What's Inside

Texas A&M students win first prize in invitation only national hospital design competition.

An important collection of research papers, some of which have never been published, was acquired by The Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD) at Texas A&M University. This collection was donated by the late M. Powell Lawton, a renowned environmental gerontologist who was widely considered the foremost authority in this field. Several other universities and research centers had also shown interest in acquiring this extensive collection, which is now being planned as the foundation of a new reference center at Texas A&M University, called “The Lifespan Reference Center” (LRC).

Dr. Lawton’s many years of research were devoted to better understanding the needs of older adults, and how the physical environment interacts with those needs. His collection of work is planned to be developed into a resource for researchers interested in working with these materials and unpublished studies. Because of the increasing importance of providing accessible materials and unpublished studies, this collection is vital to make this valuable resource available to researchers on this topic.

The LRC will also contain many publications and studies from a variety of sources including those from CHSD Faculty Fellow, the Alexander Angell Professors, and students. Using this extensive compilation of resources, the LRC plans to create a widely disseminated compendium report describing the entire collection, an annotated bibliography covering specific parts of the collection and, most importantly, a searchable web-based database that could be accessed by researchers working from other institutions.

Successful completion of this project would aid researchers, professionals and students.

Students work on healthcare project in the UK

Influenced by the growing trend towards globalization, two architecture studios investigate the challenges and benefits of designing a health center in the United Kingdom.

The project, initiated by Professor George Mann and Craig Beal of HKS, Inc., involves designing a comprehensive 130,000 square meter hospital north of London. In January, Susan Rodiek, assistant professor, and eight students and traveled to London to gain first-hand experience of healthcare design in the UK. Hosted by Ryder HKS and its chairman Paul Hyett, the students met with key people in the field of architecture for health, learned about the National Health Service in the UK and toured various levels of healthcare facilities.

The proposed hospital would be built in the town of Hatfield and would replace two outdated facilities. Andrew Geddes, the Hatfield Trust Deputy Director, gave students tours of the two older facilities and said that he is excited to see some of the students’ work. He plans to use the ideas presented by the students in the new facility. The students’ projects focus on the future of healthcare in the UK using evidence based design. Inspired by Susan Francis and the Future Healthcare Network, students are also learning to design a hospital for the future to meet the demands of an ever-changing building type.

Architecture students respond to devastation with innovative design

A team of students from Texas A&M University was the first place winner in the first annual University Grant Project Competition sponsored by Skanska USA Building Inc. The team was awarded with a $5,000 grant for their work in planning and recommending the construction of emergency medicine spaces in New Orleans to assist the city after Hurricane Katrina.

The first-prize team, comprised of senior environmental design students Ashley Dias, Lauren Johnson, Elisha Killgore and Jackie Russell, addressed the concept of a ‘surge facility’ that could handle emergency department overcrowding during times of disaster. The team proposed a two-part solution for the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans.

“They focused on installation of modular clinics around New Orleans in times of disaster and also a more long-range idea to replace the existing Charity Hospital that was pretty much knocked out during Hurricane Katrina,” said George J. Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs endowed professor of health facilities design at Texas A&M.

The winning project’s primary goal was to create fast and available healthcare resources when hospitals fail due to man-made or natural disasters.

Through several phases, newly built modular units would become replacement health facilities until a new and improved Charity Hospital building is completed.

The modular units would then be used as specialty clinics that support the new hospital and adapt to the city’s larger hospital system.

Established by Skanska, the University Grant Project Competition fosters the relationship between education and the construction industry to better prepare tomorrow’s construction management professionals.

CHSD Faculty fellow named psychologist of the year

Michael Duffy, professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and Faculty Fellow of the Center for Health Systems & Design (CHSD) received the 2005 Psychologist of the Year Award from the Texas Psychological Association (TPA).

“I’m extremely honored, it was a complete surprise and I was quite touched to discover that my work was noticed and approved of by colleagues,” Duffy said.

David White, TPA executive director, commended Duffy on his accomplishment. “This award is given to those who have a considerable impact on the field of psychology in the state of Texas,” White said. “Duffy’s national reputation in the field of geropsychology is unmatched.” Geropsychology is the study of the neurological, psychological and sociological aspects of the aging process.

Duffy teaches psychotherapy theory and practice with a special interest in older adults. His research has covered topics such as mental health in long-term care and the behavioral effects of environmental design in geriatric facilities.

TPA Award — Michael Duffy (center) with his daughter and wife received the award during a ceremony at the TPA’s 2005 conference in Houston, TX.

