NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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FREEZE Brings Designers from Across the World to Alaska

FREEZE is an outdoor, winter exhibition, with a coordinating publication and series of public lectures and programs, featuring designers (architects, artists, landscape architects, lighting designers, graphic designers and others) from around the globe working in collaboration to create installations that feature, as primary materials, snow, ice and light - elements that characterize winter in the north. FREEZE will take place along the Delaney Park Strip in downtown Anchorage. This is the largest project of its kind to be organized in Alaska, with the largest collection of designers of international standing ever to be assembled here to create work and discuss issues related to architecture, art and the north. It is a unique and exciting opportunity for Alaska.

Polar regions are receiving increasing attention in these times of climate change and environmental awareness. FREEZE will help to bring renewed attention to life in the Arctic and will serve as a celebration of winter. The installations will be ephemeral but will have a lasting impact.

FREEZE participants come from around the globe, including Alaska, Canada, Norway, Iceland, Germany, England, California, Arizona and Washington. Participants will be assembled into 12 teams. Each team will work together to create one installation – whether it is a structure or an experience/environment. This is not a competition between teams but rather collaboration between individuals and disciplines and a sharing of ideas and perspectives.

Team members will be present in Anchorage for a 10-day period, realizing and constructing their design and participating in public lectures and programs, beginning with a New Year’s Eve party at the Anchorage Museum on December 31, 2008 and culminating with a public opening of the installations on the Park Strip on January 10, 2009.

FREEZE is organized and hosted by the Alaska Design Forum in association with the Anchorage Museum and the International Gallery of Contemporary Art. The exhibition is curated by Julie Decker, Ph.D., author, artist, independent curator and gallery director, in association with Brian Carter, Dean of Architecture and Planning for SUNY Buffalo, an architect and award-winning author of numerous books on modern architecture.

Further information about participants is provided with this release.

For more information, contact Julie Decker at julied@alaskalife.net or 907.346.1701.
A Project of the Alaska Design Forum  
Project Participant Bios

• Curators/Project Managers:

Julie Decker, Ph.D., is the chair of the Design Committee of the Anchorage Museum Building Committee. She is also the director of the International Gallery of Contemporary Art, a frequent guest curator at the Anchorage Museum, and an instructor of art history, art appreciation and literature for the University of Alaska. She also works as an artist and a freelance writer. Decker has authored numerous articles and publications on the art and architecture of Alaska, including John Hoover: Art & Life, Icebreakers: Alaska’s Most Innovative Artists, Found & Assembled in Alaska, and Quonset: Metal Living for a Modern Age. She serves on the board of the Alaska Design Forum, the Anchorage Museum Building Committee, the Alaska Native Arts Foundation, the Visual Arts Committee of the Alaska State Council on the Arts, the Mayor’s Economic Development Council, and the Anchorage Film Festival. She has degrees, in art history, arts administration, journalism and fine art. She has lived in Alaska since 1971.

Brian Carter received his professional diploma in architecture from the Nottingham School of Architecture and a Master’s Degree in Architecture from the University of Toronto. He is a licensed architect in the United Kingdom and worked in practice, most recently with Arup Associates in London where he was the designer of a number of award-winning projects. Carter is also the author of a number of books including Johnson Wax Administration Building and Research Tower (Architecture in Detail), published by Phaidon Press (1998) and another on the work of Patkau Architects: Selected Projects 1983-1993 published by Tuns Press (1994). He has contributed to architectural journals internationally. Recently he worked on a multi-disciplinary team that collaborated on the design of a new training center for Iveco in Turin (completed 2000) and a production building for Ferrari at Maranello (completed 2002). His scholarly work focuses on design research through practice and the consideration of modernism in contemporary architecture.

