

## Department of Architecture Opens Downtown Design Studio

In August, the Department of Architecture opened its Downtown Design Studio in Memphis' Uptown Neighborhood. The studio is a key element in the department's community engagement efforts. During fall 2010, fourth-year architecture students in two sections of the Architectural Design 5 Studio, taught by adjunct professors Andy Kitsinger and Jimmie Tucker, worked out of the new space. The department is working with the Memphis Center City Commission on a multi-year planning and design project. The studio space is provided by Henry Turley, local real estate developer and long-time supporter of the University of Memphis.

Students spent the first part of the fall semester preparing an urban design master plan for the Pinch and Uptown area including the identification of more than 20 potential development projects based on site context and market needs. The next phase was to develop an architectural design project that responded to one of the identified needs. Among the



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development projects presented to the design jury were a hotel, two mixed-use projects including residential and commercial, a mixed-use transit-oriented development, a waterfront park, a mosque and community center complex, and an environmentally-focused charter school.

During the spring 2011 semester, graduate students in the Advanced Architectural Design Studio 2 taught by Michael Chisamore, director of the Center for Sustainable Design, and undergraduate architecture students in the Architectural Design 2 Studio taught by Michael Hagge,

chair of the Department of Architecture, will work on their assignments in the Downtown Studio. The graduate students will focus on continuing the work the department initiated with the Front Street Memphis Art Park and the undergraduate students will focus on the design of affordable, sustainable housing using data gathered from the TERRA residence and additional "green" structures. The work also builds on the "Ordinary to Extraordinary: Learning and Leading Green" project developed through a partnership with BRIDGES USA.



Platinum buildings are highly energy and resource efficient, provide superior indoor comfort for the building's occupants, and dramatically reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which is commonly thought to be a primary cause of global climate change. TERRA is the first residence in West Tennessee to receive the platinum rating.

## TERRA House Receives LEED Platinum Rating

The TERRA (Technologically + Environmentally Responsible Residential Architecture) sustainable demonstration house received the LEED Platinum rating from the U. S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED green-building rating system has four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold and platinum.

Located in downtown Memphis, TERRA was developed through the University of Memphis' Center for Sustainable Design by students from the Department of Architecture under faculty supervision and in partnership with Davis, Patrikios and Criswell Inc., the project's general contractor, as well as more than 55 businesses, such as Varco Pruden Buildings, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Other partners in the TERRA project include CowanHouse, LEED consultant; Steelcase Corp.; and the Uptown Partnership, which includes Belz Enterprises Inc., Henry Turley Realtors, the City of Memphis, and MLGW EcoBUILD. Key students involved in the project (Alžběta Bowden, LEED AP, Mario Walker, Mary Carroll, and Kate Bidwell, LEED AP) were recently recognized when the Department of Architecture received a national award from the Construction Specifications Institute for the amount of student involvement in the project. Michael Chisamore, RA, LEED AP, assistant professor of architecture and director of the Center for Sustainable Design, along with several students will continue to monitor the post-occupancy energy savings of TERRA for the next several years.