

## Appointments

### Bullock Chair

**Robert E. Johnson**, director of the CRS Center at Texas A&M University, was appointed to the Thomas Bullock Endowed Chair in Leadership and Innovation at the College of Architecture.

The position, which honors Thomas Bullock, former chairman and partner of the influential architectural firm Caudill Rowlett and Scott (CRS), is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated insight, originality and extraordinary management skills in the design and construction industry.

### Peña Professorship

For scholarship and inspired teaching in the area of architectural programming, **Mardelle McCuskey Shepley**, associate dean of student services at the Texas A&M College of Architecture, was recently named the William M. Peña Endowed



Professor for Information Management. The Peña Professorship was created in 1990 by the CRS Center for Leadership and Management in the Design and Construction Industry. The endowment honors Willie Peña, a founding partner of the architectural firm Caudill Rowlett and Scott.

### Windsor Professorship

For his work in advancing construction technology, **Mohammed E. Haque**, associate professor in the Department of Construction Science, has been named the Cecil O. Windsor Jr. Endowed Professor in Construction Science.

The new professorship, established by Keith Williams, president of Gamma Construction Company, with matching funds from the Construction Industry Advisory Council, honors Cecil O. Windsor, a 1966 Civil Engineering graduate and vice president of the construction company. In creating the endowment, Williams credited Windsor's mentorship for his success in the construction industry.

## Research achievement



**NSF Career Award Winner:** Samuel D. Brody, an assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, received the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award for his work in watershed management and flood mitigation in Texas and Florida. Photo by John Peters.

### Professor earns NSF Career Award for flood mitigation and watershed research

For research aimed at developing new, sustainable techniques for flood mitigation and watershed management in rapidly developing coastal regions, Samuel D. Brody, an assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University, this year received the National Science Foundation's prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award.

The award recognizes and supports the early career-development activities of U.S. teacher-scholars deemed most likely to become academic leaders of the 21st century. Also known as the NSF Career Award, the honor comes with a five-year, \$489,000 grant plus up to \$25,000 per year to match research funding from other agencies.

"I think the honor is more important than the money," said Brody. "It is good for the university and my department, and will hopefully lead to groundbreaking research and education in my field." Brody, who joined the Texas A&M College of Architecture faculty in 2002, has a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. His areas of interest include environmental planning, coastal sustainability, ecosystem management and geographic information systems (GIS). He is also a faculty fellow at Texas A&M College of Architecture's Hazards Reduction and Recovery Center.

The professor's NSF research examines the relationships between the development of wetland areas and the flood-

