GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF
MARISTELLA CASCIAITO AS NEW CURATOR OF ARCHITECTURE

Casciato was previously associate director of research at the Canadian Centre for Architecture

LOS ANGELES — The Getty Research Institute announced today the appointment of architectural historian and curator Maristella Casciato as Senior Curator of Architectural Collections.

“Maristella Casciato is an exceptionally accomplished scholar and curator who is passionately committed to the study of architectural history and the preservation of architecture. She is the ideal steward for our tremendously significant architecture holdings,” said Thomas W. Gaehtgens, director of the Getty Research Institute. “The architecture and design collections at the Getty Research Institute are broad, diverse, and ever growing. Overseeing these archives, and making them come to life for scholars and general audiences is an exciting challenge at which I know she will excel.”

Added Chief Curator Marcia Reed, “Modern architecture is among our most in-demand research material and Maristella Casciato’s expertise in 20th century European architecture will be invaluable in this area. Additionally, her wide-ranging interests such as recent in-depth research into architecture of postcolonial India and non-Western contributions to city planning will provide fertile fields of study that will dovetail with many ongoing research projects at the Getty.”

Maristella Casciato was a tenured associate professor of History of Architecture at the University of Bologna, School of Architecture from 2002-2012. Prior to that she taught History of Architecture at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She has lectured widely in European and North American universities and has organized and chaired several international symposia.

Casciato served as chairwoman of the international non-profit organization Do.Co.Mo.Mo.(Documentation and Conservation of the architecture of the Modern Movement) under the aegis of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication from 2002 to 2010. During her tenure Do.Co.Mo.Mo. has grown from a European group of activists to a global organization.

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Casciato’s scholarly studies focus on the history of the twentieth-century European architecture and the theory of the conservation of our recent past. She has published and co-edited books and essays translated in several languages and has contributed many essays to international peer review journals. She has been awarded the Fulbright Fellowship (1992), a research grant at the INHA in Paris (2004), and the Mellon Senior Fellowship at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal (2010).

In 2012 Casciato has joined the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal to become Associate Director, Research. Her expertise was directed to coordinating the scholars’ programs and the Mellon research projects.

Since the late 1990s, she has been engaged in a research project on architect Pierre Jeanneret, Le Corbusier’s long time associate and principal co-designer of Chandigarh, the new capital of Indian Punjab after independence. On this topic she co-curated with Stanislaus Von Moos the exhibition Twilight of the Plan: Chandigarh and Brasilia (2007), contributed to the book Chandigarh 1956, in collaboration with Ernst Scheidegger (2010), and was co-curator and coauthor (with Tom Avermaete) of Casablanca Chandigarh. A Report on Modernization (2014).

“I am delighted to accept the position and to join the team of the GRI. I shall bring my expertise, my passion for architecture, and my scholarly research to enlarge the scale and the ambitions of the GRI. My objective will be to explore beyond the collections and to engage in programs that bring the modernist project to more challenging steps, embracing the contemporary built environment and its multicultural expressions,” said Casciato. “More and more, architecture has a meaningful impact on people’s lives. Since my first encounter with my peers at the Getty and the scholarly community in Los Angeles, I am struck by the way architecture has regained a central role in expressing the new needs and new social and cultural expectations in a region as environmentally aware as California. I shall continue my work in the modern architectural world with the belief that each individual contribution can make a difference when integrated in strategic projects, which I plan to initiate.”

Casciato has a long history of innovative curatorial practice resulting in noteworthy exhibitions. Her first exhibition, “Funzione e Senso: Architettura-Casa-Citta: Olanda 1870-1940,” organized in collaboration with the Dutch Documentation Centre in Amsterdam, was presented in Rome in 1979 and traveled to Venice, to the Milan Triennale, and to Turin. From 1982-1985 she co-curated the exhibition series “Roma Capitale, 1870-1911,” organized by the Municipality of Rome. She collaborated with the Milan Triennale during 1985-1998. In 2008 she served on the team for the Italian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale of Architecture. Casciato has been part of the curatorial team of the Museum MAXXI in Rome since its opening in May 2010 and has been responsible for five major exhibitions there.

About the Architecture and Design Collection at the Getty Research Institute
The Getty Research Institute’s architecture and design collections include a vast array of materials related to the fields of architecture and the design of exhibitions, interiors, graphics, textiles, and industrial materials. These diverse resources reveal the complex dimensions of the design process from initial sketches and study models to evocative final renderings, detailed construction drawings, and published promotional photographs. The collection’s extensive archival materials include letters, notebooks, audiovisual materials and ephemera that outline the evolving themes and issues of architectural discourse. International holdings date from 1500 to the present, with concentrations in 19th- and 20th-century avant-garde movements.
and mid-20th-century modernism. Highlights of the collection include the archives of progressive Southern Californian architects Pierre Koenig, John Lautner, Ray Kappe, Frank Israel, and William Krisel; international projects by Coop Himmelblau, Peter Eisenman, Yona Friedman, Zaha Hadid, Philip Johnson, Daniel Libeskind, Aldo Rossi, Bernard Rudofsky, Lebbeus Woods, and Frank Lloyd Wright; the influential architectural photography of Julius Shulman and Lucien Hervé, the papers of Reyner Banham, Nikolaus Pevsner, and Ada Louis Huxtable; and critical drawings by Francesco Borromini and Antonio Asprucci.

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The J. Paul Getty Trust is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades.

The Getty Research Institute is an operating program of the J. Paul Getty Trust. It serves education in the broadest sense by increasing knowledge and understanding about art and its history through advanced research. The Research Institute provides intellectual leadership through its research, exhibition, and publication programs and provides service to a wide range of scholars worldwide through residencies, fellowships, online resources, and a Research Library. The Research Library—housed in the 201,000-square-foot Research Institute building designed by Richard Meier—is one of the largest art and architecture libraries in the world. The general library collections (secondary sources) include almost 900,000 volumes of books, periodicals, and auction catalogues encompassing the history of Western art and related fields in the humanities. The Research Library's special collections include rare books, artists' journals, sketchbooks, architectural drawings and models, photographs, and archival materials.

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