The vision of the School of Architecture is to empower students to make creative contributions in the cause of architecture.

The mission of the School of Architecture is to cultivate a collaborative learning community focused upon critical thinking and ethical responsibility. We embrace established fundamentals and encourage the exploration of emerging innovations in design and technology.
Hello!

We hope you are well. It is my pleasure to bring this edition of the Reflections newsletter to you. Our goal for this issue is to communicate some of the ways the School of Architecture has recently engaged the community. Sharing our unique assets and expertise with various constituents is an important part of our mission.

Historically, this has come in the form of studio projects that engage a client by helping them identify potential opportunities related to a proposed project or developing fundraising materials to help them promote their project. Faculty scholarship often involves our community of professionals or the academic community at large. Our students also carry the baton of community service through ASTEK (Architecture Students Teaching Elementary Kids) where they work with fifth grade elementary kids in Stillwater Public Schools, and the newly revived ‘Freedom by Design’ arm of the AIAS. These efforts are worth celebrating!

Enjoy the articles within this newsletter, and please do keep in touch with us here at the School. We are proud of our current students and of the accomplishments of our alumni!

Suzanne Bilbeisi, AIA
Centennial Professor and
Head of the School of Architecture
suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu
Community engagement begins with actions that enhance your very own community. This fall the third year design build studio, under the supervision of Assistant Professors Stan Carroll and Jay Yowell, took on the challenge of designing, prototyping, and constructing several projects aimed at enhancing the Donald W. Reynolds School of Architecture Building.

The first step was an analysis of our public spaces. The students proposed to bring greater presence to the public entry of the Jack and Carol Corgan auditorium. Their design response was initiated with a parametric algorithm which they further manipulated to generate a cardboard cell structure that would serve as an entry canopy for the auditorium. The students developed and tested many variations of each detail through a full scale hands-on comprehensive prototyping process prior to fabricating and installing the piece. The result of these efforts is a volumetric form, made lighter through the use of cardboard, and stronger in connection by considering folding technology commonly used in the design of a standard cardboard box. The canopy was ceremoniously installed in October, and has become a feature piece in our public space.

The gallery also received the design build studio’s attention, with three projects under investigation. The first was the design of tables to be used within the gallery for studying, eating, or coffee. Four coffee tables and four standard tables were designed, prototyped, and constructed by the students. To fabricate the tables, students cut steel, welded and ground the members and finished the wood tops with a laser cut School of Architecture logo.

A concurrent project was the design of a system of movable walls for the gallery to add flexibility to the possible display configuration. After an initial round of design proposals, certain options were selected for prototyping.
The most critical gallery project was focused upon providing a facility to offer a most essential product necessary for student life—coffee.

The coffee cart was a design effort from a group of five third year students, who each made a design proposal and presented it in the gallery through virtual reality. The faculty, and students across all year levels, were invited to view and vote on their choice to be further investigated and refined in the prototyping phase.

Two of the five proposals tied as a result of the voting, so the students critically analyzed the two proposals with regard to cost, constructibility, and structural integrity. The design proposal conceived by student Sidney Hampton was ultimately selected and further developed through prototyping and construction. The coffee cart is designed with flexibility in mind; it consists of the steel frame as a docking station, with two removable carts—one carrying the coffee machines and the other carrying our newly procured popcorn machine. Each can be wheeled to various locations in the building as warranted by student demand.

In the end, our new coffee cart was designed, prototyped, constructed, and installed in the gallery. It was unveiled, and opened for business just in time for finals week.

The design-build experience this Fall put the students in full control of the design and fabrication process, but not without having first tested key details through prototyping. As a result of the design, prototyping, and construction sequence, students were introduced to the notion of tolerance—an often overlooked aspect of building design. The Donald W. Reynolds Building Maintenance Endowment was used to fund the student projects, which proved to be an inventive intersection of a practical endowment and a pedagogical initiative.
The newly formed Urban Network Analysis class led by Associate Professor Seung Ra conducted an interdisciplinary and data-driven research project, *Spatial Network Analysis for the Oklahoma City Streetcar*. The School of Architecture, the Spatial Data Department of the University Library, and the Oklahoma City Planning Department collaborated in a study of the active relationship of transportation and urban form and its organization within the built environment by focusing on the Oklahoma City Streetcar. In order to simulate the impact of the new streetcar system, the network analysis included an accessibility study, service area study, and facility proximity study. The new OKC Streetcar transportation system is a crucial part of the city-wide urban development plan called Maps 3, which is currently under construction.

