

# PROMETHEUS: JOURNAL OF THE PHD PROGRAM IN ARCHITECTURE

## **Why *Prometheus*?**

*Prometheus* is a peer-reviewed journal that presents research-in-progress developed for the annual student-run symposium organized by the PhD Program of the College of Architecture, Illinois Institute of Technology. Each year, PhD students are selected to serve as editors of the journal. The research featured in each issue is produced primarily by PhD students from IIT and universities all over the world who participated in the annual symposium. It utilizes different methodologies to explore questions related to architecture and engineering, as well as allied disciplines such as design, landscape architecture, and urbanism. Additionally, each issue of *Prometheus* includes an annual overview of the academic accomplishments of our PhD students, plus related activities ranging from our weekly Architecture Research Forum lectures to social events aimed at fostering community.

## **Authors**

Rahman Azari, PhD,  
Assistant Professor and former  
Director of the PhD Program  
*College of Architecture, Illinois  
Institute of Technology*

Michelangelo Sabatino, PhD,  
Director of the PhD Program,  
Professor and former Dean  
*College of Architecture, Illinois  
Institute of Technology*

Why did we select Prometheus as the symbol and masthead of our journal? He was the irreverent Titan who stole fire to pave the way for the advancement of humankind. From our vantage point in Chicago, we understand that fire is both a tool for destruction and creation. The Great Fire of 1871 leveled the city and provided Daniel H. Burnham and Edward H. Bennett with a reason to devise the Plan of Chicago (1909). Without the fire of modern blast furnaces, the steel girders and supporting beams in our Ludwig Mies van der Rohe-designed S. R. Crown Hall would not have been possible.

As a College of Architecture within a science and technology-rich university, our faculty and PhD students are committed to fostering an environment of interdisciplinary inquiry. Since the early 1940s, research with real-world applications has been produced by our Master of Science Program graduates. Our PhD Program in Architecture was established in the late 1990s as a continuation of the research conducted by MS students in collaboration with faculty. In the intervening years, we have trained researchers who have made significant contributions within academia and in practice across the globe.

We hope *Prometheus* will serve as a platform for emerging researchers who, like the symbol and masthead of this journal, take risks that lead to game-changing innovation at the service of humankind.

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