Texas A&M faculty present at Singapore meeting

Several faculty affiliated with the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M University’s College of Architecture were invited to present peer reviewed papers last June at the “6th World Congress + Exhibition Conference in Singapore” organized by the International Academy for Design and Health, the Singapore Ministry of Health and cosponsored by the International Hospital Federation. Presenting Texas A&M faculty were Dr. Mardelle Shepley, the William Peña Endowed Professor of Health Facilities Design, Dr. Susan Rodiek, the Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor of Health Facilities Design, Professor George J. Mann, AIA, the Skaggs-Sprague Endowed Chair of Health Facilities Design, Dr. Kazuhiko Okamoto, assistant professor, the University of Tokyo / Kajima Corporation Visiting Scholar, and Dr. Ruka Okamoto.

Shepley co-presented “The Impact of Daylight in ICU’s on Patients and Staff” together with Angela Watson of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson an Abbott, Health Industry Advisory Council Firm based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Rodiek presented, “Environmental Influences on Outdoor Usage in Facilities for the Elderly.” Mann, together with Kazu and Ruka Okamoto, presented “Challenges for Designing for the Elderly in the Context of a Continuum of Care.”

In addition, the group was invited to the Department of Architecture at the National University of Singapore to discuss future collaboration on joint research and design projects with Dr. Ruzica Bosovic-Stamenovic, assistant professor, the University of Tokyo / Kajima Corporation Visiting Scholar, and Dr. Ruka Okamoto.

Stamenovic lectured at CHSD in late April 2009 in a visit that began the discussions for future collaboration on joint research and design projects between NUS and Texas A&M. Over 300 academics and professionals from more than 30 countries from all over the world attended the international congress. The next World Congress will take place in Boston in 2011.

Texas A&M students and faculty among first to obtain new EDAC certification

Texas A&M students and faculty were among the first to pass the Evidence-based Design Accreditation and Certification (EDAC) examination. Professors Dr. Mardelle Shepley, and Kirk Hamilton and students Brian Briscoe, Nicole Hoffman, and Rana Zadeh completed the exam and now hold the credentials EDAC, offered since April 2009.

The exam measures knowledge of evidence-based design principles with regard to its intent, process and the organizations it operates within.

The exam was created to create a pool of accredited professionals that will be leaders in the design of facilities based upon the best available evidence and methods. Texas A&M professor Kirk Hamilton assisted with other leaders in the field of evidence-based design to produce the exam with the CHD.
Hamilton, Shepley pen new book about critical care facility design

A new book by two architecture professors at Texas A&M, detailing best practices in intensive care facility design, has been published by Architectural Press.

"Design for Critical Care: An Evidence-Based Approach," written by Kirk Hamilton, and Mardelle Shepley present a holistic approach that outlines the future for successful design for critical care settings," wrote the book’s publisher in the cover notes. "It’s a thorough and insightful guide," continued the publisher, "focusing on design that has been successful and beneficial to both hospital staff and hospital patients."

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architecture and American College of Healthcare Architects, Hamilton is interested in evidence-based design for health care and the relationship of facility design to organizational performance.

Shepley is holder of the William M. Peña Endowed Professorship in Informatics Management at Texas A&M. She specializes in architectural design, social architecture, health care facility design, applied research, and environmental psychology. The book can be ordered online at: http://www.amazon.com

Texas A&M, OU discuss healthcare architecture programs

Deans of the architecture schools at the University of Oklahoma and Texas A&M University met in mid-October to discuss the development of an architecture-for-health program in Oklahoma and the possibility of future collaboration on studio and research projects.

The meeting was held in the Dallas office of HKS, a long-time supporter and Teaching Advisory Firm to Texas A&M, and hosted by Ronald L. Skaggs, FAIA, Chairman Emeritus of HKS.

The delegation from OU was lead by Dr. Charles W. Graham, dean of the College of Architecture and past interim head of the Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M; James Patterson, associate dean; Dave Bocke, associate professor; Hopi Wachtte, associate professor; and Shawn Scharfer, director of OU’s Urban Design Studio.

