In September 2006, The Architect's Newspaper and the AIA New York chapter held the first of four New Practices Roundtables, a discussion series meant to provide a forum and resource for start-up architecture firms. Launched at the initiative of last year's chapter President Susan Chin and current President Mark Strauss, the gatherings were a chance for architects to share their insights, experiences, and frustrations in starting and running their own firms. The sessions at the Center for Architecture featured experts including technology consultants, branding specialists, and insurance lawyers, who advised on matters ranging from how to get reluctant clients to pay up to the cost-efficiency of outsourcing.

The overwhelmingly positive response to these roundtables (which we will resume in the fall) inspired us to sponsor a competition called New Practices, New York, aimed at identifying exceptional young local practices. Jurors included Winka Dubbeldam of Architectonics, Martin Finio of Christoff Finio, and Greg Pasquarelli of SHoP Architects, who all served as panelists in the series, as well as Chin, who is now assistant commissioner of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs, I served as jury chair.

The six winning firms' portfolios and videos each made about their work will be on view at the Center through September 23. In addition, a bimonthly exhibit and reception will be held for each of the practices at the Haüle America Showroom (25 East 26th Street, across from Madison Park). For exhibition and lecture dates, visit www.archpaper.com or www.aiany.org.

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