



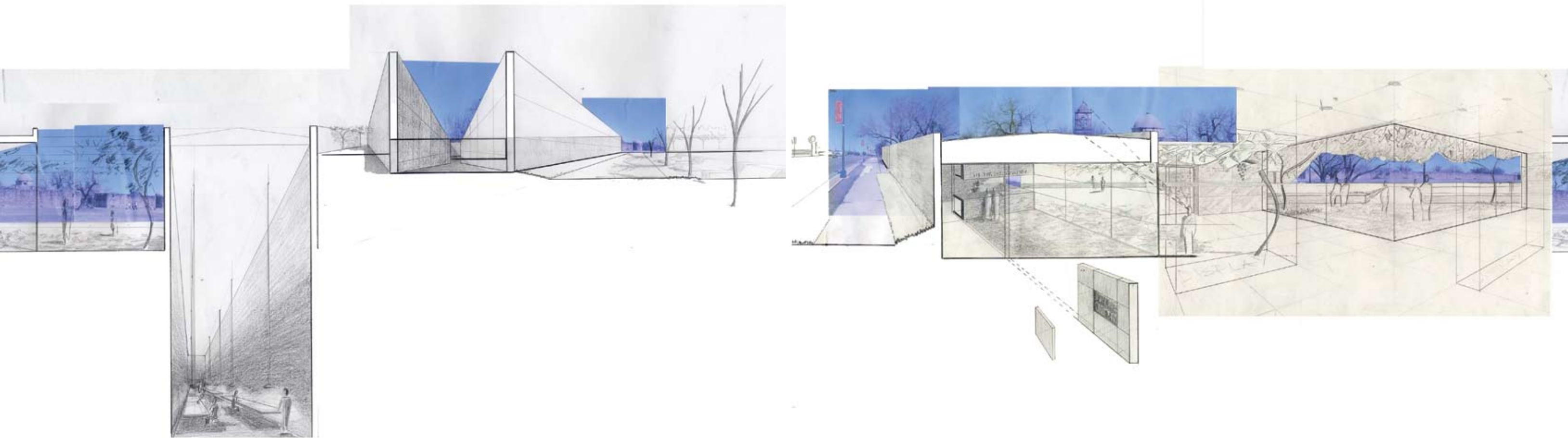
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re:VIEW

FALL 2008 • UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



Re:View newsletter • **Editor:** Kendall Curlee • **Designer:** Eric Pipkin • **Contact:** kcurlee@uark.edu p. 479/575-4704 f. 479/575-7099
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Photo by Sarah Berret, The Morning News



Contrary to popular myth, pursuing a School of Architecture degree does not consign you to sleeping in studio and a diet of coffee, ramen noodles and Snickers bars. In the weekly **Leadership by Design** class students learn about time management, proper nutrition and the importance of exercise. They wrap up each semester with community service projects. Judy Brittenum and Laura Terry serve as faculty advisers.

Left: Last fall more than 100 students, including (left to right) Kyle Jackson, Stephen Gaulin and Billy Fleming, crafted "constructions" out of non-perishable foods that were then donated to Washington Regional Hospital's Faith in Action service program. Above: Students learn yoga moves from Professor Lynn Fitzpatrick. Top: Maria Garcia and other Leadership by Design students braved frigid temperatures to erect Greenweave, a 16-foot-high performance space at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.

Exhibits

Rotating exhibits of student, faculty and visiting lecturers' work will take place throughout the year in Vol Walker Hall. Contact Chuck Rotolo at 479-575-4903 or Pia Sarpaneva at 479-575-6498 for more information.

Save the Date

September 19 – 20

Dean's Circle Meeting
Contact: Karen Stair
479-575-2702
kstair@uark.edu

October 3 – 7

ASLA Annual Meeting
Philadelphia, Pa.
Contact: ASLA
202-898-2444
www.asla.org

October 16 - 17

Advisory Board Meeting
Contact: Karen Stair
479-575-2702
kstair@uark.edu

October 23 - 25

AIA State Convention
Hot Springs, Ark.
Contact: AIA Arkansas
501-661-1111
aiaar@sbcglobal.net

Fall Lectures:

September 8

Kurt Culbertson
Design Workshop, Aspen, Colo.

September 22

Peter Schneider
University of Colorado, Denver, Colo.

October 13

Laura Solano
Michael Van Valkenburg Associates, Cambridge, Mass.

October 20

Lorcan O'Herlihy
Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects, Culver City, Calif.

October 27

Merill Elam
Scoggin and Elam Architects, Atlanta, Ga.

November 3

Ken Helphand
University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore.

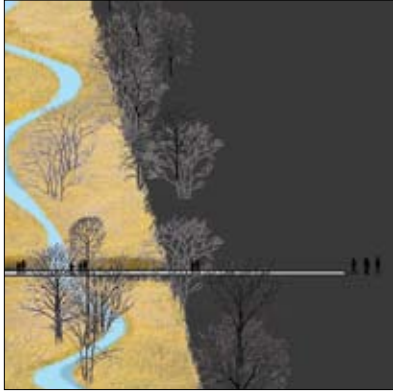


Glenn Murcutt will present his last U. S. lecture at the University of Arkansas next spring. Photo of Magney House, Bingie Point, New South Wales, by Anthony Browell from Glenn Murcutt: *Buildings + Projects 1962-2003*, courtesy Thames & Hudson.

All lectures take place at 5:30 p.m. in Shollmier Hall.



For additional **lecture information**, please visit architecture.uark.edu/374.php.



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Made In Arkansas

Reese Rowland's work is green and winning big. Join us for a tour . . .

On the cover:
In this sectional "itinerary" student Jason Oury presents a sequential experience of a proposed archive on the grounds of a San Antonio mission (see p. 14).



JEFF SHANNON

As I begin my 30th year with the School of Architecture and my ninth as dean, I'm pleased to report that the health and vitality here seem to be at an all-time high. We have great new faculty and staff members, a new chair in integrated practice and a curriculum aimed at teaching our students to be leaders. We have very strong international study programs, a thriving program of design-build service projects and a lecture series that brings outstanding practitioners and scholars from around the world to campus. Last spring the architecture department had the best accreditation review since I've been here. But perhaps the best evidence of the health of the school came in May at the national AIA Convention in Boston. Out of perhaps 50 total awards recognized at the convention, nine were Arkansas-related. And eight of those were awarded to school faculty members. At the AIA Awards presentation, the master of ceremonies, realizing the strength of Arkansas' presence in the awards recognition, felt compelled to ask, "What the heck is going on in Arkansas?" The short answer is that great faculty members are doing great scholarship and design work and are teaching great students.

This issue of *Re:View* will cover many of the successes mentioned above. My focus will instead be on the future of the school as addressed by two ongoing and related initiatives: a major strategic planning effort and a capital campaign for improving facilities.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

In an effort to envision what we want the school to be 10 to 15 years from now, we have begun a major effort to develop a strategic plan for the school. We began last spring by forming a steering committee composed of faculty, staff, design professionals and alumni. Our strategic planning consultant and facilitator, Cambridge-Concord Associates of Cambridge, Mass., then led a series of meetings with faculty and staff. Meetings to solicit faculty, student and alumni input are planned for the fall. The work done to date has produced some exciting possibilities. Themes such as *multidisciplinary collaboration*, *critical design thinking*, *integrated practice technologies*, *diversity* and *sustainable practice* have begun to emerge as issues most critical to the future of professional practice. To prepare our students to engage in these practices, we are prepared to make substantial changes to the school's curricula.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR FACILITIES

We are hopeful that the strategic plan will be finished by the end of the fall semester 2008, but have already begun to anticipate the facilities we will need in order to implement the plan. This leads me to the second major initiative I want to bring to your attention, a capital campaign for facilities.

You have no doubt heard about the incredible generosity of Don and Ellen Edmondson, who in February allowed us to celebrate their most recent gift to the school – a \$10 million testamentary gift. While we all hope we don't actually receive this gift for many years, Don and Ellen are allowing us to use the gift announcement as a challenge to other supporters and friends to match their gift. The campaign goal therefore is \$10 million, funds that will be used to assist in the renovation of and addition to Vol Walker Hall.

These two future-oriented initiatives have obvious strong synergistic possibilities; i.e., the new strategic plan will motivate and guide the transformation of our teaching facilities. That both efforts are being undertaken in parallel is fortunate, and we are excited about the future of the school and the new or renovated facilities that will accommodate and inspire our future teaching.

Edmondson Gift Sparks Building Campaign

Last spring the School of Architecture announced a transformative gift from long-time supporters Don and Ellen Edmondson of Forrest City, Ark. The Edmondsons' \$10 million planned gift to the School of Architecture not only opens up new opportunities for the future but may spark some immediate benefits, as well: School leaders hope to match the Edmondsons' gift with funds that will support renovation of and an addition to Vol Walker Hall, the school's headquarters since 1969. "Don and Ellen Edmondson have truly made the gift of a lifetime," said Dean Jeff Shannon. "We are deeply grateful to Don and Ellen for this exceptional gift, and for their challenge to others to support current initiatives within the school."

A 1958 graduate from the University of Arkansas College of Business, Don Edmondson credits a freshman arts appreciation course for generating his interest in architecture. Fay Jones, the late prize-winning architect

and professor of architecture, lectured on Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright and his own work, giving Edmondson his first taste of modern design. "I was so struck by his art and architecture – it was the coolest thing I've ever seen," Don Edmondson said. "He inspired me to aspire, to do well in life, to reach those goals that I wanted to reach. And on top of that list was to live in a Fay Jones home."

Fay Jones eventually did design Don and Ellen Edmondson's Forrest City home, and over time a deep friendship developed between the Edmondsons, Jones and his wife Gus. The gift to the School of Architecture, Edmondson said, is "to honor Fay and Gus and what they have meant in our lives, and hopefully to inspire other people to support the school and its mission."

The building campaign will fund a much-needed addition to Vol Walker Hall. Built in 1934 as the campus library, Vol Walker's grand spaces and marble and brass finish details offer an exceptional setting for design education. There are problems, however: Cramped quarters in the former stacks render much of the building's space unusable; antiquated wiring doesn't support new technologies; the air conditioning is inadequate, especially in the teaching spaces; and Arkansas' oldest elevator is frequently out of commission. Dean Jeff Shannon hopes that an addition to the building would house new studios, secure gallery space and an auditorium that could accommodate the entire school, plus visiting alumni, for lectures by notables such as Peter Walker and Glenn Murcutt.

"We have an incredible program, and we need the facilities to support and enhance what we're doing in the classroom and studio," said Charlotte Taylor, the school's director of development. School leaders have begun the process of meeting with individuals who might be interested in contributing to the campaign. To learn more, please contact Charlotte Taylor at 479-575-7384 or chtaylo@uark.edu.



The university hosted a dinner honoring Don and Ellen Edmondson last February. Above, the Edmondsons unwrap a sterling silver enameled Razorback from Underwood's Fine Jewelers.



Bicultural Brainstorming

Benedetto Luciani enjoys the view at Devil's Den State Park. Photo by J.T. Wampler, courtesy *The Morning News*.

Italy's Monti Simbruini Natural Regional Park has it all: picturesque hillside villages offering postcard views, the sacred grotto where St. Benedict founded his order, timeworn pilgrimage paths and the crumbling remains of Nero's villa, for starters. But the 74,000-acre park also faces challenges: an aging population, environmental degradation and inaccessible tourist attractions.

Last March the School of Architecture hosted a two-week, bicultural brainstorm session to explore how park officials can develop tourism without sacrificing pure air, clean water, animal habitats and unsullied views. Event organizers Fran Beatty, head of the department of landscape architecture, and Davide Vitali, director of the school's Rome Study Center, have been working to address the park's problems for several years, organizing a conference and bringing in School of Architecture students to work on projects.

"This trip was an important step forward in our collaboration," Beatty said. "The park offers opportunities for faculty and student research and public service that

would promote global understanding – and that's central to our educational mission."

The Italian delegation included four dignitaries from Monti Simbruini Natural Regional Park:

- Benedetto Luciani, vice president of the park
- Giulio Rossi, vice president of the park community and mayor of Cervara di Roma
- Maurizio Fontana, director of the park
- Alberto Foppoli, deputy director for tourism and development

Rome Study Center faculty members Emilio del Gesso and Francesco Bedeschi and program and student activities coordinator Janice Calf did a heroic job of translating during the trip.

The Italians were greeted by springtime snow, which fortunately thawed in time for a gala dinner for university officials at University House, where Dean Jeff Shannon welcomed them with a warm "Caiody, y'all" (that's Italian, Arkansas-style). The group subsequently embarked on a tour of state parks led by Richard Davies, executive

director of Arkansas State Parks. The Italians enjoyed the scenery but focused on the details: funding, park administration, water treatment, even the cut of the park rangers' uniforms.

Subsequent stops included a meeting with Governor Mike Beebe, a tour of Garvan Woodland Gardens, participation in the Governor's Conference on Tourism, and a day of brainstorming with business consultants at the Arkansas World Trade Center. The cross-Arkansas tour concluded with a day-long symposium, "LOST Arkansas: The Challenges to Preserving Cultural Landscapes," organized by the department of landscape architecture.

Keynote speaker Perry Howard, president of the American Society of Landscape Architects, emphasized the need for global dialog to preserve cultural landscapes: "These are issues we share across borders," he said. Charles Birnbaum, founder and president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, joked about the easy answers – the "plop and drop" gazebo-in-a-lawn approach – and emphasized the need for designers and preservationists to work together to create and preserve site-specific,

authentic landscapes. The symposium wound up with a lively panel discussion that ranged from Arkansas' Toltec Mounds to the complex bureaucracy governing landscape preservation in the European Union. Moderated by Charles Birnbaum, the panel included Perry Howard; Benedetto Luciani; Tom Green, director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey; and Susie Rogers, historian of Buffalo National River.

