A FEW EVENTS FROM SPRING 2012

April 13, 2012
Dedication of Lee Hall restoration, renovation and expansion
Hundreds of Clemson University faculty, staff, students and friends gathered on Friday, April 13, to dedicate one of the most energy-efficient academic buildings in the United States. The recent $31.6 million restoration, renovation and expansion of the academic building Rudolph Lee Hall complex is complete. Lee Hall houses programs in architecture, art, city and regional planning, construction science and management, landscape architecture and real estate development.

The spring semester 2012 final design studio review in Genoa held at Loogia di Banchi
Akel Ismail Kahera, Ph.D., joins us as a tenured professor and as the newly appointed associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. For the past five years, Akel has served as director of the Texas Institute for the Preservation of History and Culture at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. From 2009 to 2011, he served as interim director of Prairie View’s graduate studies degree program in community development. He also taught at Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin. His areas of specialization include hermeneutics, design, urbanism, community development, non-Western architecture, and architectural history and theory. He is a practicing architect and designer. Akel is the author of more than two dozen scholarly essays, as well as author or co-author of three books. Deconstructing the American Mosque: Space Gender and Aesthetics, 2002; Design Criteria for Mosques (co-author), 2009; and Reading the Islamic City, 2011. Akel received a B.Arch. from Pratt Institute, M.Arch. from MIT and Ph.D. in Near Eastern studies (in the fields of architecture, law and urbanism) from Princeton University.

Ufuk Ersoy, Ph.D., joins us as a new tenure-track assistant professor focusing on Western and non-Western history/theory and design. Ufuk is a practicing architect and was an assistant professor of architecture at the Izmir Institute of Technology in Turkey prior to moving to Clemson. He is also a guest lecturer in the Program of Architecture, University of New South Wales. He completed his Ph.D. in architecture under the supervision of David Leatherbarrow at the University of Pennsylvania where he also received M.Arch. and M.S. degrees in architecture. His research focuses on the glass cultures of 19th- and 20th-century architectures and the consequences of technological changes on the discipline of architecture. He has published and presented his research nationally and internationally. Most recently, he guest-edited a special issue of the journal World Architecture on “Architecture in Turkey: A Global Production” and published his essay “To See Daydreams: The Glass Utopia of Paul Scheerbart and Bruno Taut” in Imagining and Making the World: Reconsidering Architecture and Utopia.

Dustin Albright, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, joins us as a new full-time lecturer teaching design studio and structures courses. Dustin has unique dual expertise in architecture and engineering, coupled with critical engagement with public projects. He has a B.S. in physics from Washington and Lee University, M.S. in civil engineering/structures and M.Arch. from Virginia Tech University. Dustin has been practicing with Craig Gaulden Davis in Greenville since 2008, participating in all phases of a wide variety of projects. He has been actively engaged with the profession and local communities through his leadership in AIA Greenville’s Architecture Month.

Nicholas Ault taught part time for us last year but joins us this year as a full-time lecturer teaching design studio and digital communications. His strengths include a comprehensive understanding of current digital practices in architectural design and fabrication, as well as a focus on pedagogy within undergraduate foundation design studios. Nick has a B.S. in technology from Bowling Green State University and an M.Arch from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He practiced in Ohio, held a visiting appointment at UNC and as the director of the Digital Fabrications Laboratory and lecturer at the School of Architecture, and taught as an adjunct at Queens University of Charlotte.
Architecture Students Almost Sweep International Competition

Two teams of Clemson's School of Architecture graduate students earned first and second place in Dow Chemical Company's Dow Solar Design to Zero Competition. Three additional Clemson teams received honorable mention and ancillary awards. The international competition challenged undergraduate and graduate students to conceptualize energy-efficient, sustainable residential solutions on a global scale. Clemson's ambitious teams were selected by a group of their contestant peers as the winners from a pool of 131 design teams from 19 countries. Ulrike Heine was the primary professor, with Dan Harding and Bernhard Sill advising.