Texas A&M was represented by Dr. Jorge Vanegas, dean of the College of Architecture; Dr. Mardelle Shepley, director of the Center and vice chancellor of Health Affairs for The Texas A&M University System; began the meeting by addressing several current issues facing the health field and identifying areas in the administration of health care and health facilities that can be improved. Dickey’s presentation prompted HIAC members to discuss future collaborations and joint research projects.

At the meeting, Dr. Shilong Lu, Dr. Zhe Wang and Rana Zadeh, a Ph.D. student presented their research. HIAC members were later invited to join students in the studio where they discussed current student projects. This event has become one of the favorite meeting activities for MAC members.

Friday evening provided the opportunity for the visiting professionals to gather for a more intimate dinner.

The meeting adjourned positively with plans for a future meeting in 2010 with Texas A&M and the University of Oklahoma.

More than 50 professionals came together with Texas A&M students and faculty for a stimulating Health Industry Advisory Council (HIAC) meeting in early-October.

"I am encouraged about the possibilities of collaboration," said Vanegas. "Leveraging the existing talent and infrastructure in our respective institutions and working together in a collaborative way to address this topic of global societal importance, not only between our colleges, but in partnership with a world class firm like HKS, has the potential for establishing an unparalleled model of integrated learning, teaching, research and engagement."

Architects, students connect at 2009 HIAC meeting

Representatives from the architecture schools at Texas A&M University and the University of Oklahoma discuss the creation of a healthcare architecture program at OU.

"I am encouraged about the possibilities of collaboration," said Vanegas. "Leveraging the existing talent and infrastructure in our respective institutions and working together in a collaborative way to address this topic of global societal importance, not only between our colleges, but in partnership with a world class firm like HKS, has the potential for establishing an unparalleled model of integrated learning, teaching, research and engagement."

The meeting adjourned positively with plans for a future meeting in Oklahoma that would involve both architecture colleges and representatives from the Oklahoma Medical Center.
ERDMAN updates continued service, promoting internal development

Cogdell Spencer ERDMAN, the nation’s most fully integrated healthcare facilities company, offers a continuum of services from strategic planning to integrated delivery and long-term ownership and management.

Kendra Cogburn Barnes, recent graduate of the College of Architecture, contributes to this integrated delivery process, engaging the client, architects, engineers, and constructors managers for the last year and half at Cogdell Spencer ERDMAN. Barnes is not only experiencing project management on an integrated design/build level, but also from real estate development, investment, and property management as well. While she has participated in programming, analysis, and feasibility studies on a wide range of healthcare facilities, she is required to successfully achieve key IDP credits.

Cogdell Spencer ERDMAN is leading the way to a combustion shift towards greater health, better, smarter and greener amidst a very dynamic healthcare market environment.

Esa joins select few invited into Planetree Visionary Design Network

Esa is one of only five architecture and design firms nationally and the only one in the southeast to be invited to join member of the Planetree Visionary Design Network.

This certification establishes Esa as a specialist in evidence-based design and follows Planetree’s philosophy and its core components of healing design. The honor was bestowed upon Esa during the 2009 Planetree Annual Conference, held in Baltimore. Planetree is an internationally recognized leader in patient-centered care in healthcare settings throughout the U.S., Canada, The Netherlands, Japan and Brazil. This non-profit organization promotes innovative models of healthcare that focus on healing and nurturing body, mind and spirit in order to promote health and well-being.

The certification identifies firms, for hospitals planning construction or renovation, which have committed to the patient-centered care philosophy.

Levin, EDAC, president and CEO for The Center for Health Design provides an introductory look at your role as you are called upon as a nurse leader to participate in the planning and design process of a facility or healthcare setting. As a nurse leader, you are looking for a deeper understanding of the relationship between the built environment and quality of care, this is a must have primer for your bookshelves that you will reference again and again.

HKS announces Kelly Harbach as new HKS Healthcare Fellow

Kelly Harbach has been named the 2009 HKS Healthcare Fellow. The HKS Healthcare Fellowship is a one-year program that allows a recent graduate architecture to pursue unique learning opportunities which help to advance the Fellows’ knowledge of healthcare architecture.

Harbach graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design, Hilaire is an active member of the International Interior Design Association.

