

# The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning  
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## Celebrating Milstein Hall



On March 9th and 10th, alumni, students, and other members of the Cornell community, came together to officially celebrate the opening of Milstein Hall. Alumni came from around the world, as far away as Puerto Rico, Singapore, China, and the United Kingdom, to participate. Attendees were greeted with the sight of glowing blue seating pods in the walkway between Sibley and Milstein, and, inside, the walls were lined with photographs and samples of student projects. While many attendees were architects or architecture students, a number of planning alumni and students were also among the sizable crowd.

Friday evening reception in the Milstein Dome. Photo: William Staffield/AAP

The celebration was kicked off on Friday with a talk on the building's design process from **Rem Koolhaas**, the architect responsible for the Hall. A reception was held immediately after the talk, where alumni, faculty and students were able to mingle and meet with Koolhaas and the building's other designers.

Saturday began early with a breakfast with faculty and a discussion about the construction of the Hall, and then planners had the chance to hear one of their own, **John Reps** (MRP '47). An Emeritus Professor of the CRP Program, Reps was humorously introduced by Dean **Kent Kleinman** as "an infuriatingly brilliant professor for all of us who have to follow in his footsteps". Reps focused his talk on his longtime curiosity about the origin of the plan for Savannah, GA. Professor **Michael Tomlan** also delivered a portion of the lecture.



Michael Tomlan and John Reps. Photo: William Staffield/AAP

"My favorite part was the John Reps lecture, but it was great getting to chat with planning and architecture alumni," said **Ellie Bomstein** (MRP '13). "I loved hearing about what Sibley Hall was like thirty and forty years ago, and it was nice to see how many alumni are still so connected to the college."

Later that afternoon, **William Forsythe** gave a performance in Rand Hall of *Nowhere and Everywhere at the Same Time*, his choreographic work in which audience members could join in and perform. Saturday night was a chance for the attendees to relax, socialize, and dance.

The Celebrate Milstein event concluded with two parties celebrating the old and new facilities of AAP. One party materialized in the historic Sibley Dome, where dance moves were shown off with the swing band Djug Django, while the other took place under the Milstein Dome, with flashing lights and spirited dancing.

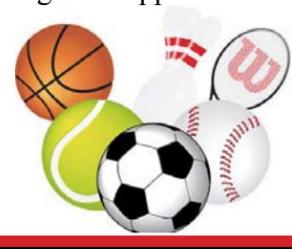


Faculty chat over breakfast on Saturday morning. Photo: William Staffield/AAP

## sports corner

CRPeed in the Pool faced their stiffest inner-tube water polo challenge to date this week, ultimately losing 11-10. Riding an easy victory in last week's game, the floating men and women of CRP sought to topple the first place team. Despite having their sizable contingent of fans ejected from the stands for being too rowdy, the team put in a great performance and fell by the narrowest of margins. Even with the loss, they have secured a spot in the playoffs.

In basketball, *Sibley's Finest* continues with its mixed fortunes, winning one of their last two.



## In This Issue

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## CRP Links

### Faculty Updates:

Mildred Warner, with coeditors Mark Shucksmith, David Brown, Sally Shortall, and Jo Vergunst, published the book, *Rural Transformations and Rural Policies in the US and UK*.

Ann Forsyth, with colleagues Kelsey McDonald, Mary Hearst, Kian Farbakhsh, Carrie Patnode, John Sirard, and Leslie Lytle, published the article, "Adolescent physical activity and the built environment: A latent class analysis approach," in *Health and Place*.

### Upcoming Events:

Spring Break  
Saturday, Mar. 10 - Sunday, Mar. 25

Graduate Student Open House  
Friday, Mar. 30  
Milstein Hall Dome

Andrew Rumbach lecture "The Family, the Fale, and the Village"  
Friday, Mar. 30, 12:20pm  
Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

Sustainable Rural Cities Program lecture "Chiapas, Mexico"  
Friday, Apr. 6, 12:20pm  
Abby and Howard Milstein Auditorium

HPP Work Weekend  
Thursday, Apr. 12 - Sunday, Apr. 15  
Lyndhurst Mansion, Tarrytown, New York

Preston H. Thomas Memorial Symposium  
*Design Tactics and the Informalized City*  
Friday, Apr. 13 - Saturday, Apr. 14

### CRP Blog

by Ann Forsyth and Bonnie O'Neill

### URS Facebook Page

## Alumnus Profile: Jack Glassman Preserves Monuments and Friendships

What do Franklin D. Roosevelt’s house, the nation’s first railroad tunnel, and Plymouth Rock all have in common? Besides being monuments of American history, they are also connected through the preservation work of architect **Jack Glassman** (B. Arch ’80, MA/HPP ’82).

