

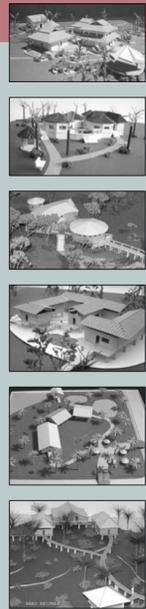


Cambodian Land Mine Museum

Richard Fitoussi, founder of the Cambodian Land Mine Museum Relief Fund (CLMMRF) invited two A&M architecture studios to design a modern facility for the Cambodian Land Mine Museum in Seim Reap, Cambodia.

The museum was founded by Aki Ra (above, at right), a former child-soldier who participated in the laying of land mines in his youth and has since dedicated his life to removing the estimated 6 million mines still hidden in the Cambodia soil.

The project was directed by studio instructors Julie Rogers—who holds a Ph.D. in architecture and specializes in Asian art and architecture—and George J. Mann, the Ronald L. Skaggs professor in Health Facilities Design.



Aggie constructors place 1st in annual ASC competition

For the second time in three years, a team of graduate construction science students from Texas A&M placed first in the nation in a challenging construction management competition sponsored by the Associated Schools of Construction.

The event, held February 2003 in Reno, Nevada, attracted 14 teams from 11 universities. Representing A&M on the winning team were team captain Jim DeLapp, and teammates Seenu Kurien, and Larry McGinn. In addition to a first place trophy, the triumphant Aggies received \$1,500 in prize money.

In the annual ASC contest students are given 16 hours to solve a project management problem and prepare a presentation that is delivered to a panel of judges the following day.

Architecture Ranch

Faculty consider 16-acre spread

The college has set aside \$1 million to develop a 16-acre parcel of land at A&M's Riverside Campus tentatively dubbed the "Architecture Ranch." On Nov. 8, several faculty visited the site as part of a daylong charrette aimed at designing facilities and ideas for utilizing the new area.



Marcel Erminy and Fred Parke sketch ideas.



Mark Clayton, Lou Tassinari, Yauger Williams and Jill Mulholland confer at the "Ranch" site.

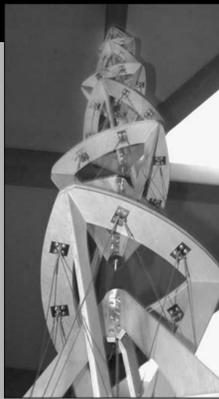


Students construct 'Pet Palaces'

On Nov. 22 more than 300 Texas A&M University construction science students strapped on their tool belts and built 50 deluxe "pet palaces" as part of the Department of Construction Science's Build Day competition. The project, spearheaded by instructor Audrey Tinker, was the first event staged at the college's new 16-acre spread at Texas A&M University's Riverside Campus. The pet homes, donated to animal shelters, will be auctioned off.



Stacell remembered



Architecture students design, construct 43-foot sculpture to honor late professor

Capping off his senior year, BED student Patrick Winn and a small group of fellow architecture students designed and constructed a 43-foot conceptual structure in honor of the late professor Alan Stacell. The memorial was unveiled in the Langford atrium in a Dec. 2002 ceremony. For 40 years Stacell served as teacher, mentor and friend to a legion of young Texas A&M designers.

Texas A&M University Press

"The CRS Team and the Business of Architecture"

Edited by Jonathan King and Philip Langdon with a foreword by Ronald Skaggs, 2002



Since the end of the Second World War, few firms have influenced the practice of architecture as much as Caudill Rowlett Scott, or CRS. This book about CRS fills an important gap in architectural history by exploring the ways architects of the mid-20th century developed methods that allowed professionals to analyze projects analytically and systematically rather than relying on the traditional combination of information and intuition. CRS played an important role in the profession's progress by pioneering "programming" to tailor buildings more precisely to the clients' and occupants' needs. The book, based on oral histories traces the firm's development from its beginnings to its emergence as the largest architecture/engineering firm in the United States.

