




Can architecture make you healthier?

 OPENS SEPTEMBER 14 (ON VIEW THROUGH FEB. 24, 2013), 4:30 - 8 P.M.

 MILLER GALLERY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

A first-of-its-kind exhibition at [Carnegie Mellon's Miller Gallery](#) is posing a thoughtful and timely question: *can architecture and design really cure what ails us—or only offer imperfect solutions?* In an era of indoor living, overuse of Purell and epidemic levels of obesity and diabetes, the question is one that's both critical and charged.

Opening on Sept. 14th, the US premiere of *Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture* examines the important intersection of health, architecture and urban design via a selection of photographs, sculpture, video, publications, research and archival materials, and architectural models and drawings. The innovative approach to a highly complex issue aims to shed new light on many "uncertainties and contradictions in current ideas of health," while also addressing the roles played by architecture and design.

The Miller Gallery is no stranger to complex interdisciplinary programming; on Sept. 7th, its curator, Astria Suparak, was nominated for a 2012 Independent Vision Curatorial Award--a prestigious accolade that goes to emerging and influential curators figures in the field who are chosen by established international colleagues.

Imperfect Health continues Suparak's dedication to presenting artwork that embodies duality, controversy, complexity, and global relevance, and this new show is particularly relevant to local audiences given the context of Pittsburgh's post-Industrial terrains and environmental challenges, as well as the region's emerging health care industries, innovations in education and technology and research-based institutions.

Organized by the [Canadian Centre for Architecture](#) in Montreal, curators Giovanna Borasi and Mirko Zardini selected works that tackle diverse issues, such as pollution, food safety, allergens, asthma, cancer, obesity and aging, stating that: "Now that everything is perceived to be a possible source of disease, the health, defense and fortification of our own bodies has become an obsessive pursuit. We have begun to think of all aspects of our lives in medical terms."

Juxtaposing today's interconnected health problems with architectural solutions, *Imperfect Health* looks at how researchers and designers are dealing with such issues--and their related anxieties--in projects such as allergy-free gardens, soil remediation and quarantine spaces. Featured are: Bernd and Hilla Becher, Berkeley Institute of Design and Intel Labs, Mel Chin, Todd Haynes, Henry Dreyfuss Associates, Gordon Matta-Clark, MIT AgeLab, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and many more.

Augmenting the exhibition is an [online TV channel](#) and a catalogue available as an e-book on iTunes or as a print edition in the gallery. Don't miss the free curator-led tour on Sept. 14th at 4:30 p.m., followed by an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

Go behind the gallery to explore the many issues raised by the show during the Miller's [lecture series](#), [panel discussions](#), [screenings](#), and [tours](#) taking place throughout the fall and winter. They're even offering a [Flu Vaccine Clinic](#) on Sept. 20th.

Speleotherapy: Breathing In, Soltovyno salt mine, Ukraine, 2009, chromogenic color print, 36.5 x 54.4 cm. Kirill Kuletski, photographer. © Kirill Kuletski.



Saturday, September 22, 2012
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