



Summer 2012 (June / July / August) Issue 9

ACSANewsDigest

A Publication of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture

WEST CENTRAL

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Professor **Robert J. Krawczyk** was an invited speaker at the International Society of The Arts, Mathematics and Architecture Conference, ISAMA 2012, DePaul University, Chicago, IL, June 18-21, 2012. Krawczyk's speech was entitled "Exploring Digital Fabrication."

Living Room Realty's new exhibit, *Objects in Space*, will feature work by Studio Associate Professor **Paul Pettigrew**. The show, open June 22 – August 3, displays living spaces in a storefront gallery, and highlights locally sourced and produced furniture, textiles, and accessories. Pettigrew's *iCharnley*, an iPod stereo system, will be included in the exhibit. The stereo was built into and around a single piece of quarter-sawn white oak fumigated in ammonium to match the patina of the Charnley House interior woodwork. The white oak came from Chicago's urban forest via Horigan Urban Forest Products. For more information, visit: www.livingroomrealty.com

Chicago Architecture Foundation's new exhibit premiering June 22nd features College of Architecture undergraduate and graduate studio work. *Unseen City: Designs for a Future Chicago* tackles the question, "What might this neighborhood and city become?" Designs include a 19th cen-

tury boulevard transformed for the 21st, a horizontal deconstructed Willis Tower, an industrial district as creative hub, and a skyscraper that scrubs the air.

Studio Associate Professor **Antony Wood** exhibited *Hi-Rise, Lo-Carb*, a Spring 2012 undergraduate studio Collaboration with Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture.

Assistant Professor **Marshall Brown** exhibited *Garfield Boulevard: Completely Stripped Naked, Dirty, and Wet*, Fall 2011 graduate studio.

For more information, visit the Chicago Architecture Foundation website: www.architecture.org

The July/August 2012 issue of *Chicago Architect* magazine includes an article on Associate Professor **Frank Flury**'s recent undergraduate design/build studio project. IIT students adopted the local vernacular—the round barn—for their design of a visitor support facility at Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House in Plano, Illinois. Read the article at: <http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?i=116280>.

ComEd announced the winners of its "Powerful Design" contest, in which local architecture students created design concepts for a new training facility on Chicago's South Side, on May 1. IIT architecture undergraduate students Andrea Zuniga and Daniel Caven created the winning entry, entitled "Seed of Light." The contest also

included teams from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

The winning team members will receive paid summer internships at Design Organization, the Chicago architecture firm selected by ComEd to design the new facility. The winning team also will receive a \$1,500 cash prize to be split evenly among the team members.

"We're excited to engage with aspiring architects and provide students with a real-world opportunity to showcase their skills," said Anne Pramaggiore, president and CEO, ComEd, at a news conference at the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

Pramaggiore served as a member of the contest jury, which included Jeanne Gang, principal and founder of Studio Gang Architects; Lourdes Gonzalez, senior vice president of Primera Engineers; Raj Gupta, CEO of Environmental Systems Design, Inc.; and Wilbur Milhouse III, president and CEO at Milhouse Engineering & Construction.

"Selecting a winner was not easy as all of the entries were very strong," said Raj Gupta. "It is exciting to see such talented aspiring architects developing design concepts at this level."

Participants were at least fourth-year undergraduate or master's students. While "Seed of Light" won first place, other prize winners included the "Looking In, Climbing Up" entry from UIC, the "Arena" entry from UIC, and the "Aletheia" entry from the SAIC.

"We're excited to offer internships to the talented winners of this competition," said Spero Valavanis, president of Design Organization. "They have demonstrated considerable skill, creativity and vision and we are eager to work with them and ComEd on this important project."

ACSANews Digest is published once monthly and is distributed digitally to all full-time faculty in ACSA member schools via the ACSA Update membership email. These Regional School items were originally published on the ACSA website, which offers extensive coverage of member schools activities updated daily.

Visit www.acsa-arch.org/ACSANews/read for more news.

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As part of the company's \$2.6 billion investment under the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act enacted last fall by the Illinois General Assembly, ComEd will build a LEED-certified facility to train a new generation of utility workers in the advanced skills needed to modernize the electric grid. The training center will contain classrooms, office space, new technology exhibits, conference rooms and student break areas. It also will feature 20 indoor underground cable-splicing bays, a weather-protected pole yard, overhead conductors, distribution automation equipment, manholes and substation equipment for use by trainees. ComEd plans to begin construction on the facility later this year.

"We are proud to be part of this process and to showcase the work of local architecture students," said Lynn J. Osmond, president and CEO of the Chicago Architecture Foundation. "We encourage Chicagoans to come see the works of these talented students enrolled in the top architecture programs in a city known for great architecture."

