

# DALLAS ARCHITECTURE FORUM

## 2008-2009 FORUM LECTURE AND PANEL SERIES

For press info:  
Lisa Taylor, Taylor-Made Press  
214-943-1099 or [lisatmp@swbell.net](mailto:lisatmp@swbell.net)

The Dallas Architecture Forum continues its 13<sup>th</sup> season of lectures with Boston architects Sheila KENNEDY and Frano VIOLICH on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. in Uptown Dallas.

Twenty years of a highly exploratory and provocative practice have made Kennedy Violich Architecture a national leader in redefining the scope and responsibilities of the architect. They expand the issues of program, energy, and ethics to produce solutions that succeed at many levels, including formal ones. Their work has been shown at MoMA, the Cooper Hewitt, Vitra Museum, Mass MoCA, SFMoMA, ICA Boston, and abroad. Clients include RISD, Herman Miller, The Municipal Arts Society, and Harvard. See [www.kvarch.net](http://www.kvarch.net) for more information or read the bio below.

Single tickets, available at the door only, are \$20 for general admission and \$5 for students with I.D. Dallas Architecture Forum members are admitted for free. The reception begins at 6:15 p.m.

The Dallas Architecture Forum also continues its series of free panels on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Dallas Center For Architecture, 1909 Woodall Rogers, with the discussion of Defining Modernism with Bob Meckfessel, FAIA. Although modern architecture is widely discussed and touted throughout today's pluralistic, media-rich, trend-savvy culture, it is increasingly difficult to pin down what it actually is. Historically, technology, social concerns, form, and planning theories have all been used as definers at one time or the other, but has today's definition evolved (or devolved) into one based on style, ready to be tossed when the next style comes along? Can modern architecture be defined? Should it be?

Robert Meckfessel FAIA will explore this question with images of modern architecture(s) from the past 80 years, followed by a panel discussion among a diverse group of architects, all noted as leading modernists.

For more information, call 214-764-2406 or visit [www.dallasarchitectureforum.org](http://www.dallasarchitectureforum.org). Images are available upon request via Lisa Taylor at Taylor-Made Press, 214-943-1099 or [lisatmp@swbell.net](mailto:lisatmp@swbell.net).

Season benefactors are: Briggs Freeman Real Estate; MODIA Home Theater Store | Mody & Mody; Museum Tower; SHW Group; The Joule, A Luxury Collection Hotel; and URBAN EDGE developers ltd. Fall Series Benefactor is Scott + Cooner.

Sheila Kennedy and her partner Frano Violich are founding principals of Kennedy & Violich Architecture, Ltd. (KVA), an interdisciplinary design practice that explores new relationships between architecture, digital technology and emerging public needs. Projects at KVA include the new Graduate Center for Integrated Technology at RISD, a 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouse transformed into a digital loft for graduate arts education; Harvard University's Department of Film and Video, The Motion Capture Labs at the University of Pennsylvania and the design of the Ferry Terminal Building at 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan which integrates off grid electrical power and smart transportation technology. The work of KVA has been recognized by National Design Excellence Awards from the American Institute of Architecture, Progressive Architecture Awards, Industrial Design Excellence Awards and the Public Work Award of the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2007, KVA received the inaugural Matter Architecture Award from the Material Connexion in New York City.

In 2000, Kennedy established MATx, a pioneering materials research unit which engages applied creative production across the fields of electronics, architecture, design and material science. MATx works collaboratively with business leaders, industrial manufacturers, cultural institutions and public agencies to invent design concepts, products and building systems that advance the real world implementation of sustainable digital technologies. MATx has developed new technology applications for Dupont, Siemens, Osram, Herman Miller, Saint-Gobain, The North Face and the United States Department of Energy. The MATx team initiated the Portable Light Project, a non-profit global initiative to develop portable energy harvesting technology in a textile form that can be adapted by local people. The Portable Light Project was selected by the Tech Awards 2008 Laureate for technology that benefits humanity. MATx work has been exhibited at the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, Wired Magazine's NEXTFEST technology exhibitions, the International Rotterdam Biennale and the Vitra Design Museum in Germany. The work of KVA MATx is featured in Fast Company's special issue on Masters of Design 2007 and in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) 2008 exhibition "Design & the Elastic Mind" on breakthrough designs for new technologies.

A monograph of KVA projects, entitled Material Misuse, was published by the Architectural Association of London. The firm's work has appeared in Material Ultra Material (Harvard University, 2002), Extreme Textiles, (Princeton, 2005), Open House: Designs for Intelligent Living, (Vitra Design Museum, 2006) and Design for the Other 90% (2007). Kennedy and Violich lecture widely and their work has been featured in journals of architecture, design culture, anthropology and optoelectronics, as well as National Public Radio, BBC World News, CBS News, Wired, Science News, The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, Business Week and The New York Times.