The trip concluded with a reception where Luciani and Shannon signed a protocol agreeing to future collaboration between the School of Architecture and Monti Simbruini park. Luciani, for one, is more than ready to take the partnership beyond paperwork. "I like the idea of students coming to Cervara to study," he said through a translator. "In Italy, student work stops with design. I would like to see a design/build project in the park."



Luciani and Dean Jeff Shannon sign a protocol for future collaboration.

The Italian delegation visits Garvan Woodland Gardens. (Left to right: Maurizio Fontana, Emilio del Gesso, Janice Calf, Alberto Foppoli, Benedetto Luciani, Giulio Rossi, Fran Beatty.)



Workman Introduces Students, Faculty to Integrated Practice

As the School of Architecture's first Twenty-First Century Chair in Integrated Practice, alumnus Brad Workman (B.Arch. '78) is leading the school's faculty and students into a new era of design and construction. Workman brings a unique perspective to integrated practice, a digital design methodology that allows all of the players – architects, landscape architects, engineers, contractors, fabricators and building owners – to collaborate electronically from the get go.



Brad Workman

Trained as an architect at the University of Arkansas, Workman subsequently found his way to software firm Bentley Systems Inc., where he helped design, develop and pioneer building information modeling (BIM), a new digital design methodology that supports integrated practice. Workman currently serves as vice president of building and plant solutions for Bentley.

By modeling a 3-D building in virtual reality, BIM software allows all parties involved to analyze factors such as energy usage, structural integrity, lighting, airflow, constructability and material costs much earlier in the process. Workman hopes that better communication via integrated practice will cut down on waste in the building industry and generate better buildings that come in on budget and on time. Students are the key to making this industry shift occur, Workman said: "These kids grew up with computers, and their abilities and optimism are amazing. They are capable of pushing these technologies and new methods much further and faster than my generation."

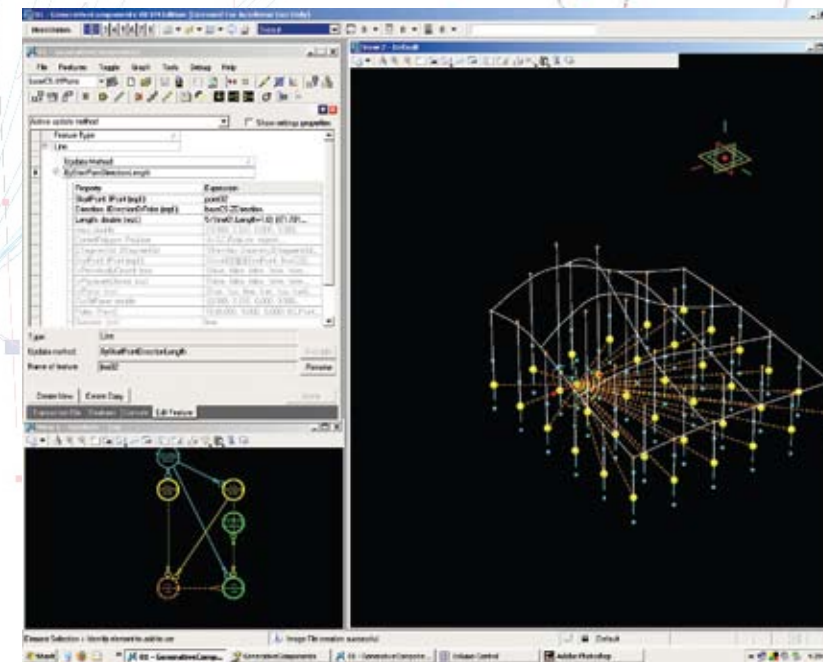
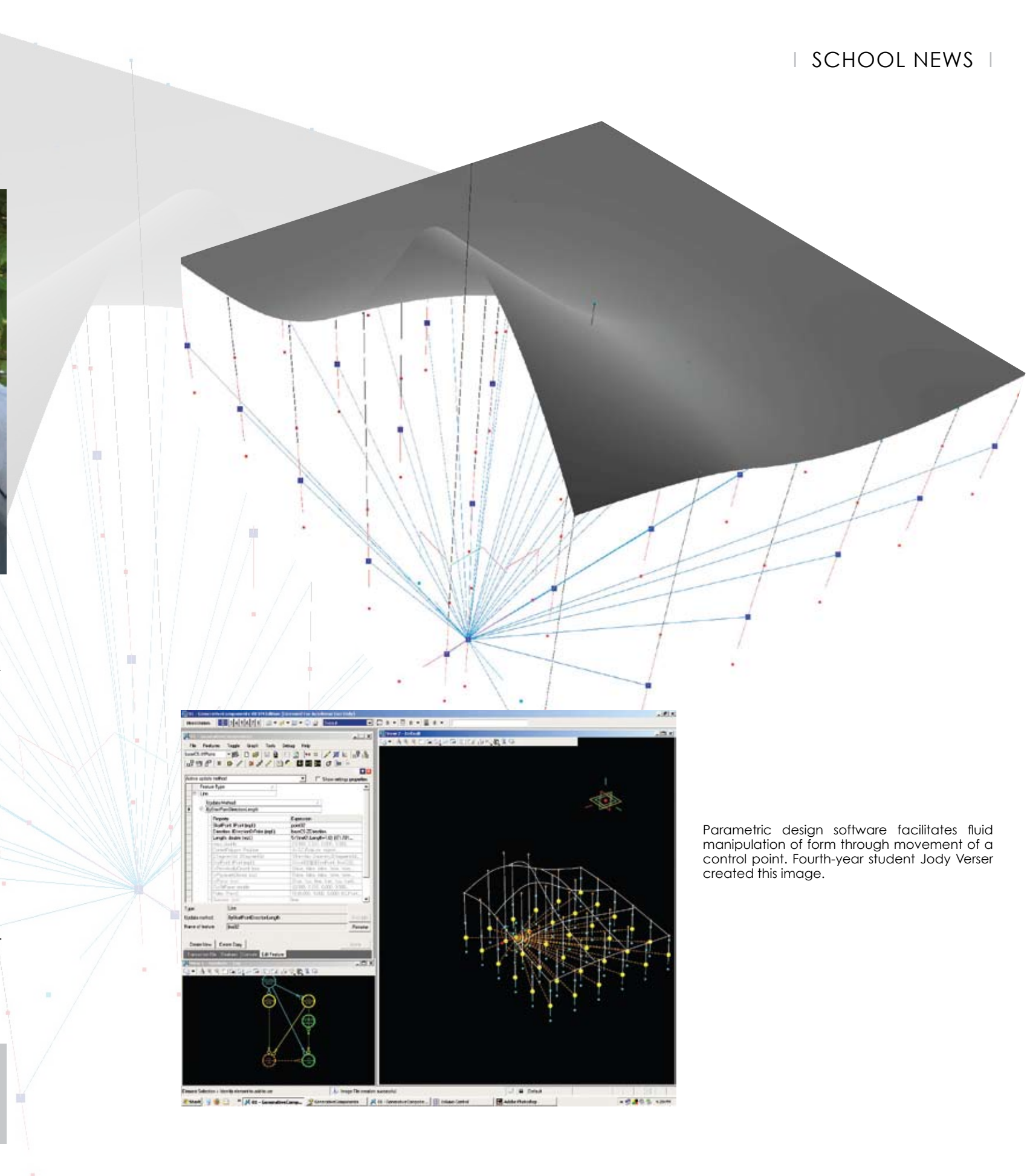
In addition to presenting a series of lectures explaining what BIM is, Workman has shown students and faculty what BIM can do. With the support of Assistant Professor Lynn Fitzpatrick, he organized a free workshop in April that offered students and alumni hands-on practice with Bentley's GenerativeComponents software.

Marty Doscher, information technology director at Morphosis, an architecture firm led by Pritzker Architecture Prize winner Thom Mayne, and Volker Mueller, research director for computational design with Bentley, led the workshop.

Though the learning curve for BIM software is high, the payoff is well worth it. "It's like the professional photographer who snaps lots of photos in seconds and selects just one," said Jon Boelkins (B.Arch. '04). "This software produces numerous design variants quickly, yielding outstanding results." Perhaps the best endorsement came from the student participants: After putting in two 12-hour-plus days working on design ideas they brought to the workshop, they were in studio at 8 p.m. on a Saturday night, showing other students how to use the software. Several of the students plan to pursue independent studies using BIM with Fitzpatrick, and one of the alumni participants, Rachel Smith (B.Arch. '07), was one of five selected nationally for a six-month internship at Morphosis.

➔ For more information on the **workshop**: <http://architecture.uark.edu/407.php>.

➔ For more information on **Brad Workman** and the Twenty-First Century Chair in Integrated Practice: <http://architecture.uark.edu/arch/210.php>.



Parametric design software facilitates fluid manipulation of form through movement of a control point. Fourth-year student Jody Verser created this image.



Kohler's students prepared case studies on local projects, including Shogun Steakhouse and the Church at Pinnacle Hills. Photo by D. Shields courtesy Miller Boskus Lack Architects.

Real World 101

It's a given: the "aha" moment at the drafting table is only a tiny fraction of the working life of a design professional. To prepare students for the marketing, billing, negotiating, permit wrangling and project managing that accompany creative work, the School of Architecture has developed professional practice courses that are required for all fifth-year students seeking professional degrees. Each department takes a different approach:

ARCHITECTURE

With 25 years of experience in design, real estate development, site planning and construction management, architect Bob Kohler is well equipped to introduce students to the nuts and bolts of professional practice. "Every single thing we do simulates, as much as possible, real-world conditions," he said. Case studies provide the linchpin for the class. Over the course of the semester, student teams work to build case studies on real projects, investigating issues stemming from the generative idea of the case, including the unexpected glitches that crop up in any and every project. The kicker? At the end of the semester, each group presents their case study to the original project team: owners, architects and landscape architects, contractors and consultants.

"If they know enough to present a project to its own principals, then that's the best we can do to prepare them for real-world scenarios," Kohler said. "We've had some fantastic discussions bringing these folks in." The exercise also gives students valuable experience in writing and public speaking.

In addition to core topic lectures, guest speakers round out the curriculum with presentations on firm marketing, risk management and project delivery strategies. In the course of learning all aspects of professional practice, stu-

dents sometimes see new possibilities open up: "The project management lecture is always an eye opener for them," Kohler said. "They realize that you don't have to be the rock star designer to succeed, that there are lots of vital roles in the profession where you can make a very good living."

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Judy Brittenum draws on 24 years of experience in practice, teaching and ASLA leadership to prepare landscape architecture students for professional practice. She emphasizes practical preparation for the job search. Students must prepare professional resumes and research three firms in the area of the country where they would like to work. Then the mock interviews begin, with each student having opportunities to play both employer and job applicant roles. "It's a good exercise to play the interviewer – they have to think about the hiring process from the perspective of the employer, and this helps them to be prepared," Brittenum said. She also requires students to assess themselves prior to the interview, ranking themselves from one to five on a number of characteristics. "I tell them to bring up all of the things that they scored fours or fives on in the conversation," she said. The old-fashioned courtesies of dressing professionally, being on time, and writing thank you notes are also emphasized.

The course also addresses project management, office structure and the positive and negative aspects of different career paths, from government work to practice in a large multidisciplinary firm. Brittenum draws on law studies and five years of experience as a business owner to give students a thorough grounding in the legal aspects of professional practice. Workshops on portfolio design and the capstone fifth-year course in which students take on a real-world project complete curricular preparation for professional practice in landscape architecture.

Jumpstart Careers

Dress varied from sleek pinstriped suits, dress jackets and chinos to more ad hoc ensembles – but all of the 100+ students who participated in this year's career fair came armed with resumes, portfolios and slightly nervous smiles. Aaron Miley, a third-year architecture student from Arkadelphia, talked to 14 firms throughout the day. "I've had some pretty good interviews. It's great experience," he said.

Held in the spring since 1998, the School of Architecture career fair offers design firms first crack at new talent emerging from the School of Architecture. "We're always trying to hire a summer intern," said Steve Kinzler, a principal with the Wilcox Group of Little Rock. "It gives us a chance to test them, and the students a chance to try us out." The firm often hires talented interns – or their friends – after they graduate, Kinzler said. "It's another way for us to network."

Many recent graduates were on hand to help break the ice. "It's been fun, kind of like a reunion, especially at the pizza party last night," said Angie Carpenter, B.Arch. '05, referring to the portfolio preview that took place the night before the career fair. Carpenter, who is currently an intern with Selser Schaefer Architects in Tulsa, and representatives from 37 other architecture, landscape



Fourth-year student Brian Poepsel interviews with Mark Weaver (B.Arch. '82) of Hnedak Bobo Group.

architecture, interiors and engineering firms participated in this year's career fair. Steve Jagers, a project manager for GH2 Architects in Tulsa, felt the trip was well worth it. "We've talked to a number of architecture and interiors students, and we have some good leads, definitely," he said. Jagers graciously shared a grid pad emblazoned with his firm's logo; other freebies included jump drives, m & ms and the hands-down favorite, stealth bomber paper airplanes from the Wilcox Group with photos of Dean Jeff Shannon and architecture department head Tim de Noble in the cockpit. The most valuable take-away, though, was jobs: Several of the students landed jobs and summer internships at this year's fair, and more than half who responded to a follow up survey were expecting a job offer.

Hello World (Hire Us!)

