

# AIAS, Rock Climbing Club co-host Design Charrette

By Dan Zweig  
STAFF WRITER

This semester, the American Society of Architecture Students (AIAS) and the Rock Climbing Club at IIT co-sponsored an event to design a new rock climbing venue. Every semester, the AIAS typically hosts a design charrette that teaches students how to work in teams to competitively design a project in collaboration with other architects and engineers. A few years ago, it was to design a new campus center at IIT, this time it was to reinterpret an existing landmark -- Crown Hall -- into a rock climbing gym.

Since 2010, the Rock Climbing club has been working closely with IIT administration, staff, and SGA to try to satisfy the student body's desire for a rock climbing gym on campus. We have been trying to come up with something small for training, similar to local gyms like Hidden Peak, where students can hone their techniques and become better prepared for their large outdoor trips. These trips typically go to places like Red River Gorge, Kentucky, and Devil's Lake, Wisconsin. After much deliberation, the athletics department announced they would not build a small climbing facility at Keating, instead promising to include a new rock-climbing wall at the athletics facility planned for the next 5-10 years. In the long-term vision of the school, this makes more fiscal sense and the Rock Climbing Club is excited to see such an opportunity at IIT for future students.

This semester, AIAS and Rock Climbing also collaborated on a design charrette for students, that reinterpreted monumental Crown Hall into a rock climbing facility for students and Chicago. The advertising for this event surprised many students, who emailed the organizations and posted on their Facebook pages to ask if this alteration was actually going to happen. Of course this was not the case, it

was just a design charrette to judge student's ability to design new and exciting spaces; and it also allowed for a more interactive design experience.

The students were brought by the organizations on a Friday evening to a functioning and popular climbing gym, ClimbOn in Homewood, and invited to investigate the space and experience the activity firsthand. They designed the reimagined Crown Hall in Crown Hall so that they could continually analyze their ideas and designs firsthand. Students were provided with a free trip to a rock climbing gym, and then participated in a free charrette with other students, and top designs won prizes provided by AIAS.

This was an exciting cooperative event between two very different and successful student organizations on campus and produced a great event with interesting results. Both organizations are always looking for ways that they can co-sponsor events with other organizations, to benefit from their greater experience, generate interesting results from the mixture, or help growing organizations with their experience and numbers. It will be interesting to see what other co-sponsored events come out of these organizations in the future and what the design prompt for next semester's charrette will be.



## Rock Climbing Design Charrette

### What:

Go rock climbing & renovate Crown Hall for the new owners the Rock Climbing Club

### Where:

Climb on & Crown Hall

### When:

Friday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm  
Saturday Oct 20 at 9:00 am

### Sign up at

<http://iitaias.wordpress.com>  
Under the Events Tab.

"WE ARE  
iit AIAS"

[aias@iit.edu](mailto:aias@iit.edu)

[www.facebook.com/aias.at.iit](http://www.facebook.com/aias.at.iit)

[www.iitaias.wordpress.com](http://www.iitaias.wordpress.com)



Hosted by: iitAIAS & iit Rock Climbing Club

Images courtesy of Dan Zweig

IIT November Sustainability Forum:

## Achieving ZERO Waste

Successes, challenges and future opportunities

November 16th  
Herman Hall Ballroom

RSVP at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/ZeroForum>  
12:00-1:30pm

### Speakers:

John Dunsing

Environmental Sustainability Manager and  
Manager of Special Projects at Jewel-Osco  
Retail business professional with over 30 years industry experience

Raj Rajaram

Environmental Waste Management Expert from Tetrattech  
with 34 years of experience  
He is also an IIT Kent Law Alumnus



Questions: [campussustainability@iit.edu](mailto:campussustainability@iit.edu)

Sustainable, vegan, and gluten free food will be offered

## Vedic Vision Society: Transformation Exhibit, Meditation Workshop

By Sneha Saraf  
STAFF WRITER

The live music band outside the MTCC Ballroom last Friday was clearly a head turner. This was part of Vedic Vision Society's "Transformation Exhibit and Meditation Workshop".

The obviously unfamiliar call and response music drew students. As you walk into the auditorium, you are greeted by smiling student volunteers who help you get started.

The first table was called "Changing bodies, Unchanging self", describing how we grow from a child body to a youthful body to an aged body, but our sense of "I am" never changes. This sense of "I am" or "I exist" is the indication of the soul, just like thoughts and desires are indication of the existence of the mind. The essence of this exhibit was that we are spiritual beings residing in a body that changes over time and dies, but the soul is eternal. In pursuit of happiness, most of our lives are spent caring for the body -- but whether one is rich, pretty or famous, one fails to find happiness or satisfaction. It is because true happiness comes from within when we nourish the soul. The process of mantra meditation hence is so powerful, since it helps one become happy from inside, unaffected by time, place and circumstance.

The next stop was the table showing the various topics discussed at VVS's Friday seminars and the general progression of topics, starting with "Who am I" all the way to "Practical Spirituality".

The third table covered Karma, Q&A and Krishna Lunch. Many people had interesting

questions about God, action-reaction, and reincarnation, to name a few. The most important point at this table was how to lead a life with minimum damage to other living entities and the environment. The logical point that comes up in this context is food, rather vegetarian food. This is where Krishna Lunch fits in. It is a recent effort from VVS to provide students with vegetarian meals for \$5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which is also a fundraiser for a non-profit.

Last but not the least was the meditation workshop, where students sat on chairs with sacred beads chanting the Hare Krishna mantra while trying to focus their minds on the transcendental sound vibrations. Many participants described the experience as very calming, feeling much more at ease even after a few minutes.

It was an event that is quite unique and unlike what most of us come to experience in our daily lives. The whole experience was thought provoking and the meditation workshop was simply amazing. Some students just stayed there and meditated for up to half an hour!

Overall, I found the exhibit to be a wonderful experience. Even though I have been attending the Friday lectures since January, this event was definitely new to me. It provided me with a greater insight on the underlying theme, which was the transformation of our consciousness from matter to spirit.

For anyone who wants to find out more about the lectures, the videos for previous lectures are available for viewing and discussion on [facebook.com/vedicvis](http://facebook.com/vedicvis).