• Featured Participants/Designers

• Team 1

molo, based in Vancouver, Canada, is a design studio dedicated to materials research and an exploration of space making. As a design and manufacturing company, molo creates and distributes unique and innovative products to clients around the world. The design of molo products grows from Stephanie Forsythe and Todd MacAllen’s architectural explorations, inspired by the idea that smaller tactile objects can have a real potency in the physical experience of a space. molo’s float tea lantern and paper softwall exemplify ideas of intimate, temporal space making and the original
thinking behind all molo products. Float glassware and the soft line of products in particular have received numerous international awards, and molo’s softwall and softseating lines have been acquired into the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, in New York. 
http://www.molodesign.com/

• Team 2

**Studio Granda** was established in Reykjavík, Iceland, by husband and wife team Margrét Hardardóttir and Steve Christer in 1987. They studied at the Architectural Association in London. Studio Granda's work is characterized by a respect for the traditional materials of Iceland - stone, sheet metal and timber.  
http://www.studiogranda.is/

**Helena Jonsdottir** studied at the National Theatre Ballet School of Iceland, with additional studies at Alvin Ailey, New York. She has performed in and choreographed countless productions for television, film, music videos and the stages. Helena has also written, choreographed and directed many dance films. In 2003 she was nominated as **Best Choreographer** at the **Music Video Production Association Awards**, Los Angeles. 
http://www.this.is/helena/index.php

• Team 3

**Mike Mense** has practiced as mmense Architects since 1979. He is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Since 1979, Mense has been the architect for approximately 1000 projects in Alaska and the western United States, primarily residential work, although his practice has also included restaurants, museums, industrial facilities, broadcast facilities, tenant improvements, interiors, and planning and feasibility studies. 
http://www.mmmense.com/

**Sheila Wyne** has lived in Alaska since graduating from Wheaton College, Illinois. She has used the strengths of her community and the northern landscape to grow as an artist. Her work as a visual artist includes sculpture, public art commissions, set design, environmental design, and grass roots community art projects. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally. Since 1990 she has designed over a dozen public artworks. Wyne has been awarded a national NEA/TCG Fellowship in set design,
a Rasmuson Artist Fellowship, a Boochever Fellowship and grants from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and the Andy Warhol and Rockefeller Foundations.

• Team 4

mayer satller-smith is a multi-disciplinary design firm founded by Klaus Mayer and Petra Sattler-Smith in 2001. The firm is based in Anchorage, Alaska. The practice has developed an approach that is responsive to the specific conditions of the Alaskan climate, culture and building technology, creating places for human occupation. Projects range from urban design, architecture, interior design to graphic design, furniture and art. All projects are a result of collaboration between the principal partners and the respective clients, including varied stakeholders and users.

http://www.mayersattler-smith.com/

Marisa Favretto was born in Seward, Alaska in 1974 and currently lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She has studied art at Goldsmiths College, University of London, the University of Oregon in Eugene, and the Art Institute of Florence. Her work in painting includes animal imagery that serves as a pictorial symbolism of social, cultural and psychological relationships.

http://artnews.info/artist.php?id=1334

• Team 5

Rick Joy studied music at the University of Maine from 1977 to 1984 before studying architecture at the University of Arizona, graduating in 1990 and establishing his own practice in 1993. Working largely on private houses, typically in desert regions of the United States, Joy frequently employs rammed earth in his designs. In 2002, Joy received the Award in Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
Claudia Kappl grew up in the Austrian Alps and trained in Architecture at the University of Technology in Graz. As member of the artist collective “collabor.at” (2001-2003) she curated and launched exhibitions in Vienna and as member of the architectural studios in Graz she has been fundraiser and editor of the publication “open24: workground/playground.” Her childhood fascination for snow and whiteness eventually resulted in an extensive study and thesis project in Architecture, which found artistic architectural and atmospheric realization in a room at the Icehotel/Jukkasjärvi/Swedish Lapland (2003). She graduated in Lighting Design and Architecture at KTH-Stockholm (2004/2007) with the journal on “clouds and cloudiness”, a daylight observation and the cloud’s ephemeral effect on us humans. A two-year work-stay in Sweden with the specific focus on lighting influenced a deeper understanding for darkness and diffused light conditions. Her designs, in general, aim for an overall experience of material, light and space addressing our senses and serving the end user. Kappl currently works as independent lighting designer and architect-in-training in the desert-lands of the American Southwest. [http://www.claudiakappl.com](http://www.claudiakappl.com)

- Team 6

Buck Walsky has been a General Contractor in Alaska since 1980, focusing on contemporary architecture. He studied art and architecture at Colorado University School of Architecture and Colorado State University School of Arts. His artwork has been exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Colorado Springs, and is part of that institution's permanent collection, and the Visual Arts Center of Alaska.

