Ulrich, actor promote evidence-based design

Dr. Roger Ulrich, professor of architecture at Texas A&M University and holder of the Julie and Craig Beale ’71 Endowed Professorship in Health Facilities Design at the Texas A&M College of Architecture, joined famous Irish actor Gabriel Byrne in an effort to raise public awareness of the benefits of evidence-based design as part of the Irish government’s multibillion-dollar effort to modernize its healthcare infrastructure.

“Despite becoming a wealthy country in recent decades,” said Ulrich, “Ireland’s hospitals and other healthcare buildings remain among the most obsolete in Europe.”

A mainstay on the silver screen for nearly 30 years, Byrne has appeared in “The Usual Suspects,” “Little Women,” and “Excalibur.” Currently, he portrays Paul, a therapist in the critically acclaimed HBO series “In Treatment.”

“Gabriel’s participation ensured much greater public interest and attendance, and helped to increase awareness of the importance of using evidence-based design to create better healthcare buildings,” said Ulrich, who has been advising government entities and foundations in Ireland about the benefits of evidence-based design in healthcare architecture for the past few years.

“Gabriel’s presence, eloquence, and his ability to bring humanity to the topic of healthcare environments empowered the public and political impact of my barrage of research findings,” said Ulrich. “I conveyed the science, data, and design recommendations, and Byrne brought the emotion and framed key issues in personal, human terms.”

At one of their public appearances, the crowd was so large that organizers had to move the event to St. Ann’s, a cavernous old church that has stood in the heart of Dublin for more than 300 years.

“I spoke for an hour on evidence-based design from an elaborately carved pulpit to an audience of upwards 1,000 people,” said Ulrich. “It was a novel departure from C-105 (a classroom in Texas A&M’s Langford Architecture Center).”

An article on evidence-based hospital design published in the Irish Times newspaper, includes a description of Ulrich’s appearance with Byrne at St. Ann’s. The story can be accessed online at: http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/health/2008/0610/1213005981471.html.

New CHSD Faculty Fellow quoted in Time magazine

Xuemei Zhu, a new member of the Texas A&M College of Architecture faculty and Faculty Fellow for the Center for Health Systems & Design, was quoted in the June 12 issue of Time magazine in an article about childhood obesity.

The article discusses how children from low-income families have higher obesity rates, and quotes Zhu’s research in Austin neighborhoods.

“Even in dense communities, parents often refused to allow kids to walk to school, fearing they would become victims of crime or traffic accidents,” said Zhu, quoting her research findings.

The research was conducted as part of her dissertation study at Texas A&M’s College of Architecture. For Bryan Walsh’s story in Time, visit http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1813984-1,00.html.
Research eyes factors encouraging, impeding children’s walks to school

Two CHSD Faculty Fellows earned a portion of the $3.3 million in grant funds presented in 2007 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support research on active living in the United States. Xuemei Zhu, an assistant professor of architecture and Chanam Lee, an assistant professor in landscape architecture and urban planning, received funding to study environmental impacts on the physical activity of elementary school children, especially those at high risk of physical inactivity and obesity.

Their research focuses on children in the Austin Independent School District, the same location as Zhu’s dissertation study, “Community Environments and Walking to School Behaviors:Multi-Level Correlates and Underlying Disparities.” The research, Zhu said, aims to “identify the most effective environmental interventions that will encourage physically active lifestyles among children, specifically, walking to school.” Zhu received $186,000 for her proposal. “Safety, Health, and Equity for Active School Transportation: Interactions among Multi-Level Factors and Specific Needs of Low-Income Hispanic Children.” The two-year study will examine the personal, social, and physical environmental correlates of active commuting (walking) to school. The project team includes Lee, co-PI, James Sui, a professor with appointments to Texas A&M’s departments of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, and Pediatrics, and Dr. Chanam Lee, an assistant professor of educational psychology.

Additionally, Lee was awarded a $252,000 grant for her proposal, “The Why’s and Why Not’s of Active Living: Barriers and Motivators among High Risk Children.” This three-year study is evaluating various interventions related to children’s physical activity. For instance, it examines environmental factors such as the quality of sidewalks, distance of schools from homes, street crossing safety, design of streets, playgrounds, and parks. The research is also identifying barriers and motivators of active living and comparing different sub-groups of children.

Lee’s team includes Zhu, Varni, and Daniel Sui, professor of geography. Both studies will employ objective and subjective measurement tools together with the use of geographic information systems, surveys and field audits.

Mann earns teaching excellence award

Mann was honored this year for excellence in the classroom by the Texas A&M Association of Former Students. Mann, holder of the Ronald L. Skaggs, FAIA & Joseph G. Sprague, FAIA, Endowed Chair in Health Design and a Distinguished Achievement Award during the Texas A&M College of Architecture’s fall 2008 faculty and staff meeting. Debra Ellis, a senior lecturer in Texas A&M’s finest professionals with an award that the association of former students has given.

