on sleeve 50% cotton, 50% polyester $30
Engagements and Marriages

Francisco Bello (A’02) and Sarit Abramovich married in July 2009. Stefan Griswold (AR’03) and Jessica Hinds married in New York on March 13, 2010. Gregory Richard Sinanian (EE’04) and Giovanna Forte announced their engagement in December 2009, with plans for a August 2010 wedding. Barry Veraaestniæq and Christine Gerardi announced their engagement in September 2009 and are planning a July 2010 wedding. Kenneth Saldibar (CE’06) and Tiffany Parrone announced their engagement in September 2009 and are planning a November 2010 wedding. Eileen So (ChE’07) and Gregory Carpenter married in Wyckoff, New Jersey on March 13, 2010. Sonia Finley (A’03) and Mara Caden married in New Haven, Connecticut in August 2009.

Births

Sukyung Ko Williams (ME’93) is proud to announce the birth of twins on June 17, 2009. Daniel J. Bogoff (BSE’97) and Zara Moss welcomed Elijah Augustus, a baby boy, on June 6, 2009. Paul Deppe (AR’97) and Marguerite Montecinos-Delage are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Odin Nerino Edward Deppe, born July 24, 2009 in New York. Andrew Dieckman (A’97) and his wife Jessica welcomed their baby daughter Michelle on January 27, 2010. Purvi Gandhi Irwin (AR’05) and Allen Irwin (BSE’02) announced the birth of a baby girl, Saha Gandhi Irwin, born March 9, 2010 in Alexandria, Virginia.

30s

Harold Egan (A’37) lives in Arizona. He was an Architectural Designer, before painting murals in post offices, churches and homes. Later he was an Industrial Designer for ship and plane interiors, furniture, factories and gadgets. He now creates sculptures from wood, aluminum and brass. His late wife was Erica Egan (A’37).

40s

Ethel Green (A’39) painted and installed a mural in the Englewood, New Jersey Galilee United Methodist Church in January 2010. Anne Heimann-Kormes (A’47) appeared in the recent edition of Artists in America and is an active graphic artist, serving as the editor and publisher of Waterway’s News, a monthly community newspaper in Florida. Clemens Kalischer (A’47) was interviewed by NPR in November 2009 on his photography for painter Norman Rockwell. Virginia Passaggio (A’52) retired as an art teacher at Hamden Public Schools in Connecticut, exhibited at the City-WideArtExposition in New Haven and received the John Slade Ely House Prize (Weis Sisters Award) for Graphics. Mischa Schwartz (EE’47) was honored with the 2009 IEEE Educational Activities Board Vice President’s Recognition Award for his outstanding contributions to electrical engineering education, theory and practice in the fields of communications, signal processing and networking. Paula Brunner Abelow (A’48) exhibited pastels at the public library in Martinsburg, West Virginia in October 2009. Abelow is a volunteer art teacher at the Senior Center in Charles Town, West Virginia.


