



## **Kevin B. Pratt**

December 23, 1969 – February 19, 2013

Kevin Pratt, an Assistant Professor in Cornell's Department of Architecture died suddenly at his home at the age of 43 on February 19, 2013. A highly respected and multi-faceted individual, he taught courses in architectural design, building technology, environmental systems, and sustainable form.

Kevin received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Columbia University in 1992 and his Master of Architecture degree from the Architectural Association in London in 2004. During the interim period between these two degrees, he worked as a project architect/designer on numerous projects. Returning from England with a specialty involving Energy and the Environment, he became the Director of Research at Kieran Timberlake Associates LLP which in 2007 was recognized as the Architecture Firm of the Year by the American Institute of Architects.

Recognizing that professional practice did not provide an environment for long term research in architecture, Kevin decided to return to academia. To paraphrase Kevin's own words, he came to Cornell in 2008 with the goal of helping to modernize architectural education, particularly with respect to the design and construction of sustainable buildings. His intentions were to achieve this goal through interdisciplinary research and diverse collaborations critical to solving these complex problems.

Throughout his short teaching career at Cornell, Kevin strived to provide his students in environmental systems with a solid historical and conceptual framework in order to understand the critical relationships between systems, theories of design and sustainable practice. However, Kevin also strongly believed that the interlinked fields of building science and sustainable design were advancing so rapidly that it was necessary to have a strong connection to state-of-the-art research in this area, particularly if what one is teaching is to have any practical relevance to students. To this end, despite a heavy teaching load during his short five-year tenure, he continued to investigate new software methods to predictively analyze potential designs and

design strategies. From his all-too-brief research endeavors collaborating with Cornell's Program of Computer Graphics, the Atkinson Center, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Kevin introduced advanced computational methods of simulation to his architectural students with the full knowledge that such tools were becoming the *de facto* methods of analysis in the profession.

In many ways, Kevin's impact on the Department of Architecture was substantial. His passion for teaching and learning, his insatiable curiosity, and his superb ability to provide historical backgrounds, intellectual criticism, and articulate new ideas will long be remembered. Future students unfortunately will not be able to be exposed to his superb teaching skills, but his multi-disciplinary approach to architecture should be forever engrained in the design curricula of the future.

His contributions to the architectural profession reached well beyond Cornell's boundaries. He was actively involved in architectural juries and lecturing at many universities and participated in the larger cultural discourse through his writing for Artforum and TimeOut New York. He also had formed a collaborative practice, Epiphyte Lab, which received several grants connecting scientific research to artistic endeavors. Kevin is survived by his wife, Dana Cupkova; three children, Tallulah, Alexander and Gwendolyn; his parents Howard Pratt and Susan Kaye; a brother, David Riley; a half-brother Riley; stepmother Sharon Pratt, stepfather Jerome Kaye and two stepbrothers, Jake and Drew Decker.

*Donald Greenberg*