For research that has significantly influenced medical practices, Dr. Mardelle Shepley, FAIA, Endowed Chair in Health Design and a Distinguished Achievement Award during the Texas A&M College of Architecture’s fall 2008 faculty and staff meeting, received the 2009 Stan Hargett Award for Leadership in Enhancing the Physical and Developmental Environments for the High Risk Infant. Shepley has focused on pediatric facilities design since initiating research on neonatal intensive care units in 1991 while serving as project architect for The Design Partnership for the Houston Methodist Hospital NICU. She has published extensively and coauthored “Healthcare Environments for Children and their Families” (1998). A member of the Committee for Recommended Design Standards for Neonatal ICUs, she is the recipient of the Award of the Association for the Care of Children’s Health. The award will be presented in January 2009 in Florida during the 22nd Annual Gravens Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environments for the High Risk Infant.

Shepley honored for relevant research on pediatric facilities

The description of a new tool for determining the effects of the built environment of residential care facilities on children’s health, development and behavior was presented in the third annual conference of ACHHE (Architects & Healthcare Healthcare Facility Task Force) in May 2007 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (walking) to school. The project team includes Lee, co-PI, James Sui, a professor with appointments to Texas A&M’s departments of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, and Pediatrics, and Dr. Chanam Lee, an assistant professor of educational psychology.

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AWARDS • Recipient Profiles

Herman Miller for Healthcare presents 12 travel fellowships

The Center for Health Systems & Design awarded 12 travel fellowships to second-year architecture students at the third annual awards ceremony, Saturday, September 24, 2006, during the 2006 AIA Health Care Conference. A total of 30 students were granted the travel fellowships that, on average, will each cost $10,000. The awards were made possible by the generous donations of Herman Miller for Healthcare, Rogers Cato, chair of healthcare architecture and design for Herman Miller for Healthcare, and Mardelle Shepley, CHD director, presented the awards.

Nicole Hoffman

Nicole Hoffman, from Mansfield, Texas, is interested in the healing and sustainable design of healthcare facilities. She aims to focus on evidence based design and sustainability in order to apply the methodology behind designing better healthcare facilities.

Nupur Gupta

Nupur Gupta, from India, focuses on interest in the best possible environments from the street level to the intricate details of chairs in patient rooms.

Sihyun Sung

Sihyun Sung, from Seoul, Korea, is interested in applying evidence-based design to healing environments. He also interested in combining the merits of oriental environments and western culture to create a balance between architecture and nature.

Xiaodong Xuan

Xiaodong Xuan, from Anhui, China, is interested in applying evidence-based design to healthcare facilities. He particularly focuses on encouraging the use of daylighting by reducing the disconnect caused by window type, location and placement.

Yanchao You

Yanchao Zou, from Guangzhou, China, is interested in applying evidence-based design and application to healthcare facility design. He intends to focus on defining the best possible healthcare environments and promote the care delivery system.

Jialiang Wang

Jialiang Wang, from Shandong, China, is interested in hospital design aiming for healthy environments, especially in variable climate conditions.

Member Firm Update

FKP Architects, Inc.

FKP Architects was recently named one of the Best Companies to Work for in Texas, the second consecutive year that it has received recognition in evidence-based design (EBD) application and influence to healthcare facility design. It is interested in its potential to define a better, advanced healing environment and promote the care delivery system.

The Innova Group

Ashley Diao has joined HKS Inc. in its Healthcare Fellow. Diao graduated from Texas A&M University with a master of architecture degree and a bachelor of environmental design degree. In addition to receiving her master’s degree, she also received a health systems and design certificate.

HKS, Inc.

Sihyun Sung

Sihyun Sung joined HOK and The Methodist Hospital System in Houston in 2006. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in architecture and has since worked on projects such as the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Master Plan and Hospital Addition.

Perkins+Will

Perkins+Will Inc. has been named one of 2007’s “Best AEC Firms to Work For” by Building Design + Construction magazine. This award program recognizes firms in the worldwide AEC industry that excel in practices including professional development, social responsibility, workplace environment and recognition, compensation benefits, innovative recruitment and retention policies, and business practices.

Rigorous time/motion studies and questionnaires are being used to observe the behavior of and collect response from staff and patients.

Adyan Panter

Adyan Panter from Sulphur Springs, Texas, is interested in creating healing environments.

Avery Kennedy

Avery Kennedy, from Portland, Ore., is interested in understanding how the environment contributes to perception of quality of care for patients, psychiatric hospitals for improved patient experience and emergency department work environment.

Brian Briscoe

Brian Briscoe, from Kingwood, Texas, is interested in sustainable healthcare facility design. He takes the position that sustainability is necessary for the future and to the creation of healthy healing environments.