"The Architectural Project"

By Alfonso Corona-Martinez, translated and edited by Malcolm Quantrell with a foreword by Marco Frascari, 2003



The Architectural Project considers the practice of architectural design as it has developed during the last two centuries. In this challenging interpretation of design education and its effect on design process and products, Argentinean scholar Alfonso Corona-Martinez emphasizes the distinction between an architectural project, created in the architect's mind and materialized as a set of drawings on paper, and the realized three-dimensional building. The writer shows how representation plays a substantial role in determining both the notion and the character of architecture, and he traces this relationship from the Renaissance into the Modern era, giving detailed considerations of Functionalism and Typology.

"Remembrance and the Design of Place"

by Frances Downing, 2001



A kitchen filled with the smell of mouth-watering temptations, a childhood hiding place, or the antiseptic waiting room of a hospital may all look different, but each is capable of bringing vivid memories to one's mind. Memories of places identify people as individuals and tie them to networks of culture and society. Architects often subconsciously use such memories to create innovative places. In "Remembrance and the Design of Place," Frances Downing suggests ways to translate the memory of personal experiences and transfer it intentionally to architecture and design. Through her investigation of the act of remembering, Downing has discovered three different acts of "expression": naming remembered places, contemplating their meaning, and developing meaningful categories for them.

A&M preservation team documents Montezuma Castle cliff dwelling

Twelve adventuresome A&M graduate students joined architecture professors Bob Warden and David Woodcock in the summers of 2002 and 2003 to survey and document Montezuma Castle, a prehistoric cliff dwelling nestled into a limestone recess high above the flood plain of Beaver Creek in Arizona's central Verde Valley. The complete story and photos of the Historic American Buildings Survey project is posted online at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.

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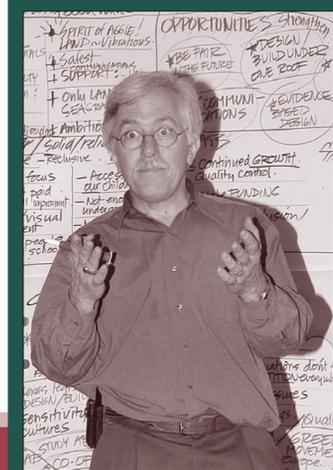
archone.

WINTER 2004

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE @ TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **archone.**, a newsletter serving the college of Architecture at Texas A&M University. **archone.** highlights news, events and features posted in detail online at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.

Readers are encouraged to sign-up online to receive monthly story updates via e-mail. Address changes, photos, news and comments can also be submitted online at newsletter@archone.tamu.edu.



Professional process consultant David Sibbet engages faculty and Dean's Advisory Council.

"What will it take to make the College of Architecture the best school of architecture in the world?"

Built environment leaders help chart vision for 21st Century.

Upcoming events

- Feb. 6, 2004 - Rowlett Lecture
"RTKL: The pursuit of great projects"
Bush Presidential Conference Center
Info: Call CRS Center at (979) 847-9357
- Feb. 28, 2004 HRIL Symposium
Conservation technology, practices
The Veranda, in Bryan, Texas
Info: Call HRIL at (979) 845-0384

'Vizzers' help Pixar find Nemo



Thirteen Aggies, most of them graduates from the College of Architecture's Visualization Sciences Program, assisted Pixar Animation Studios in making the blockbuster hit "Finding Nemo." More than 15 million DVDs of the film have sold, making it the #1 DVD of all time and an Oscar nomination seems certain.

Inside this issue:

- Studio designs new facility for Cambodian Land Mine Museum
- Columbia space shuttle memorial designs unveiled in East Texas community
- Landscape team wins international design competition in China
- Constructors win national ASC competition
- Students design, erect 43-foot structure honoring late professor
- Urban planning studio aids coastal Texas town
- "Class Acts" and more!



Construction industry leaders examine diversity challenges

Construction industry leaders, university officials and students examined diversity challenges common to education and the construction industry at a Dec. 2003 conference sponsored by A&M's Department of Construction Science. The presentation, "Building Excellence Through Diversity: Partnering with the Construction Industry," was moderated by organizational transformation expert William A. Guillory

HRRC increasing its international influence

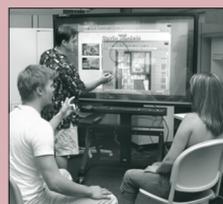
Evacuation studies, homeland security and international training projects are on the agenda at the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center. You can read about HRRC scientists' mission to a flood-plagued region in Brazil and their participation in U.S. homeland security discussions in **archone's** online edition.

