

PRESS ALERT

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For Immediate Release

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Free Architecture and Art Week-long Event

**DesCours brings seven days of art, architecture, and music to the
French Quarter and CBD**

New Orleans, LA (December 8-13, 2009) This December, downtown New Orleans will showcase DesCours, a week-long, contemporary architecture and art event that explores the latest in design and technology with new media and interactive art installations. A competitive review of proposals from internationally recognized architects and artists will bring fourteen distinct installations to the city, that nightly transform hidden spaces across the French Quarter and Central Business District.

During the week of December 7-13, this free , public event invites locals and visitors to view New Orleans historical spaces in a new way. The private courtyards, unique building lobbies, and other hidden spaces of interest will be activated with an eclectic variety of site responsive installations to encourage patrons to redefine the experience of art and place. The installations will be paired with nightly changing entertainment by musicians and a total of three public parties will be held to commemorate the start, midpoint, and end of the event.

. DesCours goes beyond traditional art mediums to explore creativity, culture, and expression within urban settings. "With DesCours now in its third year, we are

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looking forward to increased exposure and awareness for this event, and the highest caliber of unique installations from top designers as we uncover more hidden spaces for the public to see.”, said Melissa Urcan, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects New Orleans Chapter (AIA New Orleans). “While DesCours is a great means of cultural outreach within the city, it also showcases the unique architectural identity of New Orleans and puts our city on the map with other major art destinations worldwide.”

AIA New Orleans is presenting the event in partnership with the Downtown Development District (DDD), the City of New Orleans, and numerous private businesses, organizations, and individuals. DesCours is recommended to be viewed either on foot or by use of bicycle, and will have self-guided and docent-led tours leaving from the headquarter sites on a nightly basis during the event.

About AIA New Orleans:

AIA New Orleans is a nonprofit organization comprising nearly 400 professional architects and connected to the national chapter of 80,000 professional architects worldwide. Founded in 1910, AIA New Orleans' mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community concerning the built environment. The chapter hosts more than 60 different events each year for its members and the public, including a lecture series provided in partnership with Tulane School of Architecture, continuing education classes, building tours, architecture exhibitions, an annual architecture film presented with the New Orleans Film Society, and an annual Design Awards program . For more information on AIA New Orleans, please visit www.aianeworleans.org or call 504.525.8320.

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