College celebrates 40 years of architecture for health

Thousands of students and four decades of healthcare design and research at Texas A&M University

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the architecture for health program at Texas A&M University. The program was initiated in 1966 by Professor George J. Mann, the Skaggs-Sprague Endowed Chair in Health Facility Design. Mann foresaw a growing trend towards specialization in healthcare and responded by introducing a studio focused on the design of health facilities.

Mann’s extraordinary vision led to the development of the world’s most renowned program in architecture for health and the creation of the Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD). Over four decades the program has produced many distinguished leaders and designers in architecture for health, and has also afforded students the opportunity to participate in over 500 healthcare design projects that have impacted communities worldwide.

Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning Professors Don Sweeney and Sherry Zeisel and presentations from Faculty Fellows of the Center for Health Systems & Design. The event will kick off at a Welcome Dinner on Thursday night at Madden’s Casual Gourmet in Bryan.

Mann, Dias present ‘SURGE’ hospitals in Facility Care Magazine audio conference

Professor George J. Mann and Ashley Dias, 1st year Masters student, presented the “SURGE” hospital concept in a Facility Care Magazine audio conference on September 26th. Texas A&M has played a major role developing this new concept which is a hot topic. “SURGE” hospitals are existing facilities that transition into trauma centers in the event of a disaster. The “SURGE” hospital project supervised by Mann and Dr. Paul K. Carlton, Jr., MD, Lt. General, USAF (Ret.) and Director of Homeland Security at Texas A&M in December 2004 produced 17 projects that have influenced disaster plans all over the nation.

Grad students collaborate with American Art Resources

Project focuses on integrating art with architecture in the typical patient room

Uniting art with architecture is fundamental to wellness in healthcare environments. Graduate students in Dr. Susan Rodiek’s design studio explored the opportunities of uniting these disciplines while redesigning the typical patient room. Students collaborated with American Art Resources of Houston on how to best integrate art with their designs.

Dr. Upali Nanda, Vice President and Director of Research for American Art Resources, spoke to the students at the commencement of the project on how art could be used as positive distraction for patients in healthcare settings. Designs used art as a focal point and demonstrated innovative ideas related to technology, lighting, and use of surfaces.

“We appreciated how the students used the architectural surfaces as canvasses,” said Nanda. “The project gave us new insights into what digital media and surface treatment we could explore.”

New student scholarships, grants, traveling fellowships announced

The Center for Health Systems & Design has initiated new scholarships, grants and traveling fellowships.

Scholarships for graduate students include Design for Aging and Design with Evidence scholarship. Funding was given by David Watkins, FAIA of WHR and Dr. Susan Rodiek. Herman Miller, the newest Health Industry Advisory Council (HIAC) corporate member, has contributed $10,000 for traveling fellowships to help students attend conferences related to architecture for health. Also, a dissertation grant for PhD students studying topics in healthcare design has been introduced.

CHSD fellows appointed to new chair, professorships

Three Faculty Fellows of the Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD) received appointments to new chair and professorships positions at the College Faculty Recognition Banquet on September 25th. Professor George J. Mann was announced as the recipient of the Ronald L. Skaggs, FAIA and Joseph G. Sprague, FAIA Endowed Chair in Health Facilities Design, a new Chair in the Department of Architecture. The Chair supports practice-oriented teaching and research.

Professor Roger Ulrich was appointed to the new Julie and Craig Beale ‘71 Endowed Professorship in Health Facilities Design which supports practice-oriented teaching and research related to health facilities planning and design.

Dr. Susan Rodiek received an appointment to the Ronald L. Skaggs Professorship in Health Facilities Design to further scholarly activities related to health facilities design architecture. This professorship was initiated in 1991 with George Mann’s appointment.
Lecture series brings architects’ healthcare design perspectives to students, faculty

Industry professionals have very unique perspectives on architecture for health. This semester the faculty and students are privileged to have 14 representatives from all facets of the industry visit the College of Architecture to give insight on what their companies contribute to the field of health care design. The 10-week architecture for health lecture series is sponsored by the Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD) and commenced in late August with an introduction from Professor George J. Mann who also prepared the series schedule. The series has incorporated the perspectives of architects, doctors, nurses, strategic planners, and professors all of whom bring valuable and interesting knowledge to the table.

Guests lecturers have included Ed Huckaby, Principal of FHP; Ralph Hawkins, President and CEO of HKS, Inc; Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, M.D. and Dr. Christopher C. Corlenda, M.D., M.P.H of the Texas A&M System Health Science Center; Anthony Haas, AIA of WHR Architects; Jim Wilmot and Rolando Sanz of Wilmot Sanz Architects; Jon Fadley of Mercy Ships; Kevin Schlaht of the INNOVA Group and many others.

CHSD appoints Joseph McGraw Faculty Fellow Emeritus

Dr. Joseph McGraw was voted into the band of Faculty Fellows as an emeritus member on September 28th by his colleagues at the State of the Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD) meeting. CHSD would like to thank all speakers for donating their valuable time to this program. If your company is interested in participating in the next lecture series please contact George Mann at gmann@archone.tamu.edu for more information.

