IIT College of Architecture

Chicago is Architecture
The world-class city of Chicago is a living tribute to innovative design. Multiple buildings which compose its skyline and many of its noteworthy modern spaces were designed or engineered by IIT College of Architecture (COA) alumni and faculty. The complex issues that accompany an urban metropolis such as sustainability, affordable housing, transportation planning, and historic preservation, thrust COA's students into a challenging and enriching architectural discourse. In their hands lies the opportunity to transform their city and the field they have chosen—to rethink a metropolis through the use of inventive design.

A Heritage of Architectural Excellence
Led and defined by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's legacy of art and technology unified, the COA enriches architectural education by exposing students to technical expertise and an unmatched progressive studio-curriculum in inspiring surroundings. The college offers a five-year Bachelor of Architecture program, four master's programs, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture. A school-wide horizontal studio unites students from all degree programs and levels into an environment of collaboration and complexity to mimic the fast changing and interdisciplinary environment of today's architect. A robust dialogue with Chicago's many architecture and construction firms provides an unmatched real world experience—all housed in one of the most significant buildings of the 20th century—S.R. Crown Hall.

Innovative Leadership
Wiel Arets, Rowe Family College of Architecture Dean Endowed Chair and an internationally acclaimed architect, educator, industrial designer, and urbanist, is known for his progressive academic research and hybrid design solutions. His architecture and design practice, Wiel Arets Architects, has been nominated for the European Union's celebrated Mies van der Rohe Award on numerous occasions. In 2013, he chaired the jury for this award and was a jurist for the 2012 Venice Biennale. He became dean of the COA in August 2012.
Defining Nowness
Arets is leading the movement of the COA toward “nowness”—a multifaceted approach to the discipline of architecture and the embracing of urbanism in the world’s metropolises.

The college aspires to be the leading center for architecture in the United States and internationally, offering a vibrant and exciting educational experience and a continuous cycle of learning. The undertaking of a Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize will raise the visibility of the college in the global architecture community.

The Plan
The COA is building an academic program shaped by the vision and work of Mies van der Rohe and updated to reflect the current metropolis. The curriculum focuses on collaboration and a dialogue that engages the community at large.

Rethinking Metropolis
As cities become larger and more of the world becomes urban, the concepts of structural aesthetic and sustainable sufficiency must merge. The college looks for partners who share in its goal of rethinking metropolis. The support of donors who hold architectural design to the highest standard help to maintain IIT’s global reputation as an innovator of the urban environment.

How You Can Help
IIT College of Architecture is poised to advance a rich architectural legacy and break new ground as a center for advanced architectural research and practice. With your help, we can enrich faculty with endowed chairs, attract a stellar student body with academic scholarships, maintain our inspired surroundings, and celebrate our proud architectural heritage with the Americas Prize. The IIT College of Architecture is committed to a legacy of excellence and innovation and to engineering that defines and defies its city and the world.