The Powerful Design contestants were honored at an awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m. on May 1 at the Chicago Architecture Foundation. The entries will be on display through May 23, 2012.

Master of Architecture student Anne Dudek was chosen as AIA Chicago's 2012 Martin Roche Travel Scholar. Dudek will use the \$5,000 grant to travel to China, where she will research living conditions for migrant workers in cities. Dudek plans to continue this research through her IIT Masters Project and her planned professional focus on social architecture.

MLA student Fa Likitswat has won the 2012 Schiff Foundation Fellowship for her work in Adjunct Professor **Terry Guen's** Fall 2011 graduate studio, "Catalytic Waterways." The studio explored urban conditions adjacent to Chicago's river and canal systems in order to design a new sustainable city form that integrates natural ecosystem types into the urban fabric

Likitswat's project, "The Gravity of Transformation," focused on the area surrounding the Santa Fe Railroad elevator at the head of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Ca-

nal. Likitswat's design called for a cultural and recreational site, a food production and marketplace area, and a habitat island.

The Schiff Foundation Fellowship is administered by the Art Institute of Chicago for the purpose of supporting young architects. As the Schiff Foundation winner, Fa Likitswat receives a \$15,000 award and her project will become part of the permanent collection of architectural drawings housed within the Ernest R. Graham Study Center for Architectural Drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Nghia Phan, winner of the ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship! Phan will receive a stipend to study at École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Lausanne, Switzerland under Professor Fernando Porte-Agel, Head of the Wind Engineering and Renewable Energy Laboratory. Phan will focus on applications for the small scale wind turbine in the built environment.

The ThinkSwiss Research Scholarship program promotes exchanges and sharing know-how between the United States and Switzerland.

Professor **Dirk Denison's** firm, Dirk Denison Architects, has received The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Housing Award for the Carmel Residence in Carmel by the Sea, California. The beach house features dramatic views of the Pacific and large sliding windows that allow breezes through the house's courtyard. Jurors praised the integration of living and outdoor spaces and described the residence as "a sanctuary for living and meditation." <http://www.aia.org/practicing/awards/2012/housing-awards/CarmelResidence/index.htm>

IIT College of Architecture faculty have been recognized in AIA Chicago's 2012 Small Project Awards. At the May 11th event, three faculty members' firms received awards.

The College of Architecture faculty honorees are listed below by award. For complete coverage of the 2012 awards, including photos of each winning design, visit AIA Chicago's website (www.aiachicago.org).

Small Project Structure I Honor Award: **Richard Blender**, Blender Architecture. Garden Infrastructure + Connector; Small Project Structure I Citation of Merit: **Thomas Roszak**, Thomas Roszak Architecture, The Clark Family Welcome Gallery at Adler Planetarium; Small Object I Citation of Merit: **Martin Felsen**, UrbanLab, Art Chicago: Video Arcade.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Professor **Jon Davey** PhD, AIA, and Assistant Professor **Shannon Sanders McDonald** AIA completed an eight day design charrette providing design assistance and consultation to families who lost their homes or were partially destroyed during the recent tornado that struck Harrisburg Illinois. With the approval of the Mayor Eric Gregg faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students and March Alumni set up an atelier (studio) in the Harrisburg Public Library. A total of two faculty, nine students and one alumnus provided design assistance to over 23 families completing 20 new home designs and 3 structural consultations. The Design Atelier (studio) was structured as a typical office with each student taking on one or more projects, interviewing the families and designing their new homes.

Shannon Sanders McDonald, an assistant architecture professor at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale has authored a chapter in the *Encyclopedia of Sustainability, Science and Technology* edited by Robert A Meyers titled: Personal Rapid Transit and its Development. It is a peer-reviewed coverage of sustainability science and technology from nearly 1,000 of the world's leading scientists and engineers, who write on more than 600 separate topics in 42 sections. *ESST* establishes a foundation for the many sustainability and policy evaluations being performed in institutions worldwide.

Assistant Professor **Norm Lach** AIA, Professor Jon Davey PhD, AIA, Assistant Professor Shannon Sanders McDonald AIA and two students participated in the AIA Leadership Institute this summer in Chicago, IL. This bi-annual leadership workshop assists individuals with formalizing and developing broad visions for our profession and communities.

Assistant Professor Norm Lach AIA, FALA Director of the Architectural Studies Program completed a one year term as Chairman of the Illinois Architectural Licensing Board and is also serving on the Illinois AIA Board of Directors.

SOUTHEAST

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Magdalena Garmaz, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, will serve as the Interim Program Chair for the college-wide Bachelors of Environmental Design major. Her two-year term appointment is effective on August 16, 2012.

