Re:View, 2004

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. School of Architecture

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Leaf Images: First-year landscape architecture students created these leaf studies under the direction of Associate Professor Karen Rollett-Crocker.

Drawings: Sean Shrum [upper left]  
Bradford Gaines [upper middle]  
Allie Ridgeway [upper right]  
Stephen Faber [lower left]  
Steven Willis [lower right]

The cover features a reproduction of a work of art that architecture students Peter Bednar and Bradley Prater created for the Site-Specific course [see pp. 12 – 13].
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Support for the School of Architecture has been really amazing over the last few years, and I want to take this opportunity to thank our graduates and friends for their financial gifts as well as those of time and talent.

Though the School of Architecture is the smallest academic unit on campus with only 1,300 graduates, almost 20 percent of our graduates make annual contributions to the programs in the School. Many more friends and family members also make contributions, all of which help keep the School moving forward despite ever decreasing state funds.

Support for students has been growing over the last decade, and this coming year we will give out over $69,000 to support 74 students in architecture, landscape architecture and architectural studies. Our faculty also have benefited from added resources through teaching awards and program support. Vol Walker Hall and Memorial Hall have been updated using private support. Quite frankly, the School of Architecture could not maintain and exceed the high quality of design education that we have come to expect without the support we receive from our alumni and friends.

The University of Arkansas is now in the last year of the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century. Many architecture and landscape architecture firms as well as related industry businesses have made generous contributions supporting students and faculty. Individuals also have made commitments setting up endowments that will greatly benefit our people and programs. There still remain many academic objectives in the School of Architecture that need to be funded including:

- Chair in Communications Technology in Construction
- Professorships in the Departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
- Additional student awards for international travel
- Community Design Center initiatives
- School of Architecture Lecture Series Endowment

If you are interested in learning more about these giving opportunities, please contact Jeff Shannon or me at the School of Architecture.

We realize that many of our graduates and friends cannot make gifts that would create a named endowment. For these individuals, we have created the School of Architecture Pooled Resources Endowments. This gives everyone an opportunity to be a valuable contributor to the School of Architecture during the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century and make a lasting impact on the School. This winter you will be mailed materials that will explain how you can be a contributor to the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century in this way, and I hope that you will consider doing so. It takes everyone’s support to make the School of Architecture the best possible place it can be.

Thank you again for your past and future support. We are very fortunate to have active alumni and friends who serve on our Dean’s Circle, Professional Advisory Board and Campaign Committee. Still others give their time when asked for lectures, critiques, professional presentations and career forums. All of this together makes the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas a great place for students to grow into productive design professionals.

Happy autumn. Come see us when you are in Northwest Arkansas.

Charlotte Taylor
Director of Development
Assistant Professor of Architecture Korydon Smith wants to open the door to independent living to everyone. The key to accomplishing this task lies in a new program led by Smith, the University of Arkansas Universal Design Project. Initiated by the Governor’s Task Force on Supported Housing and funded by Arkansas Rehabilitative Services and other agencies, the program is a pioneering attempt to develop accessible housing standards, design prototypes, and enact policy changes at the state level. “Arkansas is the first state to take this proactive approach, and we’re hoping it can become a national model,” Smith said. “Our state leads the nation with the highest poverty rate and third highest disability rate, so it’s essential that we provide affordable, inclusive housing for everyone,” he added.

Work began with a crash course on inclusive design and lots of number crunching. Last summer Smith traveled to the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and England to photograph and sketch the innovative responses to accessibility and affordability that are occurring in those countries. Working with colleague Esther Yang, he conducted intensive demographic, economic and housing studies focused on specific regions of Arkansas and investigated studies that compare the cost effectiveness of inclusive housing with standard housing. Smith has a long list of ambitious goals for the multi-year project, including the development of inclusive design standards for the State of Arkansas, publication of a state resource manual, and travel across the state to offer training workshops and presentations. Eventually, he hopes to establish a center for inclusive design at the University of Arkansas.

“My long-term hope for the project is to develop prototypes that are transformative - adaptable to changing site conditions, urban or rural contexts, different users, and local materials,” Smith said.

New Student Publication

Early in the fall 2003 semester, a group of architecture students met to plan a publication focused on student work. Faculty and students submitted nominations from each studio level. Additional submissions based on research and interests were encouraged and could be in any form. When planning methods of representation, pace, clarity, and desirability were considered. The objectives of the project include the following:

_ISM is intended to be a collaborative record representing multiple approaches to individual educations. Its primary purpose is to publish academic efforts.

_ISM celebrates the idiosyncrasies of the studio environment through graphic vitality. It follows the form of the semesters it represents, compact and quick. It provides glimpses of the pedagogy that guides the school. By not directly addressing specific methodologies, it avoids scholastic esotericism. It rather suggests inclusive interdisciplinary research, drawing from both academia and popularity.

_ISM is active, much like the process of design. It does not afford the luxury of contemplation or even self-realization. To represent myriad values, it cannot be minimal or even conclusive.

_ISM will be distributed internally and externally to students, faculty, alumni and professionals.