Dow Chemical Company Design to Zero Competition

First Prize/$20,000
Eric Laine and Suzanne Steelman
"LIVE/WORK"

Second Prize/$10,000
Daniel Kim and Caitlin Ranson
"Project Zero"

Honorable Mention
John Oxenfeld and Adam Wilson
"Partial Submersion"

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS AND AWARDS

Second-Year Faculty Award
This award is given to a second-year undergraduate student in the School of Architecture for scholarship and for having demonstrated promise of future professional achievement.

Haley Fay Fitzpatrick

Rudolph E. Lee Award
This award is given in memory of Rudolph E. Lee and the Class of 1902. It is awarded to an undergraduate architecture student who is nominated by the faculty and who has demonstrated academic excellence, participated in extracurricular activities and exhibited potential professional architectural ability.

Alexander V. Darsinos

S.C. Chapter AIA Award
This award is given to a fourth-year undergraduate student in architecture who has been selected by the faculty for his or her academic achievement and who has shown the highest quality of design ability, professional promise and service.

Elizabeth Lynn Cooney

Peter Lee and Kenneth J. Russo Design Award
This award is given annually to a student in the fourth year of study who has consistently demonstrated a search for design excellence. The award is made possible through the Class of 1976 in honor of Professor Emeritus Lee and in memory of Professor Russo.

Kara Morgan Kinsey

BREAKING NEWS

Congratulations to these recently announced national and international student design competition winners.

Merit Awards in the AARPI/IAAS Aging in Place Kitchen Design Competition were given to undergraduate students Nick Tafel, Edgar Mozo, Joel Pominville and David Herrero for their project "A Kitchen Alive" and to Diane Rosh for her project "Centre." Both projects were completed under the guidance of studio instructor Anemarie Jacques.

Honorable Mention was given to graduate student Jingjie Zhao, with Keith Green as studio instructor, in the 2011-2012 ACGA/MSC Steel Design Competition of a Culinary Arts College. There were 303 entries, and the jurors awarded only seven prizes, a 2 percent acceptance rate.

The Winning Project was awarded to Caitlin Ranson and Danah Katzemeirger (both Clemson M.Arch., '12 graduates), with Ulrike Heine as studio instructor, in the ACSA 2011-2012 International Sustainable Laboratories Student Design Competition. The jury awarded only two top prizes and three honorable mentions.

The South Region Winning Project was awarded to Nick Barnett and Sam Pruitt, with Ulrike Heine as studio instructor, in the 2011-2012 The Sustainable Home, A Habitat for Humanity Student Design Competition, which was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Vinyl Institute. There were 100 submittals, from which the jurors chose four regional winners and three other honors, a 5 percent acceptance rate.

Subcategory: Design Integration
Adrian Mora and Michael Niederer
"Breathe Zero"

Subcategory: Integration Photovoltaic
Jason Drews and James Graham
"Below Zero"

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Henry Adams Award
This award is given annually in schools of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. It is awarded to the second-ranked graduating student in a professional degree architecture program. The student is selected by the school in recognition of scholastic achievement, character and promise of professional ability.

MICHAEL BERNARD NIEZER

Henry Adams Medal
This award is given annually in schools of architecture accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board. It is awarded to the first-ranked graduating student in a professional degree architecture program. The student is selected by the school in recognition of scholastic achievement, character and promise of professional ability.

CAITLIN ALBRECHT RANSON

The Mickel Prize in Architecture
This travel award, the highest award in the School of Architecture, is given annually to the most outstanding graduating Master of Architecture student who has the best overall design ability, overall academic ability, leadership and professional promise. It is made possible through an endowment established by family, selected friends and associates of Buck Mickel.

MEGAN LEIGH WELFORD

Alpha Rho Chi Medal
This award is given annually to the graduating student who has shown an affinity for leadership, performed willing service for the school or department and shown promise of real professional merit through his or her attitude and personality. The purpose of this award is to commend those students who show true professional merit beyond the design studio and their academic career.