Parents, professors, friends and commencement speaker Cynthia Weese, cofounder and principal of Weese Langley Weese of Chicago and former dean of Washington University's School of Architecture, were on hand to celebrate the class of 2008 when they walked last May. An informal survey before the ceremony found that at least 20 graduates have

secured jobs, a handful will go to graduate school this fall, and some ambitious road trips were in the works.

Graduates, if you'd like us to post your portfolio, please contact Kendall Curlee at kcurlee@uark.edu.

To all of the class of 2008: congratulations, good luck, and keep in touch!



The class of 2008

Be sure to check out the school's **firms and jobs pages** at <http://architecture.uark.edu/138.php>.



The Habitat neighborhood (far left) fronts a wet meadow that doubles as a city park. The "shared street" (left) calms traffic, treats stormwater and promotes community in a plaza-like garden space

Planning Beyond a Monoculture

Originally developed as a privately owned retirement community, Bella Vista, Ark. is graced by eight golf courses, single-family homes clustered around a series of picturesque lakes, and a country club and chapel designed by the late Fay Jones. What the town lacks is public life: there are few businesses, scant sidewalks and most recreational amenities are privately owned. With Bella Vista's population of 24,000 expected to double in the next ten to fifteen years, the town's planning commission turned to the University of Arkansas Community Design Center for help in envisioning a more robust urban fabric centered around a new town center.

This studio challenged students to develop settlement patterns compatible with contemporary development dynamics, yet provide the memorable places that suburban sprawl typically lacks. "They requested a walkable, dense downtown area with alternative living arrangements, and that's difficult because Bella Vista's current codes don't support urban development," said Stephen Luoni, director of the Community Design Center.

The students began the semester by mapping Arkansas examples of eight different town patterns: squares, campuses, grids, edges, corridors, parks, hillsides and automobile-oriented fabrics. They subsequently assembled the mapping studies into a poster and book of pattern types that served as a visual thesaurus for town/

place organization. As a final preparatory step, the students mapped Bella Vista's topography, infrastructure and housing.

In the final project, students grappled with a number of issues: how to define the edge of development, how to engage with the waterfront, and the importance of scale in creating effective public spaces. Several of them came up with gutsy design solutions – for example, Lauren Vogl's proposal to site the town center directly on top of a dam. "These projects are a provocative exercise," Luoni said at the final review. "Currently, this town is very much a monoculture. We want to give Bella Vista's planning commission diverse visions for future development."

Chris Suneson, a landscape architect with McClelland Consulting Engineers who serves on Bella Vista's planning commission, conceded that the projects probably won't be built by the city, noting that "the maintenance alone on some of the green spaces would take the entire city budget." But he was impressed by the way the students' designs responded to the town's hills and valleys and existing infrastructure. "That kind of integrated approach is exactly what we need," he said. "Some of the ideas that the students provided will help us to draft codes that will attract mixed-use development funded by private dollars."

'Green' Neighborhood Garner National Honors

The University of Arkansas Community Design Center won a 2008 ASLA Honor Award in Planning and Analysis for developing a radical new vision of neighborhood for the Washington Co. chapter of Habitat for Humanity: no sidewalks, no curbs, no gutters and no flooding, even after torrential rain. Instead, residents will benefit from a "shared street" – on track to be the first of its kind in the United States – that promotes community, slows down cars and soaks up stormwater like a sponge.

"In this neighborhood, the street *is* the yard," said Stephen Luoni, director of the Community Design Center. "By combining pedestrian and traffic systems in a space akin to a plaza, we permanently slow down the car and create great moments for chance social encounters."

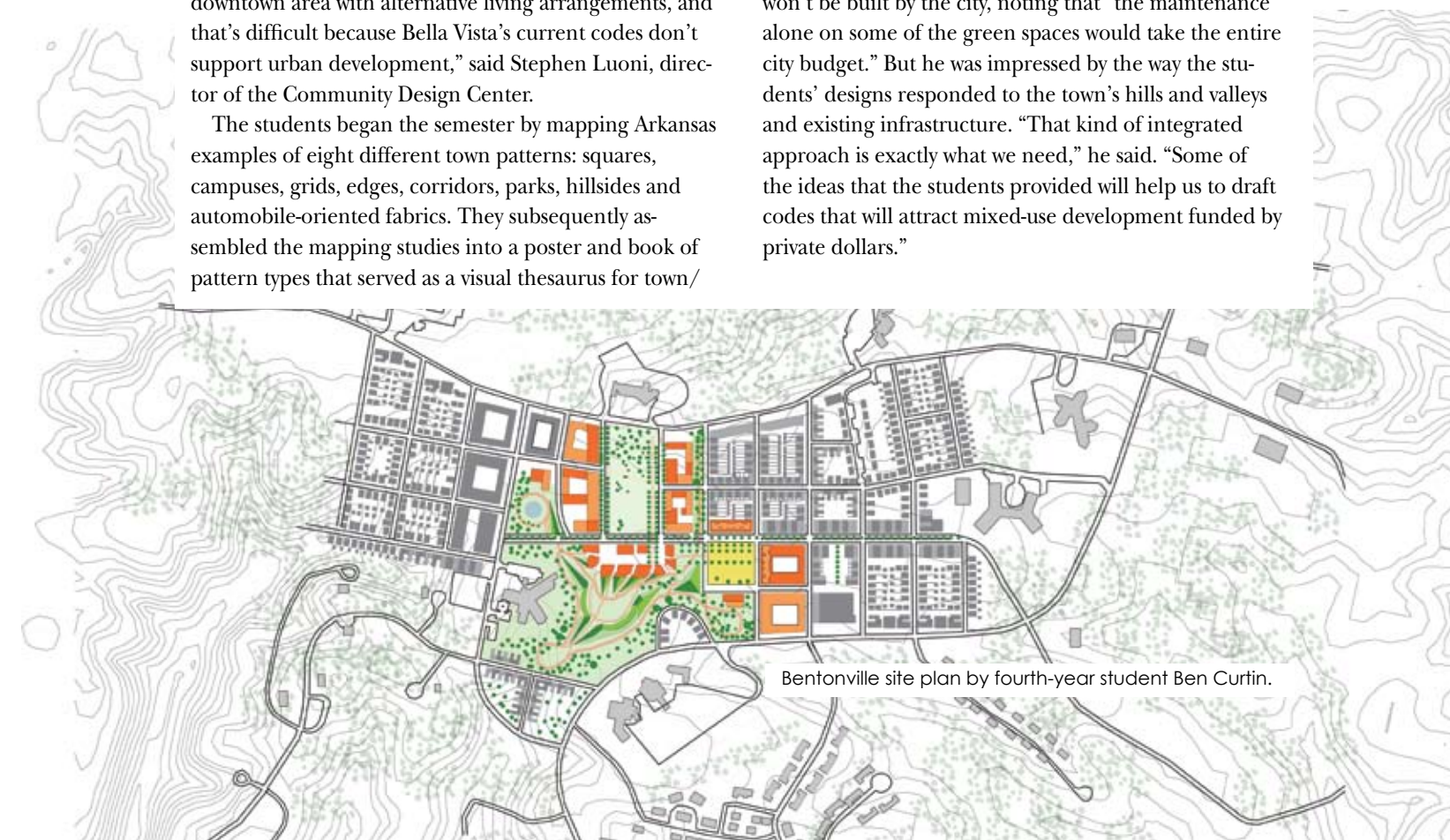
The project was developed in partnership with Professor Marty Matlock of the Ecological Engineering Group in the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, the university's department of biological and agricultural engineering, the city of Fayetteville and McClelland Consulting Engineers. Grants from the University of Arkansas

Women's Giving Circle and the Environmental Protection Agency supported the design phase.

"The University of Arkansas is taking a leadership role with this low-impact development project," said Bobby Hernandez, community planner for the EPA's Region 6, which includes Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico. "I don't know of any other project that we've funded in our region that comes close to what the university has done in demonstrating low-impact development's role in decreasing stormwater runoff. This is a great example to other communities," he said.

The U.S. Green Building Council has selected the Fayetteville Habitat neighborhood as a pilot project for LEED-Neighborhood Development certification. The Fayetteville project is one of 60 with priority for certification and special focus group study by the U.S. Green Building Council. Habitat for Humanity hopes to complete development plans for the neighborhood by the end of this year.

For more information on this and other projects: <http://uacdc.uark.edu/>





Master plan for Garvan Woodland Gardens' welcome center, event terrace, Great Lawn, Garvan Pavilion and Woodland hub access. Courtesy MESA Design.

Mapping the Future

Since opening to the public in 2002, Garvan Woodland Gardens has grown rapidly by any measure: seven new venues have been built or are nearing completion, attendance has more than doubled and staff members have launched a broad array of educational and recreational programs. Expansion demands a fresh look at the future, which has been made possible by a generous, \$250,000 gift from the Richard W. Averill Foundation to fund a strategic planning study for the 210-acre site.

"With more than half of the 1997 master plan built, and new stakeholders on board, it was time to bring everybody back to the table, discuss what we want to be and why – basically, what we want to be when we grow up," said Bob Byers, garden director.

MESA Design, an award-winning landscape architecture, planning and urban design firm based in Dallas, was chosen from nearly a dozen highly qualified appli-

cants to implement the master plan review.

"We asked MESA to go back to Mrs. Garvan's will and testament to determine what this garden is supposed to be about," said Fran Beatty, head of the department of landscape architecture. "We also wanted to define a conceptual and ideological framework for the garden to guide us in making future decisions."

The process began last fall with collection and analysis of data ranging from historic and previous garden plans to population and economic projections for the city of Hot Springs. In phase two, MESA led a series of charrettes with garden leaders and supporters to hammer out the organization's mission. The process reaffirmed Verna Garvan's vision to preserve the woodlands while providing research and educational opportunities for University of Arkansas faculty, students and the general public.

To ensure sustainable growth, the site program focuses on enhancing what is already in place. Programmatic emphasis is centralized, with formal gardens and architectural features surrounding the welcome center;

vegetation and pathways become less formal as visitors move to the more natural wooded areas preserved in the outer perimeter. Circulation will be enhanced with small hub areas that invite visitors to experience various moments in the gardens. Wayfinding and interpretation will be clarified with brochures and exhibits rather than a plethora of signage.

The biggest proposed changes involve a complete rethinking of how visitors first experience Garvan Woodland Gardens. The entry drive will wind through wooded areas to an arrival garden. Immediate parking will be embedded in a graceful landscaped oval, while extended parking for big events offers visitors a woodland walk on their way to the welcome center. The welcome center and proposed new education center have been merged into two central pavilions that serve as a gateway to the gardens, orienting visitors and framing panoramic views that invite them to explore the riches beyond. Square footage will expand from the current 5,100-square-foot welcome center to more than 30,000 square feet that

encompass education/event spaces, interpretive exhibits, offices, retail operations, a library and a café.

In the final phase of the planning process, MESA is developing cost and phasing estimates for the final plan. Dean Runyan Associates of Portland, Ore., is developing a business plan for the Gardens, and Axios Architecture of Atlanta, Ga., is creating a blocking plan for the welcome/education center. Bob Bledsoe, executive director of the garden, is planning a capital campaign to implement master plan proposals.

All parties involved have relished the collaborative nature of the process. Professor Mark Boyer recalls a long day last spring when landscape architecture faculty, garden staff, architects and planners used Sharpies and layer after layer of trace paper to resolve the problematic arrival sequence. "No idea was sacred – we were feeding off each others' ideas and energy," he said. "Those kinds of opportunities for synergistic design are really wonderful."

Nichole Wiedemann Studio



Nichole Wiedemann

In research that has ranged from Rome to New Orleans to the Camino Real trail that winds through central Texas, Nichole Wiedemann has focused on traces of the past that endure in cities and landscapes. An associate professor of architecture at the University of Texas at Austin, Wiedemann introduced fourth- and fifth-

year students to her method of cartographic exploration this past spring, when she served as the 2008 John G. Williams Distinguished Professor. Tim de Noble assisted in leading the studio.

The rugged landscape and rich history of San Antonio, Texas, provided fertile ground for mapping that spanned both space and time. The semester began with a close reading of Fray Francisco Céliz' account of the Alarcón Expedition into Texas in 1718-1719. The students translated the diary into interpretive maps that marked various aspects of the journey, from the positions of the moon and stars to encounters between indigenous

“What is really important is that we conceive of things differently. How do you make architecture that engages the unfolding of time and action within it?”
— Nichole Wiedemann

peoples and Spanish explorers.

Students retraced portions of indigenous and Spanish trails (embedded in what is now I-35) in the course of a 500-mile road trip to San Antonio. Three full days afforded time to study remnants of Spanish settlement, including historic missions and the gridded layout of the downtown area. This trip became the springboard for recording more personal responses to the area; for example, Jason Oury mapped a one-to-one comparison between the 18th century Alarcón expedition and his 21st century exploration of San Antonio's streets, restaurants and signage. As a segue into three-dimensional design the students then designed a river crossing for San Antonio's King Williams district that referenced the

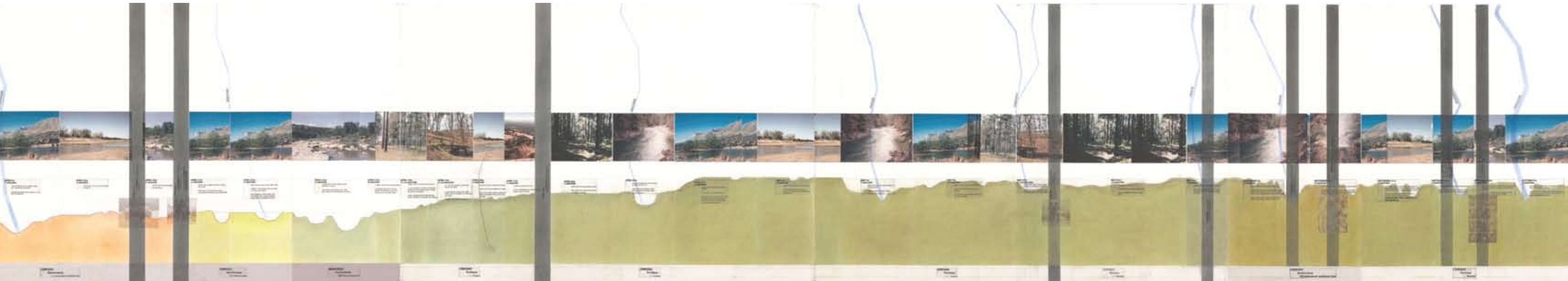


Sectional itinerary of archive (detail above) and interpretive map of Alarcón expedition (below) by student DeShondra Mitchell.

history of the city and its rivers.

