

PROMETHEUS: JOURNAL OF THE PHD PROGRAM IN ARCHITECTURE

Dean's Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of *Prometheus*! This publication is the work of students in our PhD program, directed by Professor Michelangelo Sabatino. *Prometheus* is, to my knowledge, a unique, hybrid publication: at once a documentation of the PhD program's annual fall symposium — this time entitled "In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape" — and an introduction to the people, activities, and investigations of the program itself. Don't let its energetic, award-winning (thank you, American Institute of Architects New York Chapter) graphics belie the serious work within: The papers presented here are the peer-reviewed work of young architectural scholars from across this continent and beyond. With last fall's symposium and this new issue of *Prometheus*, our PhD students continue an IIT research legacy that reaches back more than 75 years, one that includes groundbreaking exploration in structures, building technology, materials, systems, history, and more — work that has had a profound impact on the shape of our buildings and the cities they comprise. My congratulations to everyone engaged in this issue of *Prometheus*, and we hope you, the reader, find great value in it.

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Director's Introduction: Why *Prometheus*?

Prometheus is a peer-reviewed PhD student journal that showcases research-in-progress presented during our annual symposium hosted by IIT College of Architecture's PhD Program. This year's symposium — "In Between: Architecture and Development of the Urban Landscape" — was held on November 16–17, 2023, and co-organized by Aamena Mubarak Bakarmom, Çiçek Karatas, Alejandro Saldaña Perales, and Sasha Zanko. Organizing an annual symposium has various objectives. In addition to presenting new, interdisciplinary research, we seek to remind undergraduate and graduate students of the CoA and beyond, and perhaps more importantly, design faculty, of the power of in-depth research to inform, and transform contemporary design. As a historian and preservationist of the twentieth-century built environment, it is not my role to predict the future. But, as part of my leadership role here at IIT, I have worked to emphasize the need to ground contemporary design in a much deeper understanding of the past in order to identify sources of truly radical innovation, both present and future.

The seventh issue of *Prometheus* features papers presented during the symposium by PhD students and keynotes by experts in the field that explored the relationship between architecture and a series of complex economic, political, social, and ecological challenges. In addition to presenting student research, each issue of *Prometheus* includes a yearly "PhD Program Overview" to showcase the achievements and activities of our community of students and affiliated faculty; this section presents academic programming highlights such as our weekly Architecture Research Forum lecture series and news about the ongoing research and accomplishments of our students and recent graduates. Each year, the PhD students who organize the symposium also serve as guest editors for the journal. Our hope is that the experience gained from these curatorial, organizational, and editorial activities associated with hosting a symposium and editing *Prometheus* will serve our students well when they enter academia and/or professional practice. We hope our *Prometheus* will continue to serve as a platform for emerging researchers who, like its symbol and masthead, defy the status quo by taking risks that lead to game-changing innovation in service to humankind, especially in times of crisis like the one we are experiencing now.

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Notes: A full review of the program is available on the website specially designed for the symposium (www.iit.edu/prometheus). A heartfelt thanks to contributors from universities and research institutions across the country, and to IIT students and faculty.



Members of the IIT
Architecture PhD Community pose
for a photo at Tadao Ando's
Wrightwood659 gallery during
the 2023 PhD Symposium Closing
Ceremony. Photo courtesy of
Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino.