

ARCHITECTURE NEWS 2007

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Professional Master of Architecture Degree Approved

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission approved the creation of a new professional Master of Architecture (M.Arch) degree at the University of Memphis at its meeting on 26 July in Nashville.

In announcing the approval of the new degree, University of Memphis President Dr. Shirley Raines said, "The Master of Architecture degree is now a reality at the University of Memphis, based on the recommendation of the Tennessee Board of Regents and the approval today from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The professional degree has been supported by local architects, developers, and city and regional planners, and the quality of our faculty was lauded in the reports by the consultant from the University of Texas. As undergraduates, many of the architecture students at the University of Memphis win awards for their designs. Now, these talented students can pursue the professional master's degree. We look forward to admitting the first students in the fall of 2008."

The M.Arch degree will focus on "city building" by bringing together Architecture, City Planning, and Real Estate students and faculty. This will enable the Architecture Program to expand its existing research and practice in partnership with the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and the Henry Turley Residency at the U of M and the Memphis Regional Design Center. Graduate and undergraduate students will also be involved with the existing Center for Sustainable Design at the FedEx Institute of Technology.

"This degree is based on what is known as a 4 + 2 program," explained Michael Hagge, head of the Architecture Program. "It will offer people with an approved pre-professional degree in architecture an accredited professional degree in two years and build upon the capacities and qualities of our existing Bachelor of Fine Arts in Architecture degree." The undergraduate architecture program has received national attention for its community involvement and innovative approaches as well as the quality of its graduates.

At present, Memphis is one of the largest cities in the nation without a professional architecture degree program in the city or in close proximity. The nearest Master of Architecture program is at Washington University in St. Louis, a private university. The nearest public school offering the M.Arch degree is in Louisiana, and the only other architecture program in Tennessee is at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, which offers both the five-year professional Bachelor of Architecture degree and three versions of the Master of Architecture degree.

Memphis has a large and talented group of architects who work on projects all over the nation," said Frank Ricks, managing partner of Looney Ricks Kiss Architects and co-chair of the U of M Architecture Program Advisory Board. "It will be a great boost to us to have this kind of academic resource in our own back yard. Until now, students graduating from the U of M have most often left the state to earn the professional degree, and most have not returned to Memphis."

In September 2007, the University submitted the initial Architecture Program Report seeking candidacy status to the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), the sole accrediting agency for professional degree programs of architecture in the USA. Candidacy is the first step in the accreditation process.

The approval was announced to the professional community at the annual convention of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held in Nashville at the same time the THEC meeting was taking place. AIA Tennessee President Joey Hagan, a principal in Architecture Incorporated of Memphis, and AIA Tennessee Executive Director Connie Wallace made the announcement and led a champagne

toast to the new M.Arch degree program. Michael Hagge, Sherry Bryan, and Frank Ricks attended the convention and spoke behalf of the Architecture Program. Adjunct Professor of Architecture Jeanne Myers also attended and Architecture students Lauren Chapman and Kasia Źycińska received special AIA scholarships to attend. In his remarks, professor Hagge said “Frank and Sherry have been working on this for longer than Lauren and Kasia have been alive!” describing the lengthy period of work before finally receiving approval.

Community Initiatives

Over the past year, Architecture faculty and students have been busy with a variety of projects within the Memphis region. While primarily focused within the area surrounding the University, another current focus area is Downtown Memphis including the Uptown Neighborhood.



Boards designed by Kasia Źycińska and Michael Hagge

Students participating in the multidisciplinary coursework gain valuable experience and knowledge in a variety of subject areas through the meaningful involvement of community stakeholders and through working together with students and faculty from different academic units on real, “hands on” projects. Among the findings from the project are (1) students enjoy working in multi-disciplinary teams to solve problems and respond to the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community; (2) lessons learned from engaged scholarship improve the ability of faculty to develop and teach courses; (3) coursework in the community benefits students while performing a valuable service to the community; and (4) the 2007 coursework provided a valuable experience, setting the framework and establishing continuity for continuing involvement and additional courses in the future.

The following Architecture courses had a “community” component: Urban Design Seminar – Honors and Architecture + Urbanism Seminar (synthesis of projects in two Architecture studios and one City Planning studio and an informational book for the Urban Design and Place-Making Symposium), Parameters in Architecture Studio – Honors (an edge conditions precedent study and a neighborhood park project),

Architectural Design VI Studio (a master plan for the Park Avenue Campus), Architectural Design V Studio (a master plan and various buildings for a site downtown), Architectural Design III Studio (renovation and new construction concepts for the Mason YMCA and “green” Montessori school), Architectural Design II Studio (a living-learning community for a private developer and single-family residences), Sustainable Design Studio and Architecture Independent Study in Sustainable Design (the TERRA sustainable demonstration house in Uptown).

For more information on the Community Initiatives Program, please visit the website at <http://udi.memphis.edu>.

Adjunct Faculty Bring Much to Studios

The Architecture Program has long benefited from the use of adjunct faculty members to enhance the educational experiences of Architecture students. Over the past year, this practice has led to some new approaches to team teaching within the various architectural design studios. At times, this has resulted in an outstanding faculty–student ratio of 1 to 4 or better.

In the spring 2007 semester, Dr. Ralph Faudree, U of M Provost, provided funds to bring Frank Ricks, founding principal of Looney Ricks Architects, to campus to teach the Architectural Design VI Studio. Under his leadership, architecture students prepared the Park Avenue Master Plan incorporating a variety of unique and innovative design concepts. To further benefit the students, professor Ricks brought in several key members of the staff at LRK to provide individual specialized instruction to the students. Among these were Steve Auterman and Mauricio Castro, both of whom were present virtually every studio session sharing their extensive knowledge in urban design.

In the fall 2007 term, Jimmie Tucker, founding principal of Self Tucker Architects, taught the Architectural Design V Studio. This is the capstone studio in which architecture students demonstrate their knowledge gained from all prior courses into a major project which often serves as the focal point in their portfolio for either graduate school or employment. Professor Tucker and Ray Brown, an architect at Self Tucker with considerable experience in real estate development, partnered throughout the semester to provide students with a deeper understanding of the relationship of design and development. Intern Architects Mario Walker and Rodrigo Garcia, both U of M graduates employed by Self Tucker Architects, assisted in the studio.

VP Hall of Fame Design Competition

For the second year in a row, Architecture faculty and students were invited to serve as the design jury for the VP Hall of Fame Design Competition. Headquartered in Memphis, VP Buildings is a world leader in the pre-engineered steel systems construction industry.

Seven of the students enrolled in the Parameters in Architecture Studio – Honors taught by professor Michael Hagge participated in the 2008 VP Hall of Fame Design Competition selection process in November as did Professor Jim Lutz.

Architecture faculty members Michael Hagge and Jim Lutz and several Architecture and City Planning students served as the design jury for the 2007 competition. The students were part of two special Architecture classes, ARCH 4023 Urban Design Seminar – Honors taught by professor Hagge and ARCH 4022/6022 Architecture + Urbanism taught by professor Sherry Bryan, which brought together second and fourth year Architecture students and graduate students in City Planning. Students participating on the jury were Kamesha Hervey, Mario Walker, Lauren Chapman, Christin Mains, Matt Sihvonen, and Kasia Źycińska from Architecture and Laura Jewell and Tim Moreland from Planning.

Professors Hagge and Bryan were invited by VP to attend their International Convention in San Diego, CA. Professor Hagge announced the 2008 winners and described the projects at a ceremony attended by over 700 people. VP also made a commitment to participate in the TERRA Demonstration House project being developed by Architecture faculty and students.



2008 Jury members (left to right) Professor Jim Lutz, Colby Mitchell, Jeffrey Johnson, Kate Bidwell, Will Sealock, Kelly May, Ryan Dobbs, Professor Michael Hagge, and Jaclyn Affatato.

New Student Orientation

Almost fifty new first year students participated in Architecture Student Orientation in August. Students received a detailed manual and heard from faculty and other students about the program of study, policies and procedures, the honor code, student organizations, safety, camera and computer requirements, and basic “architecture school survival” tips. Since all Architecture students are in a studio cohort based on first through fourth year and take all courses for their respective year together, Orientation also provided a social setting over pizza and a movie for the new students to begin to get to know one another as well as the second, third, and fourth year students.

Architecture Summer Camp

The fourth annual Discovering Architecture Summer Camp was held from Monday, 4 June, through Saturday, 16 June 2007. Fifteen students from middle-school and high-school age completed the two week camp which is co-sponsored by the University of Memphis Architecture Program and the Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In addition to intensive “hands on” projects and lectures on sustainable design, historic preservation, engineering and structures, and urban design, campers toured the Lincoln American Tower renovation project with architect Chooch Pickard, learned about downtown revitalization from Center City Commission staff, and visited the offices of Looney Ricks Kiss Architects. They also built a geodesic dome from rolled-up newspaper, constructed and tested loading capacity of bridges made from cardboard, and received an introduction to various computer software programs from Architecture students Lauren Chapman and Christin Mains.

In addition to Michael Hagge and Jim Lutz, who serve as co-coordinators of the camp, Architecture faculty members Sherry Bryan and Tom Mason also participated in the camp along with several Architecture student volunteers. Professor Michael Chisamore from Alfred State University served as guest instructor. Several local architects and designers also participated in the camp, offering students insight into their respective professions and various projects.