Auburn University Architecture Thesis student work was recently featured in an exhibition during the first annual 'Montgomery Street Fair' on April 21, 2012. The event was produced by Helicity Montgomery, a local non-profit that seeks to be a catalyst for the continued cultural and social development of the City of Montgomery and surrounding areas through arts and community engagement. For several years, Auburn architecture has cultivated a thesis studio that explores the possibilities of the urban revitalization of downtown Montgomery; with each passing year the projects have become more and more relevant to the conversation about how to improve Montgomery's urban landscape. By working with the City of Montgomery Department of Development and local architects, professors **Behzad Nakhjavan** and Magdalena Garmaz have immersed their students in tangible issues, shaping the would be hypothetical explorations into increasingly applicable design solutions for Montgomery. Several Projects have been selected to be showcased further at Department of Development at a reception in early June.

Brandon Block, a May 2012 graduate of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, was one of two top winners in the "Live.Work.Learn" student architecture contest announced at the 2012

AIA National Convention in Washington, DC. Sponsored by Boral Bricks, the contest was planned in collaboration with the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) and required students to design a live/work building using brick for 70 percent of the exterior siding. Entries were judged on their excellence in live/work design and creative use of bricks by a panel representing industry leadership in the architecture, brick, and building industries. Block's winning design was part of his undergraduate comprehensive thesis project developed under the direction of Professor Behzad Nakhjavan.

Dr. **Rod Barnett**, Chair of the Master of Landscape Architecture program in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, and Dr. **Paul Cullen**, A Fulbright Scholar visiting from AUT University, Auckland, New Zealand, have collaborated to produce an exhibition entitled "Contingency" on display in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction Gallery. This collaborative project has involved an investigation of a range of urban sites in Auburn and Birmingham, AL and speculations on their possible development and regeneration. Dr. Barnett and Dr. Cullen have used photographs, models, and drawings to present their speculative responses to these sites.

Dean's Executive Board member, **Patrick B. Davis, Jr.**, FAIA, has been appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to the Alabama Board of Architects. Davis, member of The College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects, has nearly four decades of experience as an architect specializing in all aspects of healthcare planning and design. He is employed with CMH Architects, Inc., in Birmingham, AL, as Vice President of Healthcare Services.

Donald C. Brown, FAIA, from AIA Montgomery, was elected 2013-14 AIA Vice President. A 1971 graduate of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, Brown is owner and lead principal of Brown Studio Architecture in Montgomery.

Jane Frederick, APLA '82, was inducted into the AIA College of Fellows in Washington D.C. this past May. Ms. Frederick is a principal in the firm of Frederick + Frederick Architects in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Design Initiative, led by partner and APLA alum Marshall Anderson ('97), was the recipient of a 2012 Birmingham AIA Honor Award for the design of Professor **Cheryl Morgan's** (Director of the Urban Studio) Morgan Street Loft in downtown Birmingham, Alabama.

The Galley House, a design submission developed by Architecture and Interior Architecture students Mary Win McCarthy, Ashley Clark and Peter McInish, was selected from a pool of over 100 submissions for one of five top prizes in the 2011-2012 The Sustainable Home / Habitat for Humanity Student Design Competition. The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (APLA) student team was co-sponsored by APLA Architecture Professors **Justin Miller** and **Robert Sproull, Jr.** In addition to receiving a \$1500 cash prize for the "Best use of Vinyl" award, the team will have their design exhibited the ACSA 101st Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, in March 2013, and at the American Institute of Architects' National Convention in Denver, CO, in June 2013. The competition was administered by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Vinyl Institute.

Courtney Brett, a 2007 graduate of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, was named the AIA's youngest active member by the American Institute of Architects this year. Beginning her college career at Auburn when she was just 16, Brett was recruited by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York out of college. Currently Brett is involved with her own firm, Casburn Brett Architecture, in Daphne, Alabama.

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UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

The University of Puerto Rico (UPR) School of Architecture celebrated its 45th anniversary with the publication of *(in)forma* volumes 7 & 8.

Last semester our exhibition series was highlighted by WAI architecture think tank, while this academic year we will be exhibiting the work of architectural photographers Francisco Vando, Max Toro, and Ivonne Marcial.

Our upcoming lecture series features Patrick Schumacher, Brett Steele, Giancarlo Mazzanti, Cristián Undurraga, Benedetta Tagliabue, Moshen Mostafavi, Felipe Correa, Rodolfo Machado, Jorge Silvetti, Nader Tehrani and Eric Goldemberg.

