

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



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.

*Reflections
Vol. VII Fall 2020*



REFLECTIONS

Hello!

We hope you are safe and well. It is my pleasure to bring this edition of the *Reflections* newsletter to you. In our daily life that has become incredibly reliant on technology to connect with one another, our goal for this issue is to communicate our focus on our people. Students and faculty remain the most important part of the equation of the daily experience at the School of Architecture. While 2020 was certainly a unique experience for the entire world, I am relieved to share that at OSU we successfully made it through these difficult times because we can and do depend upon one another.

Alumni relationships are also vital to our health as a school. Although we were unable to hold in-person alumni gatherings, we did see each other virtually from time to time, and we developed a better strategy to communicate with you via email with our monthly news briefs. In letters, calls, emails, and zooms I also often learned of alumni collaborating with one another in the professional world - indeed, the connections formed in our school run deep.

Enjoy the articles and information 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
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Website: <https://arch-ceat.okstate.edu/>

Facebook: [Oklahoma State University School of Architecture](#)

Instagram: [@OkStateArch](#)

Twitter: [@OkStateArch](#)

◀ The new outdoor teaching space on our North Plaza

◀ (previous page) A smoke alarm provided us the opportunity to enjoy some beautiful Fall weather!

LESSONS LEARNED

While the spring semester of 2020 ended in an unexpected way, we were gifted the summer to prepare as much as we could for a new academic year that began in August. The six foot circle became a classroom planning nightmare, class schedules were rearranged for the new seating capacities, and our lasers hummed cutting plexiglass shields. We did our best to anticipate how teaching and learning could be adapted with the new norms of facemask and social distancing, and fourteen weeks of in-person instruction later we can now take a moment to ask - what did we learn?

We learned that both teaching and designing architecture are dependent upon communication - verbal and graphic - that are hindered by distance. Lecturing with a facemask on, behind a plexiglass shield, to students twelve to forty feet away... was exhausting. Every lecture was required to be livestreamed to an audience watching on Zoom. Faculty had to learn many new technologies, so that we could star in, edit, produce, and upload each lecture video to the OSU digital learning platform. We've had to learn to communicate with students using Slack, Discord, and GroupMe (students don't necessarily look at email in a timely fashion!). We found that critiquing design work through a digital interface can work, using zoom with screen share was one way that faculty could see and mark up student work in progress. It all took much more time, however, than simply pulling a chair up to a student's desk and deploying a thick black marker.

At the start of the semester, we encouraged students to adopt a work from home set-up and use their desk in the studio primarily during official class hours. This was an initial effort to reduce transmission; we made the difficult decision to allow students access to the studios and classrooms from 8am-8pm only. Second year students however, many of whom live in the dorms, found they needed more time at their studio workspace to build the physical models required of that curriculum. After eight weeks had passed, the building access hours were extended to midnight. At 1am every day, the common spaces within the building were sprayed to disinfect.





To control instances of potential spread of the virus, students were required to stay home if they felt ill or had been exposed. Faculty were not allowed to ask for proof of illness or of the need to quarantine, and thus deadlines were typically soft. We were required to create seating charts for every class so that contact tracing could occur, but with the reality of every student at OSU attending five different classes each week with different groups of people, it soon became apparent that the tracing effort was simply not possible. On top of everything, we survived an ice storm in October that caused major power outages across the state, and closed OSU for two days.

On the bright side, design reviews of student work involving architects from all over the planet – South Korea, Germany, Italy, NYC, LA, Seattle, Dallas, etc. were suddenly made possible. We also found that demonstrations of either hand techniques or software tutorials are more easily viewed through the Zoom interface. This required reliance on virtual technology brought some new capabilities to our teaching! And moving forward, will potentially change how we deliver aspects of our curriculum for the foreseeable future.

Overall we found that upper level students who understand the workflow required in architecture school fared perhaps better than the younger students; in fact one fifth year student remarked that she's never gotten so much work done and so much sleep in any previous semester! We made frequent use of all of our outdoor teaching spaces in the north and south plazas surrounding the Architecture Building, where we could eat and talk if spaced out sufficiently. And one final positive - with the neighboring School of Business faculty and students predominantly using the online format for coursework, finding parking on campus had never been easier.

For the spring 2021 semester we are advised to expect more of the same. The start date has been pushed to January 19, and spring break has been eliminated - much to the chagrin of the students. Like everyone else, we will approach this continuing experiment with grit and a bit of grace. Our faculty and students will continue to accomplish the necessary work even in these unique circumstances, by drawing out the best in one another.



ARCHITECTURE
FUND



ARCHITECTURE
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND



GIVING TO OUR SCHOOL

If you've ever eaten a slice of pizza at a student event at the School of Architecture that you didn't pay for, it's very likely you have benefitted from the **Architecture Fund**. This general fund provides for all kinds of enhancements of the student experience, which combine to create the sense of community that we all know and remember fondly from our time here as students. From the Architecture Fund, we purchase food for student events, secure bus travel for field trips, pay entry fees so our students can compete in design competitions, and every semester provide graduation receptions for our newest grads. Student organizations also benefit from the Architecture Fund; for example, with financial assistance for travel to national conferences, to buy materials for community service projects, or compete in their organization's student design competitions. No doubt the **Architecture Fund** enhanced your college experience at the School of Architecture; if you are able, perhaps you can give back to offer the next generation this kind of high quality experience too? Thank you!

Most internships were canceled for the summer 2020, and as a result several students have experienced subsequent financial distress. To address these concerns, the School of Architecture plans to offer mid-year scholarships to students with financial need. Additionally, we plan to offer ten freshmen students a stipend to offset the cost of equipment and supplies for Design Studio I (today, the initial costs of Studio I are \$1000). If you would like to help current students with a donation to either of these internal assistance programs, please contribute to the **Architecture Scholarship Fund!** Thank you!

A final note about charitable giving, the CARES Act has been designed to maximize assistance while providing a tax benefit to the donor, for gifts given through December 31, 2020. The specific attributes of the CARES Act are that it allows for personal cash charitable gifts to be 100% deductible up to 100% of the donor's adjusted gross income (the normal limit is 60% AGI). For non-itemizers, there is a \$300 above-the-line deduction for cash gifts to charity. A required minimum distribution (RMD) is not required for 2020. And if the donor is over 70½, they can write off up to 100% of their AGI through a Charitable Rollover (QCD) of up to \$100,000 in 2020. For more information, please email our liaison Jill Johnson of the OSU Foundation (jjohnson@osugiving.com). Thank you!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

At the university we have many named buildings all over campus, and now we are seeing named lobbies, conferences rooms, etc. Everyone understands that a donor, with a significant donation, is provided the opportunity to put their name on something. Sometimes the names are on something very large, like an entire building (ie. Donald W. Reynolds School of Architecture Building, the Jack and Carol Corgan Auditorium), but more often a name is on a particular fund. To secure this naming opportunity, the donors must fund an endowment.