World-wired



Digital collaboration

Distance and cultural barriers disappear in Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco's AmeNet-Virtual Design Studio where students regularly communicate live with their counterparts and design professionals throughout the Western Hemisphere. Last fall the studio tackled a project with architects from RTKL, one of the world's premier design firms.



'Enlightening Lightning!'



Sparky

'Vizzers' collaborate on planetarium project

Last fall a group of A&M visualization students worked with Richard Orville, interim head of A&M's atmospheric sciences department, to create an educational show, "Enlightening Lightning!" for the planetarium at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Sparky, an animated cloud-dwelling electron (above, right), offers comic relief throughout the show.



Luke Carnevale and Sarah Fowler were two of the three Viz Lab students who worked on the planetarium show.



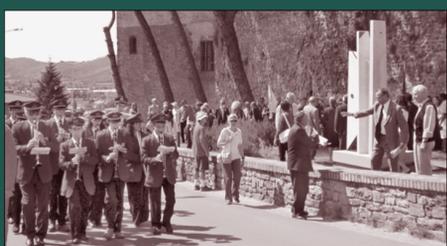
Viz staffer Glen Vigus directs video shoot.

'Headcase'



Paper bag hat designs

Thousands of white paper lunch bags were twisted, folded and transformed into creative hats as part of a fun-filled design studio warm-up competition, dubbed "Headcase." The Fall 2003 project culminated with a hat parade through Langford.



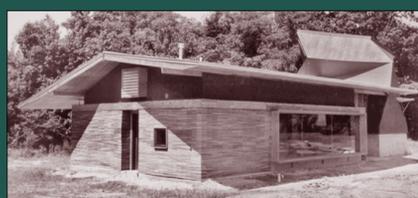
Italians Erects Aggie-designed 9-11 Memorial

In the wake of 9-11, a group of Texas A&M architecture students studying in the small Italian town of Castiglione Fiorentino formed a unique relationship with their Italian hosts, who 60 years earlier had endured the ravages of World War II. United in sorrow spawned from tragedies decades apart, city fathers challenged the students to design a "9-11" memorial monument as a permanent tribute to man's resiliency and the spirit that triumphs over tragedy. The Aggies—Whitney Skinner of Coppell, Lisa Andel of Channel View and Virginia Sternat of Houston—responded in grand fashion. The 12-foot marble sculpture, "Memory," based on their design, is now a prominent modern landmark in the picturesque medieval town. The citizens of Castiglione Fiorentino turned out in force (above) for the sculpture's June 2002 dedication.



'The Lucy House'

J. M. Tate '02 spent his senior year designing and building a home for a low-income family as part of Auburn University's Outreach Rural Studio. The Lucy House, contained by walls built of individually stacked and compressed carpet tiles, became a memorial to the studio's founder, Samuel "Sambro" Mockbae, who passed away during the project.



The folding rust-colored structure rising above the roof provides a "prayer space" that was requested by the client family.

Students unveil designs for Columbia Memorial

Trajectory lines, golden spirals and ripple pools were among the architectural features included in A&M student designs for a proposed space shuttle Columbia memorial. Crafted by students in Mardelle Shepley's Healing Environments studio, the designs were unveiled Oct. 31, 2003 to residents of Sabine County, in deep East Texas where the memorial is to be built on land donated by businessman and philanthropist Arthur Temple. The site is near the spot where the shuttle's nose cone was recovered. Lufkin Daily News reporter Christine Diamond covered the unveiling. Her story appears with permission on the **archone.** Web site.



NASA PHOTOS

A&M AGC Chapter named top in U.S.

The A&M student chapter of the Associated General Contractors was recognized by the national organization as the most outstanding AGC student chapter of 2002. The award was presented at the March 2002 AGC National Convention in Hawaii. The chapter offers a direct link between Texas A&M University construction science students and the construction industry. "The AGC student chapter helps our students understand the intricacies of the construction industry," said James Smith, professor and head of the Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M. "AGC students really get a feel for the magnitude and diversity of the industry."

"WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE THE BEST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE WORLD?"

BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROS, FACULTY TACKLE PROFOUND QUESTION

What will it take to make the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University the best school of architecture in the world? The question, extemporaneously posed at a Dean's Advisory Council meeting by Texas A&M College of Architecture outstanding alumnus Jimmy Tittle, was the flashpoint for a series of workshops organized by the council and aimed at charting the college's path into the 21st Century.