50s

Dimitri Hadzi’s (A’50, dec.) sculptures were exhibited at Victoria Munroe Fine Art in Boston in November and December 2009. Donald C. Mallow (AR’50) designed and prepared a working drawing for a house to be built on the Maine Coast. Seymour Chwast (A’51) will publish Dante’s Divine Comedy: A Graphic Adaptation with Bloomsbury in fall 2010. Milton Glaser (A’51) was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama at the White House in February 2010. Glaser co-curated his and others’ protest posters for Virginia Commonwealth University-Qatar’s Design of Dissent exhibit in February and March 2010. Joan Bonagura (A’52) celebrated her 15th year at Queset, a community for lifelong learning affiliated with the Center for Worker Education/City College of New York where she is a founding member. Bonagura coordinates courses in writing, poetry and images of women and is the Art Editor and Managing Editor of the Q Review. Alan Gusow (A’52, dec.) was exhibited in Alan Gusow: An Artist’s Nature at Babcock Galleries in New York in October and November 2009, in conjunction with the publishing of his first monograph with Hudson Hills Press. Lois Lazarus (A’52) is in the 2010 Who’s Who in American Art and exhibited at Mehu Gallery in New York in April 2010. Constance Flera (A’53) has been printmaking for the past six years and recently joined Holab, an artist’s co-operative in Hoboken, New Jersey. Flera exhibited in the Hoboken Sovereign Bank in February and March 2010 and at the Watchung Arts Center in February 2010. Joseph Horowitz (CE’53) continues to provide environmental consulting services from his New York office. Joan Gold (A’54) exhibited paintings at Pante Gallery in Eureka, California in June 2009. Alan Judelson (A’55) was in Loft Artists at the Manhattan, June to September 2009 at Lodrow-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk, Connecticut. Richard Lytle (A’55) is in Vistas: Landscapes Interpreted, March 10 to July 2010 at ArtSpace Virginia Miller Galleries in Miami. Patricia Buckley Moss (A’56) had a solo show at the Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen, Virginia, March to May 2010. Ricardo Scifiole (AR’56) and partner Elizabeth Diller (AR’59) received the 2009 President’s Award at AIA New York’s Annual Heritage Ball and a 2010 Royal Institute of British Architects International Fellowship. Rita Silver (A’56) became a grandmother for the fourth time. Roslyn Fassett (A’56) exhibited paintings based on African textiles in January 2010 at the Newhouse Free Library, where she also lectured on “Mysteries of African Textiles.” Mel Leipzig (A’56) was the Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design Rankin Scholar-in-Residence at Drexel University, where he had a solo show in November and December 2009. Frank Russell (A’56) is exhibiting paintings of the homeless throughout 2010 at Health Care for the Homeless in Baltimore. Michael A. Karlan (A’57) was named the 2009 Business Person of the Year by the Montville Township Chamber of Commerce in New Jersey. Thomas Kaspar (A’58) was awarded an Honorary AIA Membership by the Utah American Institute of Architects in December 2009. Paul Mozall (A’59) is Professor Emeritus at Maryland Institute College of Art, where he teaches painting, Harold Vellins (CE’59) and his wife Sandra will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2010.