In the final month of studio the students designed a 9,000-square-foot archive to house maps, books and artifacts related to Texas' missions, to be sited on the grounds of Mission San José. Diachronic mapping continued to inform the process: Students began by developing two sectional itineraries that presented a sequential experience of the building. “Rather than just looking at a frozen spatial plan, the itinerary allows us to bring nar-

rative and time back into the equation; it's much more dynamic,” Wiedemann said. Though many of the students struggled with translating their more open-ended explorations into a bricks-and-mortar building, Tim de Noble feels that the process was a positive one: “Nichole's process prompts the students to design by exploring and testing the perceptions of the constituent users, rather than defaulting to stale and often meaningless programmatic responses.”



Design VII – Urban Studio

In this urban design course led by visiting professor Nadia Amoroso, a landscape architect and urban planner from Toronto, Canada, fourth-year landscape architecture students studied the world's great cities, and then applied their knowledge to redeveloping a 55-acre waterfront site.



Nadia Amoroso

In the first, two-week warm-up project, each student created an urban atlas of a given city. Figure-ground drawings revealed the spatial typologies of historic European districts – the radial symmetry of Paris' Champs Elysees area, the curvilinear forms of central Rome and Venice –as well as the linear grid more commonly found in U. S. cities. Students also sketched individual streets and plazas to learn the full range of drawing conventions related to urban design.

The studio applied lessons from the first project on a three-day site visit to Toronto, where each student selected one of five sites for extensive analysis and documentation in the field. David Oleson, a principal with Oleson Worland Architects, led a tour of Yorkville Park, which he designed in collaboration with Martha Schwartz. He later

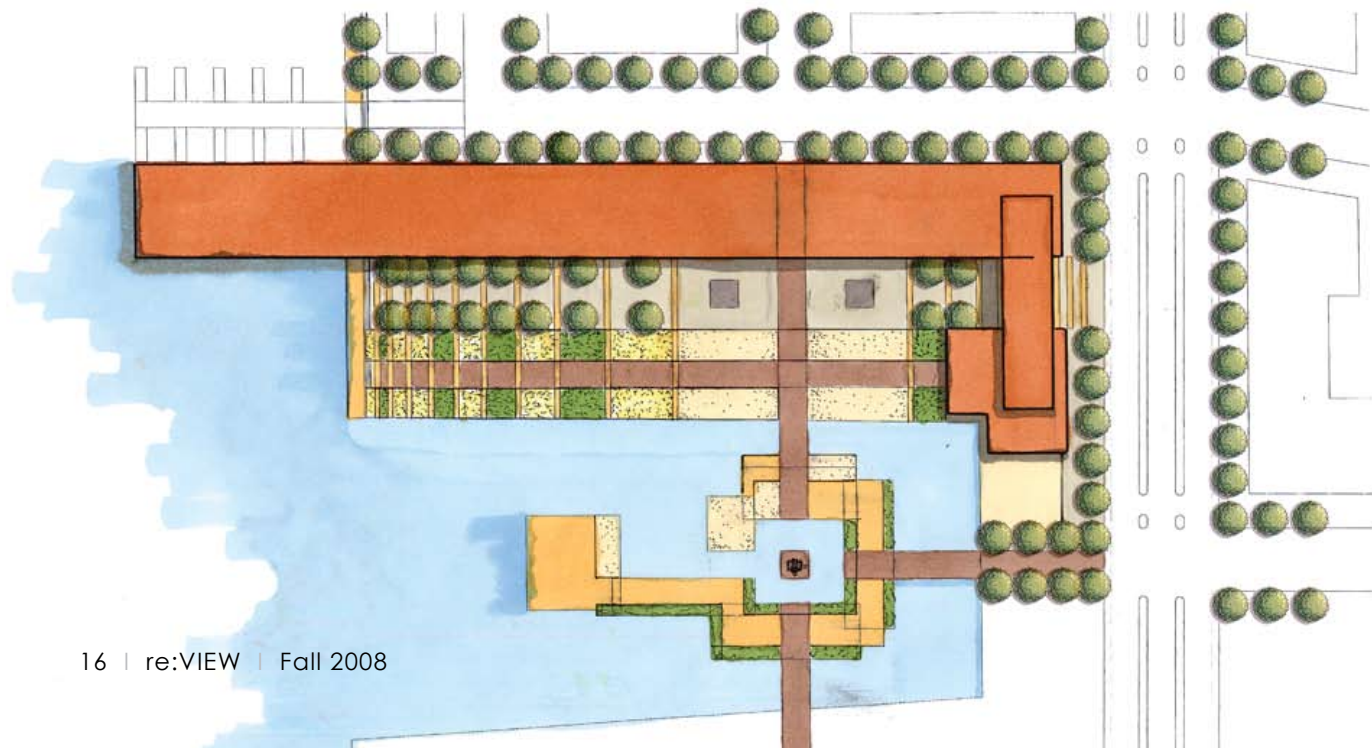
visited campus to critique student work.

For their final project, the students tackled an ambitious mixed-use planning project near downtown Toronto. Located on a prime site at the edge of Lake Ontario and near bustling arts and commerce districts, the East Bayfront area is ripe for development but not without challenges. Currently populated by looming empty warehouses and film studios that are closed to the public, the area lacks human scale and activity. "If you walk the site, it feels desolate – there's nothing there for people, no place to get a cup of coffee," Amoroso noted.

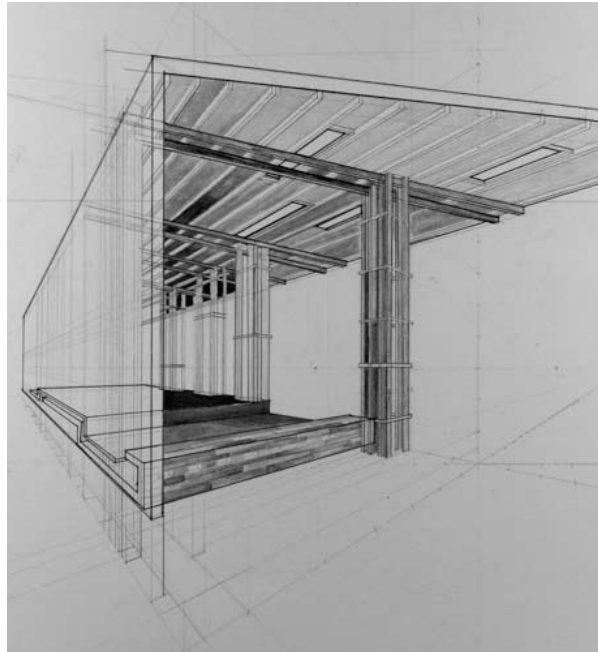
The program called for the development of 540,000 square feet of park and public space and a mile-long promenade along the water's edge, with public transit to link the area with surrounding neighborhoods. Achieving high-density mixed-use development with low-rise buildings that preserve views guided the students' first exercise in mass modeling. The students came up with a wide range of creative responses to the site, including a series of floating gardens in an abandoned boat slip, colorful light poles that would activate the space at night and way-finding signage engraved in the ground.

Ike Carroccio and Julie Russell proposed a series of floating gardens for a mixed-use site in Toronto (below); Chrissy James diagrammed traffic junctions in Mexico City (right).

Ike Carroccio and Julie Russell proposed a series of floating gardens for a mixed-use site in Toronto (below); Chrissy James diagrammed traffic junctions in Mexico City (right).



Outdoor Classroom Design/Build Project



Preliminary sketch created by Anne Huynh.

A new outdoor classroom for Fayetteville's Washington Elementary School has provided an invaluable learning experience well before any school children set foot inside. Led by professor Michael Hughes, three groups of architecture students have experienced the hands-on lessons offered by design/build: the powerful vibration of a mini-excavator moving earth beneath you, the painstaking tedium of smoothing mortar between brick, and the precision – and patience – required to craft 322 miters for the redwood “ribbon” that winds through the project. The students also learned how to interview clients, discuss project details with engineers and contractors and develop simple, flexible designs that can be changed to meet unexpected developments.

“This project helped us learn how things go together – what can and can't be done,” said Jason Boze of Dover, Ark., who helped develop initial designs for the project. “We got tans, some muscles and some knowledge,” Melissa Clark said at the picnic that wrapped up the second semester of work.

As for Washington's teachers and schoolchildren, they will benefit from a well-designed, finely crafted facility

for years to come. Sited on the northwest side of the playground, close to the school “so that kids can't get lost behind it – intentionally or otherwise,” Hughes noted, the project centers on an airy pavilion that can house a class of 28 to 30 students. An outdoor reading pit with low walls and a bench for quiet lounging extends north of the pavilion and terminates with a planter box and signage that create a formal entrance to the playground. A stage on the southern end may be used for plays, graduation ceremonies and fundraising events. A concrete wall detailed with richly striated formwork wraps and defines the approximately 2,000-square-foot design.

“We're creating a series of outdoor rooms with relatively small built space,” Hughes said.

In addition to housing outdoor classes, the facility will promote active learning. Planting beds may function as biology labs, and rooftop solar panels will be linked to a meter so that the children may track usage of the solar-powered battery through rain, sun and snow.

Project sponsors; Acme Brick, Arkansas Galvanizing, Arkansas Rebar, Arkhola Sand & Gravel, Backus Concrete, Bailey Masonry LLC, Benchmark Construction, Brundige Bone Concrete Pumping, The Darragh Co., Darrell Doyle, Enco Materials Inc., Fastenall, the Fayetteville Independent School District Facility Management department, Foundation Specialties, L+L Metal, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse of Rogers, Nabholz Construction Corp., Ozark Energy Services, PB2 Architecture and Engineering, the Rogers Group, RSC Rental, Seal Once, the Starr Foundation, Stitt Energy Systems Inc., and Tune Concrete.



Melissa Clark washes up after staining the deck. (Right) Jorge Andrade and Clark work on the concrete formwork wall.



Third Year Environmental Design Studio

Organized sports, schoolwork and above all, screen time have dramatically reduced the time that today's kids spend playing outdoors. Last spring, John Crone's third-year students began to address this trend by partnering with Audubon Arkansas and Student Efforts in Economic Development (SEED), a component of the University of Arkansas Economic Development Institute, to develop master plans for a nature center in Fayetteville, Ark. Their goal? Get teachers, kids and families outside for hand's-on learning about the environment. "That's how we can motivate the next generation to conserve the land and protect our environment," said Ken Smith, director and vice-president of Audubon Arkansas, at the final review session.

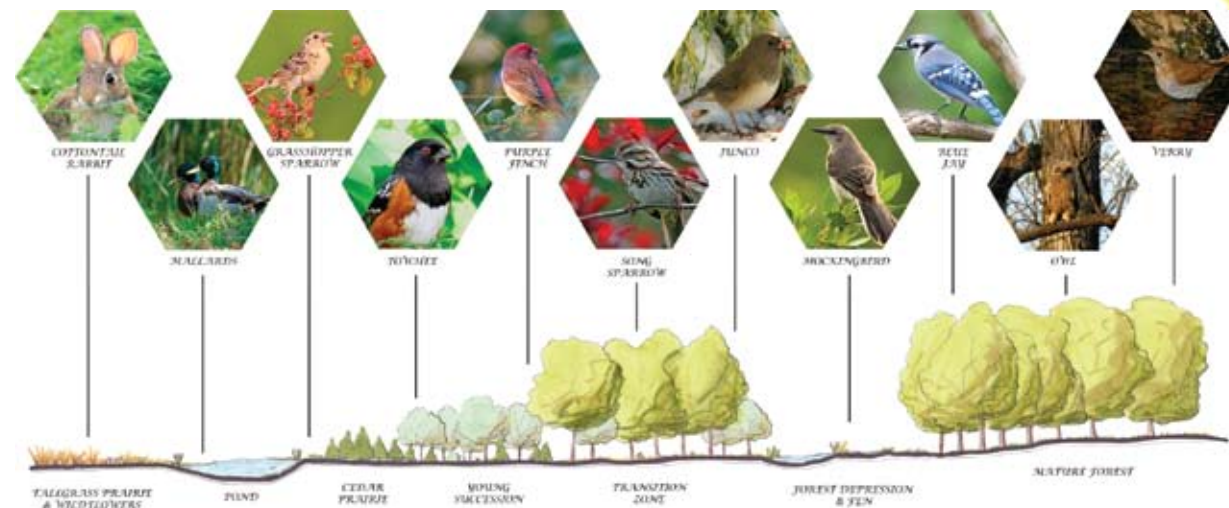
Located south of the new Sam's Club and southwest of the Interstate 540 bypass junction with Highway 112, the 125-acre site is wet, choked with honeysuckle and other invasive species, and too small to become a major hub for wildlife. But augmented by nearby landscape fragments, the site has potential as a resting stop for resident and migratory birds. "For public appreciation you've got to simplify the plant palette visually, but preserve enough diversity to support wildlife," Crone told the students.

Some students took a hand's-off approach, enhancing what is already there, while other set up a dialog between natural and manmade landscapes. Many of them developed a survey of demonstration habitats, from short grass prairie to old growth hardwoods, close to the proposed 2,000-square-foot center that would anchor the site. All of the students developed a trail loop that would take visitors by key features – a majestic gnarled oak, a dramatic stand of white-trunked sycamores – and link into adjoining residential developments and the city of Fayetteville trail system. The students came up with a wide range of ideas to engage children, including an elevated "treetop" boardwalk, viewing towers and a plaza gridded with plots for gardening activities.

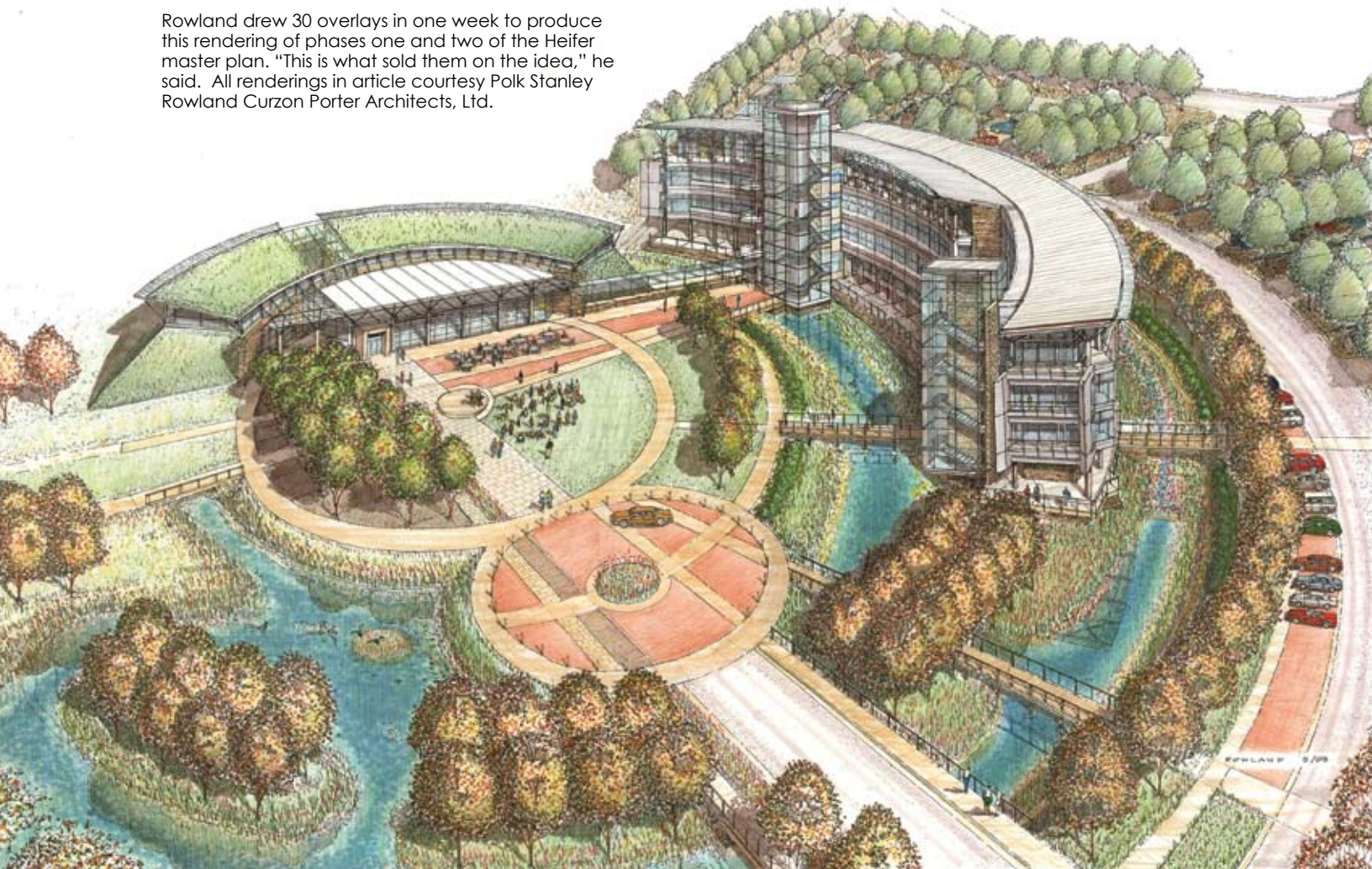
The students wrapped up the semester by designing a mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly community centered around a theoretical rapid transit hub in the area around Meeks Lumber on Gregg Street. Currently a sparsely populated, light industrial and commercial district, the site provided an opportunity for students to integrate green and manmade infrastructure so that they're mutually beneficial.



Visitors Center plan by Jordan Thomas (right); section by Falone Gross-Sharum.



Rowland drew 30 overlays in one week to produce this rendering of phases one and two of the Heifer master plan. "This is what sold them on the idea," he said. All renderings in article courtesy Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects, Ltd.



Made in Arkansas



Rowland took his son Preston to visit Heifer's headquarters during construction. "This photo reminds me that every design decision that we make today will greatly impact our children, and then their children," he said.

The four-star meal could wait for this Arkansas boy done good: After claiming his first national AIA Honor Award in Boston last May for Heifer International Headquarters in Little Rock, Reese Rowland (B.Arch. '90) hustled over to the alumni party hosted by the University of Arkansas School of Architecture, where his framed certificate morphed into a food and drink tray and ended up discreetly tucked under a table ("We didn't have time to go by the hotel, and I didn't want to look like I was bragging," he said with a shrug). It's fitting that Rowland celebrated with former professors and classmates – as he is quick to tell you, all but one of the design team at Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects, Ltd. who worked on the project are graduates of the School of Architecture.

Rowland credits the success of the Heifer project to the fact that it was crafted from Arkansas materials by Arkansas firms. "We wanted this building to be of its place," he said, in an interview that began in the former mattress factory that houses Polk Stanley's Little Rock office. Constructed from brick and steel salvaged from warehouses on site, augmented by stone from Subiaco and Batesville, and clad in an aluminum and glass curtain wall system assembled across the street from the Heifer site, the headquarters building is quite literally a product of Arkansas. The project team included Larson Burns Smith for landscape design, Cromwell Architects Engineers Inc. and McClelland Consulting Engineers Inc. for engineering, and CDI Contractors, LLC for construction – Little Rock firms, all. "That's really what we're most proud of, the fact that our primary design team is all from here," he said.

Though Rowland's work is deeply rooted in his home state, it transcends any regionalist pigeonhole. Educated in the mid-80s, when post-modern pastiche was at its height, Rowland struggled to find his own voice. He credits Jeff Shannon, now dean of the School of Architecture, with helping him find his way. "Jeff's teaching style was not to dictate or lead you; he forced you to ask the right questions," Rowland recalls. It wasn't until his fifth-year final project that Rowland hit his stride: a proposed lodge on top of Mount Magazine featured the clean lines, natural materials and sensitive response to site that define his work today. In his best work, though, Rowland offers something more, distilling his clients' vision and modus operandi into compelling, bricks-and-mortar narratives. Here are two of his design stories.

THE PRIZE WINNER

Rowland began work on the Heifer project by interviewing key players in the nonprofit organization, which donates farm animals to needy families, educates them

in sustainable husbandry, and asks that they pass these gifts on to others. An interview with Jan West Schrock, daughter of the late founder Dan West, sparked the organizing principle for the master plan. "One thing she remembered her father saying was that 'all the important decisions are made where people sit in a circle, facing each other as equals,'" Rowland recalled. "When you catch something like that you write it down and circle it." He also considered Heifer's "pass the gift on" philosophy in sketching out the site design. "The initial gift of one animal creates concentric rings of influence – eventually the animal's offspring, and the knowledge, spread throughout the region, like a pebble hitting water," he said. "We decided to set the entire site up in a way that reflected and built upon that idea."

The master plan centers on a circular commons area that represents the point of impact. Heifer's emphasis on equality is embodied in the gently curved, narrow part of the four-story headquarters building, a form that ensures natural light and outdoor views for all workers in the building. A more modest education pavilion, currently under construction, creates a semicircular portal to the Global Village beyond, where model villages from countries where Heifer is active will provide experience-based education for visitors. Paths for cars, pedestrians and the water that moves through the site, as well as a smaller demonstration area to be constructed at a later date, represent the outer rings emanating from the central commons.

On the morning we toured the Heifer site, Rowland watched with relief as workers pulled formwork from the 30-foot-high concrete wall that anchors the education building. "That's our Louis Kahn statement," he joked, "It's coming out very well – we've been fretting about that." The wall actually carries a much heavier symbolic load: To Rowland, it represents the barrier between the way Americans live and the way the rest of the world lives. "When you pass through it, you leave the industrial world that we know," he said.

Given Heifer's mission to use the world's resources more wisely, sustainable design and construction were a key part of the project. It began with the largest brownfield cleanup in



Situated at the visual terminus of Third Street, the education building is defined by a 30-foot-high concrete wall that anchors a café, gift shop and exhibition spaces.

Arkansas' history – workers removed soil heavily polluted with diesel fuel and creosote, deposited it in six-inch layers at the landfill to hasten remediation, and recycled 97 percent of the material on the 22-acre site, a former railway switching station and diesel truck yard.

Every aspect of the site and building expresses Heifer's commitment to sustainability, from the bioswales blooming in the parking lot to bathroom stalls recycled from sawdust. Graywater recycling, a raised floor air distribution system and a lighting system equipped with dimming controls and movement sensors are among the sustainable strategies used in the building, which won Arkansas' first LEED Platinum rating and recognition from the national AIA Committee on the Environment as one of the Top Ten Green Projects in 2007.

The green systems are proudly displayed throughout the structure, but it's the connections with the green outdoors that make the building a joy to experience. On each floor, extensive glazing opens to views of downtown Little Rock and the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum next door. Large balconies double as outdoor conference rooms, and smaller balconies provide "away spaces" from the central workrooms. The stairs were pulled from the main building, encased in glass and floated over water that cools the space, making passage from one floor to another a pleasurable break from work. On the day we visited, Rowland watched, absorbed, as a family of turtles surfaced for air in the wetland "moat" that circles the building. "I wouldn't get anything done if I worked here," he said, smiling. "I'd just sit and watch the turtles all day."

BUILDING ON THE PAST

From a story focused on a greener future for the planet, Rowland turned to a project embedded in Arkansas' past. The Arkansas Studies Institute unites new construction with two historic buildings – an 1880s brick and wood structure built and used for years by Little Rock's Jewish community, and the Geyer and Adams building, designed by Charles Thompson and completed in 1914. Located

The Arkansas Studies Institute unites two historic buildings with a contemporary façade. The water tower is not original, but may be used for graywater collection in the future.

on President Clinton Avenue in the heart of Little Rock's Market District, the institute will house more than 10 million historic documents for the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) and function as an urban campus for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, as well.

Instead of building from the ground up with the latest technologies, Rowland faced the challenge of resuscitating aging structures. Construction crews stripped toxic lead paint from the oldest building, repointed the bricks and bolted them to the wall with star-shaped cast iron plates and bolts that add a sparkle to the eastern façade. A thriving rat colony was evicted from the Geyer and Adams building next door, and both buildings were shored up with new foundations. CALs archivist David Strickland and director Bobby Roberts unearthed old photos so that the buildings could be restored to their original appearance. "Never has so much time been spent to make it look like nothing had changed with these old buildings," Rowland admitted ruefully.

The new construction is unabashedly contemporary, in keeping with Rowland's view that each building should express the time when it was built ("The worst buildings are when you try to make a new building look old," he said). Viewed from across the street, the project's central metaphor becomes clear. The multiple curving glass walls of the main façade suggest the pages of an open book, allowing patrons to figuratively walk through the pages of history as they move through the new building into the historic spaces beyond. The copper, glass and steel façade



A landscaped plaza links the Arkansas Studies Institute with the existing library building.

Little Rock firm Landscape Architects, Inc. is working with Rowland to transform the narrow alley behind the buildings into a plaza with a scaled representation of the Arkansas River from the Mississippi to Fort Smith. Rowland is especially proud of four columns from Little Rock's Carnegie Library,

is framed by rich golden sandstone from Batesville that ties in new construction with the old.

Construction was in full swing on the day we visited (the building is slated for completion in fall 2008) but the good bones of the complex were already evident. From the main entrance, visitors enter a three-story atrium that stretches the length of the building, flooding interior spaces with natural light. A glazed stairwell affords views of the River Market bustle and will be shaded by vertical glass sun-control devices covered with historic images and quotes – in effect, transparent bookmarks that double as signage for the southern façade.

Suspended bridges link sales and display galleries in the new building to an expansive reading room and storage in the center building. On the day we visited, Rowland eyed the plywood floor decking in the bridges and placed a quick call to the office. Reassured that the plywood would be replaced with the specified tongue and groove oak, he carried on with the tour, gesturing towards the storage area where the library's document boxes will be displayed through glass atrium walls. "Instead of being hidden away in a vault somewhere, the documents will demonstrate what this building is all about – a place to preserve history," he said. The third building houses classrooms, lounges and meeting rooms.

As in the Heifer project, Rowland took great care to tie the building into the surrounding context. Stamped concrete, stone paving and speed bumps in front of the main entrance slow down traffic and create a piazza-type space where events can take place. Cindy Drilling with

long gone, that were retrieved and installed at the northern end of the plaza space, in front of the existing CALs building. "It's almost like a Roman ruin to have four freestanding columns there," Rowland said. "I like being able to tie the present day library back to the original." He thinks the institute is likely the toughest project he's worked on so far, but well worth the effort because of the stories it will tell. "Once buildings are gone, the history's gone," he said. "Architecture is an important part of the story of Arkansas."

WHAT'S NEXT

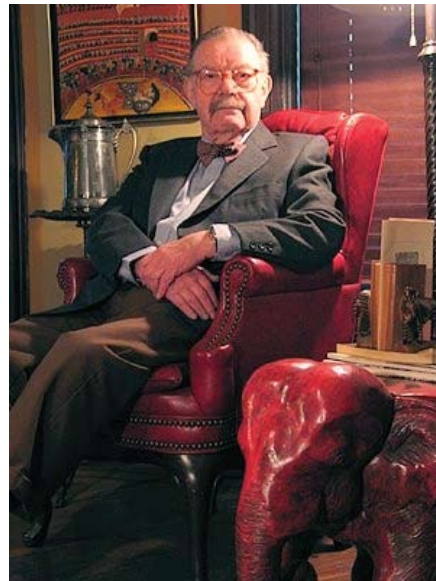
So there you have it: Reese Rowland is an architect who loves to tell stories, not about himself, but about the people and places around him. Though he could work anywhere, Rowland prefers to stay put, refusing even to move into Tommy Polk's office, vacant since Polk retired in November of 2007: "That's for the big boss," he said with a grin. For now, he's content to stay in his small office tucked in the back of Polk Stanley, watch the robin nesting in a tree near his window, and work on drawings for his next project – a convention center for El Dorado that he is designing with Wesley Walls (B.Arch. '92) of Little Rock's Wilcox Group. "I'm of this place, I know this place, and that influences everything I do," he said. Rowland describes his projects and life in Arkansas as a blessing – but the design stories he's creating here are a gift that generations of Arkansans will appreciate.

PLANNED GIFT TO SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION

An editor, writer and photographer who was a leader in the movement to preserve Brooklyn’s 19th-century brownstone communities, Everett Ortner has made a \$200,000 planned gift to the School of Architecture. His gift will support education related to historic preservation. “I am deeply indebted to the University of Arkansas,” he said when reached on the phone, adding that he hoped the gift would encourage people “to respect and preserve the history in their communities.”

Born in Lowell, Mass., and raised in New York City, Ortner came to the University of Arkansas almost on a whim. “A friend told me that it was a very good school, and very inexpensive,” he recalled, adding that out-of-state tuition ran \$25 a semester when he enrolled in the height of the Depression. Sustained by cheese sandwiches, cherry pies and the works of William Shakespeare, Ortner regularly braved the 42-hour bus ride between New York and Fayetteville, ultimately earning a bachelor of arts degree in literature in 1939.

After service as an army infantry officer in World War II, Ortner worked for several publishing houses before joining the staff at *Popular Science* magazine, working his way up to editor in a 33-year career with the publication. With his late wife Evelyn, in 1963 he purchased a beautiful 1886 brownstone rowhouse in Brooklyn’s then-deteriorating Park Slope neighborhood and embarked on a side career to stimulate interest in preserving old houses and neighborhoods. He organized tours and lectures, and worked with other homeowners to find buy-



Everett Ortner at home in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

ers committed to preserving historic homes (combating a trend to turn brownstones into single-room occupancy tenant houses managed by absentee landlords). He was cofounder and first president of the Brownstone Revival Committee, now the Brownstone Revival Coalition, a citywide organization devoted to the promotion and preservation of New York City’s older communities. He is currently chairman emeritus of the organization, which is less active these days, he says proudly, “Because we’ve done what we had to do. Brownstones are hot, not only in Brooklyn, but all over New York.” Indeed, Park Slope now enjoys a national profile, having been designated in 2007 as one of 10 “Great Places in America” by the American Planning Association.

Ortner took his preservation work to a national level by organizing a series of “Back to the City” conferences in a dozen major cities in the 1980s. Over the years he served as a board member and officer in numerous organizations devoted to preservation and has won many honors, notably the Lifetime Achievement in Excellence in Historic Achievement from the Preservation League of New York State, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York chapter of the Victorian Society of the United States, and jointly with his wife, the New York Landmarks Conservancy’s Lucy G. Moses Preservation Leadership Award. He was one of six recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award from the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences in 2006.

“Everett Ortner has been a leader in the field of historic preservation,” said Dean Jeff Shannon. “His generous gift will inspire future generations of our students to preserve the past.”



Parents and donors toured studios following the luncheon. In this photo, Lauren Vogl and her mother Dolores look on as David Powell examines the John G. Williams Joy of Architecture medal awarded to Vogl.

SCHOOL CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Proud parents, faculty, staff and scholarship donors gathered last April to honor 70 outstanding students at the school’s 10th annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon. In addition to recognizing talent, hard work and leadership, the scholarships play a very real role in easing the financial burden of an expensive program.

Though it’s a given that most college students are short on cash, each student faces individual challenges. Third-year student Krystina Tacchi shared her story at the luncheon: Her mother died when Krystina was 16, and she planned to work her way through school to ease the burden on her father, an architect with three children to support. Scholarships from the School of Architecture and the University of Arkansas have allowed Krystina to focus on studio and course work and have also freed up time for volunteer activities. Last summer, for example, she participated in Professor Laura Terry’s design/build program at Little Rock’s Camp Aldersgate. “Without your help, there

is a lot we wouldn’t be able to do,” Krystina said. Scholarship support for students continues to grow. This year the School of Architecture awarded a total of \$114,550 to students; new honors include:

- The Tony DeAngelo/Soho Development Award, funded by alumnus Tony DeAngelo of Clive, Iowa.
- The C.L. Bohannon Community Design and Planning Book Award and the Ed Price Book Award, both funded by alumnus C.L. Bohannon of Tallahassee, Fla.
- The Hnedak Bobo Group International Design Award, funded by the Hnedak Bobo Group, a Memphis firm where alumnus Mark Weaver is a principal.

Hnedak Bobo also donated \$2,500 in prize money to fund a one-time freshman recruiting scholarship that will be awarded this summer.

“Given that our students must cover supplies, study abroad, and an extra year of study in addition to the usual costs associated with a university degree, these awards are vital,” said Charlotte Taylor, director of development for the School of Architecture. “We deeply appreciate this ongoing support from our friends and alumni.”



The Dean's Circle funded this year's design/build project at Camp Aldersgate – two picnic sites linked by a 200-foot-long bridge, all fully accessible to campers with disabilities. The first site (shown here) includes walls equipped with chalkboards and chalk, making the space suitable for art projects and nature classes.

RECENT GIFTS

The school is thankful for the following gifts:

- A. L. Aydelott**, \$600,000 for a competitive travel award to support research and documentation of outstanding new international buildings
- Dellie Timber Corporation**, \$10,000 for Garvan Woodland Gardens holiday lights display
- Don and Ellen Edmondson**, \$10,000,000 planned gift, use to be determined
- Hnedak Bobo Group Inc.**, \$15,000 to award scholarships to winners of an international design competition over three years' time
- Robert Laser**, \$24,000 to increase the scholarship in his name
- Maple Hill Garden Club**, \$10,000 to fund an award for landscape architecture students
- Lynn Miller**, \$10,000 to fund a creative writing award for landscape architecture students
- Everett Orner**, \$200,000 planned gift to support historic preservation
- St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center**, \$10,000 for Tulip Extravaganza event at Garvan Woodland Gardens
- Trademark Real Estate Inc.**, \$20,000 for purchase of event tent for Garvan Woodland Gardens

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar now for April 3 – 5, 2009. Students, faculty, alumni and nationally recognized scholars will gather that weekend to celebrate a significant moment in the school's history. Expect lectures, tours, parties and an announcement. More information to come in January!



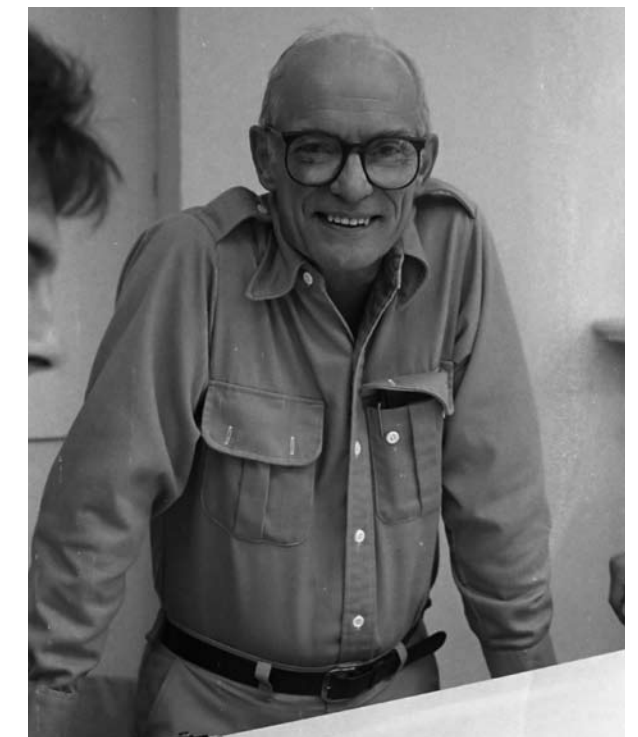
John G. Williams, April 30, 1915 - April 11, 2008

John Williams came to the University of Arkansas in 1946, when a post-war housing shortage created a demand for architects. Thanks to Williams' drive, energy and ebullient good spirits, the program grew from two architecture courses offered within the College of Engineering into a school offering the only accredited program in architecture in the state. Under his leadership, women were welcomed into the program, great talents were nurtured and hired, and architecture's 20th century stars were lured to Fayetteville for lectures and critiques.

"John Williams was a great teacher, and our mentor and friend," said Bob Laser (B.Arch. '51), one of Williams' first students. "All five of us who graduated in the first class revered him." Williams chronicled the early years of the architecture program in his 1984 book *The Curious and the Beautiful: A Memoir History of the Architecture Program at the University of Arkansas*. Though he retired as a professor emeritus in 1985, he continued to be a frequent visitor on campus, attending lectures and symposia and conducting research for a second book. In 1989, the School of Architecture established the John G. Williams Professorship in Architecture, which has brought luminaries such as Peter Eisenman, Edward Durrell Stone Jr. and Brian MacKay-Lyons to campus for a semester to teach and inspire students and faculty.

When **Herb Fowler** came to the University of Arkansas in 1952 to design the Animal Sciences building, among the first structures on campus designed in the modern International style, Williams recognized his talent and hired him. Fowler became a key member of what Dean Shannon termed a "dream team" faculty that Williams assembled to build the new architecture program. Murray Smart, professor emeritus of architecture and former dean of the School of Architecture, praised Fowler's teaching: "Herb was a listener as well as a teacher. He would talk to a student and find out what he wanted to accomplish, then help him reach his goals."

Though Fowler's research focused on medieval architecture and cities, his architectural style was firmly rooted in the 20th century, shaped by the clean functionality of the International style and the sensitivity to site and materials espoused by Frank Lloyd Wright. Fowler retired in 1989 as a professor emeritus, but returned to teach Design Determinants, an advanced course that addressed the tensions between philosophical and pragmatic considerations in design. In 2007, his family established the Herbert K. Fowler Award at the School of Architecture. Each year, an architecture student with exceptional drawing ability is selected to receive the honor.



Herbert K. Fowler, May 31, 1921 - April 10, 2008



Heifer International World Headquarters, Little Rock, Ark. For more on Rowland and this project see p. 22.

Right: Constructed ca. 1880, this building now houses office space for the Urban Outfitters retail brand. Existing columns, walls and ceilings were carefully scraped and then sealed to reveal a dynamic patina throughout the space.



Photo by Timothy Hurley

Photo by Lara Swimmer

2008 Alumni Design Awards

Two corporate headquarters projects share top honors this year. The jury noted that while both projects are large in scope, both “demonstrate a sensitivity to the human scale of architecture, creating spaces in which . . . people would enjoy working.” Each project takes a different approach to achieve sustainable design.

Designed by **Reese Rowland** (B. Arch. '90), a principal with Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects Ltd. of Little Rock, **Heifer International World Headquarters** began with the largest brownfield cleanup in Arkansas' history and ultimately won platinum LEED certification. The jury described Heifer's headquarters as “a beautiful resolution in form and tectonics, motivated by environmental concerns, but not prisoner to them.” They praised the project as a worthy companion to the

adjacent Clinton Library and noted that “the integration of the building with the landscaped design is very well done.”

Adaptive re-use and urban revitalization are elegantly realized in the **Urban Outfitters Corporate Campus**, housed in five restored buildings in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Jurors praised the project, designed by **Jeffrey Scherer** (B. Arch. '71), a principal with Minneapolis firm Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd., for unifying “disparate structures with a new contemporary environment that emerges through a series of precise well orchestrated interventions – the new resonates with the old.”

For more information on both projects and **submission guidelines** for the **2009 Alumni Design Award contest**, visit <http://architecture.uark.edu/116.php>.



Photo by Aaron Willette

Jon Boelkins (B. Arch. '04) was selected to participate in Bryan MacKay Lyons' Ghost Lab in Nova Scotia last summer. He helped to build a sleeping pavilion (above) for a house and courtyard that stretch 1,000 feet alongside an agricultural road. Jon is a project manager with Marlon Blackwell Architect, Fayetteville.

'70s

William Allen (B. Arch. '78) has been named an owner/principal at TLM Associates, Inc., an architecture and engineering firm based in Jackson, Tenn.