You may wonder, what is an endowment, and how does it help the School of Architecture? An endowment is a gift of at least \$25,000 that supports the school according to the donor's wishes, in perpetuity. An endowment provides a guaranteed return of 4.5% annually, without ever diminishing the initial gift. It can be named after the donor, or in honor of someone else, depending on the donor's wishes. The School of Architecture has endowments in place for scholarships honoring past professors (for example, the Louis O. Bass Fund, the John H. Bryant Fund, etc), or named for the donors themselves. Other endowments support faculty development, the Architecture Building facility, or provide general program support.

As previously described, the Architecture Fund and the Architecture Scholarship Fund are cash funds in which the donors contributions, of any scale, can make an immediate impact. All of these types of support are of great importance in the daily life of students and faculty, enriching the experience for all while helping us deliver the best student experience possible.



OUR 2020 DONORS

This year the School of Architecture received generous gifts from the following alumni:

\$20,000+

Fred & Linda Chadsey
Larry & Linda Kester
Duane & Robin Mass

\$10,000-\$19,999

Jerry & Renee Conduff
Mike & Sharon Damore
Neal Jones & Eddie Jones
Randy & Valda Kreie

\$5,000-\$9,999

Suzanne & Moh'd Bilbeisi
Suzanne & Dallas Branch
Ken & Katherine Corbin
Briar & Patrick Glenn

\$1,000-\$4,999

Ed & Lauren Bond
Gene & Kari Brown
Thom & Leslie Campbell
Susan & Dan Evans
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And Planned Estate Gifts from:
Fred & Linda Chadsey
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Corporate Sponsors included:

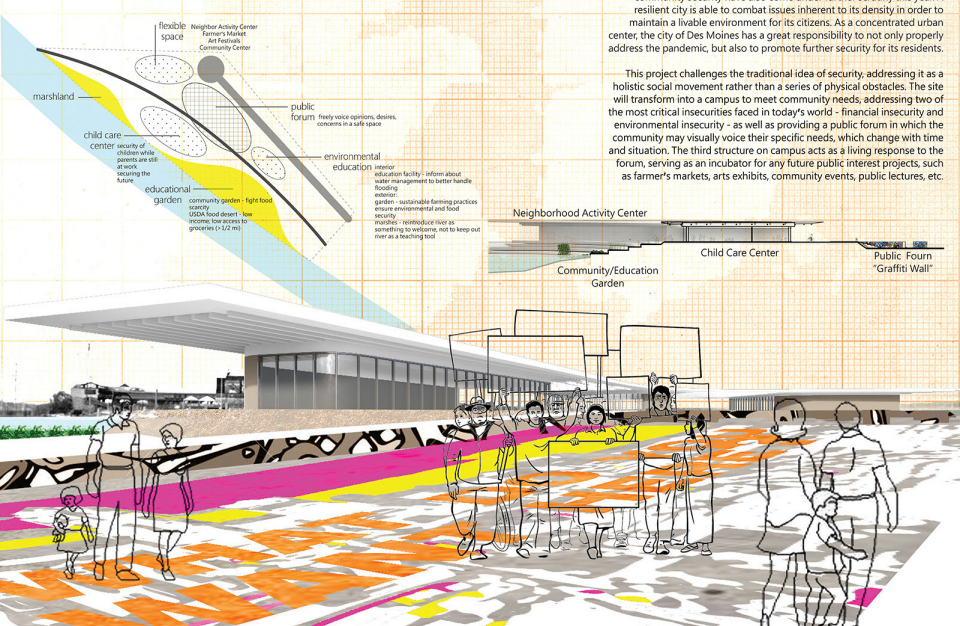
ACME Brick
AIA Oklahoma
AIA Central States Region
Architects Collective
Conoco Phillips
Cyntergy
DiMella Shaffer Architects
DLR Group
FSB
GH2
Glenn Partners
Illuminating Engineering Society
KFC Engineering
KKT
LMN Architects
Nike
OK Structural Engineering Assoc.
SelserShaefer Architects
Studio Architecture
US Stone
WW Steel

Many other alumni contributed to a fund of their choice this past year, and we are grateful for those thoughtful gifts as well. It takes many of us pulling in the same direction to achieve the special sense of community that we have at the School of Architecture!

Thank you to all who recognize the value of their degree and the resultant prosperity their education from OSU has afforded them.

VOICE

"Right of expression; opinion openly expressed"



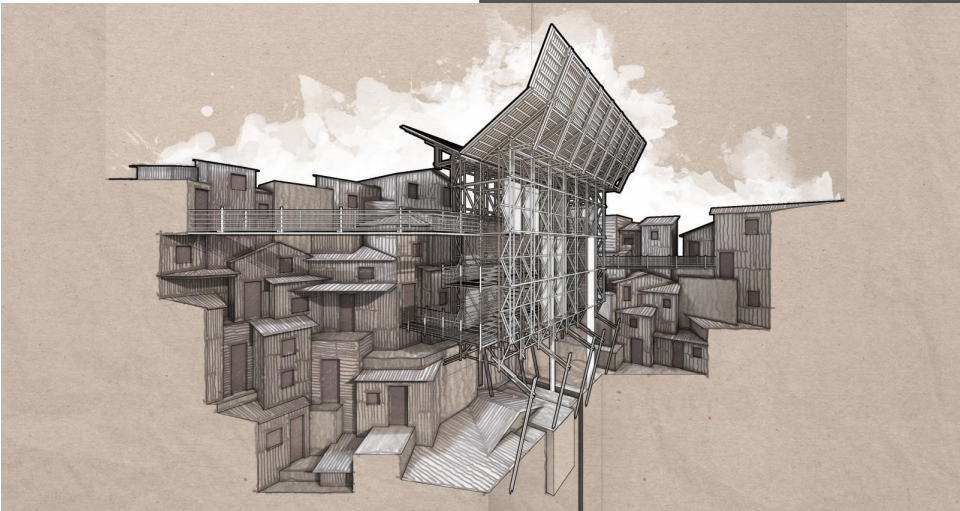
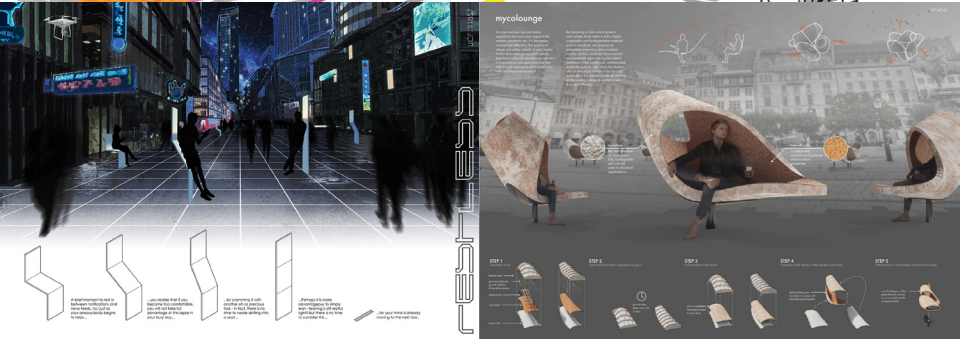
As 2020 continues to unfold, current events have caused every society to contemplate its own security. Coronavirus has created a unique risk to physical and financial safety recently, and environmental security and community security have also come under further scrutiny this year. A resilient city is able to combat issues inherent to its density in order to maintain a livable environment for its citizens. As a concentrated urban center, the city of Des Moines has a great responsibility to not only properly address the pandemic, but also to promote further security for its residents.

This project challenges the traditional idea of security, addressing it as a holistic social movement rather than a series of physical obstacles. The site will transform into a campus to meet community needs, addressing two of the most critical insecurities faced in today's world - financial insecurity and environmental insecurity - as well as providing a public forum in which the community may visually voice their specific needs, which change with time and situation. The third structure on campus acts as a living response to the forum, serving as an incubator for any future public interest projects, such as farmer's markets, arts exhibits, community events, public lectures, etc.

FOR THE WIN

Nathan Richardson Associate Professor of Architecture
Seung Ra Associate Professor of Architecture

In addition to one of the most unusual capstone experiences in recent memory, this graduating class will take with them a host of awards and recognition for their creative work in the fifth year urban design studio. Month by month, work was submitted and the awards soon followed. In September, two teams finished in the top three spots of the AIA Central States Region Student Design Competition, a 12-hour competition for a proposal along the riverfront in downtown Des Moines, Iowa. Twelve teams representing architecture programs in the Central States Region (up to two teams per school) participated in the virtual event. Each ARCH 5117 faculty member mentored a team of four students; the teams were equally competitive against one another! Placing two teams in the top three of this regional design competition was fantastic recognition for these students, the urban studio, and the School of Architecture at OSU. In October, four teams from the studio finished in the top 25 spots in an international urban chair competition. The competition was truly international, with noted entries from India, the UK, Argentina, the US, and many other countries. The four teams that made it into the top 25 had proposals titled *Restless* (for an Honorable Mention), *Sit/Stack/Play*, *Community Cubes*, and *Mycolounge*. In November, three students received recognition for the work they submitted to the AIA Dallas KRob Architectural Delineation Competition. It was an incredible honor to have three students from our school recognized in this international drawing and representation competition. One student won a Juror Citation in the student digital/mixed category, two others were were Finalists in the same category.*



The studio will soon award its annual in-house Baumiller Prize for outstanding work in urban design and eagerly awaits results from two additional international urban design competitions. Regardless of the outcome in those venues, the urban design studio has much success to take pride in. More than half of the students this semester were recognized as finalists or placed in regional and/or international design competitions! This is a remarkable accomplishment, and something for the School of Architecture and our alumni to celebrate.

*See page 40 for the full list of students whose competition work received note.
 ◀ (top to bottom, left to right): AIA Central States Student Design Competition entry, 3rd Place; International Urban Chair Competition entries 'Restless' (HM) and 'Mycolounge' (Top 25); AIA Dallas K Rob Delineation Competition, Finalist.

THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE LEARNING

Every year School of Architecture graduates choose to continue learning in an advanced area related to the profession. Currently, on the East Coast there are three OSU graduates at the Harvard GSD: Bailey Brown ('16), Blake Mitchell ('16), and Craig Borkenhagen ('14). Bailey is taking on a dual degree - Master in Design Studies with a concentration in History and Philosophy of Design and Media, and Master of Architecture II. Her research areas span from early design education at the university level to theory of architectural texts. Blake is working through the Master of Design Studies program; his interest area is the intersection of history of architecture, landscape, and urbanization in the 20th century US. His coursework includes the Aesthetic History and Theory in the English Language, History and Textuality of Landscape, and Critical Urban Theory. Craig is in the Master of Architecture in Urban Design program. His research interests in the design studios have centered on the different issues surrounding rural and urban housing; he is currently studying rapid transit and its potential impact on the urban milieu in OKC.

Another group of recent graduates went west: Christy Yu ('20) is at Sci-Arc, Esteban Ley ('20) is attending UC Berkeley, and Joshua Shen ('20) is taking classes with UCLA. Christy's first semester studies have focused on mastering advanced modeling techniques through the digital sculpting tools of Maya and Zbrush. A primary focus in Christy's studies has been investigating the role of familiar objects to the human experience and altering our relation to them through 2d and 3d abstraction at the architectural scale. Joshua is attending UCLA remotely while living in Dallas. He is enrolled in the



entertainment studio which focuses on visualization; he is working on a team project to make a short film. His teammates are also in locations around the world, and they communicate via digital means. Esteban is in the Master of Advanced Architecture Design program, where he is currently pursuing research in the 3d printing of ceramic and mud architecture while developing resilient architectural and ecological systems at the wildlife urban interface to combat local fire disaster throughout California and provide a new vision for single and multi-family housing.

Madeline Maker ('18) is pursuing advanced studies abroad, in the UK. She is in her final year of a Master of Architecture in Bio-Integrated Design at the UCL Bartlett School of Architecture; her thesis is focused on the design of tessellated ceramic units for bio-colonization, specifically examining vascular species.

Many AE grads are also pursuing advanced studies. Kennedy Stephens ('20) is currently a full time student pursuing a Master of Structural Engineering with University of Texas at Austin. Kennedy received the \$10,000 Thornton Tomasetti Fellowship to pursue her advanced education. Her online courses at UT this semester include Advanced Structural Metals and Advanced Concrete Members, in particular examining the reasoning of the AISC and ACI. Abigail Brandvold ('20) is working full time in Dallas, but taking Master of Science in Civil Engineering coursework with the University of Missouri online. In a similar vein, Meredith Crouch ('20) is working full time in Detroit while a student in the Master of Science Civil Engineering online program with Lawrence Technical Institute. She shared that her preparation at OSU has served well, both in understanding the AE principles under advanced study as well as the architecture presentation skills gained in our program which aid in the communication of her work. Closer to home, Jenna (Harbert) Bennett ('20) is working full time and pursuing a Master of Civil Engineering degree at OSU. In an Advanced Strengths of Materials course she is researching how high strength steel, in concrete, reacts under the extreme high temperatures of fire.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our graduates in their advanced studies, and happy for them to spread the OSU brand to other respected academic institutions, near and far!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Architecture programs across the country have been asked to consider how best to prepare future generations of professionals to work with diverse communities. Simultaneously, schools have also been asked what can be done to further diversify the cadre of students in pursuit of an architecture degree (or AE degree, in our case). At OSU, this conversation began this summer when a core group of students and alumni urged us to critically examine what we could and should do better at the School of Architecture. This kicked off a series of meetings involving the faculty, our DEI committee, student liaisons, the student Architecture Leadership Council, and the Professional Advisory Boards. The process evolved through research, discussion, and collaboration to develop a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan unique to the OSU School of Architecture.