A&M students win national hospital design competition

Architecture students respond to devastation with innovative design

A team of students from Texas A&M University was the first place winner in the first annual University Grant Project Competition sponsored by Skanska USA Building Inc. The team was awarded with a $5,000 grant for their work in planning and recommending the construction of emergency medicine spaces in New Orleans to assist the city after Hurricane Katrina.

The first-prize team, comprised of senior environmental design students Ashley Dias, Lauren Johnson, Elisha Killgore and Jackie Russell, addressed the concept of a ‘surge facility’ that could handle emergency department overcrowding during times of disaster. The team proposed a two-part solution for the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans.

“They focused on installation of modular clinics around New Orleans in times of disaster and also a more long-range idea to replace the existing Charity Hospital that was pretty much knocked out during Hurricane Katrina,” said George J. Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs endowed professor of health facilities design at Texas A&M.

The winning project’s primary goal was to create fast and available healthcare resources when hospitals fail due to man-made or natural disasters.

Through several phases, newly built modular units would become replacement health facilities until a new and improved Charity Hospital building is completed.
A&M students showcase their talents at design competition

Last October, a group of architecture students from Texas A&M University took part in the Student Design Charrette Competition during the AIAs Academy of Architecture for Healths conference in Los Angeles. The two-day charrette involved designing a sustainable community clinic located on Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. The students were asked to provide insight into the application of sustainability in a healthcare setting.

Working closely with the teams faculty advisor, Professor George Mann, and the charrette mentors, the students produced a flexible design that resulted in a design that created a green oasis within the urban density of Los Angeles. The design sought to provide a clinic site that was also a community asset by providing a local-goods market and gathering space for concerts or special events.

“our design’s intention was to provide a resource for the community while using the principles of sustainable design,” said graduate architecture student Chris Grossnicklaus. “This experiences was very beneficial to us (students).”

“the students that were selected to go to the conference bonded and worked hard as a team and their design results showed. They had a great opportunity to present their project to leaders in architecture for health from all over the United States,” said Mann.

From the directors

Why research matters result

The role of research in informing the design and construction of new facilities has been recognized as vitally important. Many architectural firms conscientiously conduct studies such as POEs (post-occupancy evaluations), but seldom take the step of sharing the resulting information with others. Although this reticence may be attributed partly to concerns regarding potential liability, it may also be related to the lack of viable publishing forums. In spite of this difficulty, we believe we can learn from our accomplishments and errors and produce better, more appropriate healthcare environments. This runs counter to the quip attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright, “The physician can bury his mistakes, but the architect cannot.”

“Creating a living library of practice-oriented research studies, firms can share their expertise with others, and help build the success ratio of future healthcare projects, while at the same time opening the door to potential future publications.”

New student group receives generous gift to support its mission and growth

A grassroots movement has taken place in the College of Architecture with the establishment of a new organization for students interested in healthcare design. Student Health Environments Association (SHEA) was founded in August and is closely affiliated with the Center for Health Systems & Design. The founding students developed a mission of furthering student interest in architecture for health by promoting a culture of communication between students of all levels, professors and professionals.

Since August, the organization has grown to 48 members, created a website and promoted lectures within the college. Group meetings have included a faculty tour, faculty guest speakers and a portfolio workshop with representatives from HK; FKP Architects and HDR Architecture.

On March 6th Craig Beale, Executive Vice President and Healthcare Group Director of HK, recognized the efforts of the students with a $5000 donation to further their objectives and capabilities as an organization. SHEA has become an active network of students, professors and professionals emphasizing enthusiasm for healthcare design. Goals for the next academic year includes helping other colleges start chapters of SHEA and gaining recognition with national organizations such as the AIA’s Academy of Architecture for Health, American College of Healthcare Architects, and Global University Program in Healthcare Architecture.

SHEA is advised by CHSD faculty fellows Susan Rodiek and Kirk Hamilton.

A&I students showcase their talents at design competition

Last October, a group of architecture students from Texas A&M University took part in the Student Design Charrette Competition during the AIAs Academy of Architecture for Healths conference in Los Angeles. The two-day charrette involved designing a sustainable community clinic located on Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. The students were asked to provide insight into the application of sustainability in a healthcare setting.

Working closely with the teams faculty advisor, Professor George Mann, and the charrette mentors, the students produced a flexible design that resulted in a design that created a green oasis within the urban density of Los Angeles. The design sought to provide a clinic site that was also a community asset by providing a local-goods market and gathering space for concerts or special events.

“our design’s intention was to provide a resource for the community while using the principles of sustainable design,” said graduate architecture student Chris Grossnicklaus. “This experiences was very beneficial to us (students).”

“the students that were selected to go to the conference bonded and worked hard as a team and their design results showed. They had a great opportunity to present their project to leaders in architecture for health from all over the United States,” said Mann.

