

## PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Opening from 6 pm to 8 pm

Gallery Talk at 6:30 pm

Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery, Buell Hall,  
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Columbia University  
409 Avery Hall, 1172 Amsterdam Avenue  
New York, NY 10027

## prototype 180 Mary Ellen Carroll

Gallery Talk at 6:30 pm

Mary Ellen Carroll, Artist; Charles Renfro, Architect, DS+R;  
David Joselit, Art Historian, Yale University; Mark Wasiuta,  
Director of Exhibitions, GSAPP, Columbia University

Exhibition on display from February 17, 2011 until March 25, 2011

Hours: Monday to Friday, 12 pm until 6 pm

On Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 PM, Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation and the Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery will inaugurate *prototype 180*, an exhibition of new work by artist Mary Ellen Carroll. The opening will feature a roundtable conversation with the artist, Charles Renfro of the architectural office DS+R, David Joselit, Art Historian at Yale University, and Mark Wasiuta, Director of Exhibitions, GSAPP.

*prototype 180* is a conceptual work of art and urban alteration that entails a radical form of renovation through the physical rotation and reoccupation of a single family house in the aging, first ring subdivision of Sharpstown in Houston, Texas. In conception and planning for over 10 years, the project is temporally, physically, and structurally organized around its catalytic rotational transformation. While the rotation and relocation of the house on its lot interrupt the relation of the house to its context and to existing street typologies they also signal the altered life of the house as a space devoted to a program that will address the issue of aging neighborhoods and their potential futures. *prototype 180* strategically intersects conceptual art projects, social activism, urban legislation and economic processes. Its 180 degree reorientation registers aesthetically against a history of critical house alterations and administratively in relation to Houston's unregulated land use policies and its absence of zoning.

The exhibition incorporates recorded and live video, physical models, and photographs that document critical episodes within the evolution of the project, including the visual and spatial description of the house relocation, a process at the center of the complex network of social, political, urban, architectural conditions that the project both disturbs and reorganizes.

Mary Ellen Carroll's prolific career spans more than twenty years and a range of practices, from art, to architecture, performance and film. Carroll is the recipient of numerous grants and honors, including, most recently, a 2010 a Graham Foundation Fellowship for *prototype 180* and *innovation territory* and the AIA's Artist of the Year Award. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Pollack/Krasner Award, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and a MacDowell Colony Fellowship.

Her work has been exhibited at numerous American and international galleries, including the Whitney Museum-New York, ICA-Philadelphia, the Renaissance Society-Chicago, ICA-London, Museum für Völkerkunde-Munich, MOMUK-Vienna. Her work belongs to in numerous public and private collections. A monograph of her work published by Steidl/MACK (London and Gottingen) received the AIGA's 2010 Book of the Year Award. Carroll teaches in the architecture school at Rice University.

### For further information:

[www.arch.columbia.edu/events](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/events)

[www.prototype180.com](http://www.prototype180.com)

The project *prototype 180* is made possible by the generous support of Greg Feldman and Melanie Shorin, the Strypemonde Foundation, the Graham Foundation, OFPC, LLC, Rockefeller Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, Rice University, William J. Hill Land and Cattle Company, David Hariton and Tod Lippy, Transart Foundation, Healix Corporation, SPACE and CenterPoint Energy.

*prototype 180* Diptych—Private Collection, London

Photography and video by Michael Isabell—Eyespy Films and Kenny Trice  
Technical direction for the live high definition video feed by William Deigaard



*prototype 180*, post the 180 degree rotation of 6513 Sharpview Drive, Houston, TX  
Photo by Kenny Trice