

## “ARCHITECTURE AND YOU” LOOKS AT CONTEMPORARY DESIGN AND CONTEMPORARY LIFE

Submitted by Dale Laurin

What does 8 Spruce Street, the shimmering metallic skyscraper designed by Frank Gehry (visible from campus, just across the Brooklyn Bridge) have to say about the concerns and hopes of City Tech students—all people today? The answer to this question will be the subject of a richly illustrated talk—one of four—scheduled for successive Monday evenings, beginning November 14, by architects Anthony Romeo, AIA, and Dale Laurin, RA, who teach archi-

tectural history in the architectural technology department.

The talks, sponsored by Flushing Library ([flushinglibrary.org](http://flushinglibrary.org)) in Queens, are part of the “Architecture and You” series that professors Romeo and Laurin have given there for the last six years, as well as numerous other libraries and professional conferences. The fall talks will focus on works by contemporary international architects.

**November 14:** Spanish-born Santiago Calatrava, designer of the World Trade Center transportation hub now under construction

**November 21:** Canadian-American Frank Gehry

**November 28:** Italian-born Renzo Piano, designer of the Morgan Library addition

**December 5:** Recent works, including Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and American Thom Mayne, designer of Cooper Union’s new academic building



Calatrava: Path Station, World Trade Center, NYC



Gehry: Beekman Apartment Tower, NYC

What makes these talks new and important is their philosophic basis: the central principle of aesthetic realism, which gives a logical criteria for looking at art—including architecture—and explains the practical significance of art for our lives. “All beauty is a making one of opposites,” stated Eli Siegel, poet, critic, and founder of aesthetic realism, “and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves” ([aestheticrealism.org](http://aestheticrealism.org)).

For instance, Prof. Romeo says this about 8 Spruce St.: “Gehry’s technique answers the question of how to be flexible while maintaining firmness and integrity....We see

here a building that swirls and ripples as if moved by the wind, even as it stands tall. The architect assembled 10,500 stainless steel panels, almost all shaped differently, so that as you move around the building, its shape, mood and color are constantly changing. Yet as the building rises, regular set-backs halt your eye as it moves upward, accenting rest.”

Each of these free, hour-long presentations includes a question and discussion period. Flushing Library is conveniently located at 41-17 Main Street, just one block south of the last (Main St.) stop of the No. 7 subway.

[Continue on page 10](#)

[Continued from page 9](#)



Koolhaas: CCTV Tower, Beijing, China



Piano: Tjibaou Cultural Center, New Caledonia

\* Speaking of the Bridge, Professor Laurin’s *From Brooklyn Bridge* is one of 80 photographs of NYC by 20 photographers featured in the stunning exhibition, “This Great, Diverse City: How Should We See It?” at the Terrain Gallery, 141 Greene Street, SoHo, through November 12. Visit [terraingallery.org](http://terraingallery.org) for more information.

## RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS MADE MY CLASSES EASIER

By Yapha Berry

As a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program scholar, I participated in a summer internship through the NASA-CIPAIR program at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. Prior to my departure I attended pre-internship workshops facilitated by Profs. Viviana Vladutescu (electrical engineering) and Gaffar Gailani (mechanical engineering). These two events informed me of program expectations and provided professional development.

While at the NASA Goddard Center, I was responsible for finding the characterizations of shock tables by testing, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from experiments. However, before I could start my project I had to learn single degree freedom, additional Matlab techniques, boundary conditions, damping, and shock equations. As a result of



Mechanical Engineering Technology  
Class of 2014

my research I can understand my coursework better, since I am able to make real-world connections that are relevant to my major.

Prior to my research and internship experiences, I wanted to create a new generation of cars, but now my eyes are opened to the possibility of so much more. I think research is beneficial to student learning; the more knowledge and experience one can receive the better. I plan to continue my LSAMP research on developing an “Aerospace Curriculum for High School Students” with Prof. Gailani and perhaps return to NASA Goddard Space Center for a co-op next summer. I found research is always better when projects are followed by new information in-class and hands-on experimentation. When you research there is accomplishment as well as enlightenment, so I recommend anyone interested in doing research to look for the many opportunities available on and off campus.