January

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

January 17, 2017

CADC faculty and students exhibited their creative scholarship and work in “Showcase: The Work of Creative Scholarship” at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art in Auburn, Alabama, from September 17 through October 2. The “Showcase” exhibition was held in conjunction with Auburn’s “This Research: Faculty Symposium 2016” and included works in the fields of fine art, the performing arts, creative writing, applied design and other related disciplines.

Read more, here. To view the Showcase, click here.

DesignIntelligence Quarterly has released its annual rankings “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools 2016–2017,” and Auburn University’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction programs are once again ranked among the best in the nation. These rankings are based on annual surveys of leading practitioners in these fields. CADC’s undergraduate program in architecture is ranked ninth, and its graduate program in landscape architecture is ranked eleventh. The School of Industrial and Graphic Design’s graduate program in industrial design continues to be ranked third in the nation, and its undergraduate program is ranked fifth. There are no new rankings for Industrial Design this year.

Read more, here.

Architect: The Journal of the American Institute of Architects has named Marlon Blackwell Architects “The Top Firm in Design” in its annual Architect 50 ranking. Principal and Founder Marlon Blackwell, FAIA, who is 1980 graduate of Auburn’s architecture program, is the E. Fay Jones Chair in Architecture and a Distinguished Professor in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design at the University of Arkansas.

For the full story in Architect and to view a portfolio of Marlon Blackwell Architects’ work, click here.

The College of Architecture, Design and Construction celebrated the accomplishments of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends at the Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, October 20, at the Hotel at Auburn University. Special guests included Jane DiFolco Parker, Vice President for Development and President, Auburn University Foundation and Bill Parker; Dr. John Liu, Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Research and his wife Dongya Gao; Dr. Gregg Newschwander, Witt Professor and Dean of the School Nursing; Jim Carroll, Auburn University Architect, and Kathleen Carroll; and the CADC Executive Board.

For more, read here.

Charlene LeBleu, FASLA, will serve as the Interim Head of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture effective January 1, 2017, announced Vini Nathan, Dean and McWhorter Endowed Chair in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. She will serve in this position while a search is taking place for the permanent school head.

For more, read here.

Can something as simple as placing chairs around campus improve the quality of social life? That’s what Magdalena Garmaz’s ENVD 4010 “Elements of Design Thinking and Visual Communication” class set out to discover. The Auburn Chair Project studied whether the introduction of a simple, inexpensive, and movable element—a chair—can improve the quality of life in the built environment, specifically, the Auburn campus.

For more, read here.

Harold “Hal” Goyette, a 1950 graduate of Auburn's Architecture program was honored with the College of Architecture, Design and Constructions Distinguished Alumni Award during the college's annual awards banquet on October 20. The criteria for this recognition includes: a graduate of one of the CADC programs; at least 50 years of professional distinction and leadership; and support of the advancement and continued excellence of AU or their profession.

For more, read here.

Read the Winter Issue of the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture’s newsletter StudioAPLA.

APLA Fall Lecture Series, Unfolding Narratives, Continues January 23—3:30 pm with Timothy McDonald, Founding Principal of Onion Flats. Events are held in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture at Dudley Hall, Dudley Commons Parker Auditorium, B6 and are free and open to the public.

Read about enterprising alum, Wanona Satcher, and her nonprofit, called Rejuve, here.

In the Architect’s Journal you can view a #greatdetail as described by Piers Taylor, of Invisible Studio, on the Glass Chapel at Mason’s Bend.

The 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale, where the Auburn Rural Studio was a participant, has come to an end. Of note:

- The event had over 250,000 visitors
- The RS installation, the “theater of the useFULL” was taken down last week and absolutely all the materials are continuing to help two outstanding Venice organizations in their objectives of offering shelter for the winter homeless and refurbishing much needed affordable housing.

Read more here.
This is Alabama features the Rural Studio in This is Rural Studio - Auburn University.

In a past issue of StudioAPLA Danielle Willkens, Assistant Professor of Architecture, was featured as a recipient of the SAH Brooks Travelling Fellowship. Follow her discoveries and read the chronicle of her journey through monthly blog posts on the Society of Architectural Historians’ website. Read more here.

Prof. and former Head of APLA, David Hinson was profiled on THIS IS AUBURN.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
January 12, 2017

For orchestrating transformational educational experiences through innovative design studios and research initiatives that facilitate student collaboration with peers and professionals from other disciplines, Ahmed K. Ali, assistant professor of architecture, was chosen to receive the 2016 J. Thomas Regan Interdisciplinary Prize.