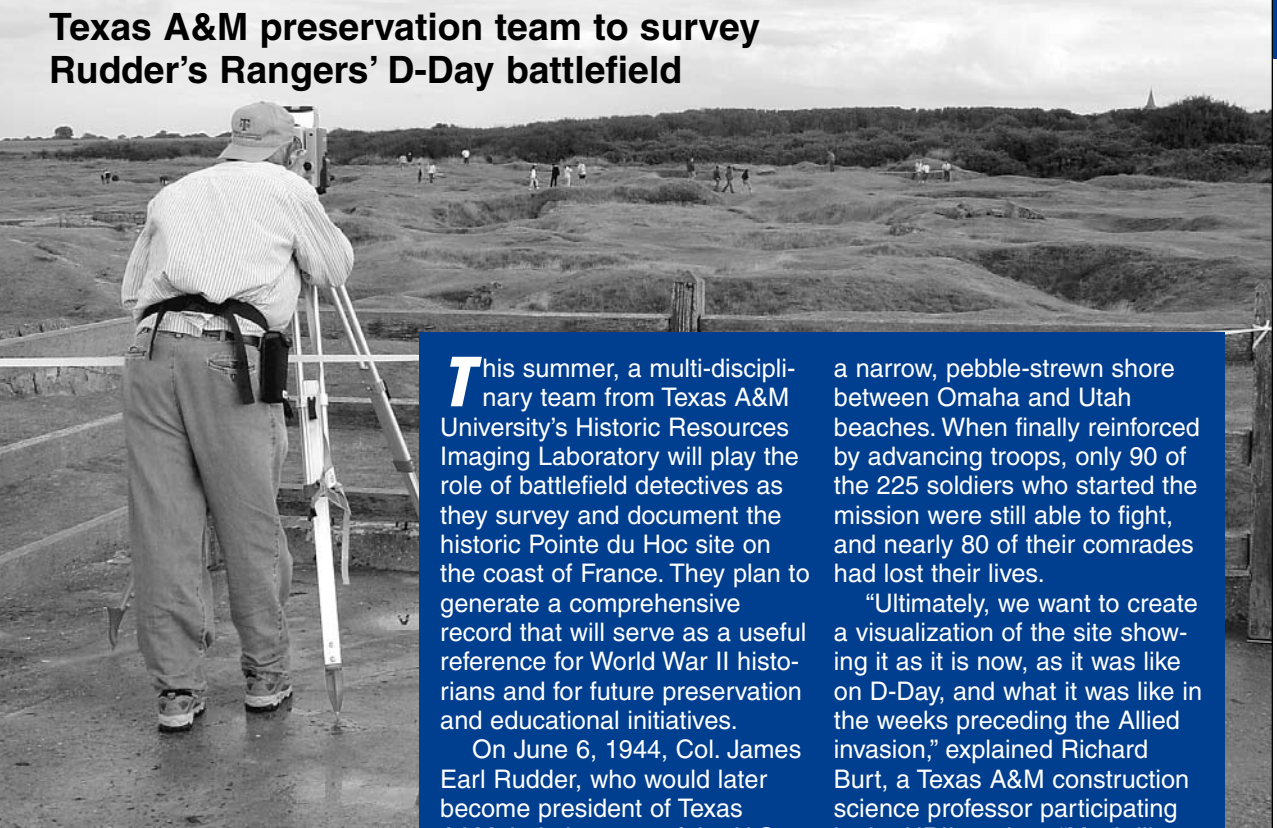
ing in coastal watersheds. In addition to identifying the causes of watershed flooding, Brody is developing alternative flood mitigation strategies that consider the entire watershed and ecological system.

"The traditional model is, we build, it floods, and then we worry about doing something," explained Brody. "That is inefficient and costly and becoming politically infeasible."

Part of the problem, he believes, is the failure of developers, planners and policy makers to consider the big picture, or the effects of localized development and flood mitigation across an entire watershed. As urban populations expand in coastal areas, he said the problem is exacerbated and the resulting floods pose a major threat to both human safety and the natural environment.

"While it is argued that some of the most serious flood hazards result from a failure to understand the regional ecological context," Brody said, "there has been little empirical research examining how growth and development patterns increase the threat of floods at the watershed level, or on how communities respond over time to repetitive flooding events."

To answer these questions, Brody is conducting a two-phase analysis of coastal watersheds in Texas and Florida. The first phase employs GIS to map the spatial pattern of wetland development over a 10-year period and correlate that development with coastal watershed flooding. Phase two will examine how communities adjust and adapt to repetitive flooding.



**Crater-strewn battlefield:** Architecture professor Bob Warden takes measurements of the historic Pointe du Hoc battlefield during a summer 2003 reconnaissance. He and four other A&M faculty members will return to the historic WWII site this summer to continue their work.

### 'Free Flight'



**Airport art:** "Free Flight," an abstract installation by architecture professor Taeg Nishimoto, is suspended from the ceiling of Easterwood Airport. Photo by Dave McDermand, The Eagle. Reprinted with permission.

### Professor's architectural installation takes off at College Station airport

Travelers passing through Texas A&M University's Easterwood Airport are favorably responding, though perhaps subconsciously, to a new abstract sculpture suspended from the ceiling of the airport lobby.

"Prior to the sculpture's installation last December, we hardly had anyone sitting up there," explained John Happ, director of aviation at Easterwood. "Nowadays, everyone tends to migrate to that space."

