Maurice Cox is currently serving an appointment as the Planning Director for the City of Detroit, MI. Maurice is an urban designer, architectural educator and former mayor of the City of Charlottesville, VA. He most recently served as Associate Dean for Community Engagement at Tulane University, School of Architecture and Director of the Tulane City Center, a university affiliated practice operating at the intersection of design, urban research and civic engagement throughout the New Orleans community.

Cox has taught at Syracuse University, the University of Virginia and Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. His experience merging architecture, politics and design education led to his being named one of “20 Masters of Design” in 2004 by Fast Company Business Magazine. He served as Design Director of the National Endowment for the Arts from 2007-2010 where he led the NEA’s Your Town Rural Institute. The Governor’s Institute on Community Design, the Mayor’s Institute on City Design, and oversaw direct design grants to the design community across the U.S. In 2013, Cox was named one of the Most Admired Design Educators in America in the annual ranking of Design Intelligence.

Maurice has an honorary doctorate degree from University of Detroit-Mercy and received his bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Cooper Union in New York City. In 2005, Cox received the Loeb Fellowship from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Merrill Elam is a Principal in the firm of Mack Scogin Merrill Elam Architects in Atlanta, Georgia. Merrill’s work is derived from an innate desire for architecture that goes beyond mere problem solving to architecture that addresses her curiosity surrounding the role of architecture in society.

In addition to her practice, Merrill lectures and teaches frequently, having served most recently as Visiting Faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Fall 2015, and visiting critic at Southern California Institute of Architecture, SCI-Arc.

Notable projects include a Boathouse and Lodge at A Gathering Place for Tulsa, Oklahoma; One Museum Place in Atlanta, Georgia; projects for Tishman Speyer including the Queens Plaza in Queens, New York, and Three Alliance Center in Atlanta Georgia. Recently, Merrill served as Principal-in-Charge and Collaborating Lead Designer on the United States Courthouse in Austin, Texas.

In 2014, Merrill Elam was selected as the inaugural Design Leader in Architecture, Architectural Record. With Mack Scogin, she received 2012 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in Architecture, a 2006 Honorary Fellowship in the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), and a 1996 Chrysler Award for Innovation in Design. The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded the firm the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize in 2011 and an Academy Award in 1996.

Daniel P. Smith, a current 4th-year architecture student, is the recipient of the 2017 Aydelott Travel Award at Mississippi State University.

Daniel spent the summer visiting and researching four late modern buildings throughout the world.

Musée de Arte da São Paulo São Paulo, Brazil
Lina Bo Bardi (architect)
Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church Berlin, Germany
Egon Eiermann (architect)
Notre Dame du Haut Ronchamp, France
Le Corbusier (architect)
National Assembly Building Dhaka, Bangladesh
Louis Kahn (architect)

Daniel’s lecture will focus on his research and travel activities. An exhibit of Daniel’s photography, sketches and writings/poetry associated with his research will be on display in the Giles Architecture Gallery in conjunction with his lecture.

Mark West has worked as an educator and architectural researcher for 36 years. His work ranges from technical innovations in concrete construction and architectural and structural form, to speculative architectural and cultural fictions made through drawings and painting.

Mark’s academic postings have included full-time appointments at The University of Kentucky, Carleton University, The College of the Atlantic, and most recently at The University of Manitoba, where he held positions in both the Department of Engineering and Department of Architecture, and where he founded the Centre for Architectural Structures and Technology (CAST), the first academic laboratory dedicated to research in flexible formworks for concrete structures and architecture.

Along with his academic work, Mark has served as a technical and design consultant, in the area of flexible fabric formworks, to builders and architecture and engineering firms internationally. He is the author, most recently, of The Fabric Formwork Book (Routledge 2016).

Since leaving the University of Manitoba in 2015, Mark has worked as a visiting member of faculty at various schools of architecture including: The University of Edinburgh, Aarhus University, The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Architecture, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MUF University (Istanbul), and The University of Washington.