This project examined the streetcar through urban network analysis, making invisible urban patterns visible and utilizing scientific methods of geospatial data analysis. This ongoing research was initially performed as a simulation platform to inform the design and strengthen the future decision-making process. The investigation aims to provide goals for the future direction of urban design guidelines. Research areas include accessibility, walkability, and pedestrian movement analysis by using computational analytics. The geospatial data was interpreted through analysis of simulation results using computational tools such as ArcGIS, the Urban Network Analysis toolbox for Rhino, and various Grasshopper plug-ins for environmental analysis. The project is searching out an optimum model to study city networks, both visible and invisible.

Tangible networks like Oklahoma City Streetcar and their adaptation are critical elements of existing infrastructure. They connect regional nodes and local transport systems to better move users from region or city to another. Specific deliverables for accessibility, walkability, and pedestrian movement analysis were developed and presented representatives of the Oklahoma City Planning Department.

![Urban Network Analysis students present their research to members of the Oklahoma City Planning Department and professors from Oklahoma State University.](image-url)
The City of Stillwater and the Block 34 Trust invited Associate Professor Awilda Rodríguez Carrión’s studio to explore and generate preliminary studies for potential programmatic functions and architectural design responses for an urban infill in downtown Stillwater.

In collaboration with the landscape architecture students, architecture students embarked on a critical analysis to develop a clear understanding of the site challenges which informed their proposed architectural responses.

After project completion, a public exhibit titled *Redefining Boundaries: Exploring Community* was showcased for several weeks at the downtown Stillwater gallery Modella, where the students formally presented their design to a panel of judges composed by a few Oklahoma State University professors alongside City of Stillwater officials and representatives from the Block 34 Board of Trustees.
This past October, Associate Professors Paolo Sanza and Awilda Rodríguez Carrión from the School of Architecture, and Associate Professor Bo Zhang from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture participated in PARK(ing) Day, an annual international event that invites landscape architects, architects, and other designers to re-imagine parking spaces as small-scale parks or parklets.

As part of the assignment, students were responsible for securing the proper city permits. Architecture and Landscape Architecture students collaborated on an art installation that generated eight parklets strategically sprinkled throughout downtown Stillwater on a date aligned with the city’s seasonal “Food Trucks and Tunes” event.

Each group teamed with a local business or organization to imagine an educational activity that engaged the public with site-specific challenges and used recycled materials to raise attention to environmental issues. The student teams also created marketing materials for the event such as advertising, videos, t-shirts, and decals to promote the special event.

To see the videos, go to youtube.com and search “Stillwater Parking Day.” You will be impressed!
The fourth year students in the comprehensive design studio had the opportunity to consider how architecture can enhance the lives of those less fortunate when they were given the unique design challenge of creating a new facility for The Winds House of Oklahoma City. The charitable organization currently maintains two houses in the Plaza District to help people with HIV who have also been homeless return to the mainstream. Although the two buildings have been recently renovated, the organization’s long term goal is to “increase our services by accommodating an even more diverse group of affected people, including families,” according to the Winds House website.

The Comprehensive Design Studio team—Professors Homer (coordinator), Mansy, Phillips, Spector, and Stivers—partnered with Winds House Executive Director Colin Raley to imagine a program for the new facility and select a site in the midtown neighborhood close to public transportation. The complex final program required student teams to create schematic designs that included a half-court recreation space, offices, commons rooms, and a stand-alone health care component, in addition to separated residential wings for singles and for families. Executive Director Raley, along with some Winds House board members, served as the client representatives for initial meetings through the schematic design and design development juries.

