

The German Research Foundation (DFG) and the German Center for Research and Innovation (GCRI) cordially invite you to a panel discussion on

**Understanding People, Spaces, and Spatial Cognition:
The Intersection of Architecture and Cognitive and Computational Sciences**

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

at the German House
871 UN Plaza
First Avenue at 49th Street, NYC
[Map: 871 UN Plaza](#)

Welcome
Busso von Alvensleben
Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York

Introduction
Joann Halpern
German Center for Research and Innovation

Panelists

Mehul Bhatt
Cognitive Systems Group, University of Bremen, Germany

Ömer Akin
School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh

Gabriela Goldschmidt
Department of Architecture, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Christoph Hoelscher
Center for Cognitive Science, University of Freiburg, Germany

Moderator
Eva-Maria Streier
German Research Foundation North America, New York Office

The physical space in which humans live and work has far-reaching implications for the nature and quality of everyday life and experiences. Understanding the space surrounding us has been a challenge for many disciplines. Architects shape space by designing buildings and cities. Psychologists and cognitive scientists investigate how humans understand and behave in space. Computer scientists need to find ways to represent the three-dimensional space in which we function with mathematical computations and systems for design.

Traditionally there has only been limited overlap between such academic disciplines and design stakeholders. Bridging disciplines requires asking questions about the relationship between art and the science of design: analytic perspective vs. the synthesis of design creation; empirical evidence vs. design intuition; technological support vs. creative autonomy.

This panel discussion provides a unique opportunity for a wide audience to experience and understand the latest advances and current trends in the theory and practice of architectural design.

The panelists will discuss the opportunities for developing and implementing cross-disciplinary perspectives.

The public panel discussion is hosted by the GCRI as part of the symposium *Spatial Cognition for Architectural Design (SCAD)* which is jointly funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Select researchers and practitioners, invited as part of SCAD 2011, will engage in discussions and debates on the core themes of the symposium. The aim is to identify how interdisciplinary application of knowledge may provide real benefit for the theory and professional practice of architecture design, and eventually, tangible benefit for the quality of everyday personal life and work.

Refreshments will be served. Since seating is limited, please RSVP by November 14 to <http://www.jotform.com/form/12971401187>