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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 28, 2010**

## **Architecture Panel Discussion at Rollins**

**Hosted by the Cornell Fine Arts Museum**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2010 ■ Bush Auditorium ■ Rollins College**

**WINTER PARK, FL** – The Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College announces an architecture panel discussion accompanying the ongoing exhibition *MASTER/Plan: Visionary Architects and their Utopian Worlds*. The discussion will take place Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bush Auditorium at Rollins College. Organized by Biennale O, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the curating, organization, and sponsorship of architectural and design exhibitions; *MASTER/Plan* explores sustainable architecture, urban planning, and utopia through model exhibitions.

Participating on the panel is Chad Oppenheim, whose architectural designs are included in the *MASTER/Plan* exhibit. Oppenheim is a Miami-based international architect whose work encompasses all realms of design, ranging from large-scale urban architecture, museums, and universities, to interiors and furnishings. Founded in 1999, Oppenheim Architecture + Design (OAD) has garnered global recognition for socially and environmentally conscious architecture, as well as setting trends in the sustainable and humanitarian sectors.

The environment continues as the main inspiration behind the firm's work. In Miami, Oppenheim redefined modernism by allowing nature to be at the forefront. The donation of a stunning new entrance to Simpson Park, one of South Florida's last natural hardwood hammock ecosystems, was gifted to the City of Miami, reintroducing the park to the community. Now expanding to Switzerland with a new office in Basel, OAD's completion of the Enzo Enea Headquarters in Rapperswil-Jona, sets the stage for the world's first tree museum.

A graduate of Cornell University, his uncompromising commitment to green architecture has made Oppenheim a highly sought-after global lecturer, adjunct professor of architecture at Florida International University, and the recipient of over 50 academic and career distinctions, including more than 30 AIA Awards.

Oppenheim's Miami home is a direct reflection of his philosophies. Featured in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, where hailed as "a minimalist on a beach of excess," he resides in Villa Allegra with his wife and muse, Ilona, and their son Hendrix.

Joining Chad Oppenheim in the discussion is Karen Nichols, FAIA, a Principal of Michael Graves & Associates, which is also featured in the architecture exhibition at the Cornell Fine Arts Museum. In addition to overseeing the firm's diverse architecture and design practice since joining it in 1977, Nichols has been responsible for numerous architectural and planning projects, primarily for community, educational and arts-related institutions. In 2003, she was elevated to the College of Fellows of the AIA in recognition of her achievements and contribution to the profession. Nichols has dedicated her career to developing and implementing innovative operational and practice models that have had great impact on how architects work and are engaged with the public. Collaborating with Michael Graves and her three other partners, Nichols has built the firm's practice around the integration of planning, architecture, interior design, and product design.

Rounding out the panel is Beth Dunlop, Vassar graduate and long-time architecture critic of *The Miami Herald* and regular contributor to *House & Garden Magazine* and *Metropolitan Home*. Dunlop is the author of numerous books focused on architecture and wrote the script for the public television documentary, *Vanishing Florida*, for which she won a regional Emmy. She serves as vice chair of Miami Beach's Historic Preservation Board and acting chair of the Miami Design Preservation league, and also serves as trustee and juror for various schools and competitions.

Introducing the evening will be Rollins faculty member Dr. Bruce Stephenson, professor of environmental studies and Director of the Environmental Studies/Growth Management program as well as the new Master of Planning in Civic Urbanism program at Rollins. Moderating the discussion will be Rollins faculty member Dr. Richard Foglesong, 26-year veteran professor of American and urban politics and policy. He has also taught in the graduate school of architecture and urban planning at UCLA and published *Planning the Capitalist City*, which discusses the history of American urban planning. The book is still required reading in most urban planning courses throughout

the country. “My background is predominately as a political scientist,” said Foglesong. “So with this new master’s program, I’ve come back full circle to my roots in urban planning.” Both men, along with other Rollins professors and urban planners, hope to educate students about the sustainable and political side of civic urbanism. “It’s one thing to draw a sustainable plan, which is very important,” says Stephenson, “but there’s a whole other angle to learn about the political process involved in getting the plan actually passed.”

The discussion is the culmination of a series of academic programming associated with the exhibition *MASTER/Plan: Visionary Architects and their Utopian Worlds* and will touch on topics such as sustainable architecture, urban planning, New Urbanism and utopia. It is free and open to the public.

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Gallery hours: Tues. – Sat. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., Sun. 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00 for adults. FREE to CFAM members, Rollins College faculty, staff, all students with current ID, and children. The Cornell Fine Arts Museum is located on the campus of Rollins College near downtown Winter Park. For additional information please call 407-646-2526 or cfam.rollins.edu.

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