60s

Violet Baxter (A’60) was in the 2010 Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Art at the National Academy Museum & School of Fine Arts in New York. Jean Marcellino (A’62) was profiled in the Winter 2010 issue of American Artist Drawing Magazine. Deanna Mirsky-Sperka (A’63) is rehabilitating her 100-year-old studio building in downtown Detroit as part of an effort to create a new art center in the inner city. Carole Nelson (A’63) exhibited The Iran Prints at the University of California in Santa Cruz, January to March 2010. Melvin Zwillingberg (ChE’63) formed a consulting firm, Mel Zwillingberg Associates, LLC, to evaluate emerging technologies for the utility industry, the Electric Power Research Institute and venture capital firms. Anne M. Appel (A’63) completed several new translations, including Why Italians Love to Talk About Food by Elena Kostioukovitch and Blindly by Claudio Magris. Robert Schiffler (A’66), an architecture professor at Texas A&I University, exhibited Ahohliwists, Abraham Lincoln and Reconstructionists at the Brazos Valley African American Museum in Bryan, Texas, February and March 2009. Warner Friedman (A’66) had a show at the Morrison Gallery in Kent, Connecticut in April and May 2010. Mario Buatta (A’68) was featured in Architectural Digest for his interior design in a New York penthouse and was a member of the magazine’s AD 100. Ralph Steinglass (AR’66) moderated the “NBAU: Not Business Planning As Usual” discussion at the Center for Architecture in New York, February 2010. Harry Jaeger (ME’65) is enjoying a busy retirement after 32 years with Westinghouse (now Siemens) Power Generation. Jaeger is celebrating five years of writing for Gas Turbine World magazine. Barbara Grossman (A’66) exhibited at Rider University’s Art Gallery in November and December 2009 and will have a solo show at Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia in September 2010. Frank Mallias (AR’66) with Friday Architects/Planners began expansion of the Ontario Hockey League’s Erie Otters’ Tullio Arena in January.
2010. Judith Margolis (A'66) received a Coolidge Colloquium Research Fellowship and will be in residence at Union Theological Seminary in July 2010. Margolis designed and published a limited edition illustrated book entitled Countdownto Perfection-Meditations on the Sefirot and completed two col- lage paintings for the new intensive care unit at the Ashkelon Hospital in Jerusalem. Albert Tabacman (AR’66) retired from his comple- mentary and sports medicine practice and had a solo show at the Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative in Charlottesville, Virginia. Tabacman is a senior research scientist in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Virginia. Carmi Bee (AR’67) with Rothschild & Reisman Thomson & Bee designed a hospital in Nigeria and completed the FDNY Engine Company 201 building in Brooklyn. Michael Doret (A’69) contributed an ampersand design to the Font Aid IV project, raising funds for Haitian earthquake relief. Richard Sarles (CE’67) was appointed interim General Manager over the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority from his position as Executive Director of New Jersey Transit in March 2010. Ronald Friedman (PHY’67) retired in August 2009 as Superintendent of Schools in the Great Neck, New York public school district and accepted an Associate Professor position at C.W. Post Campus, Long Island University. Barry Silberstang (AR’67) had the Gardens of Remembrance, which he designed with Silberstang Lasky Architects as part of the Suffolk County 9/11 Memorial. Stanley Libeskind (A’69, dec.) had several of his projects exhibited at the University of Virginia’s Columbia Art Gallery in Hood River, Oregon in February 2010. Howard Friedland (AR’70) was appointed to the Board of Directors for Oil Painters of America and was in the Top Fifty in Salon International 2009 at Greenhouse Gallery of Fine Art in San Antonio. Daniel Libeskind (AR’70) designed Crystals, the world’s largest LEED Gold Certified retail district, for MGM Mirage’s CityCenter complex in Las Vegas, the renovations to an extension of the Royal Ontario Museum and the Gran Canal Theatre Dublin that opened in March 2010. Libeskind was the first architect recipient of the Buber-Rosenzweig Medal, honoring contributions to Christian-Jewish understanding, awarded in March 2010 in Germany. Libeskind was a judge for the 2009 Henry J. Leir Prize at the Jewish Museum and received an honorary degree from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland in November 2009. Robert Moorhead (CE’70) was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Public Works Historical Society, an affiliate of American Public Works Association. Joel Peter Witkin (A’70) lectured on his photography in the 2009 Visiting Artist Series at the University of Georgia. Kevin Burke (EE’71) was elected to Honeywell’s Board of Directors, where he will serve on the Audit and Retirement Plans Committees. Burke was profiled by Crain’s New York Business in a March 21, 2010 article. Melanie Marder Parks (A’72) taught “Illustration As Design As Illustration” at the School of Visual Arts. Brian Silverstein (EE’73) was promoted to Senior VP, Transmission Services at Bonneville Power Administration in Vancouver, Washington. Chuck Abrams (A’74) exhibited at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley in August and September 2009. Ralph Lerner (AR’74) is Dean of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong and was a judge for the 2009 Greenville Student Design Competition for quake-resistant housing, organized by SCAMP Homes for Hope and Aedas Architects Foundation. Roger C. Tucker, III (A’74) is exhibiting in Hair Tactics through August 24, 2010 at the Jersey City Museum. Robert