HDR releases “Must-have Primer” to promote evidence-based design

HDR Architecture offers a new book that explores the use of evidence-based design principles in the planning, programming and design of healthcare facilities. Titled Evidence-Based Design for Healthcare Facilities, it provides readers with the knowledge, tools and strategies to incorporate EBBD concepts into any size or scale design project.

The book is edited by Cyndy McCullough, RN, MN, director of clinical services for HDR, and includes contributions from HDR’s Healthcare Consulting Group as well as HCA clients. It’s published by Sigma-Theta Tau International (STTI). Proceedings are used for numerous journal articles, including a prospective study on patient outcomes in the output of patients and their families. The seminar will take place in the fall.

The Innova Group - Austin recently ana- lysed health care treatment and develop- ped space programs for more than 4 million square feet in support of replacement hospi- tals and Army installations, pioneered an Army Traumatic Brain Injury space planning study, and created the Functionality Index - a system for assessing, rating and ranking functionality of existing medical treatment facilities.

The Farmington Hospital project involved over $400 million in construction costs, and the overall project was recognized in 2008 by the AIA for the 2009 Architecture Firm of the Year Award. The Farmington Hospital project was honored for its design excellence, comprehensive integration strategy and the commitment to the community.

The new NCCU will be housed within their Emergency Medicine Department and will allow patients to be as- sessed in a fast track fashion to expedite treat- ment protocols and to enable the primary ED to reduce disruption from the highly elevated numbers of patients presenting at the ED. To maximize the potential of the new Emergency Medicine care is expanding the St. Luke’s Woodlands Surgical Program with the addition of 4 new Operating Suites (2 new, 2 future) to respond to the growing number of surgical cases. One OR will be dedicated to their cardiovascular program while the other will be equipped with a da Vinci Robot to improve patient outcomes.

PBK Architects (PBK) has been selected by the Texas Society of Architects (AIA) for the 2009 Architecture Fellowship Award. This award, the highest honor TSA bestows upon a select number of designers, will be awarded to PBK’s full-time employee, Thomas F. West, AIA, on October 23, 2009, at the annual TSA convention in Houston. Recognizing PSP for exemplary design practice, PBK is one of only four firms in the state to participate in this award.

In addition to her work project, she will be researching a topic of interest for a special study. She will be examining retirement communities and elder care, investigating how HKS can collaborate between healthcare, hospitality and urban planning to better de- sign environments appropriate for the aging population.

The fellowship is a unique opportunity to explore critical issues in healthcare architec- ture that both Harkabach and the firm are passionate about.

Green operations spurring others by example and new research journal

Perkins+Will was named among the winners of the “Champion for Change Award” presented at the 2009 Environmental Excellence Award ceremonies. Sponsored by Practice Greenhealth, the award recognizes organizations that have successfully met their own operations while helping others to reduce their impact on the environment.

This past spring, Perkins+Will offered the 2009 Challenge Energy Estimating Tool for use by the community. This free online tool helps projects set energy mix goals to achieve the 2030 Challenge. The 2030 Challenge aims to equip owners and green building professionals with the tools and resources needed to act.

The Innova Group - Boston assisted Kaiser Permanente in the Mid Atlantic, and Hawaii, with planning and business case development, engaged with TRO/Jung Brannen on multiple projects in Kuwait, and programmed a multi-speciality MOB at Nassau University Medical Center in New York.

The Innova Group – Tucson is providing strategic direction, planning and program- ming support to the design team of Dekker Perich Sabatini / Ellebe Becket for the Univer- sity of New Mexico Health Science Campus 10-year master plan.

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The certification identifies firms, for hospitals planning construction or renovation, which have committed to the patient-centered care philosophy.
Three Aggie design projects showcased at TSA

M. Arch. students Brian D. Briscoe, Nicole M. Hoffman and Yuan Ma were recently selected finalist and bronze winner, respectively, in the first annual Houston National Organization of Minority Architects design competition. The competition, open to all students and intern architects, represented the integration of all races in our profession and displayed excellent design by young designers. The winners attended the HKDMA reception during the Texas Society of Architects Convention in Houston where they were recognized during the reception ceremony. Heading the competition was Timothy M. Barnes, AIA, associate architect with PBK, who likened the selected designs “as of equal quality to many of the award-winning firm design projects” Barnes is the current HKDMA president. The winning designs were displayed in the Hoffman’s long-term care facility for Lake Travis, and Ma’s bronze winner, “National Taiwan University Cancer Institute.” Briscoe’s “Art Farm” for Serenbe, Georgia.