To answer the question, the 22-member council—composed of international leaders in the architecture, planning, landscape architecture and construction professions—joined an equal number of faculty from the College of Architecture for two daylong brainstorming sessions. David Sibbet, a process consultant with San Francisco-based The Grove Consultants International, facilitated the meetings in Houston and Dallas.

The process, which will continue without Sibbet at a third meeting slated for April 2004 in College Station, began with visualization and information gathering exercises that established the context and goals for the meetings. As participants interacted, Sibbet deftly sketched giant multicolored charts that eventually papered the conference room walls.

"Start with visualizing some of the ideas," the facilitator told the crowd of about 40 gathered for the first session held July 1, 2003 at the Westin Galleria in Houston.

"Develop a picture of what it takes," then work it the way you would work a design. At some point in the future you will have a representation of where you want to go."

Harold Adams, former chairman of RTKL Associates Inc. and sponsor of the first session, echoed Sibbet's idea. "I believe greatly in the process of what the avant-garde people used to call 'raise on the future,'" Adams said. "It is the idea of going into the future and seeing what we would like to be like, then stepping back to now and seeing what steps need to happen to make that a go."

Participants examined the very nature of "the best," what it means to be the best, and what it might take to earn such a distinction. Among the myriad comments: "The best schools conduct research with a value transcending what is expected;

"The best schools have an admired image or positive notoriety—a reputation for excellence;" "At the best schools, research finds its way back to the classroom;" "Their students are in demand;" "They have a strong, clear message;" "They are leaders with influence in the industries they represent;" "Their research is innovative, groundbreaking and revolutionary;" "They attract the best students;" "They boast a broad base and diverse talents;" "They attract top-notch, big-name designers who work intimately with students;" "They are solid, reliable and muscular;" "They have a special difference that makes a difference;" "At the best schools, education is not the filling of a bucket, it is the lighting of a fire;" and "Best depends on who's judging you; it's different things to different people."

Then, from Beau-Arts to Post-Modernism and beyond, the facilitator rapidly sketched across a 30-foot chart as the group reconstructed the almost 100-year history of the A&M architecture program, which, established in 1905, was the first of its kind in Texas.

Sibbet's color markers kept squeaking as the council and faculty described the current climate in academia and the professional world.

The A&M College of Architecture was widely perceived as "a strong school in technology that is striving to become a strong school in design." Further, the college's programs were hailed among the best in the nation, but there was general agreement that what's happening at the college "is one of Texas' best kept secrets."

"You guys are making a great and positive impact on the world, but nobody knows it," said one participant who cited the school's dire need for a marketing strategy and institutional branding campaign.

"Everyone should equate the 'A' in A&M with architecture, not agriculture," said another.

Many of the professionals on the council lamented the results of "150 years of specialization" and the lack of well-educated generalists—"an individual with business acumen, technical know-how and relationship skills"—who could function as a single point of contact for their clients.

"Our clients want a building," exclaimed Chuck

Thomsen, chairman of 3D/International. "They hate to have to deal with you and me and all of these other folks," he said, looking around the room at a cross-section of leaders representing all of the built environment professions.

From that discussion arose the idea to create an academic program aimed at training individuals to fill this void in the industry. For lack of a better term, they dubbed this person a "21st Century Master Builder."

There was also general agreement that the college's programs should reflect real-world practices where design-build projects with single-source contracts are the norm. Because the A&M College of Architecture is one of the few NAAB accredited schools that house all built environment professions, council members said, it was uniquely suited to create multi-disciplinary programs.

Much of the discussion at both sessions centered on a need to better define the college's core philosophy, and out of that interaction emerged a host of ideas concerning what the college is now, where it's going and where it could and should go.

Among the college's strengths to build on, participants cited its global reach; its signature programs in sustainability, health facilities design and visualization; its ability to integrate all design-build disciplines into its curricula; its leadership in research and research-informed design; mastery of technology; its commitment to environmental stewardship; and the college's track record of producing graduates with strong character and leadership skills.

In the follow-up session, staged Oct. 7, 2003 at the Melrose Hotel in Dallas, participants picked-up where they left off, identifying ideas that survived the first session, establishing goals and strategizing on bold steps towards their realization.

