

# IMPERFECT HEALTH

THE MEDICALIZATION  
OF ARCHITECTURE

# MILLER

GALLERY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

FOUNDER: REGINA GOUGER MILLER

PURNELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS • 5000 FORBES AVE

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**Sept. 15, 2012 - Feb. 24, 2013**

Curated by Giovanna Borasi + Mirko Zardini

**CCA** Organized by the Canadian Centre  
for Architecture, Montréal

**Sept. 14, Fri.**

**4:30pm: Exhibition Tour with the Curators**

Co-presented by the Carnegie Mellon University  
Lecture Series @ Miller Gallery. Meet on 1st floor.

**6-8pm: Opening Reception** @ Miller Gallery.

**Oct. 8, Mon.**

**4:30pm: Lecture: *Re-thinking water quality,  
policy, and health — an elemental approach***

by Kartik Chandran. Co-presented by the Distinguished Lecture  
Series in Environmental Science, Technology, and Policy, and  
the University Lecture Series @ Porter Hall #100, on Frew St.

**Oct. 16, Tues.**

**4:30pm: Panel Discussion: *Health, Habitat,  
and History***. Presented by the Department of History

@ Rangos Room 2, University Center 2nd floor.

**Feb. 21, Thurs.**

**4:30pm: Lecture: *We are what we eat... and what  
we build: Designing Healthy Communities*** by Richard J

Jackson MD, MPH. Presented by the University Lecture Series  
@ Porter Hall #100, on Frew St.

**Feb. 22, Fri.**

**6:30-8pm: Film Screening: *Danube Hospital***

(Dir. Nikolaus Geyrhalter, 2012), \$5 Seniors + Students, \$8 Others.  
Presented by the Carnegie Mellon Faces International Film Festival  
@ McConomy Auditorium, University Center.

*All events are located at Carnegie Mellon University, free of charge, + open  
to the public, unless otherwise indicated. Details: [www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery)*





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We observe — and suffer daily from — the unforeseen consequences of our actions on the environment. We are anxious about ground pollution, food safety, pollen allergies, smog, asthma, cancer, obesity, epidemics, and ultimately, aging. Now that everything is perceived as a possible source of disease, the health, defense and fortification of our own bodies have become obsessive pursuits. We have begun to think of all aspects of our lives in medical terms.

Architecture, urban design, and landscape design are addressing these fears, incorporating medical issues and related concerns in their projects. Their new ideas and solutions are based on the optimistic premise that design has the capacity to deliver individual and collective well-being. Projects propose allergy-free gardens, more trees, cleaner air, soil remediation, and new quarantine spaces to prevent epidemic outbreaks. On the other hand, in addressing health issues, design also introduces new levels of complexity in projects that test industrial methods for food production, stairs that re-educate the obese and infirm, and the segregation of communities by age.

**Imperfect Health** is not a comprehensive survey of the relationships between health, architecture, cities and the environment. On the contrary, these projects for buildings, interiors, and open spaces are meant to highlight uncertainties and contradictions present in the ideas of health that are emerging in Western countries today, particularly in Europe and North America.

We are exposed to a lot of solutions, but at what cost?  
Is the future of architecture in its medicalization?

**Giovanna Borasi** is an architect, curator and editor. As Curator of Contemporary Architecture at the Canadian Centre for Architecture since 2005, Borasi has worked on several major exhibitions and their companion books, with a particular interest in how environmental and social issues are influencing urbanism and architecture today. Borasi was editor and writer for *Lotus International* (1998-2004) and *Lotus Navigator* (2000-2004), and recently joined the editorial board of *Abitare* as Deputy Editor in Chief.

**Mirko Zardini**, an architect, has been the Director and Chief Curator of the Canadian Centre for Architecture since 2005. His research engages the transformation of contemporary architecture by questioning and relooking at the assumptions on which architects operate today. Zardini has been editor for *Casabella* and *Lotus International* magazine and his writings have been widely published. He has taught design and theory at architecture schools in Europe and the United States, including Harvard University GSD, Princeton University SoA, Swiss Federal Polytechnic University (ETH) at Zurich, and the Federal Polytechnic at Lausanne (EPFL).