The attraction, Happ specu-

lates, is the serene atmosphere evoked by the architectural installation, "Free Flight," an array of 100 glimmering stainless steel-mesh wing shapes, frozen mid-flutter and casting an otherworldly aura throughout the public space.

The artwork was designed and installed by Taeg Nishimoto, an associate professor of architecture at Texas A&M University. The project, instigated by Happ, was completed with grants from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and College of Architecture's

a narrow, pebble-strewn shore between Omaha and Utah beaches. When finally reinforced by advancing troops, only 90 of the 225 soldiers who started the mission were still able to fight, and nearly 80 of their comrades had lost their lives.

"Ultimately, we want to create a visualization of the site showing it as it is now, as it was like on D-Day, and what it was like in the weeks preceding the Allied invasion," explained Richard Burt, a Texas A&M construction science professor participating in the HRIL project. "Much like the History Channel show, 'Battlefield Detectives,' our team of architects, surveyors, archeologists and military historians will use forensic methodology to accurately recreate the Pointe du Hoc D-Day scenario."

## Second Century Celebration



**Who are these guys?** The late Robert White, professor emeritus and founding head of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Texas A&M, leads a critique of student work. To prepare for its 100th anniversary, the College of Architecture is trying to round-up and identify pictures like this one. You can help. Please visit the Second Century Celebration Web site at <http://archone.tamu.edu> and find out how to share your photos, anecdotes and special college memories.

## Yearlong celebration to mark 100 years of Aggie architecture

Almost 100 years ago in a most unlikely setting — the rural prairie of the Brazos River Valley — Texas' first architectural education program was established at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. In the ensuing century, that little college on the prairie transformed into Texas A&M University, a world-class institution of higher learning serving more than 44,000 students; and, that fledgling architecture program became part of a top-ranked design school — the largest of its kind in the nation.

To commemorate its 100 years of contributions to the world's architectural landscape, the College of Architecture at Texas



**Where it started.** The first formal architecture courses in Texas were taught in 1905 in the original Old Main Building at Texas A&M.

A&M University is enlisting the help of former students in planning a yearlong "Second Century Celebration."

The event-packed year, which kicks off with a formal dinner on April 1, 2005 and a Former Student Open House on April 2, 2005, will include exhibits, lectures, symposia and gatherings on campus and at special venues around the world. While part of the celebration will honor the myriad achievements of former students and faculty, the event will also look to the future, examining the role Aggies are yet to play in developing a sustainable, livable and aesthetically pleasing tomorrow.

In preparation for the event, the college is asking former students to submit written recollections of their college years as well as photographs and memorabilia that will help graphically reconstruct the institution's 100-year history. The submitted stories and photos will be posted with other items from the college archives on the Second Century Celebration Web site at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.

The college is especially interested in receiving:

- Photographs depicting student life, studio work, or memorable events from the college's past;
- Written recollections including anecdotes (both meaningful and humorous) and tributes to former instructors or classmates who made a difference; and
- The names and dates of scholarships, awards and special recognitions students have received.

Additional details, a calendar of events and instructions for submitting items can be found online at <http://archone.tamu.edu>

## \$5 million Langford renovation under way

Construction begins this summer on the first phase of a \$5 million renovation to Texas A&M's Langford Architecture Center. The plan includes substantial improvements to all three buildings housing the College of Architecture, plus construction of a new building to serve the college's "Architecture Ranch" — a 16-acre parcel of land at Riverside Campus.

Though details are still being negotiated, so far construction plans include:

- Creation of a two-level, 300-seat multimedia auditorium on the south end of Building B;
- Renovation and expansion of second floor Visualization Lab space in Building A, which will soon house both visualization program offices and Office of Student Services and related functions;
- Architectural enhancements to the corridor linking the Langford buildings, including a cover for the second-floor bridge;
- Construction of a unique studio critique space suspended between the third and fourth floors of the Building A atrium;
- Expansion and upgrade of the gallery on the first floor of Langford A;
- Acoustical treatment to reduce ambient noise throughout Building A;
- New facilities, including outdoor seating for the Azimuth coffee shop;
- Build outs to create additional classrooms, office space and research areas for graduate students;
- Construction of a multi-use building at the Riverside Campus to facilitate college research initiatives and large construction projects; and
- Elevator and rest room improvements.

In addition to these building renovations, the college is expanding its current campus footprint with the acquisition this summer of the entire basement level of the Williams Building (Administration Building).

complete stories and more pictures online:

[archone.tamu.edu](http://archone.tamu.edu)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** There's so much going on at the Texas A&M College of Architecture, we couldn't fit it all in this newsletter. For more stories and pictures visit the Web edition of **archone**. Here are a few samples of the articles posted online at [archone.tamu.edu](http://archone.tamu.edu):

### San Antonio mayor keynotes event

San Antonio mayor and former A&M student Ed Garza, LAND '92, told students participating in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning's Spring 2004 Workshop that his A&M studies prepared him for public service. He also discussed the city's ongoing Southside Initiative.

### State honors CHUD outreach workers



In April 2004, the Texas Department of Human Services presented its 2003 Community Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Laredo office of the Texas A&M Center for Housing and Urban Development. The center is housed in the College of Architecture.

### Innovative conservation explored

"Innovative Conservation: Technology in Practice," was the topic of the 2004 Historic Preservation Symposium held Feb. 28 by the College of Architecture's Historic Resources Imaging Laboratory. The event drew some of the world's leading preservation practitioners.

### Former students touch base

**CLASS ACTS:** Find out what your former classmates have been up to. Visit the online edition of the Summer 2004 **archone** newsletter at <http://archone.tamu.edu>



### Visiting artists work with students



Six internationally acclaimed multimedia artists visited the College of Architecture as part of the Spring 2004 Artists in Residence program —

**REVISIONS**

### RTKL: In Pursuit of Great Projects



The CRS Center's 2004 Rowlett Lecture offered a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse into the practice and philosophy of RTKL, a world-leading planning, design and construction firm.

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## SUMMER 2004

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
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"archone.," a newsletter serving the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University, highlights news and feature stories posted in detail online at <http://archone.tamu.edu>.

Readers may sign-up online to receive regular story updates via e-mail.

Address changes, photos, news and comments should be e-mailed to [newsletter@archone.tamu.edu](mailto:newsletter@archone.tamu.edu).

## Upcoming events:

■ **AIA Alumni Reception** at the AIA National Convention in Chicago, 6 - 7:30 p.m. June 11 at InterContinental Hotel.

■ **Outstanding Alumni Awards Banquet:** 6 - 9 p.m. Oct. 29, 2004 at Pebble Creek Country Club.

For more information on these events, please contact Trish Pannell at 458-0400 or e-mail [t-pannell@tamu.edu](mailto:t-pannell@tamu.edu).

## Interdisciplinary studio project

## Endowments



Former students and friends of the Department of Construction Science recently established the James C. Smith '70 Endowed



Professorship in honor of the outgoing department head. Similarly, George W. Seagraves '80 of Alexandria, Va., has established an endowed scholarship in the name Michael D. Murphy '61, of one of his former professors in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and a faculty member since 1969. Visit [archone.tamu.edu](http://archone.tamu.edu) to find out more about these important gifts.



Peckenwood Garden in Hempstead, Texas is home to a unique collection of rare plants from the United States and Mexico. Graduate students from all three built environment disciplines taught at the Texas A&M College of Architecture recently collaborated on the development of a master plan for the garden's expansion. The story begins inside this issue of **archone**. photo by Susan Kirchman.



# GIVE & TAKE

## Students pursue interdisciplinary accord while envisioning future of Peckerwood Garden

There was no screaming and gnashing of teeth, but graduate students participating in the inaugural run of a multidisciplinary studio involving all three built environment disciplines at Texas A&M's College of Architecture did have to battle a few demons of their own making — clashing egos, artistic disputes and heated debates over various project details.

This was a good thing, the studio planners said, because the program was designed to help students identify and overcome conflicts inherent to interdisciplinary teamwork and better prepare them for collaboration in their professional lives. In the end, they said, the student architects, builders and landscape architects received valuable lessons in teamwork, respect, and personal humility while gaining insight to their own disciplines.

