

INSTITUTE FOR URBAN DESIGN

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URBAN DESIGN WEEK awarded a grant from 2009 NYC CULTURAL INNOVATION FUND

The **Institute for Urban Design** is pleased to announce that our project **Urban Design Week**, an annual open-air festival to celebrate the year's innovations in architecture and urban design, has been awarded an important grant by the **Rockefeller Foundation** as part of the **2009 New York City Cultural Innovation Fund**.

The Rockefeller Foundation's generous grant will be officially presented to the Institute for Urban Design at a ceremony at the Rockefeller Foundation on October 15th, 2009. The Institute will then publicly present Urban Design Week at our symposium **Arrested Development**, which will take place on the November 7th at **The Cooper Union**.

Urban Design Week

Every spring Urban Design Week (UDW) will turn a part of the city into an open-air public forum on design, an urban stage to harness the city's cultural vitality and celebrate its exceptional urbanity. The Institute for Urban Design will choose a different location every year (a street, a plaza, a pier, a park) and invite an architect, landscape architect or urban designer to create an innovative urban space, an ephemeral stage where the week-long festival will unfold with public performances, film screenings, presentations of projects, public debates, and a final celebration of the year's most innovative advocacy projects and architecture and urban design proposals.

In the coming months the Institute for Urban Design will launch an open call to architects, urbanists, landscape planners, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, independent researchers, artists and activists, to offer ideas on key urban design issues. In its role as an urban design think tank, the Institute for Urban Design will establish a platform for the city's progressive minds to come together, produce projects and counter-projects, and formulate the goals of a new civic agenda. UDW will be the culmination of this open and collaborative process, the final charrette of a yearlong urban design workshop.

The making of a city is, by definition, a collective endeavor: UDW, with its experimental format and its concerted, integrative approach, seeks to make that endeavor both visible and public. A modern-day agora, the urban stage of UDW will be the place where architects, planners, policymakers, activists, and, above all, all engaged citizens discuss, shape and make visible New York City's urban imaginaries.

For thirty years, the **Institute for Urban Design** has positioned itself as the platform for debate over issues related to urban planning, development, and design. The Institute is a nonprofit membership organization with an international constituency. By creating a common territory for architects, planners, policy-makers, developers, academics, journalists, and urban enthusiasts, the Institute acknowledges that to ensure quality in planning and urban design, a dialogue must emerge that represents the diversity of stakeholder voices affected by urban development.

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