-Zack Cooley

An AIAS publication, _ISM was funded by a $3700 grant from Registered Student Organizations. To order your copy, please contact Matt Hagler at 479/409-8046 or mhagler@uark.edu.
Beginning this fall, landscape architecture students’ ecotourism proposals for Wittsburg, a virtual ghost town in Cross County, AR, will travel to sites across the Delta. Once a thriving river port, Wittsburg began to die after the railroad passed it by in the 1930s and the St. Francis River was dammed and deepened, leaving a non-navigable oxbow lake by the little town. Visiting landscape architecture professor Catherine Wiley and her students saw possibilities in this historic town, strategically located on the Delta scenic byway between Parkin Archeological State Park and Village Creek State Park. Their ecotourism proposals, developed in spring 2003 in cooperation with Student Efforts in Economic Development (SEED), a component of the University of Arkansas Economic Development Institute (UAEDI), map out a range of possibilities. To offer just one example, Rick Shelton focused on birds of prey in the area — the Mississippi kite, osprey, great blue heron, belted kingfisher, merlin and great egret — as a tourism draw, with a raptor breeding and exhibition area supplemented by guest cabins, a restaurant offering regional cuisine, and guided tours to bird feeding areas.

The exhibition will open with a presentation and reception on September 9 at the Cross County Chamber of Commerce in Wynne and will subsequently travel to the Economic Development Conference hosted in October by the Delta Research & Design Center (see page 9). Though the proposals may never be realized, they demonstrate the creativity and fresh approach that students at the University can offer to the people of Arkansas. “These projects appeal to people’s imagination — they’re dreams, and we need dreams,” said UAEDI Director Otto Loewer. For more information on the course and the students’ proposals for Wittsburg, visit www.uaedi.cast.uark.edu/Wittsburg.
Arkansans expect clean water from the tap, sparkling lakes and streams, and ample water for crops. A controversial plan to tap the White River for Delta farm irrigation and squabbles with neighboring Oklahoma over pollution in the Illinois River have stirred up troubled waters that prompted lively debate at the annual Garvan Woodland Gardens symposium on April 17. Sponsored by the Department of Landscape Architecture, “Water Disconnected: The Political Barriers to Watershed Planning and Sustainable Development in Arkansas” featured Carol Browner, head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the Clinton administration. Under her leadership, the EPA partnered with business leaders, community advocates, and all levels of government to promote common sense, cost-effective solutions to the nation’s most pressing environmental challenges. Browner discussed development strategies that protect wetlands in her keynote lecture.

Environmental lawyer and UA professor Steve Sheppard moderated the afternoon panel discussion, which included Steve Luoni, director of UACDC; Sandi Formica, head of the Environmental Preservation Division of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ); and Kim Sorvig, adjunct professor in landscape architecture at the University of New Mexico, who is nationally known for his books and articles on landscape subjects.

With a computer mouse firmly grasped in their grubby hands, today’s preschoolers master complex computer games long before they learn to read and write. Fast forward a few years, and you’ll find students who start with the web to find schools and search for jobs. Last year the School of Architecture responded with a new web site that highlights faculty and student work, profiles students, and expands coverage of international studies and outreach activities.

This fall the School will expand its site with a new “community” section that will extend our support for students beyond the classroom and the degree. With job and internship listings and an alumni firm directory, the new section will aid students on their career journey and link alumni with outstanding new talent. In November, please visit the site at www.uark.edu/~archsite/alumni, add your firm to our directory, and post jobs or internship opportunities.

We’d love your feedback on the School site. If you have suggestions, praise or critiques, please contact Kendall Curlee at 479/575-4704 or kcurlee@uark.edu.
Breaking Ground on New Garden Features

Garvan Woodland Gardens continues to grow thanks to recent generous gifts from friends and supporters. Families who visit the Gardens will appreciate Robert and Sunny Evans’ $1 million gift, part of which will support a new children’s garden. Alumnus Brent Vinson (B.LArch.’93), currently with the landscape architecture and engineering firm Benham Companies, has led design work on the project. Developed in consultation with landscape architecture faculty and an early childhood specialist, the Evans Children’s Garden will engage visitors of all ages. Planned features include a stone maze, a fully accessible tree house, and a cave tucked behind a waterfall. Different areas will mimic Arkansas’ coastal plain, mountain, and swamp ecosystems, enhancing the garden’s educational value. The Evanses, Gardens staff, and the UA Board of Trustees broke ground on the Evans Children’s Garden in April.

This summer, the Gardens will lay the foundation for a new architectural landmark in the State of Arkansas. Designed by the Fayetteville-based architectural firm of Jennings + McKee, the Anthony Chapel will feature soaring vertical space, Arkansas native stone and extensive glazing. A $1 million gift from John Ed and Isabel Anthony, announced in December 2003, made the project a reality. Funds from the Evans gift will support the construction of the sanctuary. Two adjacent structures housing bride and groom suites also are planned.

Additional funds are needed to complete the children’s garden and chapel complex. For more information on both projects and funding opportunities, contact Bob Bledsoe at 501/262-9610 or rbledsoe@uark.edu.