Established by the College of Architecture’s Dean’s Advisory Council to honor Regan, former dean of the college and champion of interdisciplinary education in the built environment disciplines, the prize is awarded annually to a faculty member selected by a faculty committee from a pool of nominees. Regan died in 2015.

In a spring 2016 studio, Ali’s students collaborated with construction science students, Gessner Engineering, the Coulter and Lily Rush Hoppess Foundation and the city of Bryan to design and build a prototype structure for vendors at the Brazos Valley Farmers Market.

The studio immersed students “in an in-depth and hands-on learning experience in the design, engineering, fabrication, and construction of the structure,” said Weiling He, associate professor of architecture, in a letter supporting Ali’s nomination.

That same studio also engaged graduate landscape architecture students, who created master plans for an historic city block in Bryan that incorporated the farmers market structures, spaces for a new visitor center building, courtyards for outdoor activities and a community garden.

“His students appreciate his direction, enthusiasm and skills in leading such complex projects,” said George Mann, professor of architecture, in a letter supporting Ali’s nomination. “His enthusiasm for teaching by doing is inspiring and I believe he is becoming one of the emerging leaders of the college.”

In fall 2016 studio, Ali’s students collaborated with Zahner Metals, General Motors and the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development to design building envelopes skins, and roofing systems from auto manufacturing byproducts.

“All is an internationally recognized academic advocating resource reuse in the construction industry,” said He. “His design innovations that employ reused materials have been published and presented in journals and conferences worldwide,” said He.

Ali, who joined the Texas A&M faculty in 2015, earned three graduate degrees at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University — a Ph.D. in 2012, a Master of Science in Architecture in 2012 and a Master of Architecture in 2004 — as well as a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture degree at Alexandria University in Egypt in 1997.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
January 12, 2017

Great places to live rarely happen by accident. Sought-after cities and neighborhoods take years of planning to develop, maintain and in some cases redevelop. Most cities have areas that are economically depressed and in need of revitalization. Assessing the condition of these older neighborhoods is an important first step in planning for positive change. Graduate students pursuing the Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have been collaborating this semester with NeighborWorks Lincoln, the Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department and the City of Lincoln Urban Development Department in the initial stages of community planning in one of Lincoln’s older neighborhoods.

Residents’ concerns about vacant and neglected properties, graffiti, weeds, litter and other safety and quality-of-life concerns prompted the collaboration between the NeighborWorks Lincoln and the Community and Regional Planning (CRP) program. NeighborWorks Lincoln is one of over 240 nonprofit community development organizations in the NeighborWorks America network. This 2010 pilot project, funded by the Woods Charitable Fund, allowed the work to assess physical conditions, especially the housing stock, in several of Lincoln’s older neighborhoods.

Even though that grant-funded project has ended, the need to assess and improve Lincoln neighborhoods still exists. NeighborWorks Lincoln is currently in the process of developing more moderate- to low-income housing in Lincoln’s South Salt Creek Neighborhood, either by building new construction and/or rehabilitating existing homes.

The collaborative emphasis involves much more than a focus on improving housing; NeighborWorks and CRP want to see the neighborhood holistically enriched and stimulated as a result of residents becoming involved in a community planning process. As part of the collaboration, CRP agreed to participate in the data collection and analysis process in the South Salt Creek Neighborhood as the focus of a semester-long master’s studio project. Students have conducted a door-to-door survey of residents and a condition-of-properties observational survey that uses 35 physical conditions criteria in order to
build a quantitative database. In addition to the questionnaires, the team has met with neighborhood residents to inform the community about their work and gauge interest for future grassroots efforts. This partnership has apparently been beneficial to everyone involved. For the students, it is an invaluable learning experience. “This is a great opportunity for students to conduct field work, assemble and analyze data, and understand the relationship between nonprofit organizations and city governments and how they interact and work together,” commented Gordon Scholz, CRP professor and interim program director. For NeighborWorks Lincoln and the neighborhood residents, the project has helped identify and provide evidence of issues in the neighborhood, as well as generate interest and elicit participation from residents. Furthermore, the project is providing a foundation for further neighborhood revitalization planning efforts.