**Images, this page:** *Office Environment*, 1986, gelatin silver print, Canadian Centre for Architecture © Lucien Cohen; *Mokattam Ridge (Garbage City)*, Cairo, Egypt, 2009, chromogenic color print © Bas Princen. **Front:** *Body Measurements, diagram 1a* from *Humanscale 1/2/3: A Portfolio of Information*, Henry Dreyfuss Associates with Niels Diffrient, Alvin R. Tilley & Joan C. Bardagjy. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1974. Canadian Centre for Architecture © Henry Dreyfuss Associates. **Poster:** *Speleotherapy: Breathing In*, Solotvyno salt mine, Ukraine, 2009, chromogenic color print © Kirill Kuletski

## TOURING EXHIBITION

**INTIMATE SCIENCE**  
Nov. 3, 2012 – March 10, 2013  
Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT  
Fall 2013  
Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum  
University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Support for *Imperfect Health* at Carnegie Mellon's Miller Gallery is provided in part by The Heinz Endowments.  
General operating support for the Miller Gallery is provided by Carnegie Mellon University. The exhibitions and programs are supported in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as the CMU College of Fine Arts and the School of Art.

**Sept. 15, 2012 - Feb. 24, 2013**  
Curated by Giovanna Borasi + Mirko Zardini  
**CCA** Organized by the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal

**Opening Night: Sept. 14, Friday**  
**4:30pm: Exhibition Tour with the Curators**  
Co-presented by the Carnegie Mellon University Lecture Series @ Miller Gallery. Meet on 1st floor.  
**6-8pm: Opening Reception** @ Miller Gallery, CMU.

**Additional public programs** including a lecture series, panel discussions, screenings and tours that bring together experts from different fields to explore ideas of health and the built environment are listed at: [www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery)

Events are free of charge + open to the public.

Health is a focus of contemporary political debate in this moment of historically high anxiety. Are architects, urban designers and landscape architects seeking a new moral and political agenda within these concerns?

The Miller Gallery at Carnegie Mellon University is proud to present the U.S. premiere of **Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture**. This exhibition has particular resonance in Pittsburgh, a city that has recovered from the collapse of its steel industry through its new health care, education and technology industries, and at Carnegie Mellon, a research institution focused on innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creating and implementing solutions for real problems. Despite decades of revitalization, Pittsburgh still ranks as one of the most polluted cities in the United States, with higher rates of cancer, asthma, and obesity than the national averages.\*

**Imperfect Health** features a wide range of works, including photographs, sculpture, video, research and archival materials, design projects, and architectural models and drawings, that together examine the complex relationships between design and health. The exhibition includes works by an international group of architects, artists, designers and institutions, including Bernd and Hilla Becher, Berkeley Institute of Design and Intel Labs, BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), Mel Chin, Todd Haynes, Henry Dreyfuss Associates, Steven Holl Architects, Gordon Matta-Clark, Niall McLaughlin, MIT AgeLab, Morphosis, MVRDV, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, OMA (Office for Metropolitan Architecture), Philippe Rahm, François Roche, SANAA, and Alison and Peter Smithson.



Accompanying the exhibition are a book extending the research (published by CCA with Lars Müller and available as an e-book and in print in the gallery), an online TV channel, and public programs including a lecture series, panel discussions, screenings and tours.

\* According to the American Lung Association, 2008; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010; Pennsylvania Department of Health, 2011.