For the third straight year we will co-organize an exchange of lecturers with Tulane University. **Andrés Mignucci** will visit New Orleans this Fall while **Scott Bernard** will come to San Juan in the Spring. The initiative is sponsored by Orval Sifontes' Fundación Pro-Arq.

Professors **Jorge Lizardi-Pollock**, **Carlos García-Moreira** and Dean **Francisco Javier Rodríguez**, AIA presented the book *Ambivalent Spaces: Memory and Oblivion in Modern Social Architecture* in Berlin. The book was a collaboration between UPR's CIUDAD urban think tank and Humboldt University's Max Weber center.

Volume 6 of our journal *(in)forma* 6 was selected by the Bialal Iberoamericana de Arquitectura y Urbanismo in Cádiz, Spain.

We hosted an international symposium titled "Energy: Policy, Technology and Design" together with the UPR Law School and the faculty of Natural Sciences.

Students Angel Vidro and Michael Quiñones won the Third Place in an international competition organized by Suckerpunchdaily for a robotic building.

Student Néstor Lebrón won an Honorable Mention in an international competition to rethink New York's Waterfront. The work was exhibited in the Museum of the City of New York.

The proposal to rethink San Juan's Bay in 2050 submitted by the School's Competition Studio was selected by the IAAC (Barcelona) for its yearly publication.

Fred Díaz y Claudia Cintrón won AIA-PR Chapter students awards.

Thomas Marvel (MArch Harvard GSD), **Cristina Cardalda** (MArch Harvard GSD), **Andrés Mignucci** (MArch MIT), **Raphael Osuna** (MArch UPenn), and **Yazmin Crespo** (MArch Harvard GSD) have joined our School's Design Faculty.

Federico Bares (MAUD Harvard GSD) from La Plata, Argentina will continue to serve as Visiting Professor.

Professor **Darwin Marrero** designed a Pro-Arq publication on Hiram Bithorn Stadium in San Juan, PR.

This summer we offered six international programs in Corsica, Barcelona, Mexico, Cartagena, New York and Sao Paulo.

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSE-KNOXVILLE

Living Light, the University of Tennessee, Knoxville's solar-powered house, stood on the National Mall as an exhibit at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which concluded earlier this month.

The ten-day event coincided with the 150th anniversaries of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Morrill Act, which created land-grant universities. The house was one of only seventeen projects selected to represent the nation's land-grant universities at the Smithsonian festival.

An estimated one million people saw the home and nearly 16,000 toured it during the festival. Since its completion in September 2011, more than 50,000 people have toured the house.

The zero-energy home demonstrated the merits of solar-powered living when a large storm struck the nation's capital on June 29, leaving thousands of residents without power and forcing the festival to close for a day. *Living Light* maintained full-power during this time, producing twice the energy the house needed for all its normal day-to-day functions, such as powering its air conditioning, television, kitchen appliances, and lighting. Throughout its entire stay at the festival, the house was completely removed from the electrical grid and self-sustaining in all of its energy production.

Living Light began with students and faculty in the UT College of Architecture and Design and was led by faculty members **Stach**, **Richard Kelso**, **James Rose**, and **Barbara Klinkhammer** of the college, along with Deb Shmerler in the School of Art, Leon Tolbert in electrical engineering, and Stan Johnson and Bill Miller in mechanical engineering.

More than 200 UT students and faculty across nine academic disciplines designed



LivingLight at Shelby Farms in Memphis, TN

the house for the 2011 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, an international competition among collegiate teams. UT placed eighth overall in the decathlon and claimed high-standing marks in several categories, including first in energy production, third in engineering, third in hot-water production, third in energy-efficient appliances, and fifth in architecture.

After the decathlon, *Living Light* began the Tennessee Tour. The tour is a joint effort of UT's colleges of Architecture and Design and Engineering, and UT Extension, the outreach office of the UT Institute of Agriculture.

For more information about the house and its next stop on the Tennessee Tour—Chattanooga—visit livinglight.utk.edu/.

Professors **George Dodds**, Ph.D., and **David Matthews** have been named associate deans of the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

In his role as the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Research, Dodds will administer curricular development, research activities, study abroad programs, student professional and academic organizations, and admissions and enrollment activities of the college.

Dodds, a UT faculty member for nearly twelve years, has served in numerous leadership roles and been recipient to several awards. In addition to this position, Dodds was recently named Chair of the Graduate Architecture Program and received one of UT's most prestigious awards, the Chancellor's Honor for Excellence in Advising. In late April, UT also appointed Dodds the Alvin and Sally Beaman Professorship, a distinguished service award which honors only the very best teacher-scholars of the university.

Matthews came to UT in 2010 when appointed Chair of the Interior Design Program. He has nearly twenty years of teaching experience in interior design and architecture. Prior to coming to the College of Architecture and Design, Matthews, in addition to his faculty position, was the Director of Academic Technologies at Ohio University.