From the directors

Why research matters result

The role of research in informing the design and construction of new facilities has been recognized as vitally important. Many architectural firms conscientiously conduct studies such as POEs (post-occupancy evaluations), but seldom take the step of sharing the resulting information with others. Although this reticence may be attributed partly to concerns regarding potential liability, it may also be related to the lack of viable publishing forums. In spite of this difficulty, we believe we can learn from our accomplishments and errors and produce better, more appropriate healthcare environments. This runs counter to the quip attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright, “The physician can bury his mistakes, but the architect cannot.”

“Creating a living library of practice-oriented research studies, firms can share their expertise with others, and help build the success ratio of future healthcare projects, while at the same time opening the door to potential future publications.”

New student group receives generous gift to support its mission and growth

A grassroots movement has taken place in the College of Architecture with the establishment of a new organization for students interested in healthcare design. Student Health Environments Association (SHEA) was founded in August and is closely affiliated with the Center for Health Systems & Design. The founding students developed a mission of furthering student interest in architecture for health by promoting a culture of communication between students of all levels, professors and professionals.

Since August, the organization has grown to 48 members, created a website and promoted lectures within the college. Group meetings have included a faculty tour, faculty guest speakers and a portfolio workshop with representatives from HK; FKP Architects and HDR Architecture.

On March 6th Craig Beale, Executive Vice President and Healthcare Group Director of HK, recognized the efforts of the students with a $5000 donation to further their objectives and capabilities as an organization. SHEA has become an active network of students, professors and professionals emphasizing enthusiasm for healthcare design. Goals for the next academic year include helping other colleges start chapters of SHEA and gaining recognition with national organizations such as the AIA’s Academy of Architecture for Health, American College of Healthcare Architects, and Global University Program in Healthcare Architecture.

SHEA is advised by CHSD faculty fellows Susan Rodiek and Kirk Hamilton.

A&I students showcase their talents at design competition

Last October, a group of architecture students from Texas A&M University took part in the Student Design Charrette Competition during the AIAs Academy of Architecture for Healths conference in Los Angeles. The two-day charrette involved designing a sustainable community clinic located on Sunset Strip in Los Angeles. The students were asked to provide insight into the application of sustainability in a healthcare setting.

Working closely with the teams faculty advisor, Professor George Mann, and the charrette mentors, the students produced a flexible design that resulted in a design that created a green oasis within the urban density of Los Angeles. The design sought to provide a clinic site that was also a community asset by providing a local-goods market and gathering space for concerts or special events.

“our design’s intention was to provide a resource for the community while using the principles of sustainable design,” said graduate architecture student Chris Grossnicklaus. “This experiences was very beneficial to us (students).”

“the students that were selected to go to the conference bonded and worked hard as a team and their design results showed. They had a great opportunity to present their project to leaders in architecture for health from all over the United States,” said Mann.

From the directors

Why research matters result

The role of research in informing the design and construction of new facilities has been recognized as vitally important. Many architectural firms conscientiously conduct studies such as POEs (post-occupancy evaluations), but seldom take the step of sharing the resulting information with others. Although this reticence may be attributed partly to concerns regarding potential liability, it may also be related to the lack of viable publishing forums. In spite of this difficulty, we believe we can learn from our accomplishments and errors and produce better, more appropriate healthcare environments. This runs counter to the quip attributed to Frank Lloyd Wright, “The physician can bury his mistakes, but the architect cannot.”

“Creating a living library of practice-oriented research studies, firms can share their expertise with others, and help build the success ratio of future healthcare projects, while at the same time opening the door to potential future publications.”

New student group receives generous gift to support its mission and growth

A grassroots movement has taken place in the College of Architecture with the establishment of a new organization for students interested in healthcare design. Student Health Environments Association (SHEA) was founded in August and is closely affiliated with the Center for Health Systems & Design. The founding students developed a mission of furthering student interest in architecture for health by promoting a culture of communication between students of all levels, professors and professionals.

Since August, the organization has grown to 48 members, created a website and promoted lectures within the college. Group meetings have included a faculty tour, faculty guest speakers and a portfolio workshop with representatives from HK; FKP Architects and HDR Architecture.

On March 6th Craig Beale, Executive Vice President and Healthcare Group Director of HK, recognized the efforts of the students with a $5000 donation to further their objectives and capabilities as an organization. SHEA has become an active network of students, professors and professionals emphasizing enthusiasm for healthcare design. Goals for the next academic year include helping other colleges start chapters of SHEA and gaining recognition with national organizations such as the AIA’s Academy of Architecture for Health, American College of Healthcare Architects, and Global University Program in Healthcare Architecture.

SHEA is advised by CHSD faculty fellows Susan Rodiek and Kirk Hamilton.