Garam Cha

Garam Cha, from South Korea, is interested in the relationship between design and healthcare facilities. Her final year studio project for a community mental health center connected with an existing health care facility.

Yuxiang Chen

Yuxiang “Shawn” Chen, from Hangzhou, China, is interested in the design of healthcare environments to create positive impacts on humans.

Esa

Esa is the digital architecture and design consultancy that is leading the delivery of the first phase of the architectural design for the new children’s hospital in Texas.

HOK

HOK and the Methodist Hospital System in Houston have teamed up for a significant research project at the Methodist Willowbrook Hospital. The project began in mid-2008 and will conclude with the opening of a new 100,000

Perkins+Will

Perkins+Will was the recipient of the Contract Global, AIA and RIDA 2007 National Award for Leadership in Design & Development. When Perkins+Will began applying LED to projects, we realized it wasn’t enough to make the significant positive impact that we wanted. Combining the knowledge from the field of human factors and the passion of our 1,600 person staff, sustainable design has become part of the corporate culture. This cultural shift has been accomplished by crafting two bi-legendary documents that

The Innova Group is comprised of architects, healthcare administrators, nurses, occupational therapists, and data analysts who utilize their knowledge and expertise to successfully implement capital investment planning initiatives.

Services offered by The Innova Group include strategic planning, facility programming, medical planning, master planning, and management planning. The Innova Group has been working with national and regional healthcare architectural firms, including many HOK members, to help clients’ program requirements.

As an architect and principal on numerous healthcare projects, Perkins+Will has been named one of the 2007’s “Best AEC Firms to Work For” by Building Design + Construction magazine. This award program recognizes firms in the worldwide AEC industry that excel in practices including professional development, social responsibility, workplace environment and recognition, compensation benefits, innovative recruitment and retention policies, and business practices.

Perkins+Will has also been named a winner of the 11th annual Good Design is Good Business award, sponsored by BusinessWeek and ArchDaily.com, in an international competition honoring innovative architecture that both demonstrates exemplary design and helps drive business client goals.
ASHRAE certifies Culp for high-performance building design

Dr. Charles Culp, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, has been certified a High-Performance Building Design Professional by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

ASHRAE’s certification program identifies individuals who have demonstrated the necessary training and tools for the design of high-performance buildings that live up to their performance capability.

The content of the exam includes: sustainability concepts; heating, ventilating and air-conditioning and sustainable processes; and environmental improvement programs and rating systems; energy analysis; indoor environment; controls and monitoring; and performance metrics; water conservation; commissioning in sustainable construction, and operation and maintenance of high-performance buildings.

Oregon paper seeks Hamilton’s input after some complain about ‘extravagant’ hospital

Kirk Hamilton, associate professor in the Department of Architecture, recently weighed in on a debate that erupted in Springfield, Oregon about the design of the new Sacred Heart Medical Center.

According to an Aug. 10 article published in the Eugene Register Guard, the hospital complex has a lodge-like lobby with art and a three-story rock fireplace, sweeping views of the McKenzie River and Coburg Hills from patient rooms, and a stand of towering fir trees on the grounds.

A retired therapist who spoke to the newspaper the facility is an ‘extravagant monument to medicine’ that could only have been built on huge profits and the promise of more. ‘It’s like building a palace in the middle of suffering and poverty.’

Hamilton, associate director for the Center for Health Facilities Design, said the teacher’s view is a common misconception of the intent for evidence-based design at healthcare facilities.

‘Whenever a hospital design is attractive it runs the risk of being criticized for excess or opulence because the presumption is that it had been less expensive, more could have been spent in other ways, as in lowering the cost of healthcare,’ said Hamilton.

‘This is an erroneous assumption,’ he continued, ‘because capital spending comes from other sources. It may be funded by philanthropy…and the quality of facilities is vital to recruiting and retaining the best staff’.

‘In fact,’ Hamilton said, ‘capital and debt for facilities and equipment is usually only six percent of a hospital’s annual budget’.

Almost a quarter-century ago, a landmark study by Roger Ulrich, professor of architecture at Texas A&M, showed that hospital patients whose rooms overlooked a nature scene, such as at the facility in Oregon, had shorter hospital stays and required less pain medication than patients whose rooms looked out onto the wall of a building.

Ulrich and others have continued to show through research that evidence-based health facility design can benefit staff and patients by reducing medical errors, improving staff performance, and reducing stress. Despite these findings, patient- and staff-centered design at medical centers can be confused with extravagance, as is the case in Oregon.

On the other hand, health care buildings can reflect research by Ulrich and his contemporaries with little room for protest.

The 7th annual Health Industry Advisory Council meeting at Texas A&M University included 26 member firms.