As the Associate Dean of Communications and Facilities, Matthews will oversee technology issues related to faculty research,

teaching and creative activities, facility operations, renovations and equipment, and communication initiatives and efforts.

SOUTHWEST

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

University of Houston adjunct professors **Joe Meppelink** and **Andrew Vrana** have developed a number of products to make the world a little greener. Recently, their solar panel mounting device, the PV-Pod, received high honors from the architecture industry's leading publication.

The PV-Pod earned a Research and Development Award from *Architect*, the magazine of the American Institute of Architects. The product is featured on the cover of the publication's July edition.

The PV-Pod offers users an effective and simple way to mount solar panels on rooftops. The actual pod is high-density polyethylene receptacle that is filled with water to provide balance and weight. Solar panels can then be attached to the pods. If a panel needs to be relocated or removed, the water can simply be drained. Once emptied, the PV-Pod can easily be moved, then refilled with water once it's repositioned.

"The roof has been designed to receive water anyway, so there are many levels of why it makes sense," said awards juror Martina Decker.

Meppelink, Vrana and research and design assistant **Travis McCarra** developed the PV-Pod through their company, Metalab, with applied research grant support from UH Green Building Components (UHGBC).

The first PV-Pod prototype was created in 2009. In 2011, 40 PV-Pods and solar panels were installed on the of the Houston Permitting Center at 1001 Washington Ave.

"This is a big award for us," said Meppelink, director of UH Green Building Components. "The PV-Pod is a product that can have major implications on the solar and architec-

tural industries. We're really pleased that it is recognized by *Architect* magazine."

This award complements another recent honor received by Meppelink and Vrana this year. In June, their company Metalab was named "Artist of the Year" by Architecture Center Houston. An exhibition at the center showcased Meppelink and Vrana's numerous works including three that were supported by UH Green Building Components. In addition to the PV-POD, UHGBC products include

- *Solar Powered Adaptive Container for Everyone (SPACE)* - a recycled shipping container that was transformed into solar-powered trailer
- *gro-POD* - an elevated gardening module that allows users to grow plants and vegetables in just about any environment.

What began as only a community garden site has turned into a one-of-a kind project for UH's Graduate Design/Build Studio, a part of the University of Houston's Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture. This summer, graduate students are working on a solar-powered outdoor classroom in a community garden in Alief.

The structure will serve as a place for individuals to cool off and will also serve as a classroom area for lessons in gardening. It will be accessible to all community members.

For the past 23 years, GB/BS has designed community projects in the Houston area. Every year a new location is chosen for renovation based on which sponsors apply. GD/BS Director **Patrick Peters** is the leader of this project.

"Its purpose is two-fold — to provide a shady respite from the heat in an area with little existing shade and to mark the community garden with a strong vertical presence in a flat, open area lacking significant landmarks that break the horizon," Peters said.

"I am confident that it makes them much better architects and am pleased that they usually realize and value this fact sometime during or soon after the studio."

The classroom will be powered by four solar panels and was designed in such a way that

the slanted roof will allow rainwater to be collected into barrels and used later in the garden. **Susan Rogers**, an architecture professor, helped with the site plan last summer.

"We planted an orchard, trees and a path where the structure is being placed," Rogers said.

This is the second solar-powered project GD/BS has done. The first was at McReynolds Middle School in Denver Harbor last summer.

"The reception has been enthusiastically warm and supportive. They can't wait for it to be in place so they can use it," Peters said.

The Houston Spark Park Program, along with the Alief Independent School District, is funding the construction. The project is expected to be completed by August.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

Hector LaSala and **Sarah Young**, architecture faculty, and Phanat Xanamane, alumni, are members of Creative Action which, in partnership with Urban Land Institute of Louisiana, is launching Imagine Downtown: Open Ideas Competition. They are seeking innovative design proposals to harness creative and sustainable urban design development of six different sites in downtown Lafayette, Louisiana. Registration deadline: October 15, 2012. For more information: www.creativeactionacadiana.org

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Lois Weinthal, Associate Professor and Graduate Adviser for the Master of Interior Design Program recently presented a paper, titled "Embedded Emotions in Objects of the Architectural Interior," at the interdisciplinary conference, "Objects of Affection: Towards a Materiality of Emotions," at Princeton University. Associate Professor Lois Weinthal also participated on a panel at the Dallas Center for Architecture, organized by the AIA Dallas Women in Architecture Committee.

Dr. **Nancy Kwallek**, director of the Interior Design Program, published a paper, titled "Ellen Swallow Richards: Visionary on Home and Sustainability," in the summer 2012 issue of *Phi Kappa Phi FORUM*. better living").