Frank Little (B. Arch. '72), president and founder of Tax Advantage Design and Construction, has patented and is manufacturing a new drywall joint tape that enables builders to remove and reuse drywall. The EPA and AIA gave Green-Zip-Tape the Best Component Award in the 2007 Lifecycle Building Challenge. For more information see www.lifecyclebuilding.org/2007winner-tape.php.

'80s

William T. Eubanks (B.L.A. '81) and two colleagues have formed the urban edge studio, which seeks to address the edge conditions of southern cities. The studio currently shares space, staff and resources with Seamon, Whiteside & Associates Inc. in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Currently a senior sales professional with Landers Toyota of Little Rock, Ark., **Mark Porter** (B.L.A. '81) won Toyota Sales Society awards in 2006 and 2007.

'90s

To celebrate Landscape Architecture Month last April, **Travis Brooks** (B.L.A. '91), who serves as president of the Arkansas chapter of the ASLA, and **Greg Bland** (B.L.A. '97), **Melissa Evans** (B.L.A. '92), **Alison Jumper** (B.L.A. '98), **Courtney McNair** (B.L.A. '06), **Jeremy Pate** (B.L.A. '01), **Stuart Thompson** (B.L.A. '92) and **Amanda Williamson** (B.L.A. '05) participated in a two-day Earth Day celebration at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville that drew 1,600 school children from northwest Arkansas and southern Missouri. Their “Design Your Park” activity was well received by students and teachers.

Bradley Edwards (B. Arch. '93), **Michael Crosby** (B. Arch. '97), **Ted Jones** (B. Arch. '90) and **Bret Park** (B. Arch. '91) have begun work on a book, tentatively titled *Ozark Modern*, on the early work of Herb Fowler, Fay Jones, Cy Sutherland and John Williams. The authors seek photo documentation of projects by these designers from the '50s and early '60s. For more information contact Bradley at bearchitect@sbcglobal.net.



© Macconochie Photography

Heather Salisbury (B. Arch. '93), currently with Chicago firm Valerio Dewalt Train Associates Inc., was project manager for the Kresge Foundation Headquarters in Troy, Mich., which was awarded a LEED Platinum rating.



Photo by Robin Salant

In addition to working on a mix of casino, resort and corporate projects as an intern with Hnedak Bobo Group of Memphis, **Amanda Martinson** (B.Arch. '07) participates in Project: Motion, a modern dance company based in Memphis. This underwater photograph publicized a dance performance last spring; that's Martinson in front.

Cade Jacobs (B.Arch. '99), **Katie Brashears** (B.Arch. '02) and **Timothy Maddox** (B.Arch. '02) received the Young Professionals Fellowship, which the Boston Society of Architects awarded to 162 emerging professionals to support travel to the national AIA conference in Boston last May.

A design proposal by **Lancer J. Livermont** (B.Arch. '95), founder and principal of LLa Architecture Ltd. in Grand Junction, Colo., will be included in *Flip A Strip*, a national design competition and exhibition sponsored by the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibition, which explores ways to revitalize the humdrum strip mall, will open in October 2008.

Brian Dale Ray (B.L.A. '96) is finishing his master's degree in landscape architecture at the University of Georgia and plans to settle in the Atlanta area after graduation.

'00s

Peter Bednar (B.Arch. '06) is pursuing a master's degree in urban planning at Technische Universiteit Delft and working as an intern at Andries Geerse Stedenbouwkundige in Rotterdam.

Megan Dale (B.L.A. '04) is working for McNally Newton Landscape Architects in Perth, Australia.

Melissa Harlan (B.Arch. '03) completed her M.Arch. at Harvard Graduate School of Design in January and has accepted a job with Monica Ponce de Leon and Nader Tehrani of Office dA in Boston, Mass.

Ben Emanuele (B.Arch. '06), currently with Miller Boskus Lack Architects of Fayetteville, has taken his honors thesis investigations of carbon fiber a few steps further. He and **Jack Reilly** (B.Arch. '06) crafted a carbon fiber composite cat condo with a structural steel base in Ben's garage for the animal shelter design competition at the 2007 AIA state convention. Reviews from cats are positive.



This landscape study and other works by Sean Shrum (B.L.A. '08) were included in a group exhibition at I.O. Metro furniture store last spring. He will exhibit new work at I.O. Metro this fall.



Todd Jacobs (B.L.A. '02) is director of design for the Appian Centre For Design, a Fayetteville firm that also features the talents of alumni **James Gibson** (B.L. A. '95), **Rick McGraw** (B.L. A. '06), **Evan Niehues** (B.L. A. '06), **Lee Stewart** (B.L. A. '04), **Tom Tronzano** (B.L. A. '06) and intern **Julie Russell**, a fifth-year student in the landscape architecture program. The Villas at Stonebridge, (below), a mixed-use traditional neighborhood proposed for east Fayetteville, offers residents easy access to golf, tennis, swimming and other outdoor activities.



As a design coordinator for Kogan Builders in Durango, Colo., **Tess Jordan** (B.S. Arch. Studies '03) designs "everything non-structural" – custom kitchens, baths, cabinets and fireplaces, as well as all finish materials. In her free time, Tess continues to paint and recently showed her work at the Durango Arts Center.

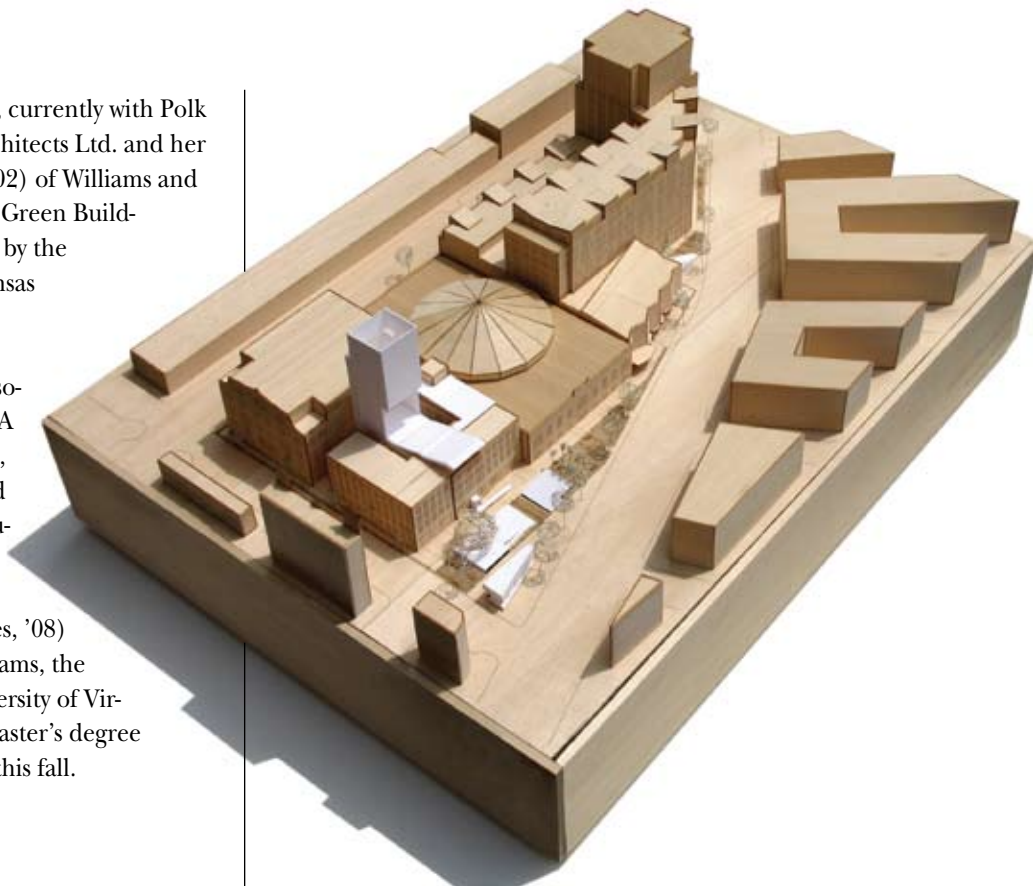
For his work to create hike and bike trails throughout Fayetteville, **Matt Mihalevich** (B.L.A. '01), the city's Trails Coordinator, won a 2008 Public Servant Award from the Arkansas chapter of the Sierra Club. Matt also has been selected to speak at the National Trails Symposium that will take place Nov. 15 – 18 in Little Rock, Ark.

Heiko Mueller (B.Arch. '02) has joined the Fayetteville office of Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects Ltd. after completing internships with Jennings and McKee Architects and Robert Sharp Architect, both of Fayetteville.

Patty (Watts) Opitz (B.Arch. '04), currently with Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects Ltd. and her husband **Jonathan Opitz** (B.Arch. '02) of Williams and Dean Architects won the Emerging Green Builders Design Competition, sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, Arkansas chapter.

Tanya Ponder (B.L.A. '04), an associate with the Houston office of SWA Group, is designing neighborhoods, parks and a Four Seasons resort and spa for Madinaty, a planned community near Cairo, Egypt.

Callie Williams (B.S. Arch. Studies, '08) was accepted to two graduate programs, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia. She will begin studies for a master's degree in architectural history at the UVA this fall.



Tony Patterson (B.Arch. '00) completed his M.Arch. at Washington University in 2005. He entered and won inside::out, a national competition for the public spaces at the Boston Center for the Arts, with a fellow Wash. U. graduate, Eric Hoffman (conceptual model above; for more information visit insideout.bcaonline.org). Tony recently completed a two-year period of work with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

To share your latest news – and current contact info – check out **Alumni News** on the School of Architecture's Web site: <http://architecture.uark.edu/114.php>



HAVE TIME TO HELP OUT?

We are looking for alumni who can represent the School of Architecture at recruiting events. The events take place during the day or in the evening, and typically run for a couple of hours. Your role? Distribute literature and answer questions from high school students and their parents (your experience in the program is a huge plus!)

Watch for more information in *e:View* or contact Judy Stone at 479-575-2399 or jkstone@uark.edu.

OF NOTE

Mark Boyer received a \$10,000 grant from the University of Arkansas Women's Giving Circle to fund demonstration green roof plot trials. Boyer will work with recent alumnus **Channon Toland** (B.L.A. '08) to construct 12 mock green roof panels to test for runoff quality and quantity and plant success. Boyer and **Kory Smith** received a \$12,000 grant from Dean Jeff Shannon for a collaborative course, "Seams and Folds," taught last summer. Boyer and **Carl Smith** both presented papers and co-chaired sessions at a conference titled "Urban Design and Ecology: International Perspectives" that took place in St. Petersburg, Russia, in June. Boyer also presented a paper on sustainable stormwater management at an EPA workshop in Waco, Texas, in July. Last fall Boyer received the Howell-Vancuren Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, which the School of Architecture awards annually to outstanding faculty members in the landscape architecture department.

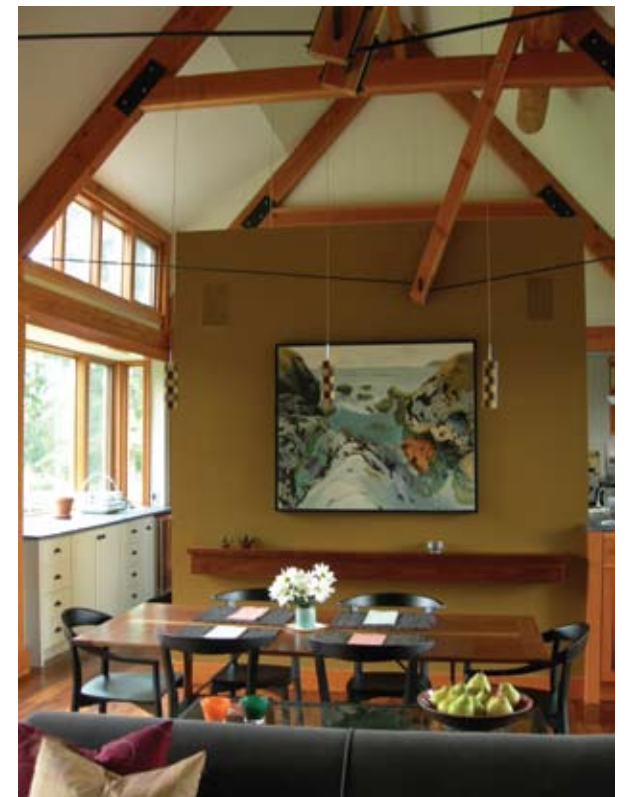
Greg Herman contributed a chapter to *Expanding Architecture: Design as Activism*, to be published in October by Metropolis Books. Herman also is among 68 alumni of Rice University's School of Architecture who are celebrated in a new book, *The Things They've Done*, by longtime Rice professor William T. Cannady.

The Visual Resources Association honored **Christine Hilker**, director of the C. Murray Smart Media Center, with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her 27 years of service in the profession. Under Hilker's leadership the school's media collection has expanded from slides and reel-to-reel tapes to include 1,000 videos and 35,000 digital images catalogued in an online database.

Steve Luoni held the Bruce Goff Chair of Creative Architecture at the University of Oklahoma last spring. In the past year he has lectured at the University of Oklahoma, the University of Minnesota, the University of Cincinnati, Auburn University, and the Oklahoma and central Arkansas chapters of the AIA. Luoni also presented a paper titled "The Urbanism of the Large, Larger, Largest Buildings" at the sixteenth annual meeting of the Congress for New Urbanism last April in Austin, Texas.