For the students, a particularly challenging aspect of the assignment was to provide a suitable image for a building that provided for the organization’s purpose of mainstreaming people who had typically existed outside of society’s social net for quite some time due to an overwhelming combination of HIV, unemployment, lack of health care, likely drug use, and often mental illness. The students struggled with calibrating the message they wanted to send through their architecture to such a population that was likely to feel easily alienated, and the message about the residents they wanted sent back to the mainstream. Design solutions ranged from industrial-vernacular to the highly assertive. In the juries, Director Raley both appreciated and recognized the validity of the various approaches.

In a first for the studio, in keeping with its quest to provide a realistic comprehensive design experience, students worked in teams of three to five during the schematic design phase, with each team having an architectural engineering student on board. What makes for successful teamwork within the architecture profession is not well-researched, but it has been extensively studied within the computer software industry.

To encourage individual accountability within teams as well as daily progress for each team, a technique borrowed from the software development industry, called Agile Development, was employed, which breaks tasks into “sprints” monitored with daily “scrum” meetings. Studio faculty members performed as “scrum masters”—part facilitator, part critic—during this phase. Low-tech sticky notes and white boards charted the progress of each component of each sprint for all to see.

Following the schematic design phase, the students individually worked on a self-chosen piece of the overall project to the required design development degree of completion. To help the faculty improve the team approach in subsequent studios, the students completed questionnaires about their experience at the end of the semester. The faculty and students of the comprehensive studio hope that their work will help the Winds House organization envision its facility of the future when it secures the funding to put its plans into action.

Mike Cohn, Succeeding with Agile: Software Development Using Scrum. Addison-Wesley Professional, 2009.
During the spring semester of second year, students explored a hypothetical but realistic site, providing a local opportunity for architecture and architecture engineering students to design, to engage the community, and to integrate all they are learning with a community they experience every day.

The current vision of the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology (CEAT) provides a unique opportunity for the students to participate in CEAT’s future plan, and the OSU campus in general. There were four parts for the project: site, space, skin and structure. During the first phase, students were charged with designing a gathering space within the site, focused primarily on the design and development of the ground plane.

The project proposed a new CEAT sculptural garden and outdoor assembly space, designing a multi-functional environment for students, alumni, and visitors to experience. For the second phase, students were asked to design the CEAT entry point adjacent to the first phase and to focus on the design and development of the building skin and structure at the corner of Athletic Avenue and Hester.

The project challenged students to design the visitor center, acting as a new face and primary point of interest, surrounded by Engineering South, the Advanced Technology Research Center, the Endeavor Lab, the Spears School of Business, the Student Union, and the School of Architecture. This project was an in-house design competition, judged by department heads of the college.
The Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Cemetery Administration maintains 136 national cemeteries in 40 states, as well as 33 soldier’s lots and monument sites. The state of Oklahoma has two veterans’ cemeteries, one in Oklahoma City and the second in Seminole.

A selfless group of prominent Stillwater citizens, many of whom are US Armed Forces veterans, expressed their intent to seek federal and private funding for the creation of such a cemetery in Stillwater. Oklahoma State Regent for Higher Education Mrs. Lou Watkins, a champion of the project, firmly believes that the creation of a third VA National cemetery in our state would be a great opportunity to further serve the veteran population of Oklahoma. To this end, the Fall second-year design studio was asked to prepare proposals for a National Veterans Cemetery and Chapel, sited on a grassy slope, Jimmy’s Hill, adjacent to Perkins Road in the northern area of Stillwater.

The studio faculty viewed this charge as an opportunity to design a rather complex architectural facility that is both pragmatic and symbolic at the same time. Environmental concerns, accessibility, and materiality impacted the design of the architecture, as well as the site integration. The students were expected to answer many questions and ask a few questions themselves about the nature of this proposed place.

The goals of the project were to develop the students’ problem solving and graphic communication techniques, in addition to introducing the elements of materiality and site development. The project served as a competition, with sponsorship and support from the OSU Vice President of Research and the Stillwater Veteran’s Cemetery stakeholders, and was also sponsored by the ACME Brick Company of Oklahoma.