Forman (A’75), Orly Cogan (A’66) and Paul Villsinski (A’84) exhibited in In Stitches, November and December 2009 at Leila Taghinia- Sarles (A’66) received a Coolidge Colloquium Research Fellowship and will be in residence at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montréal, February to May 2010. Stan Allen (AR’81) and Jesse Reiser (AR’81) were presenters at PechaKucha Night benefiting Haiti in February 2010. Reiser and Nanako Umemoto (AR’83) with Reiser Umemoto and partners Fei & Cheng Associates were featured in a special show at the Taipei Pop Music Center. Whittfield Lovell (A’84) received a grant from the Nancy Graves Foundation, given as an opportunity for artists to work in a variety of studio spaces outside of their area of expertise. Greg Ronan (ME’58/ME’82) was interviewed by NYI on his support of his daugh- ter Vanessa’s all-girls robotics team at Mary Louise Academy in Queens. Karen Baussmann (AR’82), part- icipated in Brave Brooklyn, a December 2009 show benefiting the Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn, and exhibited Enrushing the Wall at the Whitney Museum of American Art. From March to April 2010. Mary K. Lynch (Chi’82) was a Program Session Chair for the AIA’s Fourth Annual Energy & Resources Conference, held at Col Edison in December 2009. Paul Selesky (AR’82) formed Arcsphere, a new professional consultancy focused on advanced Digital Design services. Jeannecentuori (AR’82) and UrbanRock Design received a California AIA Award for Conditional Reflections, a public art project. Maurice Cox (AR’83) participated in the 2009 WPA 2.0 Symposium at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Evan Douglass (AR’81) with Evan Douglass Studio was nominated for a James Beard Foundation Award in 2010 for the architecture of Choice Market in Brooklyn. Donato Giacalone (AR’83) with Medhat Salam Associates designed the new fourth floor lobby of the Foundation Building at The Cooper Union. The design has an undulating wall with a ribbon window that skirts round columns and recalls the walls in the second and sixth floors lobbies. Laurie Hawkkinson (AR’83) lectured at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in November 2009 and at Cornell University in March 2010. Maria T.D. Inocencio (AR’83) created a low-income apartment complex in Portland, commissioned by Innovative Housing, Inc. Elizabeth O’Donnell (AR’83) was interviewed for a November 2009 article in Metro New York and gave an address at the January 2010 Dubai Forum on “Architecture for Sustainable Societies.” Shigeru Ban (AR’84) participated in the 2010 Tokyo Designers Week and Hong Kong’s 2009 Business of Design Week. Ban was commissioned for the 2009 London Design Festival’s Size + Matter initiative, constructing the...
highest paper tower in the world. Kathleen Kucka (A’84) had a solo show at Galerie Roger Karwijk in Amsterdam in February and March 2010. Steven Poisen (A’84) had his portrait of Senator Trent Lott added to the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection in the United States Capitol. Paul Villinski (A’84) exhibited Emergency Response Studio at Wesleyan University, September to November 2009. Richard Budris (ME’86) received a 2010 Distinguished Service Award from the Nutley Jaycees for public health and safety service. Leonardo Drew (A’84) had solo exhibits in January 2010 at Sikkema Jenkins & Co. in New York and February to May 2010 at the Weatherstrip Art Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. Khaled Haram (EE’78) joined Lighting Science Group Corporation as President and Chief Operating Officer. John Huddy (AR’85) accepted a Senior Project Manager position at Zohar and Owner Representation LLC in New York. Kyna Leski (AR’85) with 3x100 Architecture received a 2009 Religious Art & Architecture Award. Ellen Lupton (A’86) co-curated Design for a Living World at The Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum and led workshops in conjunction with Bausani at the Museum of Modern Art. Daniel J. Allen (A’86) was the preservation consultant for renovations of two loft buildings in the SoHo-Cast Iron Historic District, featured by The New York Times in February 2010. Chris Benedict (AR’86) presented at AIA Connecticut’s 2009 Visions Conference. Randy Polumbo (A’86) and his “trash house” in Joshua Tree, California, were profiled by The New York Times in April 2009. Erik Sanko (A’86) was featured in Art in America- International Review in January 2010 and created marionettes for The DVD You Know in the 2010 Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival. Walter E. Kaeck (CE’87) is Senior Associate at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers and co-author of Construction Dermatology and Groundwater Control, Third Edition, published in 2007. Walter designated that his portion of the textbook sales go directly to The Cooper Union. Ruth Pauline (A’87) had a solo show at Edward Cola Art + Architecture in September and October 2009, and was commissioned for an installation at Ernst & Young Plaza in Los Angeles. Martin Finio (AR’88) with Christoff Finio received a 2009 AIA National Honor Award for their Heckscher Foundation for Children project. Nikki Moser (A’88) is President of the Artists for Art Board and helped plan their 2010 Mardi Gras benefit for the Electric Theatre. Myung Hoe Cho (A’88) is Set and Costume Designer for the Canadian Opera Company’s 2011 production of The Magic Flute. Mike Mills’ (A’89) new film Beginners stars Ewan McGregor, Melanie Laurent and Christopher Plummer and is scheduled to be released in 2011. AR’89) and Yoshiko Sato (AR’89) of Morris Sato Studios designed two houses on Shelter Island and the Dupont Corian Design Studio. Barry Neigrin (ME’89) was interviewed for an August 2009 article in Computerworld.