With one year down and a bright future to go, the Student Health Environ- ments Association (SHEA) is making huge strides. September marked the first anni- versary of SHEA, a grassroots organization for students of any discipline interested in architecture for health.

The new SHEA leadership board has accomplished and furthered the goals of the inaugural leaders while developing new initiatives for the coming year. Tiffany DeSalvo, a senior Environmental Design major, has taken the helm as the new President and has already raised the level of enthusiasm in her short time leading the organization.

"This is an exciting year for SHEA because, for the first time, we have the foundations of enthusiasm and dedication from the previous year to work from," said DeSalvo.

Membership is also on the rise. SHEA has 51 faculty from all disciplines and levels in the College of Architecture. Vice President Phillip Steffy, a senior Environmental Design major, manages membership development and said members are becoming more active with each event.

"The interest and response to SHEA from the student body has been incredible. We continue to see new faces and more involvement from our members as we grow," said Steffy.

While membership is already diverse, SHEA leadership plans to broaden the membership base even more.

"Because SHEA’s mission is shared by individuals of various concentrations, we have made efforts to increase involvement from students in architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, construction, and medicine," said DeSalvo.

So far this semester SHEA has con- ducted two general meetings and held one guest lecture. On September 25th Joe Sprague, FAIA, Senior Vice President and Director of Health Facilities at HKS, gave a presentation on the recently released Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities (2006). Many events are still planned for the remainder of the semester.

“We have included healthcare facility tours, firm visits, portfolio reviews, guest lectures, HIAC participation and social oppor- tunities in our calendar,” said DeSalvo.

The spring semester is just ahead and SHEA has big plans already. The leader- ship board is in the process of planning a portfolio review in early January. The board would like to welcome HIAC firm represen- tatives to participate in the review. If your firm would like to participate in this event or would simply like more infor- mation please contact Tiffany DeSalvo via email at ndesalvo@tamu.edu.
Health Industry Advisory Council members lead the way with innovations in practice and research

The Health Industry Advisory Council (HIAC) is comprised of 18 member firms. HIAC firms are cutting edge companies in the design, construction and programming fields. HIAC was founded in 2002 to support the activities of the Center for Health Systems & Design and students in the College of Architecture with an interest in health design and research.

Below are updates from these firms about their current research, latest practice innovations, new employee and intern programs, as well as young architects’ involvement in their firms.

To become a HIAC member firm please contact Kirk Hamilton, Interim Director of the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M University via email at khamilton@tamu.edu or call 979-845-7009.

WHR Architects, Inc.
www.whrarchitects.com

As part of the evidence-based design initiative, this company is undertaking research that will result in improving outcomes for our clients. Topics of inquiry include patient safety, control, medical error reduction, improved staff efficiency, and evidence-based design.

Young architects and interns are especially encouraged to be a part of these efforts by participating in educational sessions, committees, attending conferences, assisting with evidence-based design data gathering and analysis.

WHR offers the Tradewell Fellowship, a one-year healthcare design focused internship to work directly with senior medical planners while conducting research in an area of choosing. WHR is developing an extensive internal database of multimedia educational materials as a network of support and reference.

RTKL Associates, Inc.
www.rtkl.com

RTKL Associates maintains a strong connection and interest in Texas A&M with Appsies making up a quarter of the Dallas office. Recent graduates are currently working on projects with RTKL’s team from inception to master planning.

RTKL encourages students who wish to find the boundaries of their experience by sponsoring travel and study through the Worldwide Fellowship and numerous internship positions. With constant opportunities for growth, RTKL gives you the tools to take advantage of your moment when it strikes.

Haynes Whaley Associates
www.hayneswhaley.com

Since 1997, Haynes Whaley Associates have produced dimensional analytical models on selected projects to structural steel subcontractors for integration into their shop drawing and fabrication process. In 2005, the firm began researching various software platforms for Building Information Modeling (BIM), concluding their research with purchase and implementation of Teknion Revit Structure.

Haynes Whaley is currently in the early production stage of several projects in Revit Structure, working towards total platform conversion within the next 18 months.

HKS, Inc.
www.hksinc.com

HKS has a very active internship development program. This past summer 36 interns worked in the Dallas office alone, including eleven from Texas A&M. Ashley Dias, Doug las Mullen, Paul Ferrer, Soumitra Shende, Vicki Patel and Philip Steffy all contributed to this project and many more.

We are excited to see the rigorous OSHPD Level I requirement from those that do not, thus saving significant construction costs.

NDTSTICHLER Architecture
www.ndtstichler.com

NDTSTICHLER Architecture’s design of Lompoc Healthcare District’s replacement hospital, in Lompoc, California will save the 111,000 SF facility over 575 per SF in construction costs. In response to California’s legislative and regulatory measures regarding hospital construction, NDTSTICHLER opted to house all non-acute care functions in a separate outpatient facility, inches away from the general acute-care facility. This relatively new design approach separates the portions of the facility that must meet the rigorous OSHPD Level I requirements from those that do not, thus saving significant construction costs.