To facilitate action, Sibbet divided the council and participating faculty and staff into four working groups, each charged with developing a specific agenda: "Core Philosophy," "New Models in Education," "The 21st Century Master Builder Program" and "Strategic Marketing and Communications."

By the end of the Oct. 7 meeting, the group had reached consensus on the major themes to be pursued for next session:

- Develop revolutionary educational models integrating program curriculum across disciplinary lines—such as a 21st Century Master Builder Program (though the "master builder" title was generally disliked because it excludes then necessary designing and planning talent such a generalist would possess);
- Embrace and enhance Texas A&M University's land, sea and space grant mandate—teaching, research and service—with a special emphasis on programs serving Texas communities;
- Partner with the built environment professions to create mutually beneficial strategic alliances; and
- Develop specialized centers of excellence for research and teaching.

With these goals in mind, the four working groups have continued their efforts in preparation for the April workshop where the council will once again attempt an answer to Jimmy Tittle's provocative question.

Rogers directs HRRC; Peacock heads LA+UP

George Rogers, professor and former head of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning (LA+UP) at Texas A&M University, was appointed director of the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center by J. Thomas Regan, dean of the College of Architecture.



Rogers

Professor Walter Peacock was tapped by Regan to serve as LA+UP's interim department head.



Peacock

Studio develops plan to help revitalize coastal town

Seeking ways to diversify and rejuvenate their weakening economy, the citizens and city fathers of the small coastal town of Palacios, Texas recently enlisted the assistance of a Texas A&M urban design studio. The resulting semester-long partnership yielded a detailed action plan aimed at transforming the quiet fishing village into a garden spot—a livable city to be enjoyed by residents and tourist alike.

The collaborative urban design studio, led by Michael Neuman, a professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, incorporated the talents of students from Texas A&M's urban planning, landscape architecture, recreation, parks and tourism sciences (RPTS) programs. Their objective, Neuman said, was to assess the community's tourism



potential and devise an urban design plan for making Palacios a more beautiful, pedestrian-friendly and economically active town.

Landscape design wins Chinese competition



The Dalian Research Park will be divided into four areas: an industrial component, a research component, a commercial service component and a residential component.



A landscape architecture design team composed of students, former students and faculty from Texas A&M University, placed first in an international competition to design a 1,250-acre research park to be built in Dalian, in northeastern China.

The Dalian Research Park will be a multi-use community built with a strong emphasis on environmental protection, explained Chang-Shang Huang, associate professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and leader of the winning design team.

"We had confidence that our ecological approach was unique," said Huang, whose team began the project in August 2001.

Rodieck named ASLA fellow

For creating significant new knowledge advancing landscape architecture, and for the communication of knowledge to others with exceptional effect, Jon Rodieck, a professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University, was elevated as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The presentation was made at the ASLA's 2002 national convention. For 29 years, Rodieck has been dedicated to the continued improvement of the discipline of landscape architecture.

With these goals in mind, the four working groups have continued their efforts in preparation for the April workshop where the council will once again attempt an answer to Jimmy Tittle's provocative question.

Sustainable Urbanism Certificate program initiated

The College of Architecture at Texas A&M University recently established a graduate certificate program in sustainable urbanism to be offered through the college's Center for Housing and Urban Development. The certificate program requires 18 credit hours of studio and seminar work as well as a thesis or professional study on a specialized topic.

"Sustainable urbanism entails the integrated and collaborative design of cities and their urban environments," explained Michael Neuman, associate professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and chair of the new program. "The most fruitful approaches for any urbanism to be truly sustainable are to be found in designs and plans

that are adaptive, context-sensitive, and range across multiple scales."

According to Neuman, sustainable urbanism represents a new nexus for sustainability, cities and the environmental design professions.

"During the next fifty years—the professional lifetime of current students—the earth's urban population will more than double, from 3 billion to 7 billion," Neuman said. "Eighty percent of the world's population is projected to live in cities in 2050. As prosperity spreads across the globe and consumption outstrips resources and despoils environments, the way we live in and build our cities, or 'urbanism,' will be critical to our well being, and to the health of the planet.

Faculty Briefs

NOTE: All stories referenced in the print edition of *archone* are available in their entirety on the *archone* Web site. To find it, follow the "news" link at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.