NICHOLAS JOSEPH BURGER
CHAPTER PRESIDENT
AIA/S CLEMSON

MCCLURE AWARD 2012
The Harlan E. McClure Award is given annually by the School of Architecture faculty in recognition of outstanding architectural design as demonstrated in a graduate project or thesis. This year’s finalists and winners are shown below.

Winner, Group Project
“Bark Park Design Build” (Harding Studio)
Elissa Bostain, Megan Craig, Jason Drews, James Graham and Adrian Mora

Winner, Individual Project
“Therapy Recourse” (Verderber Studio)
Ryan Ramsey

Finalist
“Marine Laboratory and Education Center” (Heine Studio)
Kelly Fehr and Adam Wilson

Finalist
“Building as Landscape” (Schwennsen Studio)
Chris Felegie, Jared Moore and Chris Wilkins

Finalist
“Culinary Suspension” (Wilkerson Studio)
Kyungsun Orr
In his graduate classes and studios, assistant architecture professor and graduate director Peter Laurence often reminds his students that an early academic inquiry can lead to a lifelong pursuit — one that is significant, continuous and highly specialized.

It happened to him — during a graduate seminar at Harvard Graduate School of Design while he was earning his Master of Architecture there. In the decade since, he has continued his research and writing in earnest, and in turn, has changed the way students and scholars everywhere view one of the nation’s most significant figures in architecture and city planning: Jane Jacobs.

Laurence’s forthcoming book, Jane Jacobs and the City, takes his 13-plus years of research about the urban renewal activist and writer — everything from her early writings, later books and even her FBI investigation files — and offers an eye-opening examination of her work, experiences and influences.

“One of the contributions I’ve offered in Jane Jacobs’ scholarship is to undo a lot of stereotypes about her and her thinking,” Laurence explains.

It is well known that she fought against modernist city planning, for example, but in truth, she was also a great admirer of innovation. “People assume that because she was a communist infiltrator while she worked for the State Department. (She wasn’t.) This research promises to offer the defining manuscript about Jane Jacobs, significantly expanding the histories of modern architecture in the great American cities her criticism touched.

When Laurence started his research in the late 1990s, Jacobs was certainly known but not an essential part of discussions about architectural history and theory. “She was hardly discussed in my graduate level courses, which is a big part of the reason why I got started with the research,” he recalls.

Laurence’s research, in addition to changing academic conversations about Jacobs, has inspired professional accolades, as well. By tapping into the Rockefeller Archive Center’s records on Jacobs, his work helped initiate the Rockefeller Foundation’s Jane Jacobs Medal, which recognizes the reason why I got started with the research,” he recalls.

“I became intrigued with this at a time when Jane Jacobs wasn’t as important a figure in architectural theory as she is today,” Laurence concludes. “For my students, this is a lesson to change.

When he isn’t pursuing his research, architecture professor Peter Laurence is pursuing his other avocation as an avid, amateur photographer. “But he doesn’t capture his preferred subject — architecture, of course — with a weighty Canon or a saddlebag of hefty lenses. Rather, he shoots with his iPhone 4s. Sometimes the pocket-sized piece is fitted with a specialized lens like an Olloclip or a Pico, and he usually edits his pictures with a variety of mobile software, including Snapseed and Photoshop Express. You can find his work on Instagram.

“I’m just part of a renaissance of photography by people making use of these tools,” Laurence offers. Although he is a long-time amateur photographer, Laurence’s enthusiasm was recently rekindled by a combination of the discovery of these new tools of “iphonography” and moving into Lee III, the new addition to the School of Design and Building. Here are a few of his more recent images, illustrating an intersection between architecture and photography.

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David Allison, Alumni Distinguished Professor, a licensed architect and director of Clemson’s nationally recognized graduate studies in architecture and health (AvH), didn’t spend a night as a hospital patient until he was in his 40s. Today, his AvH program don’t graduate without being hospitalized for at least one night — all in the name of education.

