

# From Biology to Design:

## How nature has inspired sustainable innovation at the Rhode Island School of Design

A Lecture by Neal Overstrom and Jennifer Bissonnette

**Thursday, January 23, 6 p.m.**

Design North  
Room 60

Arizona State University  
810 S. Forest Ave  
Tempe, AZ 85287-1605

For more than 80 years, the Edna W. Lawrence Nature Lab has showcased a spectacular collection of natural history artifacts at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD). The Nature Lab serves as a center for transdisciplinary inquiry where design thinking merges with ecological knowledge to help students and faculty investigate ways for respectfully engaging with “nature’s technologies.”

Nature Lab Director Neal Overstrom and Jennifer Bissonnette, Biological Programs Designer, will discuss how RISD students and faculty have used the amazing biological resources of the Nature Lab to spur sustainable innovation in art, design and architecture and will highlight work from the Nature Lab’s new NSF-funded BioDesign Makerspace.



Neal Overstrom



Jennifer Bissonnette

### Don't Miss

An open house for the new NatureMaker space will be held  
**Wednesday, January 22**  
**4–8 p.m.**

The Biomimicry Center  
Design South, Rm 126  
Arizona State University  
810 S. Forest Ave  
Tempe, AZ 85287-1605



*From Biology to Design* is part of a series of events celebrating the opening of ASU’s NatureMaker, an active learning library where hands-on explorations of natural history artifacts inspire sustainable innovation. NatureMaker is a collaboration between the Biomimicry Center and the ASU Library.