The goals of the plan fit into four broad categories: Student Goals, Faculty Goals, Teaching and Curriculum Goals, and Enrichment and Outreach Goals. Under the umbrella of each category are distinctly articulated points and related metrics for success. For example, in the area of Student Goals, there are goals for recruitment and diversifying the population of entering students. Essentially, our goal is to reflect the demographics of the pool from which we draw students. Proactive metrics include interacting with schools that are more diverse, and could include the involvement of alumni to serve as ambassadors for OSU Architecture in events with K-12 students. Yes, an opportunity to wear an orange shirt! And we have ASTEK curriculum materials on our website available for use! A major goal for retention of students includes building our scholarship resources to mitigate financial barriers for underrepresented student groups. At OSU we cannot award scholarships through state allocations - every scholarship awarded is the result of an alumni donation.

The School's DEI Plan is in final stages of approval through OSU administrative channels now, and will soon be accessible on our website. If you would like to know more, or if you are interested in contributing to our Scholarship Fund to assist students of underrepresented groups in their pursuit of an education, please email Suzanne Bilbeisi, Chair of the DEI Committee.

► Students review a display of diverse architects and their work, the result of a new ARCH 5193 Practice Management assignment.



HOW'S THE MARKET?

Tom Spector Professor of Architecture

The fifth year students begin their Arch 5193 Practice Management course with a market research project, the topic of which is initiated by the students themselves. What do students who are getting ready to enter the profession want to know? Take a look.

Some students, justifiably, wanted to make some determination of the likely rebound from the COVID employment slump. Jacob Bullard wanted to see if and by how much the COVID pandemic had affected the Texas housing market. Compared to the US as a whole, Texas has fared much better. The Austin and Houston markets are the strongest in the state. James Berndt was also interested in comparing the response of the Texas and Colorado construction economies to COVID. To evaluate the rebound, he looked at downstream occupations and upstream occupations' trends. By comparing employment in upstream fields such as engineering, and downstream fields such as construction in both states, he found that Texas is on track for architectural employment to recover more quickly than Colorado.

Some students used data on demographic change to forecast opportunities. Maya Thompson wanted to determine which city, New York, Boston or San Francisco, had the greatest potential for adaptive reuse of existing buildings. Maya used the 2010 census and the 2020 population growth projections to find the rate of population growth in each city. She then contrasted these rates of growth against the projected rates of growth in housing to determine which city had the greatest pent-up demand for additional housing. She hypothesized that this pent-up demand would result in better opportunities for adaptive reuse. San Francisco is the city projected from this data to have the worst housing crunch, and therefore the greatest opportunities. Alexis Severson was also interested in professional opportunity due to pure demographic changes. She looked at the population growth in all 50 states between 2010 and 2019 and the change in the number of registered architects during the same period. She then took the top five states in both categories to compare. She found Texas to have the greatest number of opportunities for new architects to enter the workforce based on the ratio between population change and the number of architects per

capita. Within Texas, San Antonio was projected to be the best place for job prospects with a low cost of living compared to other metro areas and high population growth. Dallin Reese's approach was somewhat different and came to different conclusions. She also wanted to know which state provides the most promise for a new architect. She took population growth figures from all 50 states and contrasted them with the number of architects per capita in each state. Though Idaho will have the highest growth rate, Colorado's growth per licensed architect is projected to be over 6x higher than Idaho's, making it an attractive place to relocate to for the long haul. Instead of looking at growth in population, Melissa Russell looked at growth in architectural services by investigating the viability of specializing in smart materials in the market for architectural services. She found that the growth in billings for integrating architecture with smart materials far outstrips the growth in overall architectural services, with over 10% annual growth versus 1 or 2% for traditional services, making it a good candidate for specialization and market segmentation.

The market growth of green design trends, clean energy and LEED occupied several students' research. Katrina Klempa sought to determine the state with the largest growth in the wind power market. It turns out that not only is Texas the first state to cross the 10K megawatt wind capacity mark, it continues to outstrip every other state in new wind power generation. Nationally, the cost of wind power fell below that of natural gas generation around 2012 and continues to fall. Sidney Curtsinger asked what additional credential beyond licensure would help set a young architect apart and by how much in both Texas and Oklahoma, as compared to the overall US. To do this, she compared LEED, WELL and Passive House credentialed professionals and production of credentialed projects. Texas has over twice as many LEED projects per licensed architect than the national average, making LEED and Texas a good match.

If there is a practice related research topic you are interested in sharing with next year's class, please reach out to Dr. Spector (Tom.Spector@okstate.edu) to discuss!



A 3D SCAN OF DWR

The concept for the renovation/expansion of the Architecture Building ten years ago was to create a facility that would assist in our day to day teaching of architecture. This summer we invested in a 3D point cloud scan of the entire building, so that the information could be utilized by students in various ways and in various projects in our studios, both technical and theoretical. This Fall, the third year studio did such a project, utilizing this scan to create visualizations documenting an ephemeral quality or subjective experience of the architecture building (see pages 22-23).

The 3D Scan was created by Greenlight 360, a company owned by Andrew Brister ('05). www.greenlight-360.com

SEEN AND UNSEEN

Jerry Stivers Associate Professor of Architecture
Keith Peiffer Assistant Professor of Architecture

For the first project in the third year studio this semester, students were asked to build on typical modes of site analysis (figure ground studies, sun angles, etc.) by focusing their attention on the experience of a specific building site. Rather than general, objective site conditions, the students explored more subjective qualities like individual point of view and ephemeral conditions that may be missed in a typical site analysis.

Students selected one of two well-known sites that they have direct access to: the Donald W. Reynolds Architecture Building or the Edmon Low Library. They were then encouraged to allow the project to emerge out of their investigation by focusing on the objectives of the current phase without jumping ahead to anticipate how the current phase may impact future phases.