The firm Alterstudio has been busy this year. The firm includes Associate Dean **Kevin Alter**, Ernesto Cragnolino [B.Arch. & B.Arch. Eng. '97], and Tim Whitehill [B.Arch. '02]. On August 8, the "Hillside Residence" will be the setting for one of this year's "Discover Design Over Dinner," presented by the Austin Foundation for Architecture. The "Elizabeth House" won a 2012 AIA Austin Design Award and, in January, was open to the public as part of the Austin Modern Home Tour.

The recently published book, *21st Century Architecture: Designer Houses*, includes a feature on the "Windsor East Residence" (the only building included from Texas). The firm's design for the "Three Court House" was featured in an article in *Austin Home Magazine's* spring 2012 issue.

Alter presented a lecture on current work in Boston, in concert with the opening of an exhibition of five recent houses titled "Looking for Trouble."

Senior Lecturer and Architectural Conservation Laboratory Director **Fran Gale** and independent conservator Casey Gallagher [MSHP '09] will assist with an evaluative study of the effects of the 2011 Bastrop fire on Bastrop State Park's historic structures, which were built in the early 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The study is funded by a \$25,000 grant to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department from the National Park Service.

In June, **Dean Fritz Steiner** traveled to Turkey. Steiner and landscape architect Charles Waldheim, of Harvard University, were invited by Osmangazi Municipality, in Bursa Province, and Anadolu University to participate on a panel with local experts on devastating earthquakes that struck several regions in Turkey in 2011.

NORTHEAST

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The summer is a relatively quiet time in the Stuckeman School. It provides a period

for students to reflect on their educational journey, and for faculty and staff to focus on maintenance and preparation for the pending academic year. While we do offer some course work in the summer, many of our students and faculty use this time to pursue research, foreign travel, and service-learning projects that cannot fit into the normal academic calendar.

Professors **Brian Orland** and **Larry Gorenflo** are once again leading a group of students in a study abroad project in Tanzania titled "Parks and People: Conservation of Nature and Community." This project involves a six-week on-the-ground stay near the Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Mang'ula, Tanzania. For full letter, click here.

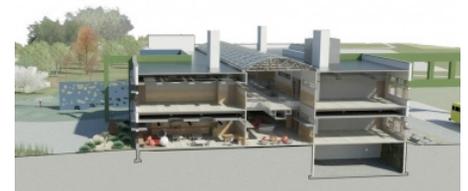


The following article first appeared on AIA.org, the website for the American Institute of Architects.

A recent graduate of Penn State's five-year architecture program, Melissa Rodríguez, Assoc. AIA, took a nontraditional approach to getting hired and landed her first job at the AIA 2012 National Convention.

Why did you attend the AIA 2012 National Convention?

My advisor, Curt Marshall, offered several students the opportunity to attend the convention. Two of us had just graduated so the conference presented a key networking opportunity. For full story, click here.



Project by Creative Logic team: Mazhad Tashakori, Laurie Beth Donnachie, Pat Laninger, Josh Progar, Josh Wentz, Asher Harder

Penn State's Interdisciplinary Collaborative Building Information Modeling (BIM) Studio, an initiative of the Stuckeman School for Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the Department of Architectural Engineering, has won its second award from the American Institute of Architects' Technology in Practice BIM Awards Program. The studio is the 2012 winner in the Academic Program/Curriculum Development category.

"Based on our benchmarking, we believe this is the only university design studio that involves students from all of the major design and construction disciplines," said **Bob Holland**, who has a joint appointment in Architecture and Architectural Engineering and leads the BIM Studio. "We are very proud that Penn State has become a leader in the teaching of collaborative design and BIM technology. This studio should help make our students strong candidates for entry into the rapidly changing fields of design and construction." For full story, click here.



George Gard, who received his bachelor of architecture degree at commencement on May 5, was one of three recipients of the inaugural Penn State Student Sustainability Leadership Award and had a tree planted in his honor near Fisher Plaza in late April. The Student Sustainability Advisory Council, which just finished its first year of activity, initiated the award and honored the students for their peer education, community projects, and campus leadership.

Interested in the relationships among art, the individual, and the built form from a

young age, George is one of the founders of SEED: Students for Environmentally Enlightened Design, a group started in 2009 to encourage students from the departments of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Architectural Engineering, and Engineering to engage in environmentally conscious architecture. George developed the SEED library project and raised \$15,000 to build shelving in a shipping container for donated books to be sent to a refugee camp in Africa. The project uses recycled materials and includes photovoltaics to power electrical lighting. He also organized student exhibitions about sustainable architecture and planned field trips to architecture firms in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. For full story, click here.