■ **Louis G. Tassinary**, professor of architecture and former director of the College of Architecture's Environmental Psychophysiology Laboratory, has been named associate dean of research by Dean J. Thomas Regan. In 1993, Tassinary received a five-year National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellowship. He recently completed a three-year leave of absence to complete his law degree at Boston College.

■ **Roger Ulrich**, director of A&M's Center for Health Sciences and Design, was the first architect ever invited to address the Royal Society, the United Kingdom's academy of science. A behavioral scientist, Ulrich's research into the influence of health facility design on patient recovery has revolutionized the architecture-for-health industry in the United States.

■ **David Woodcock**, HRIL director, professor of Architecture at Texas A&M University and Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, received the 2003 Harley J. McKee Award, the most prestigious honor awarded by the Association for Preservation Technology. Woodcock was honored for his "leadership as an educator and mentor to several generations of historic preservationists, and for his years of dedicated service to APT."

■ For his outstanding contributions to the growth of research in architecture, **Malcolm Quantrill**, distinguished professor of architecture at Texas A&M University, was presented the 2002 James Haecker Distinguished Leadership Award for Architectural Research by the Architectural Research Centers Consortium. The award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated sustained and significant research leadership accomplishments at national or international levels.

■ **George J. Mann**, the Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor of Health Facilities Design, received the 2003 Bush Excellence Award for Faculty in Public Service. This award recognizes faculty who have made outstanding contributions to public service by demonstrating a sustained, long-term application of disciplinary expertise to the public or non-profit sector in local, statewide, national, or international arenas.

■ **Montague Center for Teaching Excellence Scholars** for the College of Architecture were professors **Anat Geva**, Architecture, 2002-03, and **Christopher Ellis**, LA+UP, 2003-04.

Souder Award won by international student

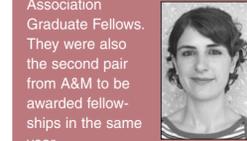
Prithi P. Venkatram, a 2003 Master of Architecture graduate and 2002 AIA/AHA Fellow was the first international student to win the James J. Souder Award presented annually by the American Institute of Architects/American Hospital Association in recognition of superior achievement by an AIA/AHA Fellow.

A&M students earn college's 18th & 19th AIA/AHA fellowship

In 2003, Myo Boon Hur, an M.Arch. student from Korea, and Hilal Ozcan, a Ph.D. in Architecture candidate from Turkey, became the 18th and 19th Aggies to be named American Institute of Architects/American Hospital Association Graduate Fellows. They were also the second pair from A&M to be awarded fellowships in the same year.



Hur



Ozcan

Mardelle Shepley earns Social Justice Award

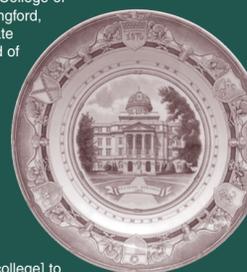
For addressing issues of social justice in her design studio, Mardelle Shepley, associate dean for student services and A&M professor of architecture, has earned an opportunity to participate in the Architecture for Social Justice Awards Program: Partnerships in Teaching.

College receives collection of antique A&M plates

A collection of Wedgwood plates depicting buildings on the Texas A&M campus and designed in the 1930s and 50s by Texas A&M architecture students and faculty have finally found their way home. The cherished China collection was donated to the College of Architecture by Jo Ann and Keith Langford, the son and daughter-in-law of the late Ernest Langford who served as head of A&M's Department of Architecture from 1942 until 1966 and for whom A&M's Langford Architecture Center is named.

The 15-plate collection, modestly appraised at \$6,500, originally sold in a set of 12 for \$24. Additional plates, depicting newer campus buildings, the All Faiths Chapel and the Memorial Student Center, were added to the collection in the 1950s.

"I just think that it is nice [for the college] to have something that belonged to the gentleman that the building is named after," Keith Langford said after making the donation. "He [Ernest Langford] spent all his life at the College of Architecture. I just thought that is where they belonged."



College eyes \$30 million goal in One Spirit, One Vision Campaign

It was a billion dollar night. Amid confetti, whoops, and the fanfare of the Fighting Texas Aggie Band, key supporters of the College of Architecture joined the rest of the campus community celebrating the launch of *One Spirit One Vision—the Texas A&M Campaign*. The new volunteer-led, seven-year, fund-raising effort is aimed at raising \$1 billion to support the university's Vision 20-20 initiatives.