The project duration was five weeks from inception to presentation and the design proposals are on display in the second floor studio halls of the School of Architecture. Judging of the projects was conducted by Professor Suzanne Bilbeisi, Associate Professor Qing Luo of Landscape Architecture, and architecture alumni Cameron Paterson and Ali Burkman.

Of the sixty-seven students in the class, six projects were recognized by the jury for their overall design of the site and chapel facility, three projects were noted for their use of brick as a material, and three were identified for their graphic presentation quality. Ms. Watkins reviewed the student proposals and shared her feelings upon seeing the student work at the judging announcement during finals week.

“You are only 19 years old yourselves, but you have captured in built form ideas such as honor, reflection, healing, and peace. How is this possible? You have inspired me.”

She hopes to employ the student ideas and images to assist their application for a new Veteran’s Cemetery for Oklahoma.
School News

The Architecture Students Teaching Elementary Kids program (ASTEK), now in its nineteenth consecutive year, continues to be an important service project for our students and the community. This fall, ten classrooms of fifth grade children were engaged with the program including more than 250 children in all.

Thirty-five architecture and architectural engineering students taught the 10 week curriculum on a volunteer basis. It is an entirely student-run program. Not only does ASTEK help young children learn about the impact and importance of the quality of the built environment, but the program also allows current majors to develop their leadership skills along the way.

The Freedom by Design arm of the AIAS was revived this fall through the leadership of a few third year architecture majors. They have several community service projects underway. One of these projects is for an entryway arch and garden at the Rosa Parks Elementary School in Tulsa, which they received an NCARB grant to fund.

Another important project is for the Our Daily Bread organization in Stillwater, which involves a 1,000 square foot garden project designed to educate families about gardening practices and provide the freshest produce possible for those in need. The team is especially excited about this project and plans to continue these projects in the upcoming semester. The experience will provide volunteer and AXP hours for any and all students in the School of Architecture who participate.

This year a travel-study abroad experience is required for all third year students as a condition of graduation. The requirement can be met through a semester-long exchange program or by the summer programs offered annually by our faculty. The planned Summer 2019 travel study programs include Europe: the Civic and the Sacred, and Urban Asia. The Europe course, led by Associate Professors Jerry Stivers and Nathan Richardson will include two weeks in Rome, one week in Paris, and one week in London. The Asia course will be guided by Associate Professor Seung Ra and Adjunct Assistant Professor Sarah Ra and will
include ten days each in Hong Kong, Seoul, and Tokyo.

This year, for the first time ever, the school will offer a travel study opportunity for alumni! Professors Moh and Suzanne Bilbeisi will be leading the program, which will connect with the student program in Paris and London.

Eight hours of HSW learning units will be provided as part of the program instruction—plus sketching with Moh! The dates are June 2nd through June 9th, 2019. If you would like to go to Europe with other OSU alumni and the Bilbeisis, please email Suzanne for more information: suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu.

This year the Caudill Fellowship awardee was Mr. Tim Campbell, who chose to study abroad in Japan for four weeks this past fall. Tim concentrated on visiting and studying the work of Tadao Ando and, in the process, also had the opportunity to experience Japanese culture, food, and city life.

Tim’s route took him through Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Sapporo, and Yokohama— it was an unforgettable experience!

**Faculty News**

While on sabbatical leave during Fall 2018, Dr. Khaled Mansy traveled to Egypt to present “Rules-of-Thumb in Architectural Design: the Use of Evidence-Based Knowledge & Tools in Design” to the Arab Academy of Science and Technology in Cairo on October 17th, 2018.

While abroad, he collected data on electrified off-grid settlements in the remote desert areas in Egypt. Also during his sabbatical leave, Khaled produced a technical guide titled “Performance-Based Comparative Study of Building Orientation and External Shading Devices in the Eight U.S. Climate Zones”, which he will share with the Comprehensive Design Studio starting Spring 2019. The purpose of this technical guide is to help designers make well-informed decisions regarding building form and orientation early during schematic design.