90s

Gina Pollara (AR’90) is Executive Director of Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park in New York, which had its groundbreaking in spring 2010. Julie Peppito (AR’92) had a solo show at Heskin Contemporary in New York, December 2009 to January 2010. Marco Shemyrowsky (CE/ME’93/95) with Shemyrowsky Consulting Engineers worked on 3D modeling for designs that garnered Steven Holl Architects a 2009 New York State AIA Citation for Design. Shemyrowsky authored an article entitled “Small Steel” in the January 2010 issue of Modern Steel Construction. Nandini Bagchee (AR’93) spoke at the AIANY Peace Branch House for his video portrait of Senator Trent Lott added to the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection in the United States Capitol. Randy Polumbo (A’86) and his “trash house” in Joshua Tree, California, were profiled by The New York Times in April 2009. Erik Sanko (A’86) was featured in Art in America-International Review in January 2010 and created marionettes for The DVD You Know in the 2010 Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival. Walter E. Kaeck (CE’87) is Senior Associate at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers and co-author of Construction Dermatology and Groundwater Control, Third Edition, published in 2007. Walter designated that his portion of the textbook sales go directly to The Cooper Union. Ruth Pauline (A’87) had a solo show at Edward Cola Art + Architecture in September and October 2009, and was commissioned for an installation at Ernst & Young Plaza in Los Angeles. Martin Finio (AR’88) with Christoff Finio received a 2009 AIA National Honor Award for their Heckscher Foundation for Children project. Nikki Moser (A’88) is President of the Artists for Art Board and helped plan their 2010 Mardi Gras benefit for the Electric Theatre. Myung Hoe Cho (A’88) is Set and Costume Designer for the Canadian Opera Company’s 2011 production of The Magic Flute. Mike Mills’ (A’89) new film Beginners stars Ewan McGregor, Melanie Laurent and Christopher Plummer and is scheduled to be released in 2011. AR’89) and Yoshiko Sato (AR’89) of Morris Sato Studios designed two houses on Shelter Island and the Dupont Corian Design Studio. Barry Neigrin (ME’89) was interviewed for an August 2009 article in Computerworld.

Boston Museum, Alan Nasar (ME’96) assisted in the first “custom-fit knee” replacement surgery ever performed in the Northeast United States in March 2010. Daniel J. Bogort (BSEE’97) works at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in the Physical Ocean Department in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and traveled to Antarctica to collect data on the rise of the oceans. Jennifer Lee (AR’99) with ORRA Architects received 2010 AIANY Design Unbuilt Work Awards for the Korean Cultural Center in New York and the Great Hall at grace Farms. Wangechi Mutu (AR’98) was named Deutsche Bank 2010 Artist of the Year, and will be honored with a show at the Deutche Guggenheim in Berlin. Mutu had a solo show at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Canada from February to May 2010, and was in Dress Codes at the International Center of Photography. Mutu was photographed by Annie Leibovitz for Vogue’s 2009 Shape Issue. Irene Aldridge (EE’98) was the Keynote Speaker at the High-Frequency Trading Happy Hour in March 2010. Benjamin Degen (AR’98) was featured in The Kansas City Star for his painting Branch House, in the collection of the Norman Museum of Contemporary Art in Overland Park, Kansas. Catherine Talou (AR’98) was in the 2010 Fountain Art Fair in New York. Sara VanDerBeek (AR’98) was profiled in The New York Times’ T Magazine as part of Nifty 50: America’s Up-And-Coming Talent, and her A Composition for Detroit was in New Photography 2009 at the Museum of Modern Art. Vincent Serritella (AR’99) exhibited paintings with Art Gallery in Laguna Beach, California, in January 2010. Oscar Tuazon (AR’99) was nominated for the Prix Fondation d’Entreprise Ricard and had a solo show at the Galerie Balice Hertling in Paris, which was reviewed by Art in America.

