



## **PRESS ALERT**

### **For Immediate Release**

December 7, 2011

### **Tour DesCours Offers Behind-the-Scenes Look at DesCours and its 5-year History** **Join Founder and Curator for an Insider's Bus Tour to DesCours**

New Orleans, La. (Dec. 9, 2011) *Tour DesCours* offer *DesCours* patrons and enthusiasts an insider's guide to the event and its 5-year history. Curator and founder, Melissa Urcan, will lead attendees on a behind-the-scenes look at this year's installations, and discuss how the event has evolved over the years.

On Friday, join Urcan as she shares how *DesCours* continues to provide patrons with a unique experience night to night, site to site, and year to year. From the architects themselves, to the sites, no two are ever the same. Learn how sites are selected, how unforeseen issues can often reshape an installation, and understand how *DesCours* both celebrates New Orleans historic architecture, while turning an eye to the future of architecture and our city's own built landscape.

Since its inception, *DesCours* has provided architects and artists with a "platform for experimentation" where they are encouraged to test cutting-edge design technologies by creating site specific installations in "hidden" locations throughout downtown New Orleans and the French Quarter. Often described as "hide and seek" meets architecture, the "*DesCours* experience is more like immersion in a futuristic detective story with spooky, science fiction sets" says Doug MacCash ("Architecture meets art in the 'DesCours' nighttime optical adventure," December 3, 2011, *Times Picayune*). "The best *DesCours* destinations are mind-blowers, and even the unremarkable destinations provide a reason to tour our historic city after dark-an optical adventure in its own right," MacCash continues.

Tickets to *Tour DesCours* are available for \$35 and include one complimentary beverage. The tour will begin at 7:30pm at the AIA New Orleans Center for Design located at 1000 St. Charles Ave., where the tour will also end at 9:30pm. Tickets may be purchased at [www.aianeworleans.org](http://www.aianeworleans.org) or 504.525.8320. Tickets will also be available day of, but patrons are *highly* encouraged to purchase tickets in advance as there is limited seating.

# AIA New Orleans



A Chapter of The American  
Institute of Architects

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For additional information on *DesCours*, including architects and artists, installations sites and special events please visit [www.descours.us](http://www.descours.us).

*About AIA New Orleans:*

*Founded in 1911, AIA New Orleans is a non-profit whose mission is to represent, educate and serve the architecture profession and entire community as concerns the built environment. AIA New Orleans is a component of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which serves over 80,000 professional architects. Serving over 500 local professional architects and associate members, the chapter hosts more than 75 events annually for its members and the public. Most recently, AIA New Orleans opened the 'AIA New Orleans Center for Design' which serves its members and the public by offering architecture and design education opportunities in the forms of lectures, a study center, special events, and more. AIA New Orleans Center for Design is the only dedicated architecture and design exhibition space in the state of Louisiana.*