While some AvH students enroll because of a personal experience in a healthcare setting, some, like Allison, may have never stepped foot in a hospital room in their 20s and 30s. That’s why he now incorporates, as a component of the GJ-course credit program, an overnight stay in an upscale hospital when students are working on the program’s patient room prototype projects. Partnering with an area health care system, they check in, wear a gown, eat hospital food, and experience a steady stream of medical personnel, noisy alarms and night-shift nurses.

“Getting architecture students to understand the balance between human factors and clinical needs is about personalizing the experience,” Allison says of the program he has led since 1990.

“A lot of our students are motivated by the sense that architecture is about improving the lot of humanity by providing a healthy environment,” Allison says. “They want to do good work with their hands, and there’s hardly any better place to do that than in health care.”

One of only a handful of health architecture programs nationally, Clemson’s AvH program is also one of the oldest and most successful. It was created in the late 1960s as the Health Facilities Planning and Design Studio by George C. Means Jr., FAIA, and was designed to prepare graduates to engage in the integrated planning and design of health care facilities — be it a hospital, nursing home or doctor’s office. Since then, there have been more than 200 graduates, Allison included.

Many, Allison chief among them, have gone on to become leaders in the industry. He has received numerous awards for being one of the most influential people in the nation for health care design because of his work in the field, the classroom and the lab.

“Health care architecture has improved dramatically in the last 20 years, and we like to think our graduates have contributed to that in a significant way,” Allison says.

When he isn’t taking students to the hospital, he brings the hospital to them. He serves as the author and principal investigator of Clemson’s pending Health Facilities Design and Testing Center of Economic Excellence, a collaborative program that holistically approaches considerations of design, human factors and clinical needs. One of the most innovative components of the center to date has been Allison’s development of an award-winning Patient Room Prototype, initially designed and built by an interdisciplinary collaborative team of students and faculty in a “black box room” on campus.

Collaboratively located in the Clinical Learning and Research Center in the School of Nursing, the black box room allows architecture students to work from the studs out. They apply their education and research to every element of the room — from design and furniture to lighting, medical technology and even entertainment options like television screens. Then, design concepts are evaluated by faculty, students and clinic teams. Lessons learned help further design refinements.

“This is one of the ways that an idea is incubated in the studio and matures out,” Allison says.

Work on the Patient Room Prototype has received several national awards and attracted hundreds of thousands in research grants. More importantly, it is already prompting changes in the way hospital rooms are designed. A foldaway Murphy bed that originated in the Clemson patient care room is being explored with a hospital furnishings company to bring to market. A Clemson prototype for the patient room headwall is also likely to show up in other health care centers soon, it takes all the flashing buttons and metal switches that fill the walls of most hospital rooms and tucks them away in the headboard of the patient’s bed.

“It’s about managing a balance between a place that effectively and efficiently supports patient care in sometimes life-and-death events and also provides a supportive well-tuned environment that optimizes comfort and control for patients and their families,” Allison concludes. “Above all, it’s about creating meaningful places.”

DAVID ALLISON

Did You Know?

Allison was selected in 2007 as one of “Twenty Making a Difference” nationally by Healthcare Design Magazine. He was identified again in 2009 and in 2010 by a national poll conducted by the magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in healthcare design. This year, he was named once more as one of the eight most influential people in health care design.

Patient Room Prototype

The prototype hospital room is a design proposal for an in-patient hospital room that illustrates what could be possible in the next five years. The room was envisioned as a flexible plug-and-play chassis with a kit of parts that could be adapted over the life of the room or the duration of a patient stay to accommodate a wide variety of changing needs. This environment would better assist in the care of patients by streamlining staff workflow, improving patient experiences and promoting safety. Sponsored by NKT, the Department of Defense, and Telemedicine & Advanced Technology Research Center, it won the Healthcare Design 2006 Contract Magazine Healthcare Environment Award, Professional Conceptual Category. A 2020 concept version of the patient room was taken further by other faculty and former AvH students and received another Healthcare Design Contract Magazine Healthcare Environment Award in 2010.