Gala Raises Funds for Gardens

Over 250 guests danced in the open-air pavilion and dined under the stars at the second annual Splendor in the Grass Gala. UA Athletic Director Frank Broyles served as honorary chairman; guests included Gardens supporters Dick and Carol Pratt, Don and Barbara Munro, and Betty and Leon Millsap. Terry Wallace, the “voice of the Oaklawn Race Track” in Hot Springs, presided over the live auction of a three-hour yacht cruise with a gourmet meal and cocktails for seven couples. The Gardens’ AmeriCorps volunteers (profiled in winter 2004 issue of Re:View) pitched in to serve a sumptuous dinner catered by Café 1217. The event netted over $23,000 for the Gardens.
The retro Art Deco styling of Fayetteville’s UARK Bowl created an apt background for the School’s Honors and Donor Recognition Banquet, which featured reminiscences by professors emeriti John G. Williams and Ernie Jacks, former deans E. Fay Jones, Murray Smart and Dan Bennett, and Dean Jeff Shannon. Generations of students spanning the 58-year history of the program were present, from Fay Jones, Ernie Jacks, Bob Laser, and Harold Adams – all members of the first graduating class in 1950 – to Megan Dale and Sean Haste, who graduated in May.

The event celebrated new John G. Williams Fellows, whose gifts in honor of School of Architecture founder John G. Williams help to support the John G. Williams Visiting Professorship. Established in 1993 with funds from Ruth Doughty Bradshaw, matched by alumni and friends, the visiting professorship has brought nationally recognized professors and practitioners to the School, including Peter Eisenman, Julie Snow, and Edward Stone, Jr. New contributors to the Ernie Jacks Endowment for the Enhancement of Architectural Studies, established by former students of Professor Jacks in 1997, also were recognized. Noted Little Rock architect Tommy Polk, a former Razorback football player who has served the School for many years as a member of the Advisory Board, Dean’s Circle, and currently, the School’s Campaign Committee, received the Distinguished Service Award. Dean Jeff Shannon presented Polk with a signed original drawing by Fay Jones.

Dean Shannon concluded the evening by emphasizing the School’s primary mission: “We have much to celebrate – not the least being the 1300 graduates who have left the School of Architecture and gone on to great things inside as well as outside of the professions of architecture and landscape architecture.”

New John G. Williams fellows and Ernie Jacks Endowment participants are listed at right. To learn how to participate in this program, please contact Charlotte Taylor at 479/575-7384 or chtaylo@uark.edu.

Planning for the Future

Have you considered including the School of Architecture in your estate planning? We would be glad to help you create an educational legacy here at the University. Also, if you presently have the University of Arkansas School of Architecture identified in your will, we would like to know that so we may properly thank you and invite you to become a member of the Heritage Society. For more information please contact Charlotte Taylor at 479/575-7384 or chtaylo@uark.edu.

60-Year Reunion Planned

Over 400 alumni, faculty, and friends helped us celebrate the School of Architecture’s first 50 years in 1996. We’re currently planning a 60-Year All School Reunion for May 2006. If you would like to be on the planning committee, or receive information as plans are developed, please contact Karen Stair at 479/575-2702 or kstair@uark.edu.
Spring Gifts

The School is thankful for the following gifts:

Brackett-Krennerich & Associates, $25,000 scholarship to support travel for fourth- and fifth-year students

Melissa Cantacuzene, $10,000 for chapel complex

Ron Cox, art donation valued at $27,000

Robert & Sunny Evans, $1 million gift for chapel sanctuary and children’s garden

Leake Foundation, $10,000 for chapel complex

Malvern National Bank, $10,000 for Garvan Woodland Gardens education fund

Miller Boskus Lack Architects, $25,000 to establish a freshman recruiting scholarship

Betty and Leon Millsap, $500,000 for bride’s chalet in chapel complex

Nabholz Construction Corporation and the Nabholz Charitable Foundation, $100,000 for the Nabholz Visiting Professional Series

Floyd and Joyce Parker, $10,000 for chapel complex

Davide Vitali, $25,000 to create an international travel award in his father’s memory

Outstanding Faculty, Students Recognized at Luncheon

After putting in long hours to complete a big project, landscape architecture student Jon Raney opened his cupboard to find . . . a box of Bisquick. A scholarship from the University of Arkansas School of Architecture expanded his dinner options beyond pancakes. “Not only has my scholarship allowed me to eat, which my mom really appreciates, but it has allowed me to fall in love with the beauties of England, Italy, and France,” Raney said at the School’s 6th Annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon, which took place April 12 in the Arkansas Union Ballroom. Raney was one of 58 outstanding students who received financial support from the School, which awarded a total of $67,500 in awards and scholarships this year. Funded by generous alumni and friends of the School, the awards help students pay for books, materials, and the required semester of international study. Faculty members also are honored with teaching awards and an essay award. This year the School of Architecture expanded its awards program with five new scholarships.
RE: CONSTRUCT

UACDC Wins International Recognition

The UACDC has once again won international recognition, this time for taking on a ubiquitous element of suburban sprawl – the arterial highway strip. Their project, “Developing a Highway Ecology,” was the only United States entry selected in the prestigious “Celebration of Cities” competition cosponsored by the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

An international jury praised the UACDC team for developing “a Lego-kit for highway design . . . that can be used anywhere.” The project won honorable mention in a field of 193 projects from 29 countries, in part because it responded so adroitly to the contest’s call for new ways to “repair and heal the nerve points of the city” with projects that, like acupuncture needles, were “simple and have an immediate effect, while remaining economical.”