Man in native dress in Papua New Guinea. © Photo provided by Conservation International

Biodiversity hot spots -- the world's biologically richest and most threatened locations on Earth -- and high biodiversity wilderness areas -- biologically rich but less threatened -- are some of the most linguistically diverse regions on our planet, according to a team of conservationists.

"Results indicate that these regions (hot spots and high biodiversity wilderness areas) often contain considerable linguistic diversity, accounting for 70 percent of all languages on Earth," the researchers report in the May 7 early online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Moreover, the languages involved frequently are unique to particular regions, with many facing extinction." For full story, click here.

The international design practice founded by Ron Henderson, head of the Penn State Department of Landscape Architecture and Chair in Integrative Design in the H. Campbell and Eleanor R. Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture,



"Observation Tower," an unbuilt project by L + A Landscape Architecture, is joined by work from eleven other firms.

has been selected for an exhibition entitled "unMADE IN CHINA: architecture undone in the P.R.C. "

The exhibition runs through June 20 at the ide@s Gallery in Shanghai, China. For full story, click here.

UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Professors **Martha Bohm** and **Christopher Romano** led the Sustainable Futures interdisciplinary service learning abroad program from May 20th to July 30th in Monteverde, Costa Rica. Students from two US universities participated, and faculty from UB, University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin, and University of Oregon taught coursework. The students worked on the design for a waste water treatment plant in the town of Santa Elena and for a large scale, sports complex in the village of Los Llanos. In addition, on June 22nd, Professor Bohm and Program Coordinator **Anibal Torres** organized a half day "Forum on the Future of Sustainable Design" in Monteverde. Invited guests included landscape architect Alberto Negrini, architect Pietro Stagno, and director of the Federal Association of Engineers and Architects" Olman Vargas Zeledon." <http://www.sustainablefutures.org>

Assistant Professor **Georg Rafailidis** and Clinical Assistant Professor **Stephanie Davidson** were awarded an honorary mention at the 2012 R+D (Research + Development) Award by *ARCHITECT*, the magazine of the American Institute of Architects AIA, for their research on Phase Change Materials (<http://www.architectmagazine.com/research/2012-rd-awards-honorable-mention-thermometric-fac.aspx>). The project Found Space Tiles, ceramic tiles by Stephanie Davidson and Georg Rafailidis has been selected to be

shown by Material (matera.nl) in the exhibition Architect@Work in Shanghai China, September 2012. The project Bulged Penny Rounds, ceramic tiles, has been selected in the exhibition Think: Material at IDEX in Toronto, Canada, September 2012. Work by Stephanie Davidson and Georg Rafailidis was featured in the recent issue (#27) on haptics of *Intérieurs Magazine* (<http://www.magazineinterieurs.com/>).

A project by Assistant Professor **Dennis Maher** was featured in a one-person exhibition at Real Art Ways in Hartford, CT. In "The House of the Unmaker," Maher transported furnishings and objects from his own house and re-framed them through a new construction in the gallery. The exhibition publication includes an essay by Peggy Deamer (Yale School of Architecture). Maher also exhibited work as one of two jury-selected featured artists at the Echo Art Fair in Buffalo. In addition, sets designed and built by Dennis Maher are featured in the new short film *Dissent*, by Italian director Helmut Dosantos. *Dissent* recently screened at the AOF International Film Festival in Los Angeles. Dennis Maher also has begun his residency as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's Artist-in-Residence. Maher is working with local tradespeople in the home renovation industry in order to re-imagine living environments as material, social, and psychological constructs. Information about the project can be read at <http://www.albrightknox.org/education/artist-in-residence-program/dennis-maher/>

In addition, Dennis Maher and Adjunct Professor **Nerea Feliz** led a summer study abroad program in Barcelona Spain. Students made use of new studio space in the Gothic quarter of the city by working on a large scale collective city drawing, and proposing its transformation into a vertical Rambla construction.

Professor **Edward Steinfeld** was awarded the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor recognizing his career achievements. Only seven faculty in the entire SUNY system were awarded that rank in 2012. Dr. Steinfeld is internationally known as a lead researcher on accessible environments and inclusive design. Dr. Steinfeld also was a keynote speaker at the Universal Design 2012 Conference in Oslo, Norway, where he spoke on the "Goals of Universal Design."

Professors **Hiro Hata** and **Harry Warren** are one of two finalists in the \$100 million Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital reuse competition. They are part of the Chason-Affinity team proposing a new Veterinary School.