The studio, conducted over the spring 2004 semester, required students to develop long-term plans and facility designs for Peckerwood Garden in Hempstead, Texas.

The 20-acre garden, established in 1971 by A&M architecture professor John Fairey, is a living repository for rare and unusual plants from the southern United States and Mexico.

The studio, created to introduce graduate students to the advantages and demands of interdisciplinary collaboration, was taught by professors from each department: Guillermo Vasquez de Velasco, architecture; Jody Rosenblatt Naderi, landscape architecture; and Neil N. Eldin, construction science. Together, the instructors played the role of "upper management" for four multidisciplinary student teams, each composed of two landscape architecture students, three architecture students and two construction science students.

The studio was designed to mirror real-world practices," Naderi said, "in which designers and builders work together in various configurations for the life of a project."

The studio also responded to a need within the professions, recently outlined by members of the college's Dean's Advisory Council, for well-rounded generalists — graduates with a broad understanding of the design-build process, who can integrate the activities of the various project participants.

In addition to the industry's demand for cross-trained employees, there has been rising concern within the academy of the pitfalls of academic segregation, or the "siloeing" of education programs within departments.

"Because knowledge and industry practice do not conform to this 'siloeing' model, academically segregated education can lead to a fractured learning experience for students," Eldin explained. "Siloeing does not enable students to bridge the gap between the strongly functional perspectives of their disciplines and the integrative strategic perspective necessary for success in practice."

In the multidisciplinary studio, Eldin continued, "we are melting the silos so we can get to the core of knowledge."

Additionally, Vasquez de Velasco said, "the interaction of the disciplines allows us to go way beyond the scope of a traditional design studio."

Because the Texas A&M College of Architecture is one of the few accredited design schools that houses all of the built environment professions, he said, the college is uniquely suited for interdisciplinary study.

"In particular," he added, "our graduate students are very well equipped for this kind of interaction because they already have a solid understanding of their own fields."

"To my knowledge, we are the only design school in the nation bringing these three disciplines together in one studio," said J. Thomas Regan, dean of the College of Architecture. "The success of this program has bolstered our commitment to expand interdisciplinary studies on both the graduate and undergraduate levels in order to respond to the evolving needs of the industries we serve."

The Peckerwood project, Naderi said, was well suited for interdisciplinary collaboration. The project called for the development of a master plan, building designs, and — because the site is a fragile ecological system incorporating wetland areas — it provided very challenging constraints for phased construction scheduling and delivery. "The garden includes wetlands, wildlife habitat and many rare and endangered plants," Vasquez de Velasco said. "So, you can't just go in there with bulldozers and a big construction crew. There are some areas where we are handling this like an offshore operation."

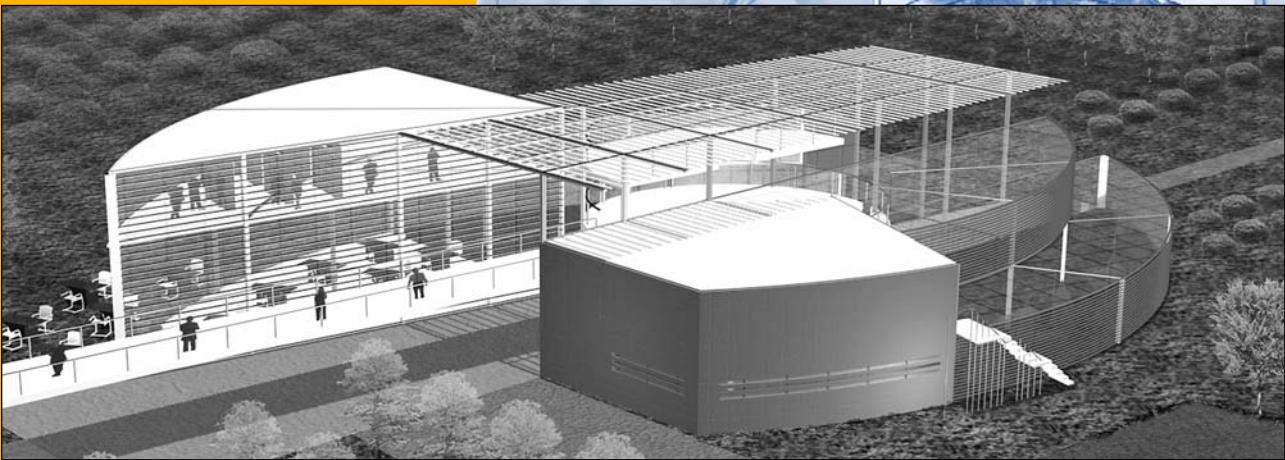
The instructors characterized the studio as a "think tank" exploring possibilities for the garden's future.

