

**John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design Launches  
New Gallery with Inaugural Installation: *NEW CIRCADIA (adventures in mental spelunking)***

*New Circadia transforms the Daniels Faculty's new 3,000-square-metre Gallery into a metaphoric cave – a soft utopia designed as an antidote to our technologically-infused lives.*

*October 21, 2019* — Have our tech-infused lives caused us to forget the benefits and pleasures of losing ourselves in states of repose and reverie?

The Daniels Faculty is pleased to launch the **Architecture and Design Gallery**, a unique, experimental space — the only gallery of its kind in Toronto — located in the lower level of the Daniels Building at One Spadina Crescent.

Curated by Professor **Richard Sommer** and New York-based designers, **Pillow Culture**, the Gallery's inaugural installation, ***New Circadia (adventures in mental spelunking)***, prompts participants to ask: What would happen if we disconnected from standard time and external stimuli within a dream-like space specifically designed for relaxation, reflection, and repose?

*New Circadia* (an approximate translation from Latin for “New Day”) has been conceived to engage the city and the University of Toronto community alike in an immersive environment — an underground, cave-like, soft utopia.

“Architecture today is inextricably bound up in the urbanization of the planet, and it needs to pay as much attention to the marking of time, as it traditionally has to the shaping of space,” says co-curator, Richard Sommer, Dean and Professor at the Daniels Faculty. “With *New Circadia*, we are acknowledging architecture’s complicity in an increasingly stressful and zombie-like world by presenting an antidote to the over-mechanization of everyday life and our plugged-in, 24/7 culture. Might it be time to put architecture to sleep?”

The interactive installation will be made up of three zones. Beginning at the east entrance of the Daniels Building, visitors will enter a subterranean space through a **Transitory Zone** or “mouth of the cave,” illuminated with an artificial skylight created via digital technology.

Here, visitors will store their belongings and choose from a variety of body wearables or “spelunking gear”.

Then, moving through a felt envelope, participants will enter the main cave space, an uncanny **Dark Zone**, with a large yet soft rock-like lounge-scape, animated with responsive sound and light. **Oneiroi** will invite visitors to anonymously record their personal dreams and listen to those recorded by others. Throughout the installation, visitors will be encouraged to make use of the cave's soft infrastructure, including its felted floors and walls, to engage in self-directed rest and meditation.

Inspired by both the 1938 Mammoth Cave Experiment (the first staging of a scientific research laboratory for studying natural human cycles of sleep and wakefulness) and the synesthetic happenings of the 1960's and 70's, this haptic installation will offer visitors a variety of experiences, including a series of thematic lectures, multidisciplinary performances, dialogues, film screenings, and nocturnes. *New Circadia's* events and programming will be organized around six time-based themes: story time, deep time, wasting time, break time, marking time, and dream time.

“We have transformed the new Architecture and Design Gallery into a soft utopia to conjure a greater sense of geological, mythical, mechanical, and biological time, and to explore how we might nurture a more sustained interior life by incubating dream-like states of rest, reflection, and reverie,” say co-curators **Natalie Fizer** and **Emily Stevenson** of the firm Pillow Culture.

Both the space and programming of *New Circadia* is aimed at demonstrating that idling, whether by sleeping, dreaming, napping, or meditating, is not lost, unproductive time, but rather an essential state of mind and body, connected to experiences vital to our survival and evolution.

*Exhibition support is provided through the Lorne M. Gertner Fund.*

Please join us in exploring New Circadia at the launch event on **November 7, 2019 at 7:30pm.**

***The installation and affiliated events will run until April 30, 2020.*** Children must be supervised at all times.

**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday to Sunday, 9:00am to 9:00pm

Please check the Daniels Faculty website and/or social media for details on upcoming talks and events associated with the installation.

For more information, please contact:

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### About the Architecture and Design Gallery

The Architecture and Design Gallery at 1 Spadina is dedicated to showcasing and advocating for the important ways that design shapes our cities, landscapes, and daily lives. Its unique exhibitions and installations will explore and promote experimental and prescient forms of contemporary architecture and urbanism — in all their artistic, scientific, and cultural dimensions. Located on a landmark site in Toronto, at the nexus of one of the world's leading research universities and a thriving downtown creative sector, this flexible 3,000-square-metre facility — the only one of its kind in Toronto — will harness a rich network of local and international collaborators. The Gallery will also draw on the talents of the Daniels Faculty and U of T's remarkable community of scholars, urbanists, and design professionals to test ideas, provoke needed debate, and foster a deeper understanding of the role that design plays in imagining and building a better world.

*Capital support of the Architecture and Design Gallery has been provided by the Estate of James Drewry Stewart.*

### About the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design

The John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design at the University of Toronto provides interdisciplinary training and research in architecture, art, landscape architecture, forestry and urban design. The oldest school of architecture in Canada, and now among the largest schools of its kind in North America, The Daniels Faculty's mission today is to educate students, prepare professionals, and cultivate scholars who will play a leading role in creating more culturally engaged, ecologically sustainable, socially just, and artfully conceived environments. Located in the heart of Toronto —a vital and expanding creative hub for architects, artists, landscape architects, curators and urban designers— the Daniels Faculty is a community of students, scholars, artists, technologists, and designers committed to modes of teaching, research and practice that are tuned to a changing planet and the evolving needs of society.

[www.daniels.utoronto.ca](http://www.daniels.utoronto.ca)  
@uoftdaniels

### About Pillow Culture

Pillow Culture — designers Natalie Fizer and Emily Stevenson — Explores current material technologies to prototype and develop pillows, and pillow-like constructs that contribute to human comfort, beauty, and well-being. Working in collaboration with designers, scientists, and engineers, their mission is to increase an awareness of the history, culture of the pillow, and broaden attitudes towards their place in our lives. Projects include: a set of giant upholstered boulders, a 20-foot dayglow pink inflatable, an elaborate sex cushion for the post-menopausal woman, and a soft public bench for the City of Boston. They are currently involved in a radical rethinking of the sleep aid.

[www.blog.pillowculture.com](http://www.blog.pillowculture.com)  
@pillowculture

**NEW CIRCADIA (adventures in mental spelunking)****Curators / Creative Directors**

Richard Sommer, Daniels Faculty

Natalie Fizer, Pillow Culture

Emily Stevenson, Pillow Culture

Laura Miller, Daniels Exhibition Director

**Contributing Artists**

Sound: Mitchell Akiyama, Daniels Faculty

Oneiroi: Petros Babasikas, Daniels Faculty; Chrissou Voulgari, Toronto

**Designers**

Lighting: Conor Sampson, CSDesign, Montreal

Graphic Design and Wayfinding: Glen Cummings MTWTF, NYC

**Design and Fabrication Team**

Anton Skorishchenko- Lead Fabricator / Installation Manager, Daniels

Sutton Murray, Lead Designer, Pillow Culture

Robert Lee- Lead Installation Fabricator, Daniels

Zainab Al-Rawi- Exhibition Research and Design, Daniels

**Daniels Staff Leads**

Bohden Tymchuk, Supervisor; Workshops, Facilities, and Special Projects

Nene Brode, Manager, External Relations & Outreach

Sarah Whitehouse, Facilities Coordinator