The two-week project featured three distinct phases:

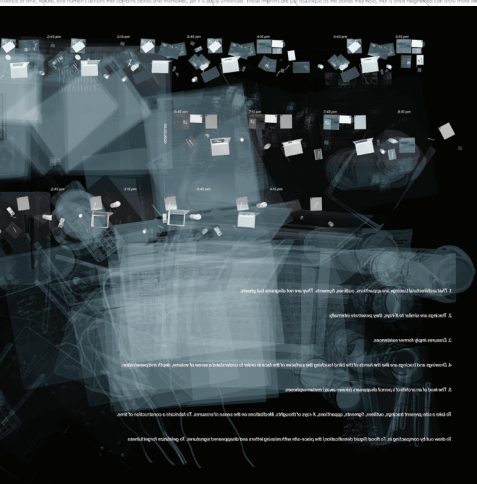
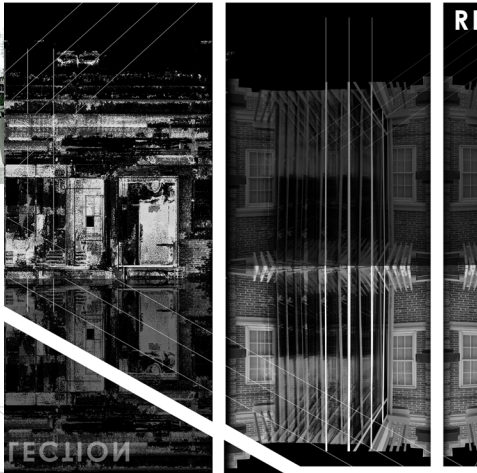
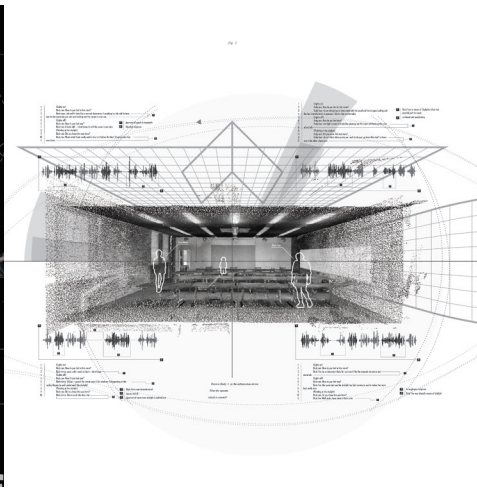
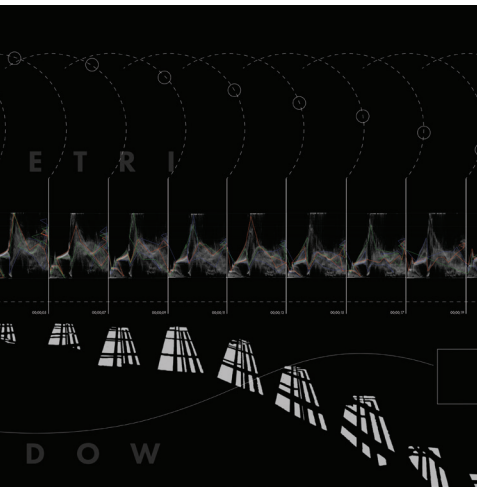
Identification: of an intangible or latent quality of the site to explore further. Some examples included signs of weathering of a material, how light interacted with a surface or opening, and patterns of use.

Collection: of data about the condition identified. Data was interpreted broadly and could be qualitative or quantifiable, impressionistic or measurable. Students considered how to “measure” or document the condition and identified material and spatial qualities of the condition.

Intervention: within the condition they identified and collected data about. The range of approaches included augmenting, diminishing, correcting, highlighting, measuring, subverting, etc. what is already there.

The project culminated in a graphic representation that synthesized the investigation and intervention within the chosen condition. Students were encouraged to explore non-traditional forms of representation and mixed media, using the tools of architectural drawing to vividly explore their condition. Through the projects, students learned new graphic techniques and gained an attuned sensitivity for experience to be used in subsequent work in the design studios of professional school.

◀ Digital images crafted by fall semester third-year studio students.



A FAMILY AFFAIR*

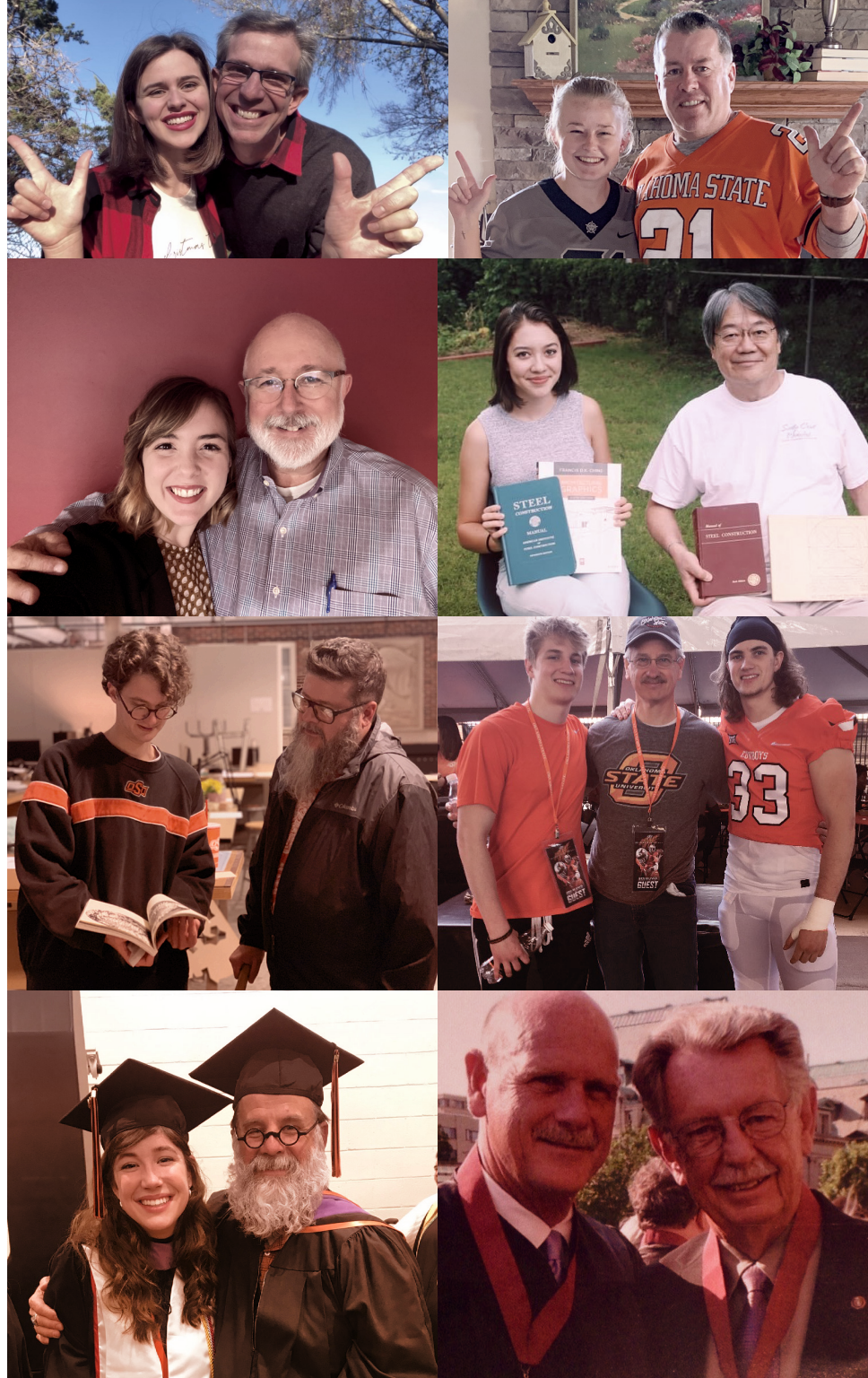
The School of Architecture has long enjoyed a unique phenomenon at graduations - when graduates of our program stand next to their daughter or son who is a newly minted graduate themselves. Interestingly, over the years several children of alumni faculty have also proven that what's good for dad is good for the next generation too. Professors Knight ('62), Wright ('62), Bass ('64), Williams ('82) and Stivers ('85) have all enjoyed a special bond with their architect or AE graduate - Chuck ('86), Michael ('03), Delea ('91), Sara ('14), and Julie ('19) respectively.