2010 James and Audrey Foster Prize finalist and will exhibit with other finalists at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, September 2010 to January 30, 2011. Allyson Vieira (AR’05) received a solo show including a live octopus at Laurel Girlen in April and May 2010. Francisco Bello (AR’01) received a 2009 News and Documentary Emmy Nomination for Outstanding Arts and Culture Reporting. Bello finished a commission for HBO Documentary Films, as well as Wur Don, a feature length documentary that won the 2010 Special Jury Prize at SXSW. Ross Cisneros (AR’02) received the 2009 New Hampshire Charitable Foundation’s Piscataqua Region Artist Advancement Grant. Graham Anderson (A’05) had a solo show at Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery in Brooklyn in February and March 2010. Daniel Ashram (A’05) was profiled by The New York Times’ T Magazine in March 2010 and had a solo show at the Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin in Paris in March and April 2010. Ashram and Alex Mustonen (AR’05) work in a collaboration called Snarkitecture, and were recently commissioned for a commemorative marker at the Florida Marlins ballpark in Miami. Timothy Collins (AR’05), Gerri Davis (AR’05), Deborah Ferrer (AR’11), Fiyel Levent (AR’05), Dan Webre (AR’06) and Lauren Zucker (AR’06) exhibited in Art of the Times at the Times Building in Queens in April 2010. Julia Guerrero (AR’05) is Director of the Percent for Art Program and Advisory Board of Design at Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority. Guerrero was profiled by Philadelphia Daily News in January 2010. Josephine Halvorson (A’05) received the 2010 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award and is a Visiting Artist at Vassar College. Nick Mauss (A’03) had a solo show at 353 Gallery in New York from October to December 2009 that was reviewed by Art in America. Mohammed Yusuf (ME’03) is a Business Analyst in the Discovery Tools team at Credit Suisse under the Configurations, Inventory and Asset Management group. Anita Ragusa (A’04) is the Manager of the new Gagosian Shop of Gagosian Gallery in New York: Zhong C. Xu (BSE’04) worked with colleagues at The Cooper Union on a study published in 2009 in Medical Engineering & Physics Journal, on modeling rats’ upper airways to improve understanding of airway collapse in humans. Victoria Wei (BSE’04) ran the NYC Half-Marathon on March 21, 2010. Adile Pinar Yolcan (A’04) had photography featured in Rolling Stone Italia in March 2010 and exhibited in the 2009 International Center of Photography Triennial. Aleksey Lukyanov-Cherry (AR’05) was a juror for the 2010 City of Dreams Pavilion Design Competition to design and construct a pavilion on Governors Island. Dimitri Scheblanov (A’05) works in fashion photography and art direction in a collaboration called Herring &
Herring, with clients including Gucci, Vice magazine and DelBeers. **Kiel Scott** (A’03) won Grand Prize in the 2009 HBO Short Film Competition at the American Black Film Festival. **Luke Haynes** (AR’06) exhibited in *Quilled Portraits & Stitched Scenes*, September to November 2009 at 360SE in Chicago. **Avanti Desai** (ChE’07) will attend Carnegie Mellon University’s Tepper School of Business on the Dean’s Scholarship. **Martyna Szczesna** (ChE’07) exhibited collages at Tartine Bakery in San Francisco, March to April 2010. **Rushern Baker IV** (A’09) was in *Culture of the Mind and Spirit*, the 2010 Black History Month show at the Montpellier Artists Center in Laurel, Maryland. where he is a Rests in Zimbabwe. **Dennis Patrick Murphy** (AR’09) started his first post-graduation job as a Design Liaison with the NYC Department of Design and Construction. **Christyna Montuori Sorrentino** (ChE’09) was selected for the prestigious Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Professional Semesters to study and work in Germany.

**Obituaries**

**Roy DeCarava** (A’40) Roy DeCarava is renowned for the social commentary of his photography and his advocacy for young African American photographers. He received a Presidential Citation from The Cooper Union in 1996 and the 2007 Augustus Saint-Gaudens Award from the CUAA.

