

OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press Release

Working Structures

A lecture by Guy Nordenson / Guy Nordenson and Associates, New York on December 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Oskar von Miller Forum

Guy Nordenson, structural engineer and professor at Princeton University will discuss "working structures" in his lecture. This is related to his recent book "Reading Structures" which collects a series of structural projects and buildings around the three themes of "simply supported", "building history" and "engineering ephemera".

"Working structures" extends this reflection to present projects that engage questions of both social and climate "change" in New York City since 11 September 2001 and along the North Atlantic coast with respect to sea level rise and tropical storms. This theme of "change" is related to the contrasting notions of "frame" both in real and conceptual structures and the contrasting idea of the "infrathin" as representative of the sometime substantive if invisible work of the engineer.

About

Guy Nordenson practiced structural engineering in San Francisco and New York and in 1987 established Arup's New York office. Founded in 1997 on the principle of close collaboration as an essential basis of design Guy Nordenson and Associates (GNA) is a New York-based structural engineering practice that has established itself as an effective partner in the design and construction of complex and challenging projects.

These include recently completed projects such as the Menil Drawing Institute in Houston TX with Johnston Marklee, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington DC with Freelon Adjaye Bond/SmithGroup, the Corning Museum of Glass Contemporary Art + Design Wing in Corning NY with Thomas Phifer and Partners and the Kimbell Art Museum Expansion in Fort Worth TX with Renzo Piano Building Workshop. Additional projects in design or construction include the International African American Museum in Charleston SC with Pei Cobb Freed & Partners, the expansion of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston with Steven Holl Architects and the Frick Collection Facility Expansion and Renovation in New York with Selldorf Architects.

In 2009 Nordenson was the 7th structural engineer awarded the AIA's Institute Honors for Collaborative Achievement Award, and the first practicing structural engineer to be elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Since 2007, Guy Nordenson and Associates has also been active in developing strategies for climate change and coastal adaptation and storm surge mitigation through research initiatives, publications, exhibitions, and in consultation with stakeholders at the local and national level.