More graduates who have raised another graduate include Merv and Kevin Snowden ('64, '90); Norman and Craig Foster ('62, '91); Jim and Jim Jr. Bruza ('61, '86); Steve and Eric Vogt ('75, '03); Tom and Kate Wallace ('80, '15); John and Audrey Merz ('92, '18); and Nancy and David Davis ('93 classmates) and their daughter Natalie ('19). Sibling graduates have also formed special family bonds: Eddie and Neal Jones ('73, '77), John and Andrew Shannon ('92, '99), Lauren and Evan McQuillen ('04, '15), and brothers Gabe and Zac ('04) who followed in the footsteps of their father Rick Braselton ('77). In a unique twist, one son graduated before his mother - Clint and Glenda Watkins ('93, '01). If we explored family trees a bit further, there is no doubt we'd find nieces/nephews, and cousins with shared ties to the OSU School of Architecture.

Today, the School is home to NINE children of graduates, in progress towards their degree! Wow! We appreciate all graduates who send their family member to us, to create their own OSU School of Architecture memories and future in this profession.

Notes Tom Wallace, "The OSU School of Architecture provided me with the experiences and intellectual tools to hit the ground running when I graduated. As an AE, I learned many things about architectural design concepts, architectural history and how to work with future architects that I do not think I would have learned anywhere else. My daughter, Kate, decided she wanted to become an architect at age 10. When we researched schools of architecture, I was happy that she chose OSU. Why not send your kid to the best school of architecture?"

- ▶ Rows 1-3: Current students of the SoA, pictured with their alumnus dad; Top: Blatts, Campbells, Middle: Roses, Yens; Lower: Morgans, Haymakers.
- ▶ Row 4: Graduates Julie and Jerry Stivers; Chuck and Jim Knight (both FAIA!)



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Erin Yen Bachelor of Architecture Fall 2020

When I began architecture school 4 ½ years ago, I thought I was prepared. I had been afforded many privileges when it came to my education, and I felt supremely comfortable in academics. I knew architecture was a challenging path, but I was certain that *I* could handle it (a bit like Icarus, flying into the sun). Now, looking back, I do not actually remember the specifics of my good or bad grades, aced or failed tests, negative or positive juror comments. I do, however, remember a few moments very distinctly: On a first year project, I received a faulty print from Staples. I was devastated – I was sure I was going to fail the entire project. The girl who sat next to me, to whom I had spoken to twice, grabbed my arm and pulled me over to Moh'd. She said “they misprinted her project. I am going to drive her to Staples to fix it. We'll be back.” She then scolded the manager of the store until he agreed to reprint my project free of charge. During the Bridge model project, I cut the tip of my finger off with an Xacto knife at 3am. Another friend drove me to the ER, and we came back to clean up the mess I had made from bleeding. An engineering student I hardly knew had already cleaned and disinfected everything for me, without saying a word. On top of the intellectual challenges, all of us have experienced similar instances of the physical and emotional strain of architecture school. By third year, I was reaching my breaking point. A fifth-year girl made a point to suggest that I needed to spend a little less time in studio. She invited me to go to yoga with her one evening, a stress-relief activity which I have continued to this day. Later that year, one of my professors pulled me aside and gently told me “you can't be everything to everyone.” It was a simple statement, and probably obvious – but I needed to hear it.

At the beginning, I thought I had to do it all. I was wrong. Good architecture is not about a single brilliant idea from a sole genius. Good architecture is built on community and collaboration. It comes through acknowledging your own limitations and recognizing others' capabilities. It is asking for, accepting, and giving help all the time. The School of Architecture definitely showed me how to push myself – but, more importantly, it gave me a community to call my own.

Erin Yen was selected as a Senior of Significance at OSU, and is the “orange robe” graduate of CEAT. Congratulations, Erin!

◀ Team Plaid's 2018 canopy construction over the entry to the Jack and Carol Corgan Auditorium. Team, left to right: Ben Snyder, Jacob Bullard, Erin, Trent Loomis, Sidney Curtsinger, Dallin Reese.



A FALSE START

Scott Cornelius Bachelor of Architecture Spring 2021

I'd love to be able to say that I knew I wanted to be an architect since the moment I picked up my first Lego at the age of five like so many of my classmates, but my journey to architecture school started in a much different way. When I arrived on campus in the summer of 2016 I was a small town kid from Texas who was lucky enough to have gotten a leadership scholarship, and I was a mechanical engineering major. After graduating from high school I was so ready to move out of my home town and into the next phase of my life that I signed up for a three-week long engineering prep program that began just before the semester started - the CEAT Summer Bridge Program. Looking back I can see how fortunate it was that I chose to come to OSU, that I participated in the Summer Bridge Program, and that in it we were given a tour of the School of Architecture by Professor Moh Bilbeisi. After that tour half the students in the program were joking that they were about to switch to architecture, but I'm sure now that I was the only one who meant it. So it was that my journey into the world of architecture and design began with me running into my academic advisor's office at 4:55pm on the Friday before classes began to ask how to change my major. To Architecture!

From there I began a journey we're all pretty familiar with, from hating my first architectural lettering assignment, to studying abroad in Europe, to finding myself working on my last project of my final studio. One of the many things the School of Architecture does well is helping students to find their niche, and I have found that mine is in organizational leadership, governance and education. I owe much of my beginning on that path to Kelly Brown (17), who told me at the end of her tenure as president of our AIAS chapter that I might make a good Social Chair. That one casual shoulder-tap led me to my first AIAS conference in Austin, to running for Vice President and then President of our AIAS chapter, and then President of our chapter of CSI. I'm currently sitting on the national AIAS Board of Directors as the South Quad Director, and I'm more in love than ever with the world of design and the belief that designers can change the world not just with what they create, but in the way they go about creating it.