(left) Sonja Wilson presents her final design project to jury members Jimmie Tucker and Michael Chisamore (standing)
(right) Summer camp students constructing a geodesic dome from rolled-up newspaper (photos by Michael Hagge)

The camp concluded with the students presenting their design solution to a jury consisting of professor Hagge, professor Chisamore, and local architect and adjunct professor Jimmie Tucker. Dr. Richard Ranta, Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts, also attended the presentations. Each student was awarded a certificate of completion from Heather Baugus, Executive Director of AIA Memphis.

Since its initiation, six of the campers have enrolled in the BFA in Architecture degree program.

Anne Beffel Project

Architecture students in two courses, Fundamentals of Design, taught by professor Sherry Bryan, and Parameters in Architecture – Honors, taught by professor Michael Hagge, are involved in helping make an exhibit by New York artist Anne Beffel, *Sitting Still: Contemplative and Creative Responses to Our World*, a reality. In preparation for the exhibit, to open February 23, 2008 in The Art Museum of the University of Memphis (AMUM), students in both sections of “Fundamentals” are designing and constructing cardboard stools upon which visitors will sit on while watching video shot by the artist as well as U of M students in architecture and art.



Heather Burkeen



Maya Brewer

Students in "Parameters" are shooting video to submit to the artist for consideration. First year Architecture student Kelly May, is documenting the process in the Architecture courses as part of her Honors Program contract.

Student News

Graduating Architecture students received special recognition at the 2007 Architecture Awards Reception.

Anthea Selkirk and **Kamesha Hervey** were awarded the Alpha Rho Chi Bronze Medal for their scholarship and leadership. Mario Walker received the Architecture Research Centers Consortium Jonathan King Medal for his outstanding research projects. **Babak Keyvani** (summa cum laude), **Anthea Selkirk** (magna cum laude), **Mario Walker** (magna cum laude), **Kamesha Hervey** (cum laude), **Chris Ashbrand** (cum laude), and **Corey Nelson** (cum laude) all graduated with Honors. Continuing Architecture students recognized at the event were **Kasia Życińska** (Looney Ricks Kiss Architects Endowed Scholarship); **Jeffrey Johnson**, **Linda Šuhajdová**, and **Christin Mains** (Van Walton Memorial Scholarship); **Alžběta Bowden** and **Lauren Chapman** (Dempsie Morrison, Jr. Memorial Scholarship from the Construction Specifications Institute); and **Lauren Chapman**, **Matt Sihvonen**, and **Kasia Życińska** (Elizabeth and Harold Robinson Scholarship). The event was held at the Architecture House Living-Learning Community and hosted by the U of M Residence Life department.



(left to right) Kamesha Hervey, Joshua Bellaire, Cory Nelson, Chris Ashbrand, Anthea Selkirk, Dale Suttle, Babak Keyvani, Conley Reilly, Steven Vickers, Mario Walker, Jason Smith, Rusty Hollingsworth

Pam Hurley, a second year Architecture student, received the Set Design Award at the 24th Ostrander Awards, honoring excellence in local live theater. Pam won for her work on the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" which won a total of five awards, including best musical production and direction of a musical. Pam is also an accomplished artist and photographer.

AIAS Chapter - After several years of being dormant, the University of Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) is again active. Professors Sherry Bryan and Jeanne Myers led the effort along with Architecture students Kate Bidwell, Ryan Dobbs, Lauren Chapman, and Kasia Życińska. Membership in AIAS is open to all Architecture and Design students. For more information, e-mail aias@memphis.edu.

Faculty News

Jim Williamson has written a book entitled *The Architect*. Written with a solid ring of authenticity, the story builds to a suspenseful and tragic climax amidst its setting in Memphis and Mississippi, a region peopled by colorful characters where the past is inevitably in conflict with the present. It is available now in bookstores.

Michael Hagge was selected to serve on the Memphis and Shelby County Unified Development Code Advisory Committee and on the search committee for the new City/County planning director. Professor Hagge made presentations at the Building Great Communities Conference of the Urban Land Institute and at the MIMSAC conference, "Living Learning Communities: Experiences in Architecture and Foreign Language" (with Foreign Languages Professor Carla Martinez). He also moderated a panel on "Urbanism in Formation" at the 25th Annual Conference of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) in Nashville.

Michael Hagge, Jim Lutz, and **Steve Auterman** presented their respective work in the "Coursework in the Community: The University District Initiatives Engaged Scholarship Project" session at the MIMSAC conference.

Jim Lutz was invited to moderate a panel on "Roots of Southern Regionalism" at the 25th Annual Conference of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) in Nashville. He also presented the TERRA project as a part of the "Ecobuild: The Lowdown on Downtown Memphis - Revitalizing Memphis' Oldest Neighborhood" panel along with Alex Mobley from the Uptown Partnership and Becky Williamson from MLGW at the Building Great Communities Conference of the Urban Land Institute. Professor Lutz also presented a paper entitled "Hear and There: Sound and Movement in Modern Architecture" at the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) in Charleston, West Virginia. He was also an invited jury member on the "Mid-South Construction Magazine - Best of 2007" awards program.

