



# AIA OVR CONVENTION 2015

## COLUMBUS . OHIO . USA

### OCTOBER 11 . 12 . 13

*acquire up to 18.25 learning units; tours of Italian Village and new Columbus projects; exhibit hall offering nearly 50 exhibitors; interdisciplinary attendance; hundreds of architects and designers from a three state region; social events; design awards luncheon; seminar presentations by national design leaders; women in architecture exhibit; architecture faculty poster session*



## Monica Ponce de Leon

Dean, Princeton University School of Architecture  
MPdL Studio

**Monday, October 12; 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Ms. Ponce de Leon is the new Dean of the School of Architecture at Princeton University after serving as the Dean and Eliel Saarinen Collegiate Professor at the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan. Ponce de Leon has also held teaching positions at Harvard University, SciArch, Rhode Island School of Design, Georgia Tech, and Northeastern University. Her efforts have led to countless awards and recognitions including the Architectural League of New York's 1997 Young Architects Award and 2003 Emerging Voices Award. In 2007 Ponce de Leon received the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award in the Architecture, the first Hispanic architect to receive this honor.



Monica Ponce de Leon is widely recognized as a pioneer in the application of robotic technology to building fabrication. While at Harvard, she developed the first robotic fabrication lab in an architecture school in the United States. Building upon this work, at the University of Michigan, she developed a state of the art student-run digital fabrication lab, integrating digital fabrication into the curriculum of the school. In large part because of her pioneering work, the use of digital tools is now commonplace in architecture schools across the country.

As a practicing architect who is deeply committed to architectural education, Ponce de Leon builds bridges between academia and practice, underscoring the interdisciplinary nature of architecture by encouraging experimentation and critical thinking in the curriculum. As a dean and an educator, Ponce de Leon has emphasized the connections between scholarship, research and creative practice. Under her leadership, Michigan's Liberty Annex has served as a think tank for faculty and student collaboration fueled by innovative seed funding.



As the founding partner of Office dA, she led and coordinated projects that ranged in scale from furniture to urban design and infrastructure with a focus on architectural craft, detailing, and precision. Since 2011, she has directed her own firm MPdL Studio which practices in New York, Boston and Ann Arbor. MPdL Studio brings together an interdisciplinary team of practitioners with several years of experience working together at the former Office dA. Those who practice at MPdL Studio thrive on the diversity of their backgrounds, as well as the richness and wide range of their individual skills. With degrees in Fine Arts, Architecture, Material Systems, Environmental Design, Historic Preservation, and Urban Design, each member of our team brings a unique point of view to the design process.

Ms. Ponce de Leon's work has received twelve Progressive Architecture Awards, several awards from the American Institute of Architect, and numerous citations.

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