The highway ecology project originated as a plan to assist the central Arkansas community of Morrilton, where growth on the arterial highway strip has drained energy from the downtown area. Focusing on planned and existing roads between Morrilton’s highway strip and downtown, the UACDC team drafted a series of proposals that rethought and combined signage, lighting, and parking in new ways to achieve a series of design events at low cost.

“We are pleased to receive this recognition, which reinforces our mission to develop projects for Arkansas communities that serve as models for other cities across the nation and around the world,” Luoni said.

SmarterArchitecture

The first book to showcase sustainable design by Arkansas architects, landscape architects and urban planners, SmarterArchitecture features 23 case studies from across the state. Projects range from invisible upgrades, such as the comprehensive plan to monitor and control energy use on the University of Arkansas campus, to high profile projects such as the Clinton Presidential Center and Heifer International’s corporate headquarters, both in Little Rock. A separate section highlights community projects carried out by UACDC, and demonstrates the impact of thoughtful urban planning in creating communities where energy efficiency occurs naturally.

Numerous full-color maps, diagrams, photographs and renderings assist the clearly written text in conveying complex concepts, and short essays define the LEED certification process and terms such as “embodied energy.” Edited by former UACDC director David Evan Glasser and former Assistant Professor of Architecture Sevinç Yavuz, the book was developed in coordination with the Arkansas Department of Economic Development – Arkansas Energy Office. The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, the University of Arkansas School of Architecture, UACDC and a U.S. Department of Energy grant provided support for the project. To order a copy, contact Pam Gangluff at pgangluff@trane.com or call 501/661-0621.
Last spring UACDC staff and students created designs for an urban linear park that follows an existing watershed in Warren, Arkansas. Part of a master plan that UACDC developed for the community in 1996, the Town Branch Greenway passes through downtown Warren, connecting important civic, recreational, and commercial establishments. The project began with an exercise in addressing systems that lack defined geometries. Students created 366 interpretive drawings based on photos documenting geographical and settlement patterns in Yann Arthus-Bertrand’s book Earth from Above: 366 Days (Harry N. Abrams, 2003). The studio subsequently focused on developing key elements of good stream design for the Warren greenway, including a broad flood plain to absorb excess water during wet seasons and bioswales with remediating plants to slow down water flow to the stream. A proposed amphitheater, park, semi-permeable terrace, and trails enhance the recreational value of the greenway.

"The project offers an opportunity to combine environmental systems and ecological restoration with pedestrian and bicycle trails that encourage healthier lifestyles," said UACDC Director Steve Luoni. Funded by a $10,000 planning grant from the Arkansas Forestry Commission and in kind contributions from the Potlatch Corporation, this project marked the beginning of UACDC’s collaboration with the UA Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

The Delta Research & Design Center will host its third annual economic development seminar on Wednesday, October 20 at East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City. The meeting will focus on building regional coalitions to attract new businesses to the Arkansas Delta. The second issue of the Delta Research Bulletin will be published in October as well. For more information please contact DRDC Director Susan Thomas at 870/747-5450 or sthomas@uark.edu.
On the first day of class, Thomas Oslund, FASLA, FAAR, the John G. Williams Visiting Professor last spring, promised fourth-year students that he was going to make them uncomfortable. “He wanted them to push themselves beyond the familiar, to encourage them to make the big gestures, and he was able to do this in a way that ensured that students felt good about their ideas,” said Laurie Fields, who co-taught the studio. Oslund’s Minneapolis-based landscape architecture firm, Osland and Associates (www.oaala.com), has won numerous national and international awards for innovative plans for corporations, colleges, and private estates.

Oslund and Fields proposed an ambitious project, the development of a two-and-a-half mile shoreline park on the northern edge of Chicago, based on an ideas competition for a 21st-century park. In order to prepare for the project, the students studied Chicago’s evolution from marshland to the midwestern metropolis of today, focusing on key developments such as the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the 1909 Burnham Plan. During a frigid January visit to Chicago, students enjoyed breathtaking views of the city while dining in Mies van der Rohe’s apartment on the 22nd floor of his historic Lake Shore Drive Apartments and, in somewhat less felicitous circumstances, braved five hours of heavy snowfall while traversing the proposed site.

The students were challenged to consider what city dwellers want from public open spaces and to explore cutting edge ideas and materials for public landscapes. Their responses ranged from a park situated around a vast oblong crater, designed to evoke the pain and suffering embodied in Chicago blues music, to an ambitious project to extend the city grid into Lake Michigan through the use of square barges that function as parks, gardens, and sites for public buildings.
The concept of site within the modern-day context has often relinquished itself to a pre-measured allotment of land dictated by economic efficiency and expediency. The goal of the seminar was to create a forum for reflection upon society’s conventional methods of manipulating site and their inherent consequences. Led by professors Matthew Griffith and Esther Yang, students worked to rediscover critical physical and cultural components that have been sacrificed in years past in hopes of resurrecting them as elements worthy of infusion within present-day design strategies.