George R. Brown Convention Center. Ma relished the honor saying “It is exciting to have our designs on display and to be honored by this group of esteemed professionals.” Briscoe’s design, the “Art Farm” project, was completed for the Serenbe community in Georgia, Hoffman’s design is a long-term care facility for Lake Travis, and Ma’s bronze winning design is the “National Taiwan University Cancer Institute.”

SHEA activity update:

This year marks the Student Health Environments Association’s fifth year since formed by the students studying healthcare architecture at Texas A&M. To commemorate this milestone, SHEA hosted its first-ever SHEA Alumni Reunion Tailgate Party where former SHEA members reunited with current students in College Station before the Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma State football game. At the party, SHEA’s founders, past-presidents and current president, Southern Ellis, enjoyed catching up with each other.

SHEA remains involved with the Health Industry Advisory Council for the Center for Health Systems & Design with large student participation and as hosts of the SHEA Portfolio Review that allows students to gain valuable advice and critique from industry professionals. SHEA also toured the LEED Platinum Dell Children’s Hospital last November. The group was lead by architect, Joseph Kuspan, AIA.

Pliny Fisk, associate professor in the college of architecture, was recently tapped for an interview by CNN International. Pliny was featured along with four others in CNN’s ‘Eco-Pioneers’ special regarding current and future conditions of the global ecosystem.

Fisk heard around the globe in CNN interview

Wells elected to National Board of Tau Sigma Delta

CHSD faculty fellow Ward V. Wells, professor of architecture and director of the university’s Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, was recently elected to the National Board of Tau Sigma Delta, the national honor society of architecture and allied arts. He will serve the first two years of his six-year term as vice president/president elect.

The organization celebrates excellence in scholarship and intellectual achievement.

ASHRAE Fellows name Culp president-elect

CHSD faculty fellow Charles Culp, associate professor of architecture, was named president-elect of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers’ College of Fellows. Culp, along with architecture professor Jeff Haberl, is an advisor of ASHRAE’s Aggie student chapter. The group aims to advance technology to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.

ASHRAE Fellows name Culp president-elect

2 grad students awarded Tuttle Fellowships

Last May, two graduate architecture students at Texas A&M earned AIA fellowships to pursue research projects in healthcare architecture. One is studying factors affecting the usability of restorative outdoor spaces in pediatric hospitals, and the other is developing design guidelines for a cancer therapy regimen that may become available to U.S. residents in the future.

Sania Pasha, a doctoral student in architecture, and Dytumia Jha, a Master of Architecture student, both received an Arthur N. Tuttle Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Health Facility Planning and Design. Pasha, whose research focuses on the design features of outdoor spaces at pediatric hospitals, is investigating the main factors discouraging garden and outdoor space visitation for patients and their families.

Jha is developing design guidelines for using carbon therapy at cancer treatment centers in the U.S., a technique not yet available here, but used in Germany, Italy, France, Sweden, Austria and Japan. “My study aims at understanding this technology in the context of the American healthcare system,” she wrote; her research includes a visit to a prototype carbon therapy center in Germany. After creating the guidelines, she said, she will design a treatment facility as part of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston’s expansion.

Since established in 1987, 25 Texas A&M architecture students have received the AIA Arthur N. Tuttle Jr. Graduate Fellowship in Health Facility Planning and Design. Pasha was recently awarded the David Puckett Healthcare Architecture Prize that was established following a 2008 bequest by AIA Houstonian David G. Puckett, AIA, to the Houston Architecture Foundation; dba Architecture Center Houston Foundation. Based on David’s intentions, an annual prize of $2,500 will be awarded to a graduate student from any architecture school in the United States for a research project in healthcare architecture.