A proponent of serious portrayals of blacks in art, he shot for magazines, record covers and television stills. After graduating from The Cooper Union in 1940, he served in the Army and then studied at George Washington Carver Art School. His first photography show in 1950 caught the interest of the Museum of Modern Art, which included three of DeCarava’s prints in the *Family of Man* exhibit. In 1952, DeCarava became the first African American photographer to receive a Guggenheim fellowship, which he used to produce 2,000 photos of daily life in Harlem. The photographs were published in *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*, a collaboration with poet Langston Hughes. DeCarava co-founded Kamoinge, which offered workshops and critiques for African American photographers, and later became a Distinguished Professor of Art at Hunter College. The Museum of Modern Art exhibited a career retrospective in 1996, and in 1998 he was honored by the International Center of Photography with the Infinity Award for Master of Photography. In 2006, DeCarava presented the National Medal of Arts by President Bush at the White House. His work is in the National Gallery of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

On October 27, 2009, Roy DeCarava passed away in New York City. He is survived by his wife Sherry Turner DeCarava, and their daughters Wendy, Susan and Laura, and family from a previous marriage.

**Charles Raymond Dahl** (ME’43) Born in Brooklyn, Charles Raymond Dahl graduated from The Cooper Union with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering in 1943. He later attended Stanford University, earning a Master of Business Administration in 1947. His honors from The Cooper Union included the Presidential Citation in 1975, and the 1985 Gano Dunn Award from the CUAA. As a generous supporter of The Cooper Union, Dahl was a member of the Abram S. Hewitt Society, the Society of 1859 and was active in California alumni events.

In 1950, Dahl joined Crown Zellerbach Corporation as an Industrial Engineer. His career at the company would last over 30 years, finally serving as Chairman and CEO in 1977. After retiring from Crown Zellerbach in 1981, he became Director of the Montgomery Street Foundation in San Francisco. Dahl served on numerous boards and committees, with leadership roles at the Bank of America Foundation, San Francisco Bay Area Council, American Paper Institute, Monsanto Chemical Group and California Chamber of Commerce. Charles Raymond Dahl passed away on February 4, 2010 in San Francisco. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Joyce. He is survived by his children Connie and Eric, as well as six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

**Raimund Abraham**, Professor, **Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture**

Raimund Abraham was a member of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture faculty from 1971 to 2002. A professor known for his extraordinary drawings and serious dedication to theory, the Austria-born Abraham taught in the United States starting in 1964. His innovative design for the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York was completed in 2002 at 275 feet tall and only 25 feet wide.

"A great visionary, architect and teacher, his intense commitment to architecture touched the lives of many generations of students and friends," wrote Dean Anthony Vidler. "His indefatigable search for authenticity and his trenchant critique of superficiality kept all of us honest. He will be sorely missed." Abraham passed away on March 4, 2010 in a car accident in Los Angeles, following a lecture at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, where he was a visiting faculty member. He is survived by his daughter Una.

**Kiki L. Brodkin** (A’48) Kiki Brodkin was a Fine Artist and retired Adjunct Professor of Art at Bergen Community College in New Jersey. She was an exemplary teacher and artist, exhibiting marble and wood sculptures, paintings, monoprints and encaustic works in Solo, Chelsea, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Germany and South Korea. She enjoyed many sales, fine reviews and sculpture commissions. Brodkin died April 1, 2010, of complications from traumatic brain injuries resulting from an automobile accident. She is survived by her husband Ed (A’48), with whom she travelled to many art and archaeological sites around the world. A memorial art exhibition will be held later this year with proceeds and donations benefiting The Cooper Union.

**Charles R. Heidengren** (CE’52) Charles R. Heidengren passed away on November 5, 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, where he was in semi-retirement while still active as a civil engineer. Heidengren studied civil engineering at The Cooper Union, graduating in 1952. For more than 25 years, he lived and worked in Asia, mostly in Japan and Thailand. He was instrumental in founding the American Society of Civil Engineers International Sections in Japan and Thailand and was active in the Society of Professional Engineers Thailand. Where he was Editor in Chief. Heidengren is survived by his wife Rochelle, daughter Cinnamon, three stepdaughters and brother John.