“There are only two staff persons at NeighborWorks Lincoln who work with community engagement, so we’re pretty swamped. This background information-gathering which the students have conducted is a crucial first step in preparing to create a revitalization plan for any area. NWL and CRP have a long history of working together, which is a win/win because it expands NWL’s capacity, provides students with hands-on experience and benefits the community,” stated Pat Anderson-Sifuentez, community builder for NeighborWorks Lincoln. She continues, “City staff members have been cut back over the years, so if CRP students can assist with gathering and analyzing some information necessary, such as census data, property assessment scans and resident surveys, it helps NWL and Planning staff in their work.”

One of the reasons this partnership was worked well thus far is the mutual understanding of community planning as a long-term and continuing process. “At the outset in this project, Gordon Scholz, NWL staff and Lincoln Planning and Urban Development staff met to make sure that the information gathered would be put to good use,” said Anderson-Sifuentez. “The work has already evolved over the years from doing just scans of properties, expanding to include resident surveys and public meetings. I hope we can continue to build on this process so that future University classes can build on what the previous classes have done.”

When the semester ends, it doesn’t mean a student has to stop working on the project, Scholz adds. “After this semester, if a student wants to continue working on the project, they can choose to pursue it through independent study or a professional project in subsequent semesters.”

In addition to supporting community development work, NeighborWorks Lincoln sees this project not only providing students with a great learning experience, but also impacting future individual decisions made by each student. “These students are improving the community they live in, and projects like this also serve as a way to connect students with meaningful service learning opportunities that will engage them with the community and possibly encourage them to stay in the area after graduation,” stated Chief Operating Officer of NeighborWorks Lincoln Shawn Ryba.

An affinity for Lincoln and its residents may have started to take root among the students. “It was great to interact with residents of the community, and it will be fun to watch the exciting future this community has in store,” commented CRP student Maggie Harthoon. Other students were equally enthusiastic about their skill development throughout this semester-long project.

As a culmination of their community condition analysis, CRP students will make recommendations to NeighborWorks Lincoln for community improvements in the neighborhood they have studied. These results will give city stakeholders a useful perspective regarding the conditions of this neighborhood and a reference for future planning and decision-making.

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

January 12, 2017

Vinayak Bharne lectured on “Practicing Urban Design: From High Art to High Activism” at the South China Agricultural University’s College of Forestry and Landscape Architecture. He also spoke on “The Sacred Urbanism of Hindu India” at the Sacred Space Sacred Thread Global Conference at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Travis Longcore (Landscape Architecture + Urbanism program) was a presenter on Ecologically Sensitive Lighting Design at the 2016 American Society of Landscape Architects meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. His paper “Biological and ecological effects of light pollution” was published in eLS: Citable Reviews in the Life Sciences. Dr. Longcore also had a poster and a paper accepted to and presented at the 9th California
Channel Islands Symposium, which reported on a habitat suitability model for an endangered plant and the quantitative prediction of vegetation patterns to inform restoration and landscape management. Construction was recently completed for Geoffrey von Oeyn’s design for the Project and Idea Realization Lab (PIRL), a new design technology lab and classroom for a middle school in Pacific Palisades, California, that celebrates the design process as integral to education. Both indoors and out, the two teaching spaces in PIRL provide comprehensive learning opportunities that enable an exploratory approach toward multidisciplinary, design-based collaboration. The interior classroom, taking spatial and programmatic cues from Stanford’s Institute of Design, provides a technology platform for creative collaboration on projects ranging from robotics to filmmaking. The student-operated retractable canopy fabricated by a racing sailboat rigger is a didactic expression of architecture, engineering, and sailing design that creates a covered outdoor teaching and making space.

Hunter Knight lectured at Cal Poly Pomona. The talk was titled Out of Bounds and Out of Ideas, where he discussed recent work of his office Weather Projects.

Alexander Robinson shared a part of his upcoming manuscript on the Owens Lake at the “Realms and Realities” Colloquium organized by Bradley Cantrell and hosted at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in November. He was also interviewed as part of an Archinect podcast event on the Los Angeles River in October.

Eric Haas’s firm DSH recently completed their third and fourth projects for the non-profit Para Los Niños: an expansion of their Family Wellness Center - an adaptive reuse project providing counseling and therapy services - and a preschool for 100 children, both in the Skid Row neighborhood of downtown Los Angeles. They are beginning construction of an Early Head Start preschool and infant care center in Hollywood for the Youth Policy Institute. The Head Start facilities are part of a Promise Zone grant, an Obama Administration initiative to partner with local non-profits to provide an array of services in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Trudi Sandmeier, director of the USC Heritage Conservation program, recently lectured at Cornell University to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Cornell Historic Preservation Planning program – her talk was entitled “Conservation Planning on the Edge: A “Left”ist Perspective.” Detox USA, a project by Marcos Sánchez in collaboration with Mark Wasiuta and Florencia Alvarez, examines the recent expansion of addiction recovery spaces and therapy techniques in Southern California and internationally. Detox USA was shown at the 2016 Istanbul Design Biennale, co-curated by Beatriz Cololina and Mark Wigley.