FKP Architects, Inc.
www.fparchitects.com

FKP Architects engages the latest industry trends in healthcare and in order to offer their clients and their staff the benefits of working with leading edge facilities, 3-d modeling tools for example, used for design and process modeling, support collaborative design sessions between clients and teams and offer measurable empirical data to clients making sound business decisions. Training in sustainable design, evidence-based design, and lean processes converge as they train professional future architects.

SKANSKA USA Building
www.skanska.com

The Providence Newberg Medical Center in Newberg, Oregon is the first medical center in the country to obtain LEED Gold Certification. Providing the Health Systems & Design and Stu dents.

PageSoutherlandPage
www.pagesoutherlandpage.com

PageSoutherlandPage is recognized as a national leader in the development of Health care and Technology Building Types. The Texas based Architectural and Engineering Firm has been specializing in Healthcare Design since it was formed in 1898. Today, more than 400 staff work in offices in Dallas, Austin, Houston, and Washington D.C.

With its sector based project delivery, interns have the unique opportunity to work on all phases of project delivery and obtain hands-on experience with each specialty building type while learning from a team of dedicated design professionals on the best practices for design delivery within each market sector. This practice allows every member of the firm to participate in a team based culture that creates an exciting atmosphere and dynamic project delivery.

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HIAC support allows CHSD to reach new heights

The Center for Health Systems & Design is the world’s largest collaboration of students, interdisciplinary faculty, and affiliated professionals committed to research and education about environments for healthcare. With 40 years of leadership in healthcare design education and important research, the Center is entering a new era of meaningful contributions to the field. CHSD is recruiting the best and brightest, and is producing the next generation of scholars, researchers, and practitioners committed to the study of healthcare environments and designing with evidence. Student and faculty publications too numerous to cite here are profoundly influencing the design of healthcare environments across the world. Students have received prestigious awards and fellowships. Most of our activities are generously funded by the Health Industry Advisory Council which has made possible full-time staff support, new traveling fellowships for students to attend professional meetings, new scholarships and a dissertation grant, an annual conference at which HIAC members interact with students and faculty, publication of a newsletter, and the creation of a student organization, SHEA, for those specializing in healthcare design.

Zeisel keynote speaker at HIAC meeting

Author of "Inquiry by Design" to share research applications

When it comes to applying research to the design process, Dr. John Zeisel is one of the few who have broken down the barriers with his books. Zeisel, President and co-founder of Hearthstone Alzheimer Care, will be the keynote speaker at the Health Industry Advisory Council (HIAC) meeting this semester. Zeisel plans to discuss his recent book, "Inquiry by Design," which discusses research methods applicable to planning, programming, and assessing physical environments. Zeisel's background is in sociology and architecture. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University and the Loeb Fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. Zeisel has been on Harvard University's Department of Architecture faculty. Much of Zeisel's research has been directed to the needs of seniors and he participated as the Principal Investigator in a National Institute of Aging's three studies focused on Alzheimer's Special Care Units.

Landscape students design 'SURGE' parks

Disaster response is on the minds of officials throughout the country. Many people are seeking better ways to handle catastrophic events. In 2004 architecture students helped develop the "SURGE" hospital disaster response concept. "SURGE" hospitals are existing facilities that transition into trauma centers in the event of a disaster. This year students in landscape architecture are taking the "SURGE" hospital concept one step further with designs for "SURGE" parks.

Under the guidance of Professor Jody Naderi, landscape students are working on an urban design project for Key West residents that incorporates SURGE parks. The results of the project will help Key West, be better prepared for hurricane seasons. "The idea for surge parks came from the surge hospital concept," said Naderi. "Just as surge hospitals are designed to convert existing structures to handle a massive influx of sick and injured persons generated by a natural disaster, surge parks are intended to ‘pop up’ in open areas around these facilities. The surge park can be used as pleasant settings for evacuees waiting in line for food or medical services, as outdoor communication centers, as recreation sites for children, as picnic grounds more inviting than food lines, for meditation and spiritual renewal and as places to grieve their losses.”

Naderi emphasized to her students the importance of spiritual spaces such as parks in times of crisis. "I want them to commit to creating places of beauty and pause that will contribute to people's recovery from such stressful events," said Naderi.

Occasionally students are presented with an opportunity of a ‘real-world’ project in design studios. On September 27 un­dergraduates in Professor George J. Mann and Dr. Joseph McGraw’s studio unveiled 14 design concepts for a sustainable women’s shelter project in design studio. Students gained valuable experience in the design project. “It is unfortunate that not many people are involved and you can see it in their designs,” said Mann.

Students were pleased with the ideas the students developed. "This has been a great opportunity to work with a real client with real needs,” said Mann.

Architecture undergrads design women’s shelter in Hempstead

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