

HALL OF THE AMERICAS



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT EXHIBITION



FLIGHT 587 MEMORIAL



ONE JACKSON SQUARE LOBBY



The founders of Situ Studio had plenty of practice getting their hands dirty before they opened their doors in 2005. Partners Sigfus Breidjord, Basar Girit, Aleksey Lukyanov-Cherny, Westley Rozen, and Bradley Samuels learned their way around a shop during their years as students at Cooper Union's fabrication-intensive School of Architecture. Now the five partners and their two employees move back and forth throughout the day between their adjoining drafting studio and shop in Brooklyn, often sitting down to tweak a digital model on their computers while still wearing their dust masks.

Situ's conceptually-rich digital fabrication first found a wider audience in 2006 with the solar pavilion they created for the Scope Art Fair in Miami. For that project, along with the second and third pavilions they exhibited at the fair in 2007 and 2008, Situ experimented with the design of a "universal connector" that would allow a set of component parts to be joined in myriad combinations depending on location and program. Since debuting at Miami, each pavilion has been recreated in multiple locations, and they turn out differently every time. "The plan gets figured out on the back of a napkin or scratched in the dirt on the day of the event," Samuels said.

In recent months, Situ's balance between design and fabrication has been leaning more and more toward the former. But fabrication will always be an important part of their practice. A strong feedback loop exists between the two parts of the firm, with each informing the other. "We're trying to erase the line between building and drawing," Samuels said. **JE**

HALL OF THE AMERICAS BROOKLYN

After seeing Situ's solar pavilions in Miami, Brooklyn Museum of Art director Arnold Lehman invited the firm to design an installation for his museum's 25-foot-high Hall of the Americas. Situ's design, scheduled to open in early 2011 and stay up for a year, will break the colossal hall into an assortment of human-sized spaces. Stretched fabric will protrude from each of the hall's 16 columns, creating asymmetrical discs that extend and distort the columns' Beaux Arts ornamentation. "The hall needs some asymmetry. It's a very symmetrical space," Samuels said. The columns' bases will be encircled with round benches and tables, turning the hall into a place to gather, not just a passageway.

FLIGHT 587 MEMORIAL ROCKAWAY PARK, QUEENS

Situ hit the ground running after graduating from Cooper Union, when the fledgling firm was asked to help artist Freddy Rodriguez design an entry in a competition for the Flight 587 Memorial in Rockaway Park, Queens. Their design won and was built in 2006. Located on the neighborhood's main street running between the subway stop and the beach, Situ's design creates a semi-private space by elevating the memorial a few steps above street level and enclosing it with shrubbery and a curving granite wall. Perforations in the granite create views to the ocean and serve as niches for visitors to fill with flowers on the anniversary of the crash.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT EXHIBITION NEW YORK

For the Guggenheim Museum's *Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward* exhibition last summer, Situ was tapped to create six models of Wright's projects. Working solely from the architect's plans, they designed each model to reflect the concepts each project represented for Wright. Because the Gordon Strong Planetarium was situated at the top of Maryland's Sugarloaf Mountain as a destination for the then-new automobile, Situ's model showcases the long approach leading up to the building. Situ kept the Guggenheim's architecture in mind as they designed, embedding one model in a museum wall, and building another with a curving edge to fit neatly against the central space's ramps.

ONE JACKSON SQUARE LOBBY NEW YORK

Situ served as the lead fabrication consultant to Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates for the lobby of One Jackson Square, a new condominium in the West Village that opened in late 2009. Involved at the early stages of KPF's design process, Situ used computer-numerically-controlled tools to suggest ways of altering the walls' shapes in elevation. The lobby is lined with 65 13-foot-high bamboo panels, each individually designed, which bulge out from the wall to form gently rounded tables and benches. The curved shapes—bent along two axes at once—are particularly difficult to create with traditional means, but well-suited for the digital fabrication in which Situ specializes.