The course began with readings and lectures that explored the notion of place-making and culminated with a series of discussions questioning the contemporary landscape and the modern approach to site. Topics ranged from broad cultural trends such as the American conception of space to a weeklong focus on architect Carlo Scarpa’s work. The course emphasized United States settlement but developed comparisons with places around the world. A lecture titled “Sites of Control,” for example, inspired discussion on the cultural conflicts manifested in Maya Lin’s Viet Nam Memorial, the Great Wall of China, the Berlin Wall, and the wall currently being erected between Israel and Palestine. The course text, Taking Measures Across the American Landscape by James Corner and Alex S. MacLean, was supplemented by readings from Henry David Thoreau, Martin Heidegger and Bernard Cache, among many others.

In order to fully understand what is significant to the creation of “place,” pairs of students conducted a three-stage case study project. In the first two phases, students analyzed the physical and intangible aspects of a historic site with research papers and graphic interpretations consisting of collaged photographs, drawings, texts, and icons. For the third installment, each team chose a contemporary site to provoke and hypothesize conflicting dualities between the two eras. By observing these dualities students began to understand the fundamental signifiers of place and their transformation throughout time, and to develop a critical consciousness of their impact on and within the collective whole. Disney World and the Roman Forum, Il Campo in Siena and Times Square in New York City were among the comparisons presented by students.

Spring 2004

faculty critics
Matthew Griffith
Esther Yang

student projects by
David McElveea
Jack Reilly-Keifer
Peter Bednar and Bradley Prater (cover)

RE: DESIGN
Guided by visiting Harvard professor, architect and urban planner Darell Fields, a group of fourth- and fifth-year architecture students engaged in an ambitious urban planning project last spring. Fields is a partner in the Boston firm Utile Design (www.utiledesign.com), which focuses on urban planning in the Boston area, and works with major clients such as the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. The firm is participating in the planning occurring in the wake of Boston’s “Big Dig” – the 13-year, $14.6 billion megaproject to replace Boston’s elevated Central Artery highway with an underground expressway.

The studio project focused on a loosely defined open space created by the removal of a Central Artery ramp. Flanked by two fire partition walls and an architecturally mixed bag of buildings, the ramp separated three distinct neighborhoods: a financial district, an arts/warehouse district, and Boston’s Chinatown. Students were asked to reimagine borders between the neighborhoods, define the approach to Chinatown’s gate, and meet neighborhood needs for housing and communal space.

Students developed a wide range of mixed-use projects that combined apartments with office space and public amenities such as a farmers’ market, community center, and a plaza with underground movie and puppet theaters covered by glass canopies.
In this studio, fourth-year students developed ecologically sound designs based on an understanding of the climate, soils, and hydrology of individual sites, the integration of structures with the site, and the use of recycling and sustainable materials. Students prepared for design work by analyzing and presenting case studies from John Tillman Lyle’s book *Design for Human Ecosystems: Landscape, Land Use and Natural Resources* (Island Press, 1999). They subsequently prepared precedent studies on early communities such as Reston, Virginia, sustainable communities such as Village Homes in Davis, California, and neo-traditional communities such as the Kentlands in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The first design project focused on the development of an interpretive center at the Bentonville home and six-acre grounds of the late physician and preservationist Dr. Neil Compton, who led the effort to preserve the Buffalo River. Students identified vegetation types indicative of major ecosystems in Arkansas, including prairie, bald cypress swamp and beech maple cove forest, among others. They subsequently amplified the visual impact and educational value of the ecosystems presented and indicated how sustainable approaches to landscape design could enhance the water cycle, bolster the site/building relationship, encourage energy conservation, and suggest recycling of refuse and wastewater. Precedence studies including work by landscape artists such as Robert Smithson, James Turrell, and Roberto Burle Marx helped students realize the potential of natural and fractal geometries in their work.

The second project provided experience with an urban site. Situated in the fast-growing area around Sunbridge Drive in northwest Fayetteville, the site features automobile oriented and isolated land uses including light industrial, residential, and commercial sectors that are disconnected from the railroad corridor/greenway that passes behind Meeks Lumber Company. Students designed a residential and commercial development that sought to encourage pedestrian and recreational use, provide a community focus, and project the natural systems present at the site.
Alumni Achievements

1970s
Jeffery Scherer, FAIA, B.Arch. ’72, and a principal of the architecture firm of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R) has been appointed to the 27-member Americans for Libraries Council. The Americans for Libraries Council is a new, national library advocacy group that develops and implements programs aimed at realizing the potential of libraries in the 21st century. Throughout his career, Scherer has designed a wide array of public and private libraries. Currently, MS&R is working on the Fayetteville Public Library in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and the Rancho Mirage Public Library in Rancho Mirage, California. The firm also is consulting on library projects in Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

1980s
As the 2003 winner of the national AIA IDP Outstanding Small Firm Award, TTV Architects, Inc., the Jacksonville, FL firm led by Tri Vu, B.Arch. ’80, was invited to the 2004 IDP Coordinators Conference in Washington, D.C., where the firm participated in a panel made up of past winners. Discussion focused on how IDP coordinators, both educators and state volunteers, can supplement and enhance the in-house programs that they provide for interns.

Bill Ebanks, B.LArch. ’81, was elected Vice President of Membership of the ASLA.

Nestor Santa-Cruz, B.Arch. ’82, formerly Interiors Studio Head at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP in Washington, D.C., has joined SKB Architecture and Design, also in Washington D.C. Santa-Cruz will be partner in SKB’s commercial interiors group and will lead the firm’s new residential/hospitality/retail design studio.