Boat campers to focus on evidence-based practice

The Center for Health Systems & Design has opened the invitation for practitioners to participate in the first-ever, evidence-based practice “Boot Camp.” The camp is open to architects, engineers, designers, project managers, researchers, technology experts, librarians, developers and building owners.

“The camp aims to educate mid-career professionals to qualify to sit for licensing and receive an advanced practitioners certificate in evidence-based design,” says Hamilton. “The boot camp is not designed to convince EBD is a good idea, but rather designed for already convinced professionals to develop skills to apply to real projects.” Participants will be asked to come with a current project their firm is engaged in to apply learned principles. The boot camp aims to stimulate the participants to better design based on rigorous interpretation of solid evidence, careful advance documentation of expected results, and a commitment to measure and report outcomes. Three dates have been offered to the 2009-10 year; Dec. 10-12, Feb. 4-6, April 8-10. For more information on the Evidence-Based Practice Boot Camp, contact Judy Pruitt at: jprutt@tamu.edu

Facade release award-winning ‘Access to Nature’ video series

A newly released video series grabbed first place in the Environment + Design category of the 2009 CEAL Awards Ceremony held in Washington, D.C. last October. CEAL, the Center for Excellence in Assisted Living, is a coalition of 11 national organizations focused on quality care for older adults. A set of three videos was produced by a team of nearly 50 students led by Dr. Susan Rodiek, the Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor in Health Facilities Design. The team has traveled more than 10 years of research into a user-friendly tool for design practitioners. The project communicates how the design of outdoor space contributes to personal wellbeing and positive medical results in facilities for older adults covering the research background, architecture design and landscape design. “The impact of this multimedia tool is stream lined education, and unlike books, it allows the viewer to easily grasp concepts with very little time and effort,” said Rodiek, “and it can be used for brownbag lunch-and-learns.” Each video is about 30 minutes discussing new topics of outdoor space design and provides one unit of AIA Continuing Education credit (HSW category). For more information connect online to: www.accessetonature.org

For more information on the Evidenced-Based Design Faculty Research visit: http://www.ebd.tamu.edu

For more information on the CHSD: http://www.chsd.tamu.edu
Every Wednesday at noon during the academic year, Texas A&M College of Architecture students have the 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 are sponsored by the Center for Health Systems & Design, the College of Medicine, the Health Industry Advisory Council, Student Health Environments Association, and Global University Programs in Healthcare Architecture.

Topics and featured speakers include:


“Sustainable Healthcare Architecture,” a lecture featuring Gail Vittori, LEED AP, Co-Director, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Austin, Texas.

“Can Robots Help Hospital Sustainability? A Case Study in Japan,” a lecture featuring Dr. Akikazu Kato, Professor of Architecture and Department Chair, Mie University Graduate School of Engineering, Tsu City, Japan.


“Resource Planning as a Foundation for Design Planning,” a lecture featuring Pliny Fisk, Professor, Texas A&M University, Co-Director, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Austin, Texas.


“Senior Living Trends” a lecture featuring Ronald B. Blitch, FAIA, FACHA, Blitch/Knevel Architects, New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Health by Design,” a lecture featuring Kirk Teske, AIA, LEED AP, Principal and Chief Sustainability Officer, HKS, Dallas, Texas.

“On the Ground in South Africa,” a lecture featuring Dr. Glenn Mills, Professor and Head, Department of Architecture, Texas A&M University.

“Design and Health,” a lecture featuring Professor Alan Dilani, Ph.D., General Director, International Academy for Design and Health (IADH), Stockholm, Sweden.


“Hospital Design: Lessons Learned as a Medical Student,” a lecture featuring Diana Anderson, MD., MArch., LEED AP, 2008-2009 Tradewell Fellow, WHR Architects, Houston, Texas.


“Sustainable Design for Healthy Hospital Environments and Positive Human Outcomes,” a lecture featuring Debra D. Harris, Ph.D., President and CEO, RAD Consultants, Austin, Texas, Faculty Fellow of CHSD, Texas A&M University.

“Sustainable Healthcare Design,” a lecture featuring Joseph F. Kuspan, AIA, Director of Design, Karlsberger, Columbus, Ohio.

Fall 2009 Architecture-for-Health Lecture Series spotlights big names in healthcare, sustainability