Dave Cole in a principal of Cole & Thompson Architects in Anchorage, specializing in commercial and residential design.

Rachelle Dowdy lives and works in Fairbanks, Alaska. Her artwork is primarily made up of sculptural image of birds and animal-human hybrids and combines organic and industrial. Dowdy was a recipient of a Rasmuson Foundation Fellowship and was a Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation Summer Seminar scholar. She has exhibited throughout Alaska and her work is held many public collections including the Anchorage Museum, the Museum of the North, and the state 1% for Art Program.

- Team 7
Black + White Studio Architects, an Alaskan multidisciplinary design firm, was founded by principal architect Bruce Williams. The practice investigates the people, the pasts, and the environments specific to northern regions. The firm's architectural method distills the findings extracted from these regional influences and expresses them with clarity into space. The studio believes the north will pioneer architecture that weaves humans with their natural environment in unique & innovative ways in the coming decades. Black + White Studio Architects aspire to facilitate these advances and become an active participant in contemporary world culture.

http://www.bwstudioarchitects.com/

Sonya Kelliher-Combs lives and works in Anchorage, Alaska. She received her M.F.A from Arizona State University and has exhibited with frequency in Alaska since 1990. Kelliher-Combs was recently included in Changing Hands 2: Art without Reservation, a group exhibition of contemporary Native American art at the Museum of Art and Design in New York, NY. She is a current fellow of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. She has exhibited her work throughout the United States and in Asia, with numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Institute of American Indian Art, the Anchorage Museum, and the Heard Museum.


- Team 8

Futurefarmers is a group of practitioners aligned through an open practice of making work that is relevant to the time and space surrounding us. Through collaboration, we explore the relationship of concept and creative process between interdisciplinary artists. Since 1995, Futurefarmers has served as a design studio producing projects for clients including Adobe, Swatch, Hewlett Packard, Levi’s, Autodesk, Nike, LucasFilm, Greenpeace, PBS, NEC and MSNBC. Founder Amy Franceschini is an artist and educator. She founded Futurefarmers in 1995 as a means to bring together multidisciplinary practitioners to create new work. In 2002, she founded Free-Soil. She is a professor of fine art and design at University of San Francisco and teaches graduate seminars at California College of the Arts. Futurefarmers have exhibited internationally at numerous galleries and museums, including the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York Museum of Modern Art, the ZKM in Germany and at The Whitney Biennale. They have received numerous awards including the

• Team 9

**Brendeland & Kristoffersen** was founded in 2002 by young architects Geir Brendeland and Olav Kristoffersen, both educated in Norway. Their firm has already won numerous awards and commissions, including a social housing scheme in Trondheim, Norway, and new houses in the Arctic island of Svalbard, close to the North Pole. They are on a short list of architects with an opportunity to design parts of the athletes’ village for the London 2012 Olympic Games. In their first projects they have demonstrated a fresh take on wooden architecture in an urban context. Their project for new apartment buildings in Trondheim merges vernacular architecture, new timber building technology and “punk spirit.” http://www.bkark.no/