Dr. Tom Spector was also away on sabbatical this fall, where he spent his time as a Columbia Research Scholar in New York City. While there, he finished a five chapter draft of a manuscript on the public good created by
the architecture profession tentatively entitled What Good is Architecture? It has been submitted to a publisher for review. Tom also finished editing volume 4 no. 1 of the journal Architecture Philosophy for publication in early 2019. In addition, he attended a Facade Tectonics Forum, a number of Architecture League of New York events, and held casual gatherings with alumni in New York and New Haven.

We were delighted to see Professor Moh'd Bilbeisi receive recognition as the “Most Admired Educator” in the U.S. by Design Intelligence. Moh’d topped the list of the 25 architectural educators identified in the poll—wow! As part of that same Design Intelligence ranking, the OSU School of Architecture made the list of the “Top 35 Most Admired Undergraduate Architecture Programs,” based upon quality of faculty, culture, facilities, and student preparation for the profession.

OSU’s program was one of a small number of Midwestern programs that made the list—only half of which were public institutions. These recognitions are important to the brand and reputation of the OSU School of Architecture.

This fall the school welcomed two new Assistant Professors to the faculty—Keith Peiffer and Jay Yowell. Keith is a graduate of the Penn State Bachelor of Architecture program and holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Michigan, focused in design research. Keith is a registered architect and LEED accredited professional with more than ten years of experience in the Baltimore firms of Ziger/Snead Architects and Design Collective. Keith is teaching in the second year design studios and will offer a new course this spring entitled “Contemporary Architectural Theory and Criticism.”

Jay Yowell is a 1994 Bachelor of Architecture graduate of OSU, and holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Oklahoma. Jay is a registered architect and LEED accredited professional, who has taught in an adjunct role for twelve years at OU, and for OSU in the 2017-2018 academic year. Jay is the founder and past president of the Oklahoma Architecture League of New York.
Sustainability Network and has served the AIA and the state in various roles centered on the environment and the responsibility of design in the creation of a sustainable world. In the design studio, Jay has been an asset to the first, second, and third year teaching teams in his short time here. He is a natural teacher in the architectural materials course, and last spring offered a unique elective, Biomimicry and Architecture, which was well received by students.

The School of Architecture has benefited from the addition Mrs. Lori Carroll, our new on-site academic advisor for all majors. Lori holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from OU, and just this fall graduated with a Master of Science in Academic Advising from Kansas State University. Lori is a natural fit for the position, with her dual background in the architecture profession and her graduate studies in academic advising and counseling. Lori is now responsible for academically advising all 325 students in the School of Architecture!

Alumni News

We were saddened to learn of the passing of several alumni this summer and fall.

Franklin Lawyer, FAIA (B Arch 1949)

Frank’s journey through architectural education was interrupted by WWII, where he served with the U.S. Army in the European theater of war and earned a Bronze Star for bravery under fire. Upon completion of his degree at OSU in 1949, Frank pursued a Master of Architecture at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He accepted a teaching position at Texas A&M, but moved shortly thereafter to a position with Bill Caudill’s firm in Houston (CRS). Frank worked with CRS from 1952 until 1984, as he retired from the position of Senior Vice President of Design. After his retirement from practice, Frank accepted a position as Visiting Professor of Architecture at King Fahd University in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where he taught until 1991. Franklin Lawyer passed away this month, after a full life of 97 years.

Joe Carmichael, AIA (B Arch 1953)

Joe completed his architectural
education in 1953, but was an officer in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve from 1946-1962. He was a practicing architect in Kansas for more than 50 years, and served on the NCARB special committees as well as on the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions. Joe was a member of the School of Architecture Professional Advisory Council for many years in the 1990’s and remained loyal to OSU throughout his life.

Dick Young, AIA (B Arch 1949, M Arch 1961)

Edmund “DicK” Young was not only a two time graduate of the School of Architecture, but also a part-time faculty member in the 1960’s. Dick left Stillwater in 1970 for a full time teaching position at Iowa State University, although he continued to practice architecture while in academia. He and his wife traveled across the U.S. and Europe, as well as to China, Egypt, and Mexico. He retired from teaching at ISU in 1990.