The College of Architecture's *One Spirit One Vision Campaign* goal is \$30 million. And while that is a relatively small portion of Texas

A&M's \$1 billion target, it represents a new benchmark in private support for the college.

Even though the \$30 million goal represents a threefold increase in donations, "we are seeing involvement and momentum that will guarantee our success," said Harold Adams '61 the *One Spirit One Vision Campaign* chairman for the College of Architecture.

The main focus of the *One Spirit One Vision Campaign* is on endowment gifts that will be invested to provide permanent sources of support for a variety of purposes.



Michael Pavlovsky

Class Acts

For a complete, updated listing of "Class Acts," visit *archone* online. Here's a sample of former student features and news briefs recently posted:

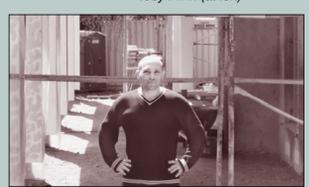
■ **Michael Pavlovsky** '82 BSLA has been sculpting, **Charles Smith** BED '90, M.Arch '93 is a rising star in architectural photography, **Matt Lewis** ENDS, COMG, is building a 12-story headquarters for the National Monetary fund in Washington D.C., **David Applebaum** '80 BED is building homes for movie stars, and **Toby Flinn** '97 BDCR is helping the Marines rebuild Iraq.



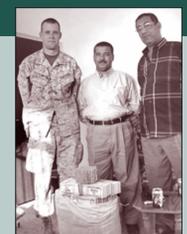
Charles Smith



Matt Lewis



David Applebaum



Toby Flinn (at left)

NSF Program Director Outlines Ways To Increase Funding Chances For Research

The National Science Foundation will award more than \$5 billion this year for outstanding research but the competition will be as fierce as ever, noted Dennis E. Wenger, director of the NSF's Infrastructure Systems Management and Hazard Response Program, who spoke October 27 at Texas A&M University's College of Architecture.

Wenger, who keynoted the college's fifth annual faculty research symposium, "Research on the Built and Virtual Environments: Global Symposia Presentations 2003," noted that on average only 17 percent of all

proposals to the NSF are awarded grants. Analyzing this highly selective process, Wenger recommended to potential submitters the best ways to go about securing funding for their research. His speech is available for download at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.



AIA honors Kacmar as 'Young Architect'

Architect Donna Kacmar, BED '88, M.Arch '92 received the 2004 Young Architect Award from the American Institute of Architects. Principal of Architect Works, Inc. in Houston, Texas, Kacmar received the award for showing exceptional leadership and making significant contributions to the profession in the early stage of her architectural career.

Architect Works, Inc. specializes in developing solutions for residential and small-scale commercial projects. Many of Kacmar's designs have won awards, including the 1999 AIA Houston Design Award for the Kacmar house, built for her parents.

Construction Science receives \$1 million software donation

Graduate students at Texas A&M's Department of Construction Science now have access to the latest generation of plant design and management software, thanks to a \$1 million software donation from CEA Systems, Inc. the Houston-based affiliate of CEA Technology, one of the world's leading software developers in the field of engineering, construction and plant life cycle management.

Though relatively new applications, Plant-4D and 4D-Explorer, are widely in use by companies around the world.



Chair, professorship endowments reinforce A&M's lauded health facilities design, research programs

It's a natural sequence of events at top colleges across the land. The finest faculty attract the finest students who graduate and become leaders in their professions. The circle is completed when these distinguished former students reciprocate, donating resources to advance their alma mater's recruitment of top faculty.

Such a circle was completed in 2003 when a trio of Aggie architects — Ron Skaggs '65, Joe Sprague '79, and Craig Beale '71 — donated funds endowing two faculty positions that promise to

enhance the Texas A&M College of Architecture's leadership in the architecture for health industry. Skaggs and Sprague recently teamed to create the Ronald L. Skaggs, FAIA and Joseph G. Sprague, FAIA Chair in Health Facilities Design. Concurrently, Beale, and his wife Julie pledged a gift endowing the Julie and Craig Beale Professorship in Health Facilities Design.

Both endowments, the professorship and the chair, provide faculty support for practice-oriented teaching.