Jay Huneycutt, B.LArch. ’85, is now the Associate Director of Facility Planning at the University of Arkansas. In addition to serving as the campus landscape architect, he will be managing the campus master plan, space planning and analysis, capital project programming and budgeting, and campus GIS development and management.

2000s
C. L. Bohannon, B.LArch. ’02, recently earned his M.LArch. degree from Virginia Tech and will begin teaching in the landscape architecture department at Florida A & M in the fall.

David Ways, B.Arch. ’02, has developed a lightweight, fine-mesh mosquito netting that screens out the sand flies that have plagued U.S. troops serving in Iraq. The netting can be used as a net over cots or serve as a one-person tent and folds up into a pouch. The Army has ordered 240,000 nets from Ways’ Bradenton, FL-based company, Skeeta Inc.

Ryan Edwards, B.LArch. ’03, is employed with Landworks Design in Denver, CO. Working in collaboration with the Vancouver firm Stevenson Associates, Landworks creates the designs, detail work, and construction documents for resorts developed by Intrawest, the world’s largest ski development corporation.

As the 2003 winner of the national AIA IDP Outstanding Small Firm Award, TTV Architects, Inc., the Jacksonville, FL firm led by Tri Vu, B.Arch. ’80, was invited to the 2004 IDP Coordinators Conference in Washington, D.C., where the firm participated in a panel made up of past winners. Discussion focused on how IDP coordinators, both educators and state volunteers, can supplement and enhance the in-house programs that they provide for interns.

Phil Bruce Purifoy Jr., B.Arch. ’87, was included in Arkansas Business’ annual Business Executive of the Year Awards, which noted his leadership in the Arkansas chapter of the AIA, his involvement in legislative issues, and the recent honor awards and merit award for design excellence that he has received from the state AIA. His Little Rock firm Fennel Purifoy Hammock Architects PLC, which counts another School alumnus among its partners, Randy Hammock, B.Arch. ’87, was recognized in the magazine’s Arkansas Business of the Year Awards.

Mark Maurer, B.LArch. ’89, the Roadside and Site Development Manager for the Washington State Department of Transportation, has been appointed to the Transportation Research Board Committee on Landscape and Environmental Design. This national committee proposes, prioritizes, and disseminates research on landscape and environmental design for transportation facilities.

1990s
Last year Kevin Braughton, B.LArch. ’91, established Ballard & Braughton Engineering, PLLC. The Tyler, TX-based firm specializes in commercial and residential civil engineering and commercial landscape architecture.

palmOne Cafe by Scott Dicus, B.Arch. ’87, of Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects
Jeff Shannon, Charlotte Taylor, and Patricia Kucker welcomed seventy architecture alumni who gathered in Chicago for the AIA national convention June 10 – 12. The sleek triangular geometry of the Sofitel Chicago Water Tower Hotel, designed by French architect Jean-Paul Viguier, provided an elegant backdrop for the event. Generations of alumni, ranging from the class of ’60 to recent graduates, reconnected while feasting on chicken satay, Thai summer rolls, bacon-wrapped scallops, and other savories.

Members of our newest group of alumni, the class of ’04, have secured jobs and internships with the following prestigious firms:

Tom Beglinger, B.LArch., The Brickman Group, Chicago, IL

Murrye Bernard, B.Arch. and Patty Watts, B.Arch., Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter Architects Ltd., Little Rock, AR

Chris Brown, B.Arch., Hintan Associates, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Megan Dale, B.LArch., The Guzzardo Partnership, San Francisco, CA

Amy Koenig, B.Arch., Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects, Seattle, WA

Jason Prudden, B.LArch., Talley Associates, Dallas, TX

Jon Raney, B.LArch., Oslund and Associates, Minneapolis, MN

José Carlos Ribera, B.Arch., Machado and Silvetti Associates, Boston, MA
Marlon Blackwell’s Keenan TowerHouse and Moore HoneyHouse are included in the new *Phaidon Atlas of Contemporary World Architecture*. The 812-page tome documents the most outstanding works of architecture from around the world built since 1998.

John Crone was the first recipient of the Howell-Vancuren Outstanding Teaching Award in Landscape Architecture.

Aaron Gabriel’s design for a housing unit that serves those transitioning out of homelessness was published in the April 2004 issue of *Architecture* magazine. Developed with colleague Kathy Chang, the design was one of five winning proposals in Common Ground’s First Step Housing Design competition.

Greg Herman received a Baum Grant from the university that funded his attendance at the 2004 ACSA Teachers’ Seminar, which took place July 8 – 11 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Herman also received the Ralph O. Mott Outstanding Faculty Award, the third time in five years that he has been so honored.

Stephen Luoni was a plenary speaker at the American Ecological Engineering Society’s national conference, which took place June 10 in Fayetteville. His talk entitled “Designing Recombinant Ecologies” focused on the park and trail system that UACDC designed for Warren, AR (see p. 9).

The School’s chapter of Tau Sigma Delta awarded a silver medal to Tahar Messadi for his research accomplishments.

Karen Rollet-Crocker has participated in the development of the Compton Gardens in Bentonville, built on the six-acre home site of the late Dr. Neil Compton, best known for preserving the Buffalo River. Rollet-Crocker designed plans for native plantings, seating structures, and the railings for a bridge that also features stonework by alumnus Ron Troutman, B.Arch. ’81.