To "pay it forward," Scott Cornelius has served as camp counselor for Discover Architecture for two summers, and for CEAT Summer Bridge for three summers; he has already impacted hundreds of students!

► Scott tests a paper chair designed by DA students in 2018. He did not remain seated long.



CHANGE

Jacey Watson Third Year Architecture major

One word that sums up my experience here at the school is change. Not only because of the new world of COVID, but change in my personal and professional life. I have learned so much and made friendships that will last a lifetime; memories that I will never forget. The study sessions, debates, and most recently a post-it note meme wall for our third year studio Professor Peiffer... these are some of my favorite snapshots! The most remarkable thing that I have experienced in the school are the connections that the professors and students share. The dedication and time invested in my education has allowed me to achieve things that I never thought were possible. The leadership roles that the school offers have also positively impacted my personal and professional growth. I am currently a TA for Professor Bilbeisi's Intro to Architecture course, an Ambassador for the School, Secretary of NOMAS, participating in research, and entering competitions on the side! These leadership roles have allowed me to learn from students by interacting and collaborating with first through fifth year peers.

I run a tight ship, but I always carve out time for therapeutic sketching. Sketching is a skill that I was unaware of prior to entering the program, but it has become something that I now utilize and practice everyday! Relaxation from work looks a lot like late night Netflix movies and 11 o'clock Whataburger runs, safely of course. In COVID, mandatory masks and directed circulation paths were a curveball but not a hindrance. Online crits have been adapted since spring of 2020, but I still prefer a classic pin up. One thing that I will miss due to COVID are the traveling opportunities that the school offers. I travelled to Egypt over the 2019-2020 winter intersession break with a CEAT Study Abroad program led by Professors Mansy and Moh Bilbeisi, and that study abroad changed my perspective on what architecture can do for a community. On the flip side, I have been grateful for our recent studio projects to be based in Oklahoma; in Stillwater, Hennessey, and Guthrie. The local nature of the projects has given me the opportunity to put myself in the community and interact with the people who we were designing for, something very beneficial in design. The school has changed my perspective in many ways and has given me the confidence to experiment through design - but I've learned that it starts with embracing change!

► Jacey Watson, bottom left, with her studio classmates celebrating Chinese New Year



NEWS

School News

In late Fall we learned that the Architecture Building Gallery renovation project, designed by Rand Elliott Architects and constructed last year, was awarded a Citation in the AIA Oklahoma Design Awards! The solution provides elegant white display surfaces on the east and west edges of the space, while opening the gallery to the entry lobby to the south and to the exterior space of the north plaza. The new walls are supported by an 8' tall steel truss, hung on the existing columns. The walls are lit along the bottom edge, which provides an ethereal feeling. Additionally, the renovation allowed for concealed storage for gallery support items, and an increase in sound absorptive qualities of the space.

For the Fall semester, the gallery took on the role of a socially distanced classroom, becoming the largest space in the building to deliver an in-person lecture with 52 moveable Steelcase tablet arm seats. We look forward to restoring the space to its intended purpose... soon!

The OSU chapter of AIAS successfully secured the bid last year to be the 2020 host for the AIAS South Quad Conference.

Of course the conference was mandated to be virtual, but was facilitated with the assistance of the national AIAS web conference platforms. A core of about a dozen AIAS members here successfully planned and executed the virtual conference in November. The schedule included presentations on Oklahoma architecture, skills workshops, and social events - all online. More than eighty students from schools across the region participated in the conference.

Earlier in the fall 2020 semester the AIAS arranged the first ever Virtual Firm Crawl with alumni in Seattle, Dallas, San Antonio, Kansas City, Chicago, and Tulsa. In many cases the alumni had to obtain special permission to enter their offices, where they could walk students around virtually, and then address Q&A. Alumni participating as tour guides were Sarah Holstedt ('06), Scott Goodner ('08), Morgan Brun ('16), Gabe Braselton ('04), Mara Braselton ('04), Sean Miller ('14), Cameron Patterson ('17), Alisha Burkman ('17), Steven Blair ('10), Marcos Zamora ('01), Ricardo Montoya ('12), and Shayna Borgfeld ('17). Thank you alumni, for offering an inside look into your corner of the profession!



In the Fall 2020 semester there were several sponsored student design competitions in the second, third, and fifth year studios. We thank WW Steel for helping us recognize outstanding work in the third year studio, and ACME Brick for sponsoring a prize for second year student work. Annually, the Baumiller Prize recognizes outstanding urban design work in the fifth year studio. These design competition sponsorships help us promote the competitive spirit in the studio. A big THANK YOU to our sponsors!

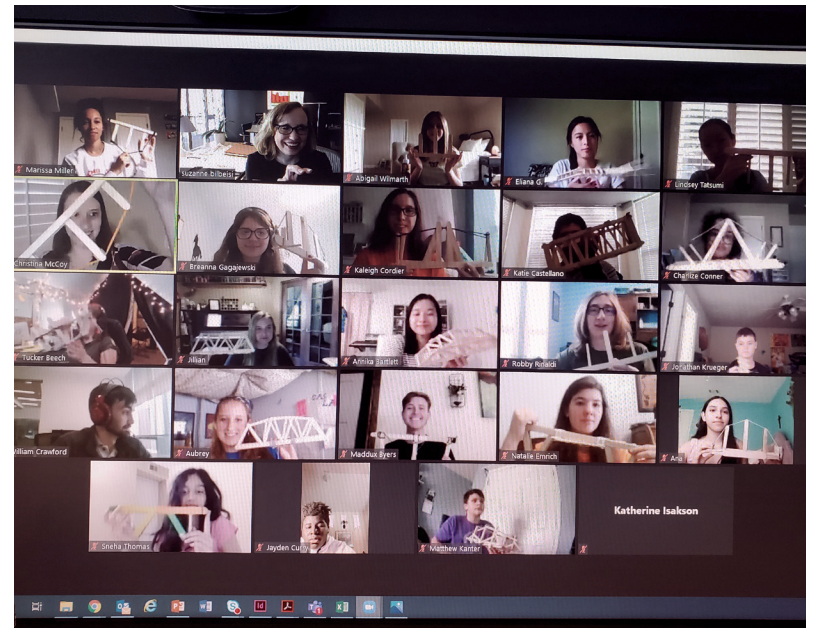
The official OSU graduation ceremonies for both Spring and Fall 2020 were canceled, however the university allowed for smaller gatherings to take place at the department level at the end of the Fall semester. These small gatherings are what we enjoy the most anyway! So after Finals Week in December we celebrated the thirteen Fall graduates and (belatedly) the twenty-five grads from Spring. Congratulations to the 2020 graduates, we wish all of them well as they enter the profession in these so very interesting times!