Associate Professor **Omar Khan** and Assistant Professor **Laura Garofalo** won Second Place in the Second Annual Modern Atlanta Prize Competition/Green Dwelling. Their winning entry was displayed at this year's "Design is Human Week" in Atlanta, GA. The jury looked for "projects that critically consider today's notions of sustainability as applied to the modern dwelling...[and] showcase a critical investigation into sustainable design practices ...as well as projects that thoughtfully dealt with unique geographical, social, political or cultural conditions."

Associate Professor and Associate Dean **Beth Tauke** gave two presentations at June UD 2012: Oslo, an international conference on universal design in public space: "LIFE-house: Consumer Preference Study for Universal Design Features" and "Bridging the Gap: Using Architecture and Social Justice to Increase Access to Universal Design."

Master of Architecture/Master of Urban Planning dual degree students and recent graduates, Courtney Creenan and Michael Moch presented "Inclusive Public Toilet Design," research, proposals and built work from Beth Tauke's inclusive design graduate studio in the fall 2011.

Assistant Professor Laura Garofalo's installation, Buoyant, part of the 13th International Garden Festival at Reford Gardens/Jardins de Metis, opened on June 23rd and will be shown until September 30, 2012.

In June, Assistant Professor **Jordan Geiger** opened "Beau-Fluve," an interactive play structure and workshop for immigrant and refugee youth in Buffalo, as part of the Fluid Culture program of lectures and public arts. The project gathers oral history and maps global paths to an online map with the invisible policies and technologies that attend migration today.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Nicholas Bruscia** and Assistant Professor Jordan Geiger presented research of the Center for Architecture and Situated Technologies at the Tokyo

University of Science's Digital Studio. Bruscia and Geiger also organized two exhibitions of their Tokyo-based summer study program at Shibaura House, a new multi-use building for public and cultural events.

Assistant Professor **Joyce Hwang** participated as a speaker in "Interrogating Green," a roundtable discussion at Storefront for Art and Architecture which featured a selection of contributors to Praxis 13: Ecologies. The event centered on the interrogation of contemporary approaches to sustainability in architecture: <http://www.storefrontnews.org/archive/2010?c=&p=&e=483>. She also gave a lecture in July titled "Constructing Wilderness" at the University of Waterloo in Cambridge, Ontario as part of their School of Architecture lecture series.

Assistant Professor **Sergio Lopez-Pineiro**, Adjunct faculty Curt Gambetta and Assistant Professor Joyce Hwang participated in reviews at the University of Waterloo in July as guest critics for Lola Sheppard's second-year studio.

A team of graduate students (including Courtney Creenan, Kyle Mastalinski, Daniel Nead, Scott Selin, and Lisa Stern) has completed a project called Elevator B, a collaborative project by graduate students from the University at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning with the support of Rigidized Metals, a Buffalo based building material manufacturer. The overall goal of the project was to successfully design for the relocation and habitation of a colony of honeybees occupying a building which is scheduled for significant modification at Silo City, a dense cluster of grain elevators in Buffalo, New York. Elevator B was selected from a group of ten entries by a mixed panel of jurors, who represented Rigidized Metals, the fields of architecture and planning, and the bees: www.hivecity.wordpress.com.

Andrew Perkins and Matt Bain, both recent graduates from the Department of Architecture, SUNY-Buffalo, have been asked and commissioned to work on house in Flint, Michigan as part of the Flint Public Art Project. The invitation was offered because of the thesis that they had recently completed in Buffalo, New York. A more in depth description of the project they'll be working on can be found at the blog which will cover it:

<http://dwellingtonwasteflint.blogspot.com/p/about.html>. The Flint Public Art Project, which will contain dozens of other installations and performances and constructions: <http://www.flintpublicartproject.com/>

CANADA

RYERSON UNIVERSITY

The Department of Architectural Science at Ryerson University is pleased to announce the appointment of **Colin Ripley** as new departmental chair. Professor Ripley, who has been at Ryerson since 2003, is a partner and director of the architectural firm RVTR (www.rvtr.com), and has been the recipient of a number of awards, including the 2009 Canada Council Professional Prix de Rome in Architecture. He has been published widely both in Canada and abroad and has co-edited the book *In the Place of Sound: Architecture|Music|Acoustics*.

Beyond his academic and professional engagements, Colin brings to the department a new vision for architectural education for the 21st century – one that is responsive to emergent technologies and encourages cross-disciplinary research. He anticipates that the future will see less emphasis placed on the architect as visionary artist and more on the collaborative work of many professionals – architects, building scientists, project managers. It will be about the coordination of complex processes and teams, operating across global and virtual networks, in collaboration with both human and non-human partners.

“I hope to renew Ryerson’s longstanding commitment to the holistic education of professionals for the AEC industry,” says Ripley, “and to update that commitment to face the challenges of coming decades.”