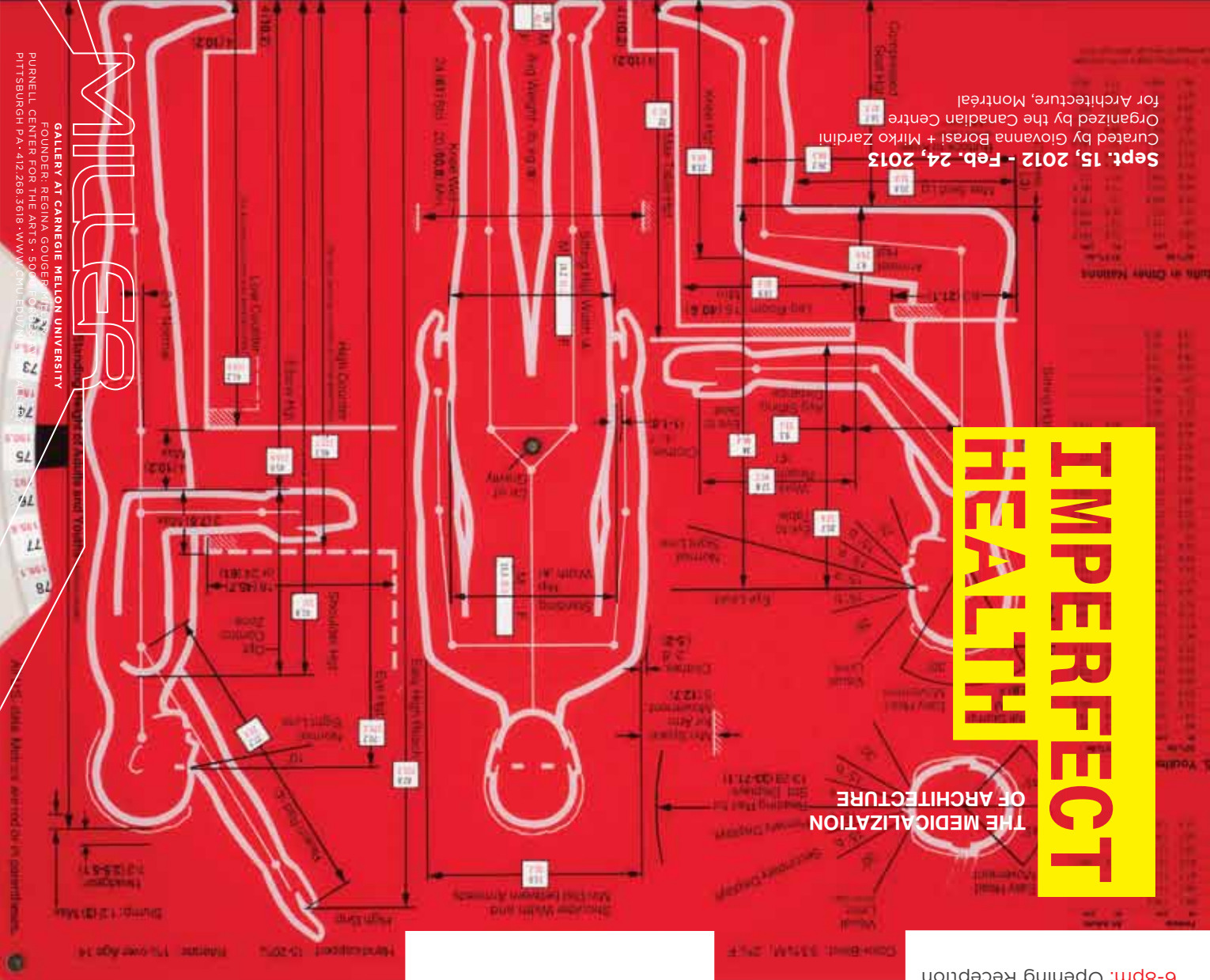
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Help support our adventurous programming and critically acclaimed exhibitions with a tax-deductible donation. [www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery)

### MILLER GALLERY AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

The Miller Gallery supports experimentation that expands the notions of art and culture, providing a forum for engaged conversations about creativity and innovation. The gallery produces exhibitions, projects, events and publications, and is free of charge and open to the public.

Design: Margaret Cox  
Printing: 100% post-consumer paper, processed chlorine free. Vegetable-based inks.



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**IS THIS THE RIGHT ADDRESS?**  
How would you like to receive Miller Gallery news?  
Update your address or go paperless at [www.cmu.edu/millergallery](http://www.cmu.edu/millergallery) or call 412.268.4754  
Free parking after 5pm + on weekends  
Bus and Bike racks  
Gallery accessible

**Admission:** Free + open to the public  
**Hours:** Tues.-Sun., 12-6pm. Check our calendar for exhibition dates.  
**Info:** 412.268.3618 • miller-gallery@andrew.cmu.edu  
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