Robert L. Konigberg EE’42
Charles Edward Lewis A’42
Ernest G. Lucken ME’42
James Nakagawa A’42
Lawrence R. Picone ME’42
Alfred Scheiter CE’42
Sylvan Sherman EE’42
David Soshenks A’42
Bernard Berg A’43
Arthur J. Bettinger ME’43
Byron M. C. CE’43
Charles Raymond Dahl ME’43
Irwin King (Konigsberg) ME’43/PE’48
Bernard J. Lerner ChE’43
Jack Miller ME’43
Florence Newman Power A’43
Harold Rosenblum ChE’43
John E. Rothschild ChE’43
Morris Slotkin A’43
Lowell F. Macartney A’44
Peter Stevens ChE’44
Elizabeth Ruttold Grubb A’45
Lillian Fogel Reveleacu A’46
Claire Ferguson Brucker A’46
Charles Irving Hubert EE’46
Grace M. A’46
Michael V. Sintal A’46
Walter M. Lischick CE’47
Peter S. Marra CE’47
Edward Murphy A’47
Sidney S. Shams EE’47
Kiki L. Brodkin A’48
Virginia F. Kester A’48
Sally Shapiro (SallyFairchild/Sandra Rosen) A’48
Walter Sinseliek ME’48
John T. Colombo ME’49
Seymour Gordon EE’49
Logan J. Ingram CE’49
Edward C. Norman EE’49
Bertram A. Sherman A’49
Robert Warshaw CE’49
Jesse L. Acker EE’50
Gary H. Grenier EE’50
Leonard L. Kent EE’50
Daniel Weitz A’50
Fred Bohm A’53
Rose Corey Currie A’53
Jessica F. Egan A’51
Leon Feigin ME’51
Harold E. Serenheit ChE’51
Marvin Siegel CF’51
Eugene R. Smith A’51
Charles R. Heidengren CE’52
Leonard J. Lowy A’52
Albert J. Nash CE’52
Michael M. Rahn ME’53
Lowell I. Smiley EE’52
Frank K. Adler AR’53
Robert A. Boomen ME’53
Maurice Lawrence Beugade A’53
Erika B. Borresen Freeman A’53
Arthur Laptett CE’53
Phyllis Restaino Salome A’53
Alexander James A’53
Bernard J. Liathe ME’53
Harvey Newman A’53
Vivian Glassman Powers A’55
Robert M. Voss EE’54
Robert Joseph Walsh AR’54
Daniel Wern EE’54
Byrdolph H. Hoehn ME’55
Clinton L. Lonn EE’55
Vivian Glassman Powers A’55
Joseph M. Voss EE’54
Robert A. Beekman RRME’54
Dane Wern EE’54
Rudolph H. Hoehn ME’55
Maurice Lawrence Beugade A’53
Erika B. Borresen Freeman A’53
Bernard J. Liathe ME’53
Harvey Newman A’53
Vivian Glassman Powers A’55
Joseph M. Voss EE’54
President’s Message continued from page 2

Formal reports from the National Association of Schools of Art (NASAD) and the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) are due in the coming months.

One of our distinguished alumni, Milton Glaser (A’54), received the nation’s highest award in the arts, the National Medal of Arts for Lifetime Achievement in the Field of Visual Arts. The medal was presented by President Barack Obama. In New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art opened the doors to its new Biennial exhibition, in which Cooper Union alumni with former and current faculty represented nearly ten percent of the artists shown.

While we continued to celebrate the college’s 150-year anniversary by reenacting historic moments in the Great Hall, we also added to that history, as President Obama returned to Cooper Union to deliver an address on financial reform in response to the economic downturn that has shaken the nation and the world for the past two years. President Obama began his oration by recognizing the Great Hall as a storied platform where new ideas are often brought to be tested and debated in the public sphere. He reminded us of his prior visit here, nearly two years ago—before the country fell into a recession—when he spoke of the compelling need for financial reform and oversight in order to secure a healthy and robust free market.

In choosing this private college where all students receive a world-class education with a full-tuition scholarship, the President reminded us that some things are priceless: education, talent, hard work and especially commitment—our commitment to our students, to our founding mission, to the disciplines taught here and to our full-tuition scholarship policy. We are deeply grateful for all of you who remain likewise committed to The Cooper Union in your generosity and your support and now in the years to come.
Annual Student Exhibition 2010
Afterparty, 41 Cooper Gallery