The meeting began Friday morning with an update on the Architecture for Health program by Dr. Mandelle Shapley, director of the Center for Health Systems & Design, Texas A&M University College of Architecture.

The meeting concluded Saturday morning with the third annual SHEA-HIAC portfolio review, in which students met with architects from HOK, Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, and Tso Kobus & Associates.

With 26 professional members and four corporate members, HIAC keeps growing as new firms join annually. The latest member is KMD Architects.

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.

To become a HIAC member firm, contact Mandelle Shapley, director of the Center for Health Systems & Design via e-mail at mandelle@archone.tamu.edu or call 979-845-7009.

Doctoral student presents at national conference

Zhonglin Lu, an architecture Ph.D. student at Texas A&M, presented his research on walkable corridors in assisted living residents at the HEALTH-CARE DESIGN 08 Conference in Washington, D.C. He was one of two students who received an AIA/AAH STERIS-Arthur N. Tuttle Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Health Facility Planning and Design.

His presentation was based on his dissertation research. Lu also received the Souder Award for professional achievement in health facility planning and design research as an AIA/AAH graduate fellow.

Information for the fellowship and a listing of fellows can be accessed on the fellowship’s website: http://www.aia.org/ash/fellowship_overview.

Bame serves on national health advisory board

Dr. Sherry Bame, associate professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, was invited to serve on the Academy for Health Services Research and Policy Advisory Board for developing and conducting the National Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. The annual event facilitates exchange of ideas among health services researchers whose work is used to set national health policy by legislators.

Prof, student attend architecture conferences in Florence, Turin

Texas A&M student health care architecture projects where showcased last June at the 2008 International Union of Architects’ Public Health Group conference in Florence, Italy.

George J. Mann, AA, professor of architect and holder of the Ronald Skaggs, Kemper Professorship in Architecture and holder of the Ronald Skaggs, Kemper Professorship in Architecture, was invited to present his work at the conference.

Dr. Sherry Bame, professor of architecture and chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, was invited to serve on the National Health Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. The annual event facilitates exchange of ideas among health services researchers whose work is used to set national health policy by legislators.

Dr. Charles Culp

Kirk Hamilton

Dr. Charles Culp

Zhonglin Lu

Dr. Charley Bame
Every Wednesday at noon during the fall semester, Texas A&M College of Architecture students had an opportunity to hear leading professionals from the allied healthcare professions discuss issues related to health care and healthcare facilities design as part of the Architecture-for-Health Lecture Series.

The public lectures, held in the Wright Gallery of the Langford Architecture Center, were sponsored by the Center for Health Systems & Design, the Health Industry Advisory Council, Student Health Environments Association, and Global University Programs in Healthcare Architecture.

Topics and featured speakers included:

**“The Epidemiologic Transition”** featuring Ken McLeroy, professor with the Department of Social and Behavioral Health in the Texas A&M Health Science Center’s School of Rural Public Health.

**“It's not Just About Hospitals”** featuring Jean Mah, FAIA, FACHA, LEED AP, principal of national healthcare practice leader Perkins + Will Architects.

**“A Nurse’s Perspective on Hospital Design”** featuring Teri Oelrich, MBA, BSN, RN, principal with NBBJ.

**“Research & Design for Health”** featuring Derek Parker, FAIA, RIBA, FACHA, director of Anshen+Allen Architects.

**“Maximum Flexibility Through Standardization”** featuring James R. Diaz, FAIA, FACHA, principal and Lari Diaz, AIA, both with Kaplan McLaughlin Diaz, Architects.

**“A Tale of Two Graduates: A Week in the Life of Ashley and Alejandro After Graduating from Texas A&M”** featuring Ashley N. Dias of HKS Inc. and Alejandro Iriarte, associate medical planner with WHR Architects, Inc.

**“Master Planning and Design of the Jersey Shore University and Medical Center, Neptune, New Jersey”** featuring LaTonya Whitfield-Horhn, AIA, LEED AP, project manager with PBK Architects and Tushar Gupta, AIA, NCARB and Marie Hoke, AIA, both principals with WHR Architects, Inc.

**“The Value and Role of STERIS Corporation, a Healthcare Capital Equipment Provider, Brings to the World of Healthcare Education and Architecture”** featuring Robert J. Spampani, AIA, project manager with STERIS and the company’s corporate liaison to the AIA- Academy of Architecture for Health.


**“Building Information Modeling”** featuring Ron Meyer, AIA, NCARB, vice president of HKs, Inc. and Christopher Peck, J.D., AICP, vice president of McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. Texas Division.

**“Healthy Cities and the Design Institutes in China”** featuring Chang-Shan Huang, PhD., AICP, ASLA, RLA, the Harold L. Adams’ 61 Endowed Interdisciplinary Professor in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University.