Sue Mitchell Umezawa, PE (B. Arch Eng 1965)

In 1960, Sue embarked on the path towards becoming an architectural engineer; on the first day of her engineering orientation class, she wrote, “I am best qualified for the engineering function of design. I am reasonably creative, cooperative, and economically minded, and I like to think on paper.” In various capacities throughout her life, this quote remained true to her nature. Her career was invested in the Tulsa District U.S. Corps of Engineers, where she served as Chief of the Management Analysis Branch. In 1992 she was recognized with the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service. She retired in 1993. Sue was a pioneer for the many female engineers in today’s workforce, though she didn’t seek such recognition.

Bryce Weigand, FAIA (B Arch 1971)

Bryce invested his professional career in the Dallas area, where his presence and commitment to the betterment of the community benefited Texas greatly. In 1979 he was part of a group that founded The Architect’s Enclave, which provided support and encouragement to architects in the Dallas area for more than 30 years. Bryce was a principal at Corgan for many years, and then at Good Fulton & Farrell. He was known as a person equally
passionate about design and people in the profession. Bryce was an award winning designer, an exemplary leader at all levels of the AIA, and a distinguished leader in the community. In 2015, Bryce received a TxA Medal for Lifetime Achievement. Bryce also served the School of Architecture for years as a vocal advocate, and was a dedicated member of the Professional Advisory Council.

Alumni Giving

Several alumni answered the call to assist the school in a variety of ways this year. In particular, gifts aimed at travel study during the summer of 2019 are generously provided by Mike and Sharon Damore, Randy and Valda Kreie, Larry and Linda Kester, Briar and Patrick Glenn, Alan Porter, and the Eason Leonard and Ken Koerner estate gifts. If you would like to support student travel study, please contact Professor Bilbeisi to discuss: suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu.

Last year with the passing of Emeritus Professor Bass, two architectural engineering alumni that were very inspired and influenced by Professor Bass provided the foundational gifts for a fund in his honor. This encouraged others to give in his memory, highlighting his 30 year impact on the lives of so many alumni. The new Louis O. Bass Memorial Scholarship will be awarded this spring to the top architectural engineering student entering third year!

Fred Chadsey, Jr (B Arch 1960) recently contacted OSU with the idea of establishing a scholarship endowment as part of his estate plan. Mr. Chadsey enjoyed a long career in architecture; Chadsey Architects had offices in Tulsa and Kansas City where his work was recognized and published. His love of sailing led him to Gulf Shores, AL and upon his retirement he began thinking of ways he might give back to the place where he started on the journey. His trust includes provisions to establish an endowed scholarship directed to third year students with a preference for students active in the Native American Student Association at OSU. Sons Frederick N. Chadsey IV and Stanley W. Chadsey graduated from OSU as did his wife’s children, Paul, Robert, and Stephen Walker.

The Chadsey Family Scholarship Fund, aimed at student retention
and growing our Native American student population, is a wonderful tribute to Mr. Chadsey and his family.

Giving is not limited to those alumni many years after graduation. Cole Griffin (B Arch Eng 2016) and his fiancé Macy Ramsey fully funded a new scholarship this fall, which they have instructed to be awarded to a student in fourth year whose financial need might otherwise require them to work while in school. According to Cole, “My reason for giving back to Oklahoma State so soon after graduating is two-fold. First, and most importantly, I believe in helping others and trying to leave a lasting, positive impact on everyone that I meet. Second, both Macy and I were fortunate to receive scholarships to Oklahoma State and that quite literally changed our entire lives.” Cole and Macy will be married next summer, another match made at the School of Architecture Building.

Future News

Please let us know what is happening in your part of the world. We’re always glad to hear of new projects, promotions, and recognition.

Please also consider supporting the OSU School of Architecture with a financial gift. Follow up at the OSU Foundation website, www.OSUGiving.com, and be sure to search ‘Architecture’ in order to find our many funding initiatives: scholarships, study-abroad, and other programs that need your support. Feel free to email suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu with any other questions, news, or comments. Thanks!