A paper by Russell Rudzinski entitled “Weaving the Monumental Surface: The First Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana” was chosen as the best regional paper from the ACSA East and West Central Regional Conference last fall, and Rudzinski subsequently presented the paper at the ACSA national conference in Miami last March. The paper, which also won the School’s Faculty Professional Essay Award, explored a theory that Eliel Saarinen’s ornamentation strategies directly correlated to the textiles that he and his wife Loja were producing at the time he designed the church.

Recent paintings by Laura Terry were exhibited in Tim and Anne de Noble’s home last spring. Over 50 students and faculty members attended the April 12 reception in Terry’s honor hosted by the de Nobles. Lanny McIntosh, whose faculty award helped fund Terry’s research for the series, traveled from his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma to attend the reception (see pp. 24—25 for more information on Terry).
New Faculty and Staff

Last summer Matthew Henning Griffith began work as a project designer at the UACDC. Griffith has taught design studios, technology courses and an original professional elective (see pp. 12-13) since coming to the School in 2002. He served as faculty advisor for the Arkansas chapter of the AIAS and has been actively involved with Habitat for Humanity since 1992. Griffith has interned for Roger Clark, FAIA in the office of Cannon Architects in Raleigh, NC and for Marlon Blackwell in Fayetteville. He earned his bachelor’s in mathematics in 1996 from Davidson College and his M.Arch. in 2002 from the College of Design at North Carolina State University, where he won numerous prizes and awards. He is currently researching the potential for a regional rail system in Northwest Arkansas.

Kristy Guttmann is the new Audio Visual Aids Supervisor in the C. Murray Smart Media Center. She earned a BA in Media Communications/Photography from Webster University in 2001 and most recently served as Grants and Volunteer Coordinator for the Regional Arts Commission in St. Louis. An active volunteer in community outreach and arts programs, Guttmann is pursuing a master’s degree in public administration at the University of Arkansas.

Judy Stone, administrative secretary in the landscape architecture department for eight years, began her new job as administrative assistant in the School’s Advising Center last summer. She replaces Teresa Scott, who completed her honors degree in Communication last May. Scott will begin work on a graduate degree in Communication this fall.

Visiting Faculty

Robert C. Kohler, III will bring over twenty years of professional experience in architecture, construction, and real estate development firms to the classroom this fall, when he will lead the professional practice course. He earned his B.Arch. from Tulane University in 1981 and an MBA from Southern Methodist University in 1985. He designed hotels, multi-family developments and residential projects in Dallas before establishing his Fayetteville firm in 2000. A licensed architect in the State of Arkansas, he has served as the owner’s project representative for the new 88,000-square foot, $23.5 million Fayetteville Public Library since 2002.

Mark K. Lee received his B.Arch. from Temple University in 1990 and his M.Arch. from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1995. His project experience includes churches, civic centers, schools, retail and residential work, and a fire house. He practiced in Pennsylvania, New York, and Virginia before coming to Fayetteville in 2003, where he is a production manager with Wittenberg, Delony and Davidson Architects. He will teach the “work drawings” segment of Architectural Technology V this fall.

Garvan Chair Visiting Professorship

The Garvan Chair Visiting Faculty in Landscape Architecture is an opportunity for academics or practitioners to contribute to studio education and inspire students. Partially endowed by the bequest from Verna Garvan, this chair is available every spring semester. Alumnus Bill Burke (B.LArch.’89), a vice president of HOK in St. Louis, held the Garvan Chair in 2002 and noted that his experience teaching in the Department of Landscape Architecture remains the highlight of his career. In 2003 Catherine Wiley brought her eco-tourism experience into the studio, which resulted in a traveling exhibition of student work (see p. 3). “I am always looking for highly motivated academics and practitioners who can connect with young students and bring design to life,” said Frances G. Beatty, Department Head of Landscape Architecture.
Richard Taransky’s critical practice, primarily of unbuilt work, grew from a deep attachment to drawing. “I’m interested in art and architecture that critiques a situation, that deals with our humanity. Poetics, phenomenology, mark making, vernacular and native architecture, [these are the] grist for the design process,” Taransky said. His architecture is one that is conscious of and keen to the material and cerebral shards it is built upon.

His “House for a Momentary Public” with a program defined as a “house to wait and a house to watch” illustrates his interest in exploring the emotional dynamics of a proposed space. Enigmatic figures inhabit his drawings; they swing, rest on cots, crouch in a window, or scribble at a desk. There’s a story here, though the narrative isn’t consistently linear.

As critic Tim McDonald notes, Taransky’s work “is unsettling precisely because we are presented with a series of constructs which take their form and function from archetypal images of man, images which link biblical parables to holocaust tragedy, ritualistic sacrifice to suburban home and funerary ashes to backyard grills.” Taransky demands participation in his work. He rewards viewers with exquisitely rendered images that stand on their own as works of art.

Taransky attended the Illinois Institute of Technology before earning his bachelor of architecture from the Cooper Union. He was a principal in Richard Taransky Architects for 25 years and won the Rome prize in 2001. Since his return, he has established Diagram (www.richardtaransky.com), a Philadelphia-based firm where he is currently at work on proposals for residences, civic monuments, and sustainable urban developments.

