Cara McCarty, who has served as assistant curator in the Museum's Department of Architecture and Design since 1984, first joined the Museum in 1979 as program coordinator in the Department of Education. She was an intern in the Department of Architecture and Design from 1980 to 1981 and became curatorial assistant in 1982.

Prior to DESIGNS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, Ms. McCarty organized MARIO BELLINI: DESIGNER (1987), CRAFTS FROM THE COLLECTION (1986), and WALL HANGINGS FROM THE COLLECTION (1986). With Arthur Drexler, former director of the Department of Architecture and Design, she worked on several exhibitions, including MIES VAN DER ROHE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION (1986); RICARDO BOFILL AND LEON KRIER: ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM, AND HISTORY (1985); ALVAR AALTO: FURNITURE AND GLASS (1984); and MARCEL BREUER: FURNITURE AND INTERIORS (1981). She also assisted Mr. Drexler in 1984 on the installation of works from the permanent collection that inaugurated the new Philip L. Goodwin Gallery.

Ms. McCarty received a B.A. degree in architectural history and East Asian art from Stanford University in 1978. After graduating from Stanford, she was an exchange student at Keio University in Tokyo, where she studied traditional Japanese architecture and crafts. In 1980 she completed an apprenticeship program at Parsons School of Design, New York. In 1987 she served as a juror for the Compasso d'Oro design awards in Milan.

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