Glassman completed Cornell’s undergraduate professional architecture program and transitioned straight from East Sibley to West Sibley, when he undertook the MA in Historic Preservation. “It was much different from architecture,” he recalls. “And it was bittersweet, in the sense that my old buddies were off and gainfully employed.”



He wouldn’t have to wait long, making new friends and leaving Ithaca just a year later to work in Boston and complete his Master’s thesis, and though he has traveled the world since, Cornell never seemed too far away. Cornell people seem to stick to Jack, in his personal life, like when **Frank Creedon** (MA/HPP ’82) served as Best Man at his wedding; and in his professional life, like working with **Jessica Rowcroft McKenna** (MA HPP ’98),

Glassman at Plymouth Rock. Photo: Matt Teuten

who is currently with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (and happens to live just down the street).

Glassman is a life member of the **Association for Preservation Technology International** (APTI), and currently serves as Recording Secretary for the organization’s Northeast Chapter (APTNE). His first experience with APTI was an HPP field trip to Quebec City that included a pajama party as well as professional networking.

Currently, Glassman works as the Director of Historic Preservation at **Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc.**, where he has managed countless projects, among them the restoration of the 1921 Guastavino tile-vaulted portico over Plymouth Rock. The preservation solution for the gorgeous columned structure includes a solar-powered cathodic protection system conceived by Glassman. Involved in the project were Cornell-educated engineers **Kelly Streeter** (BA ’97) and **Robert Silman** (BA ’56). “I’ve been fortunate to make those connections,” he says of his many Cornell contacts.

With his wife **Cris** and their three cats, Glassman lives in an 1840s house in Boston’s Charlestown neighborhood. Apart from his work at Bargmann Hendrie, he is on the faculty of **Boston Architectural College**, serves on the Design Review Committee of the **Charlestown Preservation Society**, and chairs the **Boston Society of Architects Historic Resources Committee**.

## Graduate Students and Faculty Discuss Concerns at Town Hall

On March 8th, MRP and HPP students gathered with CRP professors at Hans Bethe House to discuss the state of the department. The **Town Hall**, a yearly CRP tradition since the early 2000s, is a way for students to provide their input to faculty members. In the past, input provided at the Town Hall has resulted in such developments as the **CRP Free School**, a series of skill workshops partially supported by the department.

This year, students organized into five topic groups which included curriculum, jobs and advising, concentrations, workshops, and funding. Each group then gave a presentation about the topic. After each presentation was heard, break-out groups were formed, and professors spread out amongst the groups to listen to the conversations.

Out of the hours of discussion, three main themes emerged.

First, the need for marketable skills coupled with the need to understand current issues facing the planning profession. The jobs and advising topic group highlighted the fact that Cornell is ranked #2 in the nation by **Planetizen**, but noted that there are still students who do not have jobs one year after graduation. The topic of preparing graduates for jobs is an important one, and the group suggested that advisers could help by recommending classes that build marketable skills. The curriculum topic group further addressed the topic of offered courses, highlighting under-served areas in the non-core curriculum, including rural-urban systems connections, environmental issues, housing issues, and international development.

Second, the need for real world experience. Workshops were addressed by a group in which Professor **Bob Balder** participated. The group recognized the strengths and popularity of the workshops that are currently offered, and the most significant recommendation was to provide even more of them, so that students could have greater real world interaction with the workshops’ clients, whether NGOs, local communities, or other organizations. The curriculum topic group also noted that the on-going comprehensive plan update for the City of Ithaca could be a good area for MRP and HPP involvement. Meanwhile, the funding topic group discussed how summer internships could be increased with additional funds.

Third, the need to network outside of the department. The curriculum group suggested the formation of closer networks with other departments on campus and planning players in Ithaca and upstate New York, while other groups discussed how alumni connections could help in job placement. One idea that came from the breakout group was to hold alumni networking events in New York City and other cities within driving distance of Ithaca.

The evening ended with a broad conversation about the ideas which came out of the small group discussions.

*Have a safe and fun Spring Break!*



## *A Postcard from Rome*

*This is the third in a series of “postcards from Rome”: pictures sent home from the contingent of CRP students spending their semester abroad in the Italian capital. Here they are on a balcony overlooking the Tuscan landscape.*

*photo: Maria Gabriela Huertas Diaz (BS URS ’13)*