Lorcan O’Herlihy’s project SL11024 is currently on view at the Design Museum in London until February 19, 2017 as part of the Beazley Designs of the Year exhibition. His firm Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects (LOHA) is the only American firm represented, where SL11024 is exhibited alongside work from OMA, BIG, and Herzog and de Meuron. In addition, LOHA has been selected by the City of Detroit to develop a comprehensive neighborhood, landscape, public realm, and green infrastructural strategy for the Grand River and Fenkell Corridors in Northwest Detroit. The project team is tasked with developing a holistic and comprehensive plan for strengthening the vibrancy and quality of life of this historic neighborhood.

Patrick Tighe, FAIA, Adjunct Professor has the following news this month: 2 AIA Awards from the Los Angeles Chapter, 3 Best of Year Awards from Interior Design Magazine, A Best of Design Award from The Architects Newspaper, and also Connexion, a commercial project in Burbank designed for Lincoln Properties Inc was published in Interior Design Magazine. A new monograph of the work of Patrick Tighe entitled, Building Dichotomy, with an intro by Thiom Mayne was released, and is now available on Amazon.

Vittoria Di Palma’s book Wasteland, A History (Yale, 2014) is the recipient of the Herbert Baxter Adams prize. The American Historical Association (AHA) awards the prize annually in recognition of an outstanding book published in English in the field of European history.

Professor Joon-Ho Choi received the Best Paper Award at the 9th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality, Ventilation & Energy Conservation in Buildings (IAQVEC). He presented one of his recent research, entitled “Comfort at Workstation: Comprehensive POE Research on Office Environment of Southern California” at the conference. The research identified and resolved technical issues of the current post-occupancy evaluation methodologies based on the use of 421 IEQ datasets collected from office environments within the university and commercial office buildings. Professor Choi has been recently elected as a board member of the Architectural Research Centers Consortium (ARCC), and he will serve for ARCC from 2017 to 2019.

Prof Graeme Maxwell Morland at USC, School of Architecture, and Principal, GEM architects, has recently completed the schematic design studies for a 24 unit Research Scholars Housing and Communal Conference/Meeting Center for visiting global scholars at the HUNTINGTON Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif. The project, which is monastic in nature will be set within a dense grove of existing fruit trees and is designed to be totally energy self-sufficient. It is anticipated that the project will now enter into the preliminary design development phase in 2017.

Assistant Professor Kyle Konis’ submission to the 2016 National AIA Upjohn Research Initiative – “A Circadian Daylight Metric and Design Assist Tool for Improved Occupant Health and Well-Being” – was selected and awarded a $20,240 grant.

Laurel Consuelo Broughton and her studio WELCOMEPROJECTS were included in the multi-firm installation, The Kid Gets Out of the Picture at Materials and Applications in Los Angeles. The large, outdoor installation was curated by The LADG and supported by The Graham Foundation. In October, Laurel lectured with Andrew Kovacs as part of the Dean’s Lecture Series at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

Zachary Tate Porter delivered the 2016 Design of Theory Lecture at SCI-Arc in November. The lecture, entitled “Cuts and Fills: Constructing a Discourse on Ground,
“highlighted Porter’s multi-modal research on the role of ground within architectural theory and practice.

Ken Breisch has published a new book, The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872-1933, (Los Angeles: The Getty Research Institute, 2016), and presented the lecture, “Bertram Goodhue and Irving J. Gill, The Panama California Exhibition and The Los Angeles Public Library,” in the Art, Design and Architecture Lecture Series at the University of California at Santa Barbara in November. He has been asked to lecture on his new book by the Southern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians in January.