The Caudill Fellowship awardee for 2020 was Julie Stivers, who planned to study abroad in Europe for four weeks this past summer. Obviously all travel was postponed; for now Julie is waiting patiently for the opportunity to carry out her Caudill Fellowship experience.

The Discover Architecture workshop was held virtually last summer in two sessions, with a total of 50 high school participants! The students joined the Zoom sessions from all over the US; it was truly a new step for the program. Nine firms sponsored the program: LMN of Seattle, DiMella Shaffer of Boston, Glenn Partners of Dallas, and from Oklahoma the firms of Cyntergy, Architect's Collective, KKT, SelserSchaefer Architects, Studio Architecture, and Wallace Engineering. Thank you!

Faculty News

This Fall, Suzanne Bilbeisi was recognized with the 2020 AIA Oklahoma Honor Award for Educational Contributions! In her 26 year career teaching at OSU, Suzanne has had the opportunity to reach more than 3,000 students. But more important than that volume is



the guiding purpose of her work - to instill in every beginning design student a love of the potential of architecture, and to seek excellence in all that they do. Congratulations, Professor Bilbeisi!

Since all academic conferences for the summer and fall became virtual events, our professors were able to participate in and contribute to a variety of regional and national conferences, while also continuing to publish, work on projects, and give public presentations.

For the Annual Conference of ACSA, Sarah Ra and Seung Ra presented their peer-reviewed conference publication "Cultural Influence in the Digital Age." At the same conference, Keith Peiffer presented his paper "Acoustical Panel Ceilings: Origins". And Khaled Mansy presented "Design Based on Estimating Ripple Effects of Carbon Footprint" - this award winning submission in the ACSA Curriculum Competition "Architecture, Society, and Climate Change" was co-authored with Tom Spector, John Phillips, and Jeanne Homer.

Additionally, Khaled Mansy served as a panelist for "Green Reconstruction" organized by

the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the study of American Architecture at Columbia University. On a related topic, Khaled Mansy, John Phillips, Tom Spector and Jerry Stivers, with Abigail Brandvold ('20), published "Carbon Footprint in the Design Studio, a Paradigm Shift" for the 2020 Solar Conference.

For the ASEE National Conference, Khaled Mansy, John Phillips, Tom Spector, Jeanne Homer, and Jim Beckstrom presented "Interdisciplinary Design Project Teams: Structuring an Impactful Experience." At the same conference, Christina McCoy and John Phillips presented "Engaging Students Through Concrete Beam Fabrication." Also offered was "Career Paths in Structural Engineering: What We Can Learn from the SE3 (Structural Engineering Engagement and Equity) Report" by Christina McCoy and Carisa Ramming.

Randy Seitsinger's entry into the AIA Dallas K Rob Architectural Delineation competition was selected as a Finalist in the Professional Hand category!

Jared Macken's article "Owen Luder's Shopping List" was published in the journal *Flat Out*. Paolo Sanza contributed

a chapter to the *Routledge Companion to Italian Fascist Architecture*, edited by Kay Bea Jones and Stephanie Pilat of OU. It was published in late summer.

Nathan Richardson is currently completing work for two books that will be published in early Spring. One is focused upon his research in entrepreneurship and architecture, and the other, co-authored with Moh'd Bilbeisi, explores the many avenues of drawing and documentation in travel/study journaling for architects.

Jared Macken and Keith Peiffer, and Paolo Sanza offered presentations for the Fall AIA Oklahoma virtual conference.

Awilda Rodriguez is currently taking a year away from OSU on sabbatical, where she is undertaking advanced coursework at Texas A&M. She was awarded the William Wayne Caudill Research Fellowship for new doctoral students.

Christina McCoy gave birth to Evan, a beautiful baby boy in July. The family spent the spring, summer and most of the fall at home quarantined; Christina resumed teaching in October.

Moh'd Bilbeisi was promoted to Regents Professor, the highest rank at the university. John Phillips was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor. Congratulations, and thank you to both of these fantastic educators for their many years of exceptional teaching and scholarship with the OSU School of Architecture!

Student Organization News

While all in-person meetings of clubs were restricted in the Fall, that did not prevent our intrepid students from finding ways to interact with one another and continue the work and fellowship of their organization.

AEI held a virtual meet and greet with alumna Mallory (Hosey) Buckley ('17) of Walter P Moore, where she shared her focus on Building Enclosure Diagnostics.

AIAS led a food drive to install a food pantry in our school for students with food insecurity. They also sold 'boo-grams' and held virtual game nights, in addition to their focus on preparations for the South Quad Conference.

The ASTEK program was put on hold for Fall since Stillwater



Public Schools were unable to consistently hold in-person classes, so instead the volunteers set about revising the curriculum and making 'to go' packs of student activity materials for the Stillwater Public Library to distribute.

Freedom By Design completed a second construction project for the outdoor community garden for Stillwater's 'Our Daily Bread' food pantry. The garden itself was planted last spring, and the volunteers this fall constructed a second entryway arch to the outdoor space. The group is also working with the sponsorship of Dewberry of Tulsa to design a garden for Sand Springs Early Childhood Development Center.

The interdisciplinary group Almighty S focused their meetings on self-care in these unique times. They hosted an outdoor painting session at Theta Pond, and welcomed speakers on the topics of physical health, feminism, and the importance of your voice.

The student chapter of NOMAS, the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students, was officially approved as a student organization by the OSU Student Government Association this Fall. NOMAS aims to champion diversity and

promote excellence, community engagement, and facilitate professional development. Their main projects for the Fall were to prepare a submission for the national student design competition, and a unique educational display in our lobby.

The Tau Sigma Delta Architecture Honor Society welcomed new third year students in the top 20% of their professional school class. The featured speaker for the virtual ceremony was alumna Amy (Thigpen) Mielke ('04), Director of the Design Research Lab for ENNEAD in NYC.

Future News

Please let us know what is happening in your part of the world. We're always glad to hear from you. Feel free to email suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu with any questions, news, or comments. We wish all a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season and a better new year in 2021!

PS - Building on our long tradition of journaling at OSU Architecture, we have designed a selection of journals and fabricated them in our new binding shop - journals for kids, teens, and alumni. If you'd like one, please email us!



▲ AIA Dallas K Rob Delineation Student Competition "Finalist" in the digital/mixed category.

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Fall 2020 Urban Design Studio members recognized in one or more regional or international competition:

Hope Bailey, Scott Cornelius, Nick Costin, Will Crawford, Sidney Curtsinger, Katrina Klempa, Trent Loomis, Alexis Severson, Lilly Strom, Melissa Russell, Maya Thompson, Erin Yen, and Devin Weddle. Congratulations!