As the John G. Williams Visiting Professor this fall, Taransky will teach a studio titled “The Reconstruction of the Box.” An adaptation of Cooper Union’s “9 Square Grid” problem, Taransky’s course will explore the reflected space and tectonic boundaries within a proscribed cubic site. The studio’s final project, “A Museum for Penn’s Treaty” will draw on Edward Hick’s painting, “The Peaceable Kingdom.” Hick’s painting, which samples from another notorious painting, enacts the inextricable relationship of the architect to both biblical prophecies and historical events.

Richard Taransky will present his lecture at noon on September 20 in Vol Walker 103. His work will be displayed in Vol Walker Hall this fall. Call the Department of Architecture at 479/575-4705 for exhibition dates.
Laura Terry was dismayed when her Auburn mentor, Rural Studio founder Sam Mockbee, told her that she should be a painter.

“That’s not what you want to hear in the third year of architecture school,” she said with a wry laugh, adding, “particularly when you have no formal training beyond elementary school art classes.” A semester in Europe highlighted by face-to-face encounters with Botticelli’s Birth of Venus and Primavera in the Uffizi Gallery convinced Terry to build a creative life with room for both pursuits.

Painting remains the less easy choice. “In architecture, the parameters are set for you by budget, site, and client. With painting, I have to apply the constraints . . . and that’s far more difficult,” she said.

Following brief stints as a graphic designer and practicing architect, Terry earned her MFA in 1998 from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She then found her niche at the UA School of Architecture, where she teaches architecture students to draw and paint and researches Southern “yard rooms.” She also leads design/build projects at Camp Aldersgate, a Little Rock camp that serves children with disabilities. In 2003, Terry was honored as the first recipient of the McIntosh Faculty Award. Established by UA alumni Lanny and Becky McIntosh, the award comes with a $2000 stipend that funded a new series of 11 paintings titled “Paradise Lost.”

Featuring floating planes of richly saturated color – ochers, olive greens, cobalt, and sky blues – punctuated by silos, honeycombs, and other rural symbols, the paintings evoke the vanishing agricultural landscape of the South. Cubes, squares, and wobbly circles, symbolic of containment and order, are offset by images of birds and flight that appear in many of the works.

A native of Columbus, Georgia, who was raised on the works of Faulkner, Welty, and Hurston, Terry is well acquainted with the Southern landscape, both physical and metaphorical, but this series of paintings prompted further immersion. She photographed sites across Arkansas, Alabama, and Georgia and read twenty-two novels by Southern women while producing the paintings. When asked about her focus on women writers, Terry paused, and then responded, “women are better – better at keeping stories and harboring memories.” Contemporary authors such as Connie Mae Fowler, Bailey White, and Sue Monk Kidd in particular inspired her with their focus on strong women with secrets to hide – an alcoholic who sips bourbon from a coffee cup, an abuse victim who hides bruises with silk blouses.

“I’m interested in what is perceived versus what is disguised,” Terry said. In her paintings, Terry builds up layers of paint, each stratum concealing imagery that may be partially revealed when she applies a belt sander to the surface of the canvas. Terry allows that it can be scary to give up control to the sander: “Sometimes things get better, sometimes I lose something I love, sometimes I uncover things I’d forgotten were there.” In the end, Terry produces luminous paintings resonant with memories and ghosts that she is loath to give up: “I’m keeping the secrets of these paintings.”
Clock-wise from upper left:

- Poultry Science, Series 1
- Series 3
- Paradise Lost
- Rich Girl Lily
RE : MIND

EXHIBITS

Rotating exhibits of the Department of Architecture students and faculty work will be taking place throughout the fall semester in Vol Walker Hall. Contact John Humphries at 479/575-4903 for further information.

LECTURES

Sep. 13
David Miller, FAIA
Locating: Architecture of Miller/Hull
The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP, Seattle, WA

Sep. 20
Richard Taransky, FAAR
Mistaken Identity
Diagram/Richard Taransky Studio, Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 11
Scott Erdy, AIA
Exegetic Form
Erdy McHenry Architecture, LLC, Philadelphia, PA

Oct. 18
Bill Wenk, FASLA
Designing the Natural City: Toward a Functional Regionalism
Wenk Associates, Denver, CO

Nov. 08
Rodolfo Machado
The Architecture of Machado and Silvetti
Machado and Silvetti Associates, Inc., Boston, MA

Sep. 23 – 24

Oct. 20

Oct. 22 – 23

Oct. 29 – Nov. 02

Nov. 04 – 06

All lectures take place at 5:30 p.m. in Vol Walker 103 except the Richard Taransky lecture, which will take place at noon. For additional information, please call 479/575-4705.

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

DRDC Economic Development Seminar
Contact: Susan Thomas
870/747-5450
sthomas@uark.edu

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

ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO
Salt Lake City, UT
Contact: ASLA
202/898-2444
www.asla.org

AIA State Convention in Fort Smith
Contact: AIA Arkansas
501/661-1111
aiaar@sbcglobal.net

Sep. 13
Sep. 20
Oct. 11
Oct. 18
Nov. 08

Sep. 23 – 24
Oct. 20
Oct. 22 – 23
Oct. 29 – Nov. 02
Nov. 04 – 06

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