R. Scott Mitchell and Sofia Borges’s MADWORKSHOP Homeless Studio has partnered with Hope of the Valley Recuse Mission and the City of Los Angeles to develop a modular housing solution for immediate stabilization of the city’s homeless. Their efforts have been featured in WIRED Magazine, Azure Magazine, Archinet, and USC News. Next November 5th, Maria Esnaola and her studio KnitKnot will be one of the guest speakers at the TEDx at University of Macedonia 2016. Under the title “Gravity of Thoughts”, and they will also organize a Workshop and installation that evaluates collaborative design techniques and construction. http://www.tedxuniversityofmacedonia.com/en/index.html#theme

Maria Esnaola and her studio KnitKnot architecture started the construction of a school project for Nicaragua in El Jicarito. ELJICARITO SCHOOL is an innovative low-cost school design that brings a community together through collaborative construction methods, using local materials, while creating a new educational space. Here are the highlights for the process:

- April 22nd: the project is published in Archdaily http://www.archdaily.com/785498/knitknot-architecture-seeks-funds-for-nicaraguanschool
- July 15th: Paul Keskey, editor of Architizer, praises Knit Knot in an interview for Housely, Massachusetts.

“If there’s one current trend in architecture you’re excited about what is it and why are you excited? Maria Esnaola is very excited about the growing potential for the web to help fund public interest design and humanitarian architecture projects, with more creative people harnessing crowdfunding sites like Kickstarter and Indiegogo. We recently covered Knitknot Architecture’s campaign to crowdfund a school in Nicaragua. They successfully achieved their goal in May; I’m delighted for them and the project has given me renewed faith in the potential for small creative firms to get innovative projects like this off the ground.” Read more at http://houzely.com/paul-keskeys/

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
January 17, 2017

Sarah Cowles led a seminar: “Sylviculture: metaphor, narrative and aesthetics in forest gardens” at the Harvard Forest in Petersham Massachusetts in October. Recent publications include “All that and more” and “Propagating an idea” in recent issues of Landscape Architecture Magazine. “The Low-Flow”, a series of drawings on the Arroyo Seco Channel, was published in Art Papers magazine.

Professor Marc Schiler was interviewed by the Los Angeles Times and by Curbed LA regarding the glare reflected from the new Wilshire Grand project, by A C Martin. Schiler is an expert in solar convergence and glare, having solved the issues with the Walt Disney Concert Hall and having consulted on buildings such as the Ping An Financial Center in Shenzhen, China, the Lumina Foundation in Arles, France, the Lewis Science Library at Princeton University and many other buildings, which have, as a result, NOT been featured in articles about problems with glare. Los Angeles Times, “The glass on the Wilshire Grand is creating too much glare, says one neighbor who wants the project halted,” by Hugo Martin, November 16, 2016, http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-wilshire-grand-glare-20161116-story.html


Rob Berry presented “The City is in the Details”, a lecture on his recent work, at East Los Angeles College as part of their Fall 2016 Architecture Department Lecture Series.

Kelly Shannon was a jury member of the International Landscape Design Competition for the Han River, Da Nanang City, Vietnam in November 2016. There were two second places (OMG, Belgium and CPG, Singapore) and two third (Deso, France and Nikken Sekkei, Japan) places awarded.

Karen M. Kensek and Douglas Noble organized the Facade Tectonics 2016 World Congress in October with nearly 500 attendees from around the world. Noble also served as a reviewer at Cal Poly Pomona in October.
Associate Professor Chuck Lagreco organized a trip to 5th year studio to San Francisco to for his studio team in Fall 2016.


Jennifer Park received the campus-wide “Staff Recognition Award” from the University of Southern California in November 2016. The University recognizes one staff member every month, and must select from among more than 13,000 staff members.

Brendan Shea led a workshop as part of Roundhouse at Taylor Yard, a project of USC Roski Curatorial Practices and the Public Sphere. The workshop, entitled “Surveying The Land”, explored architecture’s history, disappearance, and ruin at Taylor Yard through documentation of site in various media.

Alvin Huang and his firm Synthesis Design + Architecture were recently honored with a number of awards from the American Institute of Architects. At the annual AIA Los Angeles Design Awards, SDA received the 2016 AIA Los Angeles Presidential Honoree Emerging Practice Award, the highest honor the AIA|LA can bestow upon an emerging practice for consistent innovation in practice. SDA also received an AIA|LA Design Award Citation for the their Pure Tension Pavilion. At the AIA California Council Leadership Summit, Alvin Huang received the 2016 AIA California Council Young Architect Award which honors individuals who have shown exceptional leadership and made significant contributions to the profession in an early stage of their architectural career.

Hadrian Predock lectured about his work at Cal Poly Pomona on October 21st. He conducted a workshop and also delivered a lecture at the UNLV architecture school on October 8-10. He served as a juror on the 2016 Ohio AIA design awards.