In developing a plan for the garden, Naderi said, the students were asked to "demonstrate how an international cultural exchange center that deals with the conservancy of plants can be designed to provide economic sustainability over a period of 25 years."

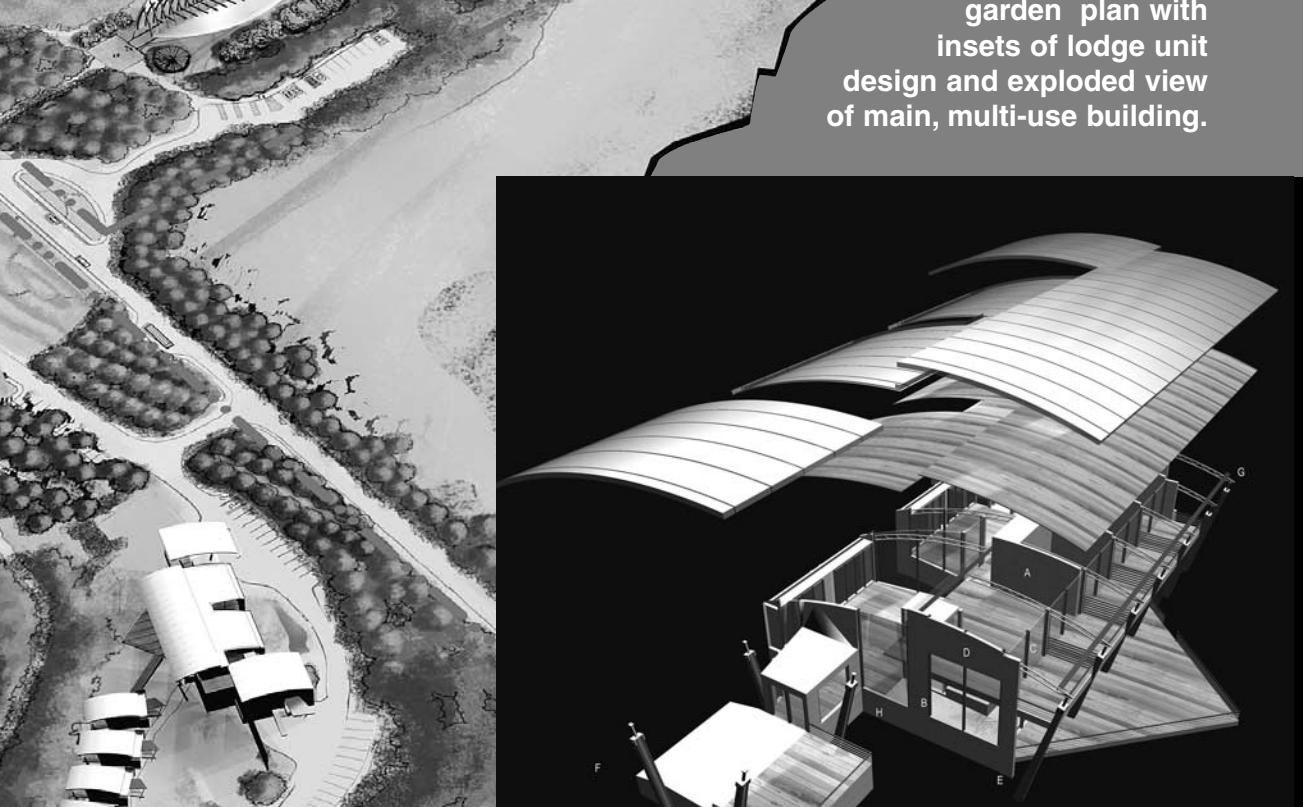
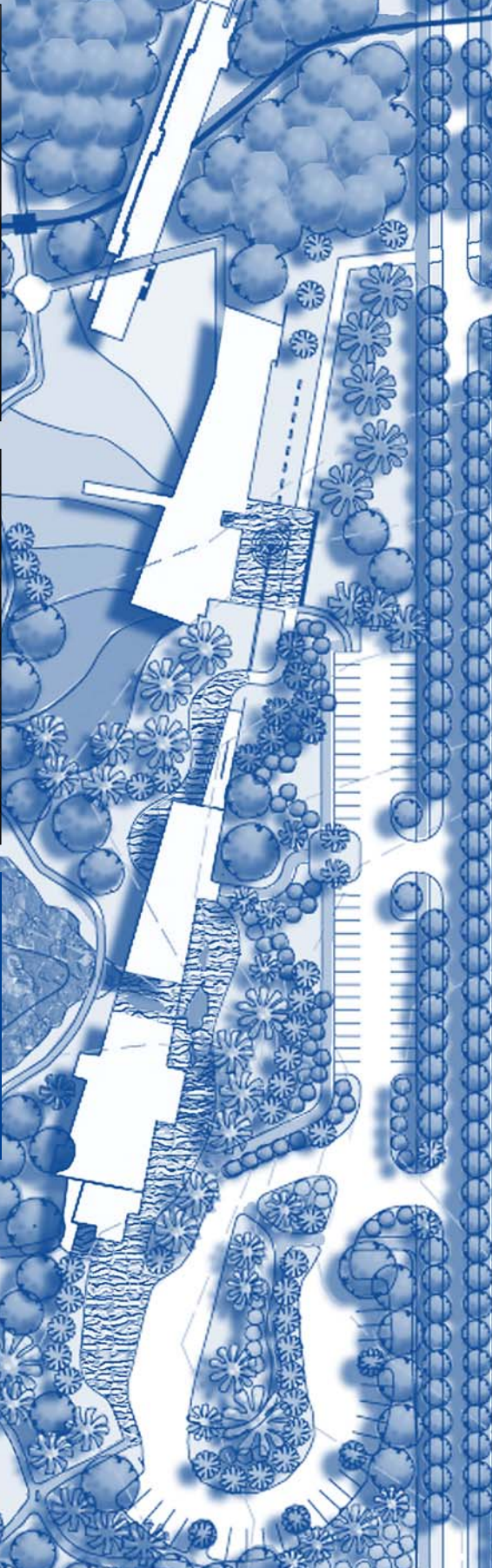
The scheme called for integrating into the existing garden, an adjacent, undeveloped 18-acre parcel of land that is separated from the developed garden by a county road. Each plan included at least three buildings to be phased into the project over time. The proposed structures included a visitor's center with a gift shop and exhibition space, an exhibition greenhouse and a lodge for overnight guests.

As the project progressed, Eldin said, "students quickly learned that the leadership shifted between disciplines. But even though different groups took turns at the project's helm, the students remained true to the collaborative process."

"It was not a process where one group followed the other, there was constant consultation throughout, and many passionately held differences to overcome," Vasquez de Velasco said. Through this interdisciplinary give and take, he continued, "students developed a better understanding of the others' professions while learning the boundaries of their own."



GROUP TWO building design and garden plan: Architecture — Kyounggho Kim (designed pictured building), Aug Rodelo Mac Gregor and Shivani Kumar; Landscape Architecture — Valerie Joan Brandon and Yun Zhao; Construction Science — Preethi Sreenivansan and Corinne Rasse Hubach.



Group Three's garden plan with insets of lodge unit design and exploded view of main, multi-use building.