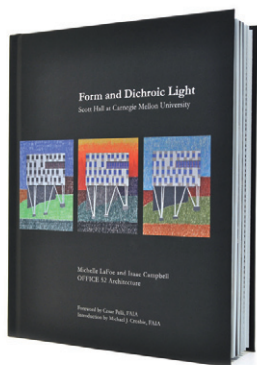


Good Form

Form and Dichroic Light: Scott Hall at Carnegie Mellon University

By Michelle LaFoe '89 and Isaac Campbell '89
(Leete's Island Books, 2018)



When a prestigious design competition pitted their startup architecture firm against some of the biggest names in the field, Michelle LaFoe '89 and Isaac Campbell '89 found a way to set themselves apart: They threw out the rules. Campbell and LaFoe had only

recently opened their Portland studio, OFFICE 52 Architecture, when they entered the 2011 competition to design an \$82 million nanoscience, bioscience and energy technologies building at Carnegie Mellon University. Winning would have been a coup for any small firm — even more so during the building industry's postrecession down-



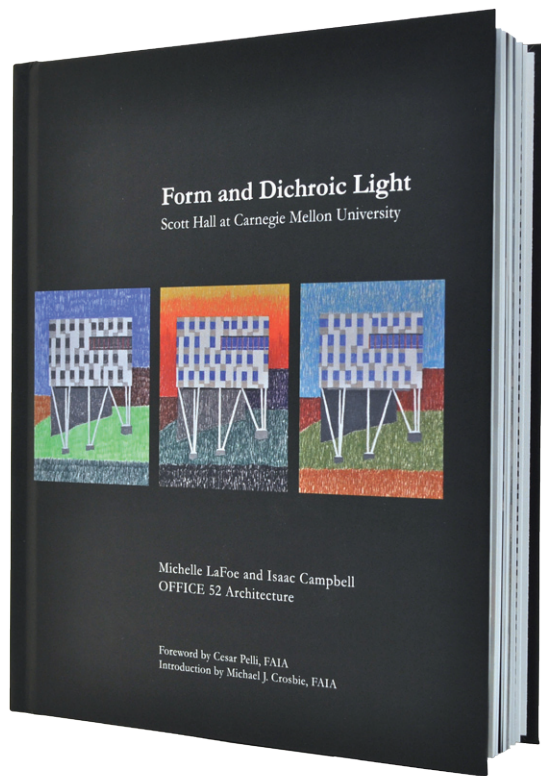
turn. But the couple, who met at Rice, saw their youth and size as an asset that made them nimbler than the big firms.

"The postrecession has allowed firms like ours to emerge and be competitive on a national scale," Campbell told *The Oregonian* in 2013. "Why? We're retooling and rethinking how we work. We may be smaller, but we also have the freedom to be more selective."

It also gave them the boldness to take big risks. Although the competition called for a seven-story tower, Campbell and LaFoe "questioned how the problem was conceptually framed," writes Michael J. Crosbie, former chair of the University of Hartford's architecture department, in his introduction to LaFoe and Campbell's informative book detailing the Scott Hall architectural process and product.

Instead — at the risk of disqualifying their entry — they proposed building much of the science center underground, topped with a state-of-the-art green roof and a crystalline pavilion that leads into a light-filled atrium. Using dichroic glass, the designers created subtle variations of color and light that change throughout the day. The risk paid off. Scott Hall was officially complete in 2017 and stands, says Crosbie, as "a model for design exploration that focuses like a laser on the nature of the problem."

— JENNIFER LATSON



RICE

The Magazine of Rice University
WINTER 2019

Form and Dichroic Light

Book Review by Jennifer Latson



Jennifer Latson is a former writer for TIME Magazine, a contributing book critic for the Boston Globe, and a staff editor for Rice Business Wisdom, the online ideas magazine for Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business in Houston, Texas. Her first book was published June 20, 2018 by Simon & Schuster. She has an MFA in creative writing from Yale University.

Isaac Campbell and **Michelle LaFoe** are the founders of OFFICE 52 Architecture, a Portland, Oregon based design practice that envisions transformative projects with the integration of architecture, innovative technology and artistic expression for creative and sustainable solutions. They express ideas not just in compelling large-scale building projects such as the new Nano-Bio-Energy Technologies Building at Carnegie Mellon University but also in smaller more playful projects like a museum installation that draws inspiration from saturated color and natural light.

RICE Magazine Book Review Links:

1. <https://magazine.rice.edu/2019/02/good-form/>
2. PDF: https://www.office-52.com/image/RICE-Magazine_Form-and-Dichroic-Light-Book-Review-By-Jennifer-Latson-2019.pdf

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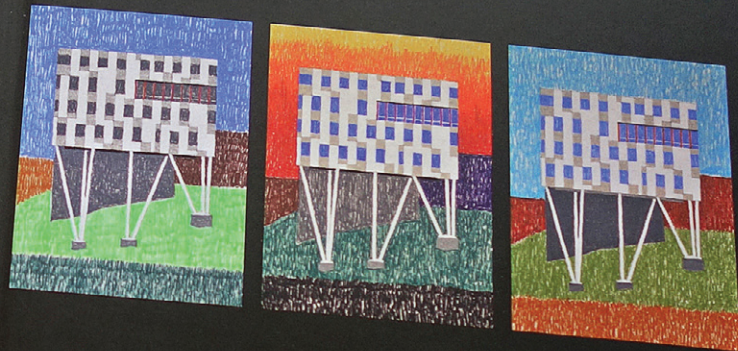
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Scott Hall at Carnegie Mellon University



Michelle LaFoe and Isaac Campbell
OFFICE 52 Architecture

Foreword by Cesar Pelli, FAIA
Introduction by Michael J. Crosbie, FAIA

A BIG RICE DEAL

The Magazine of Rice University
WINTER 2019

RICE WRITES A BOLD NEW CHAPTER IN ITS tuition story FOR CURRENT STUDENTS and FUTURE OWLS alike



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