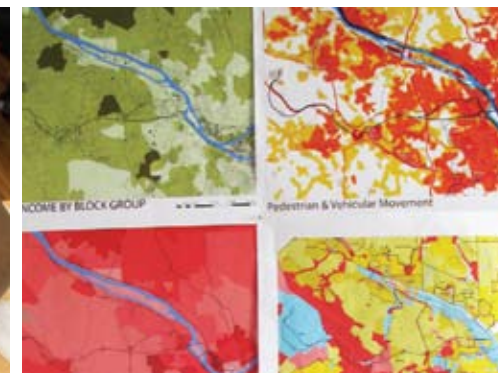


Making the RCI

Don Carter's return to Carnegie Mellon bodes well for the future of the Remaking Cities Institute. Through his insightful leadership and direction, the RCI will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the Pittsburgh region for many years to come.



from left: Master of Urban Design student Ian Newborn; Urban Lab analysis; Carter wearing his trademark Panama hat

In July of 2009, Donald K. Carter was appointed the David Lewis Director of Urban Design and Regional Engagement for the School of Architecture's Remaking Cities Institute (RCI). He succeeds former College of Fine Arts Associate Dean Luis Rico-Guitierrez (who is now the dean of the College of Design at Iowa State University). The directorship pairs faculty responsibilities with leadership duties that foster the RCI's goals. The mission of the RCI is "to catalyze sustainable urban futures and excellence in community design." Its vision is to be "recognized internationally as the key resource for rebuilding urban communities, demonstrated through the revitalization of communities in the Pittsburgh region."

As a 1967 architecture graduate of Carnegie Tech, Carter's post-graduate study was in urban design and regional planning at Scotland's University of Edinburgh. Afterwards, he served as a First Lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers before a thirty-six year career as an architect and urban designer at the office of Urban Design Associates (UDA). UDA was co-founded by his former teacher, David Lewis, the distinguished professor emeritus of urban design at Carnegie Mellon who the RCI directorship is named for. Carter's career honors include being named a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Certified Planners. Just prior to accepting the directorship, Carter retired as president of UDA, where he continues to serve as consulting principal.

Although new to leading the RCI, Carter has been central to the institute from its inception. A decade ago, the idea began as no more than a series of conversations among three associates. They shared a vision for an institute that married research and teaching in urbanism with the resurgent interest in urban living based on the "new economy." The other two members of this impassioned triad were David Lewis, and former Heinz School professor Richard Florida, who penned the book *The Rise of the Creative Class*. Florida left for an outside opportunity, but discussions continued between Lewis and

Carter. In 2006 (and with the work of many others) the RCI became a reality as the School of Architecture received a \$2 million grant for its creation from the Pittsburgh based Heinz Endowments.

The past year was busy for Carter. Besides teaching a seminar course in the Masters of Urban Design program, contributing to a book titled *Synergy City* about post-industrial cities, and traveling with President Jared L. Cohon to India and Singapore for talks on smart growth, Carter and the RCI have been working on a number of significant urban initiatives. Last fall the RCI published *Remaking Hazelwood, Remaking Pittsburgh: Urban Design Recommendations for Pittsburgh's Next Big Urban Project*. It's a volume of proposals for the revitalization of Hazelwood through the redevelopment of the ALMONO site, as studied over the prior 24 months by CMU's undergraduate Urban Laboratory. In early 2010, the RCI prepared for and hosted the two-day regional conference of the Mayors' Institute on City Design. The symposium offered seven invited mayors from mid-size cities the opportunity to learn from design professionals about how urban design can contribute to the revitalization of their cities. Then this past summer the RCI once again ran the UDream program (see related story on page 24). And, most recently in August, the RCI unveiled its Innovation Oakland project, a community-wide wayfinding infrastructure initiative developed with CMU researchers in the School of Architecture, School of Design, Heinz College, CyLab Mobility Research Center and the Entertainment Technology Center.

Looking ahead, the director plans to grow the RCI over the next five years to serve the increasing number of available projects. Carter hopes to add more permanent staff, including research and teaching fellows; to produce a journal of sustainable urbanism; and to publish more books. He also hopes to continue expanding interdisciplinary partnerships with schools and departments on campus for current and new curriculum offerings and graduate degrees.