

## NEWS RELEASE

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The Architectural League presents

### **ARCHITECTURE AND JUSTICE**

Exhibition of maps linking criminal justice data and geography, suggesting new strategies for approaching urban design and criminal justice

**September 15–October 28, 2006**

**Urban Center Galleries**

**457 Madison Avenue, New York City**

Related public program: October 5, 2006

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August 25, 2006—The United States currently has more than two million people locked up in jails and prisons, a disproportionate number of whom come from a small number of neighborhoods in the country's biggest cities. In many places, the concentration is so dense that states are spending in excess of a million dollars to incarcerate the residents of single census blocks. On September 14, the Architectural League will open **Architecture and Justice**, an exhibition created by the Spatial Information Design Lab (SIDL) at Columbia University and the Justice Mapping Center (JMC), which are working together to use the language of design to suggest new ways of understanding problems of incarceration and poverty in American cities. The exhibition will display maps created by SIDL and JMC that make visible the geography of incarceration and return in five American cities: New York, Phoenix, New Orleans, Wichita, and New Haven.

Departing radically from the kind of maps that fueled mid-20th century urban renewal and policing projects, the maps on view in *Architecture and Justice* shift the focus of analysis from crime events to incarceration events. The old maps demonstrate that crime occurs throughout the city; the maps on view—derived from data on home addresses of incarcerated individuals rather than locations of crime events—reveal dense concentrations of incarcerated people in particular neighborhoods. In these neighborhoods, regular incarceration determines patterns of movement between city and prison and back again, creating a massive, continuous two-way migration crisis with profound implications for community life.

Project directors Laura Kurgan and Eric Cadora write: "Have prisons and jails become the mass housing of our time? What are the relationships between prison populations and poor communities? Has incarceration become a response to poverty rather than to crime?" The maps they create pose difficult ethical and policy questions for policy makers and designers. When these questions are linked together with other urban, social, and economic indicators of incarceration, they also suggest new strategies for approaching urban design and criminal justice reform together.

The exhibition will include maps of Phoenix, New Orleans, Wichita, New Haven, and each of the five boroughs of New York City, illustrating prison expenditures by administrative district. Smaller maps of each city will illustrate poverty and population density, and an enlarged and detailed map will focus on Brownsville, Brooklyn. Additionally, a digital projection will enable viewers to manipulate maps to compare different types of data.

*Architecture and Justice* is organized by Laura Kurgan and Eric Cadora. **Laura Kurgan** teaches architecture at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, where she is Director of Visual Studies and the Director of the Spatial Information Design Lab. **Eric Cadora** founded and directs the Justice Mapping Center (JMC). He also spent fourteen years at the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment.

*Architecture and Justice* was commissioned as part of "Architecture and..." a year-long series of lectures, exhibitions and special events marking the 125th anniversary founding of the League. Recognizing that the contemporary world poses great challenges and offers extraordinary provocations for architecture, "Architecture and..." looks forward and outward, offering analysis, demonstration, and proposition about the current state and future potential of the discipline.

## **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

### **Exhibition:**

#### **Architecture and Justice**

Exhibition opening: Thursday, September 14, 6:30 pm

On view: September 15–October 28, 2006

Location: Urban Center Galleries, 457 Madison Avenue, New York City

Gallery Hours: Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., closed Thursdays. The gallery will also be closed Friday, September 29, and Monday, October 9.

Admission: Free

Transportation: BDFQ, Rockefeller Center/6 51st Street

### **Public Program:**

#### **Criminal Justice as Urban Exostructure**

Lecture by exhibition organizers Laura Kurgan, Director, Spatial Information Design Lab and Eric Cadora, Director, Justice Mapping Center

Date: Thursday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, New York City

## **FUNDERS**

*Architecture and Justice* is made possible, in part, by Graphical Innovation in Justice Mapping, a grant from the Open Society Institute and the Jehl Foundation to the Spatial Information Design Lab. Architectural League programs are made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. League programs are also made possible by contributions from foundations, corporations, and by League members.

## **ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE**

The Architectural League of New York is an independent forum for the presentation and discussion of creative and intellectual work in architecture, urbanism, and related design disciplines. Founded in 1881, the League promotes excellence and innovation in architecture and urbanism by furthering the education of architects and designers, and by communicating to a broad audience the importance of architecture in public life. Through an active schedule of programs, the League provides a venue for contemporary work and ideas, identifies and encourages the work of talented young architects, creates opportunities for exploring new approaches to problems in the built environment, and fosters a stimulating community for dialogue and debate. All of the League's work is shaped by its ongoing commitment to interdisciplinary, intergenerational, and international exchange, and by its concern for the quality of architecture and city form as critical components of a vital and dynamic culture.