As a service-profession, architectural practice operates in prescribed spheres of influence identified by legal, political, economic, financial, social and cultural norms comprising a current 21st century status quo.

As a discipline, the architectural silo provides a multifaceted and rich array of skills, knowledge, processes, techniques and insights. These resources are, ideally, guided in their application to architectural projects (the practice of architecture) by moral and ethical values intended to ensure that clients receive high levels of professional service. Such clients would include those directly contracting the work as well as members of a community in which projects are realized.

Individual architectural practices at times endeavour to embrace a broader, more critical mandate through their pro bono or philanthropic practices to address the needs of disadvantaged members of societies. However, the vast majority of the built environment created during the latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of
the 21st century is oblivious to such needs and concerns. It is also evident that the disparity in access to basic needs between advantaged and disadvantaged members of many societies is increasing, despite overall increases in economic activities and trade, and in the cumulative wealth of certain individuals and corporations.

In October of this year the 2017 Montréal World Design Summit issued its Montréal Design Declaration that recognized “…the potential of design to help better achieve global economic, social, cultural and environmental objectives”, and proposed “developing an international action plan for harnessing the power of design to address pressing global challenges” (Montréal Design Declaration, pg. 3).

‘Critical Architecture Beyond Practice’ will consider how architecture, by drawing on its skills and resources, and by acting outside of its traditional role of service provider, can effectively contribute to such a critical cause.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Jurij Leshchyshyn has a focus on teaching and academic administration. He has been involved in curriculum development, coordinating first year studios and participating in design studios across all years. He has taught courses involving building science, systems, site planning, and graphics, and has supervised undergraduate and graduate student theses. Most recently he has fulfilled the role of Interim Chair of the Architectural Science Department.

Prior to joining Ryerson in 1989, Jurij Leshchyshyn worked for several architectural firms in Toronto on projects that included institutional, religious, custom-residential, and industrial-commercial buildings, as well as renovations to existing residential and industrial properties. Of note was his role as site architect for a major project that included an office and a twin-tower condominium complex.

His interest in the affects of underlying forces that influence architecture and the built environment lead to an investigation of architecture and public policy. His paper "Architecture and Public Policy", published in The International Journal of the Constructed Environment 1 (4): 165-174, 2012, received the journal’s International Award for Excellence. Presentations titled Architecture and Public Policy, and Architecture, Public Policy and the Constructed Environment, were made at the 1st and 3rd International Conferences on the Constructed Environment, respectively.