• Team 10

**Daniel Eatock** is a London-based designer known for his conceptual approach to solving traditional client problems as well as those of his own choosing. Eatock graduated from the Royal College of Art and worked as a designer at the Walker Art Center before returning to England to create Foundation 33 and most recently Eatock Ltd. His work has consistently employed a systematic but not necessarily dogmatic rigor that privileges the elemental over the extraneous—a philosophy neatly embodied in his motto: “Say YES to fun & function & NO to seductive imagery & colour!” His work for entertainment and cultural clients ranges from such projects as the graphic identity and promotion for the British television hit *Big Brother* to a street exhibition of Warhol billboards for Channel 4 to a collaboration with artists Oliver Payne and Nick Relph for an exhibition catalogue with sound chips, a flip book, handwritten notes, and a cover wrapped in the upholstery fabric used on London transit seating. Eatock’s idea of “entrepreneurial authorship” has led to the creation of numerous self-published limited-edition works such as *Untitled Beatles Poster*, which includes the lyrics from every Beatles song, and the 10.2 *Multi-Ply Coffee Table*, fabricated from an entire single sheet of plywood. http://www.eatock.com/
CK-Architecture, lead by Christoph Kapeller, AIA, is an internationally celebrated design practice based in Los Angeles dedicated to improving the quality of life through socially responsible, inspirational and technologically advanced design interventions. In little over twenty years, principal Christoph Kapeller, AIA has developed design and building expertise in places as diverse as Norway, Europe, Egypt and the United States. http://www.ck-architecture.com/

Lita Albuquerque is an internationally renowned installation and environmental artist, painter and sculptor. She has been commissioned for sites around the world, including the Great Pyramids where she represented the U.S. at the Cairo Biennale. She is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including Art in Public Places and Individual Fellowship awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her work is included in the permanent collections of MoCA Los Angeles, the Smithsonian Institute, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Getty Trust, the Los Angeles County Museum, and many others. http://www.litaalbuquerque.com

• Team 11

Kobayashi + Zedda Architects Ltd. (KZA) is a Whitehorse, Yukon, based architectural and urban planning firm. As a northern Canadian design firm, KZA has evolved over the last decade to understand the climate, land and peoples of the rugged and sparsely populated Yukon Territory. With a focus on architecture suited to the region, KZA specializes in community, cultural, educational, institutional and residential building design. Completed projects are found across the Yukon and northern British Columbia. Recently, they have been recognized throughout Canada and the circumpolar region as a leader in First Nation and energy efficient design. In 2006 they were the recipients of the Canada Council Prix de Rome. www.kza.yk.ca

Ana Rewakowicz is a multidisciplinary artist and researcher born in Poland of Ukrainian parents, currently living in Montreal, Canada. In her works she explores questions of identity as expressed through clothing and habitation. In contrast to the stable mass of monumental sculpture and architecture, her costumes and structures are an air-filled, mobile art form concerned with places and the people that activate them. Incorporating materials such as rubber, polyurethane, reversible foil, fans and solar panels, Rewakowicz harnesses technology to build intimate public experiences and fashions based on function and traveling interiors. Her art crosses into many disciplines including invention, design, architecture, performance and relationism and has been shown and experienced nationally and internationally in Mexico, USA, France, Belgium, Estonia, Scotland, Bulgaria, Germany, Netherlands and Finland. Most recent exhibitions include: Manif d’art 4 Biennial, Québec, Canada (2008), Wäinō Aaltosen Museo, Turku, Finland (2007), Kunstverein Wolfsburg, Germany (2006), Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal (2005), ISEA 2004 Tallinn, Estonia and Musée du Québec, Canada (2002). www.rewana.com

• Team 12
4LetterWord is a collaboration of like-minded designers and was formed to explore temporal installations involving sound and space. Located in Anchorage, Alaska, 4LetterWord researches northern-specific approaches to architectonic experiences. The collaboration includes: Karen Larsen, a graphic designer and owner of Creative S P A C E, a graphic design firm in Anchorage. Since moving to Alaska in 1999, Larsen has been involved with a variety of installations and projects, including for the Alaska Design Forum; Mary Ellen Read, an architect who received her architecture degree from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada and worked for a number of firms in Vancouver, B.C., specializing in residential buildings. Before moving to Alaska in 2008, she worked in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, for Kobayashi + Zedda Architects; Steve Bull, the principal of Workshop for Architecture and Design, a Seattle firm with projects in Alaska. http://www.workshopad.com