Bob Kohler is the architect for the redesign and a major addition to the Cosmopolitan Hotel in downtown Fayetteville. A key move is the installation of the Cube, a bar wrapped in glass and polycarbonate that offers views to the pool below and to the Fayetteville Square beyond. **Lisa Skiles** (B.Arch. '06) is assisting in the design of the project.



Lynn Fitzpatrick describes homes designed by architects for themselves as "self portraits of sorts." Lynn's love of the outdoors is expressed by her new 2,400-square-foot home, which she designed to open to breathtaking views of Clear Creek and the Illinois River Valley. The interior is graced by a walnut table handcrafted by **Tim Latourette** to duplicate a table at the Shaker colony in New Lebanon, N.H., and a painting by Kristin Musgnug, a professor in the university's art department.

FRAN BEATTY RESIGNS

It is with great regret that the School of Architecture says goodbye to Fran Beatty, head of the Department of Landscape Architecture since 2001. Beatty is relocating to northern California, where she will engage in cultural landscape preservation and design.

“Thanks to Fran Beatty’s leadership, the landscape architecture department has strengthened ties with design professionals and alumni, and the number and quality of students enrolled in the program is at an all-time high,” said Dean Jeff Shannon. “We will miss her, and wish her well in the future.”

Under Beatty’s leadership, the landscape architecture department launched a summer study abroad program in 2001 and, with Davide Vitali, she developed a series of

research initiatives for the town of Cervara, Italy, that culminated in a protocol agreeing to future collaboration between the School of Architecture and Monti Simbruini Park (see pp. 4-5). Beatty also provided design leadership as chair of the Design Review Committee

for Garvan Woodland Gardens, supporting staff in the rapid expansion of new venues and the development of a new master plan (see pp. 12-13). Beatty has brought outstanding professionals to campus as visiting professors, including Kurt Culbertson, Tom Oslund, Nadia Amoroso and Carl Smith, and she recently invited Smith to join the faculty.

“My time here in Arkansas has been an amazing experience,” Beatty said. “I am proud of our graduates’ professional accomplishments and appreciate their steadfast support of the program. I am confident, with the professors and students currently in place, that the department has a very bright future.”

Mark Boyer will serve as interim head of the department.



Fran Beatty

Continued from p. 35

Steve Luoni served as a resource team member for the midwest session of the Mayors’ Institute on City Design last fall in St. Louis. He recently published an article, “Little Rock’s Emerging Nonprofit Corridor,” in *Places: Forum of Design for the Public Realm*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2008.

Tahar Messadi coauthored the *Field Guide to Illumination* (Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers, 2007), a concise reference on the fundamentals of light and color in various contexts.

Kim Sexton co-organized the conference “Theorizing the Early Middle Ages,” which was cosponsored by the School of Architecture and took place at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore., last March. She presented a paper, “Theorizing the Circus Basilica,” at the conference. Sexton won the MacIntosh Faculty Award this year for a project titled “Circus Basilicas and the Athletes of Christ.” She will use the grant to travel to Rome to search for paintings of athletes in Christian catacombs. Sexton also donated 1,300 digital images shot in Europe as part of her research for the honors colloquium “Sacred Bodies/Sacred Spaces” to the Smart Media Center. The range of this collection extends from Constantine’s fourth-century audience hall (*aula*) at Trier to the 11th-century Romanesque sculpted capitals at the Cathedral of Autun.

Carl Smith published a book titled *Residential Landscape Sustainability: A Checklist Tool* (Blackwell Publishing, 2008) that was positively reviewed in *Landscape Architecture* magazine. Smith’s “Ten Tips for ‘Green’ Gardens” were featured on KUAF’s “Ozarks at Large” program and in the July 2008 issue of *At Home in Arkansas*. In September Smith will present a paper titled “New Challenges in Landscape Planning, Design and Management” at a conference in Sweden.

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority adopted usability standards authored by **Kory Smith** last fall, insuring that affordable inclusive design will become more widely available in the state. Smith offered a series of workshops throughout Arkansas to explain the standards to contractors and developers, and wrote two manuals that were published by the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services: *Disability, Housing & Arkansas: A*



Marlon Blackwell’s home, which he designed with his wife Afi Johari, won regional and national AIA honors.

A VERY GOOD YEAR FOR ARKANSAS

Arkansas practitioners made a strong showing at the national AIA awards presentation in Boston last May. The lineup of awards won by faculty this year include:

- The University of Arkansas Community Design Center, National Honor Award in Urban Design for *Habitat Trails*, a sustainable neighborhood for the Rogers chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
- The University of Arkansas Community Design Center, National Honor Award in Urban Design for *Campus Hydroscaapes*, an ambitious slate of proposals for the “Athletic Valley” on the southwest edge of the University of Arkansas campus.
- The University of Arkansas Community Design Center, National Honor Award in Urban Design for *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas*, a planning study that offers northwest Arkansas a mass transit model that

supports economic development and environmental sustainability.

- The University of Arkansas Community Design Center, 2008 NCARB Prize for *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas*.
 - The University of Arkansas Community Design Center, ACSA/AIA Housing Design Competition Award for *Habitat Trails: From Infill House to Green Neighborhood Development*.
 - Marlon Blackwell, national AIA Housing Award for L-Stack House, Fayetteville, Ark.
 - Marlon Blackwell, Gulf States AIA Honor Award for L-Stack House, Fayetteville, Ark.
 - Michael Hughes, Gulf States AIA Citation Award for Trailer Wrap, Boulder, Colo.
- Alumni walked off with some choice awards, as well. See profile on Reese Rowland, pp. 22-25.

Primer and Arkansas Usability Standards in Housing: Guidance Manual for Designing and Constructing Inclusive, Functional Dwellings. Smith also presented papers at conferences in Montreal, Canada; Austin, Texas; and Sacramento, Calif. Last fall Smith received the Ralph O. Mott Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, which the School of Architecture awards annually to outstanding faculty members in the architecture department.

Laura Terry’s design-build program at Camp Aldersgate received the 2008 John A. White Award for Faculty-Student Collaboration and was featured in the Design 100 issue of *Metropolitan Home* (June 2008). Her painting *Why I Love Birds* was selected for inclusion in *Studio Visit*, a juried publication by the Open Studios Press that is distributed to more than 2,000 galleries across the United States.

VISITING FACULTY

Kurt Culbertson is principal, shareholder and chairman of the board for Design Workshop Inc., a landscape architecture, land-planning and urban-design firm with offices in Aspen, Colo., and Asheville, N.C. The firm, which the ASLA named Landscape Architecture Firm of the Year for 2008, is renowned for using sustainable development and design strategies to reconcile economic needs with the preservation of scenic, cultural and community values. Culbertson took a lead role on two key projects for Design Workshop: the master planning process for Flathead County, Montana, a 3.8-million-acre community experiencing rapid growth, and the design of High Desert, a residential development in Albuquerque, N.M. that uses open space planning to preserve natural drainage systems and views. These and other projects are discussed in depth in the 2007 monograph on Design Workshop, *Toward Legacy*.

A native of Shreveport, La., Kurt Culbertson received his undergraduate degree in landscape architecture from Louisiana State University and a master's degree in business administration in real estate from Southern



An entry monument to High Desert in Albuquerque, N.M., one of several stylized images of blue grama grass, a drought-resistant plant native to the area. Courtesy Design Workshop, Inc.

Methodist University. He has won more than 20 regional and national awards for design work that ranges from secluded sanctuaries to national parks. In addition to design work, he has conducted extensive research on the contributions of German-American landscape designers to the profession of landscape architecture and authored an award-winning biography, *The Life and Times of George Edward Kessler*.

This fall, as the John G. Williams Distinguished Professor, Culbertson will lead the fourth-year landscape architecture studio. He will launch the school's distinguished lecture series with a lecture titled "Beyond Green: Toward Social Justice and Equity Through Design" at 5:30 p.m. Monday, September 8 in Shollmier Hall.

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Marianne Benton has joined the dean's staff as budget officer. She brings ten years of accounting experience to the job, most recently serving as senior internal auditor for the University of Arkansas. She has studied at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and earned a bachelor's of business administration degree in accounting from the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tenn. Marianne earned certification as an internal auditor in 2004. She takes the place of **Ed Dugan**, the school's budget officer since 1998, who has retired to spend more time with his family and lower his handicap.

Katie Breshears joined the Community Design Center in 2007. As a project specialist, she assists in teaching, research and planning, with a focus on the integration of sustainability and community design. A 2002 magna cum laude graduate of the school's architecture program, Breshears has interned with the Fayetteville office of Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects, Ltd. and Resource Design of Rogers, Ark. While at Resource Design, she obtained her architectural license and became a member of the board of directors. She has participated in a wide range of projects, including educational, retail and mixed-use developments, most recently developing sustainability strategies for retail improvements. Breshears is a LEED accredited professional and is a member of the Arkansas chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and Sustainable Northwest Arkansas.

Since earning his bachelor of architecture degree from the School of Architecture in 1999, **Cade Jacobs** has developed experience in design, animation modeling for project video production, master planning, project management and construction administration at three firms: Architecture Plus in Fort Smith, Ark.; Canfield and Associates in Fayetteville, Ark. and most recently at Hight-Jackson Associates in Rogers, Ark. Jacobs has designed and managed a variety of projects ranging in scope from residential additions to an \$11 million football stadium and field house for Bentonville High School in Bentonville, Ark., as well as the \$40 million Rogers High School East Campus facility in Rogers, Ark. In January 2008 he joined the Community Design Center, where he assists in teaching, research and planning.

Linda Komlos is the new administrative assistant at the University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Originally from New York City, she moved to northwest Arkansas in 1984. After her daughter completed a degree at the University of Arkansas, it was Linda's turn: she graduated magna cum laude in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in geography and a minor in business administration. She completed a master's degree in geography in 2008. She won numerous awards during her academic career, notably the Outstanding Geography Undergraduate Student Award in 2003 and 2004, the Fulbright College Senior Scholar in 2004 and the Outstanding Physical Geographer of the Year in 2008. She has more than thirty years of accounting and corporate paralegal experience.

Carl Smith has joined the landscape architecture faculty. A native of Sheffield, England, his research focuses on sustainable residential design. Smith is a Royal Chartered Landscape Architect and has practiced throughout the UK. His projects have included town extension master plans, townscape analyses and strategies, park and greenway master plans, and concepts and detailed designs for a wide range of public spaces. Smith earned a Bachelor of Science with honors in Environmental Science from the University of Lancaster and a master's degree in landscape design and a doctorate in sustainable housing design from the University of Sheffield. He also holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Urban Design from the University of Newcastle. Smith has written for several professional publications in Europe and is first author of the



Carl Smith

book *Sustainable Residential Landscapes: A Checklist Tool*. As the 2007 Garvan Chair Visiting Professor, Smith led a seminar that united architecture and landscape architecture students on a project to develop "green" housing on the northwest edge of campus.

View seminar work in **Re:View 2007**, available at <http://architecture.uark.edu/136.php>.

Sheri Lynn Tuck is the school's new academic counselor. (**Melinda Smith**, who has ably guided the school's students for eight years, has been promoted to director of student services.) Born and raised in the Arkansas River Valley, Sheri Lynn managed the office of Richard Hudson, the University of Arkansas' Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Relations, for six years before joining the school's advising staff. In addition to an Associate of Science degree in psychology from Westark Community College (now the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith) Sheri Lynn recently completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in American Studies and a minor in history at the University of Arkansas. Sheri Lynn enjoys guiding students through their academic careers and helping them to succeed. She's also interested in architecture, studying everything from ancient Egyptian architecture to vernacular architecture in her home state.

Laura Solano



Teardrop Park, New York City. Photos courtesy Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates.

Laura Solano's early studies in botany have served her well in her 17 years with Michael Van Valkenburgh and Associates, a firm acclaimed for rediscovering the expressive potential of plants, soils and climatic effects. The firm's design approach is rooted in the site itself and considers past events and social context as well as natural environment. "We try to extract from the site what is particular about it, what its qualities are that can then be brought forth in the final design," Laura Solano said.

In addition to heading MVVA's Cambridge office, Solano has been a visiting critic and lecturer at Harvard's Graduate School of Design since 1992, where she teaches classes in landscape technology. She relishes every step of the design process, from the first rough sketches to the final installation of hardscape and plants. "I try to use

my sixth sense about how things should go together, how to carry an idea that's a seed all the way through to the manifestation of that idea," she said.

Teardrop Park in New York's Battery Park City exemplifies the firm's inventive response to site and painstaking craftsmanship. Wedged between four 210- to 235-foot-tall apartment buildings, the two-acre park evokes a Catskills glen in the midst of Manhattan. MVVA claimed the space with a single gutsy move: a 27-foot-high stacked bluestone wall inspired by highway cuts in New York's Catskill Mountains. The wall became a fulcrum for the site, its massive limestone portal defining the threshold between a grassy bowl-shaped area suitable for contemplation (or in the case of small children, rolling downhill) and a more active play area with a steep slide embedded in bluestone, granite and limestone sourced from the Hudson River Valley. Trees and plants native to New York State complement the 3,000 tons of native stone used within the park.

Solano credits the success of Teardrop Park to the simplicity of its program, which invites city kids to get really close to nature. "By having them climb rocks, have their legs brushed by plants and see the sequencing of plants over the seasons, we felt we could give urban kids a special experience," she said. Other notable projects that Solano has led include Marion Square in Charleston, S.C., Allegheny Riverfront Park in Pittsburgh, Pa., and Don River Park in Toronto, Canada.

In her fall lecture Laura Solano will try to pinpoint when (and how) American designers turned from European models – the English park, the French allée – to landscape expressions particular to the United States. Titled "Responding to Landscape Regionalism in the Twenty-first Century," the lecture will take place at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 13, in Shollmier Hall.

