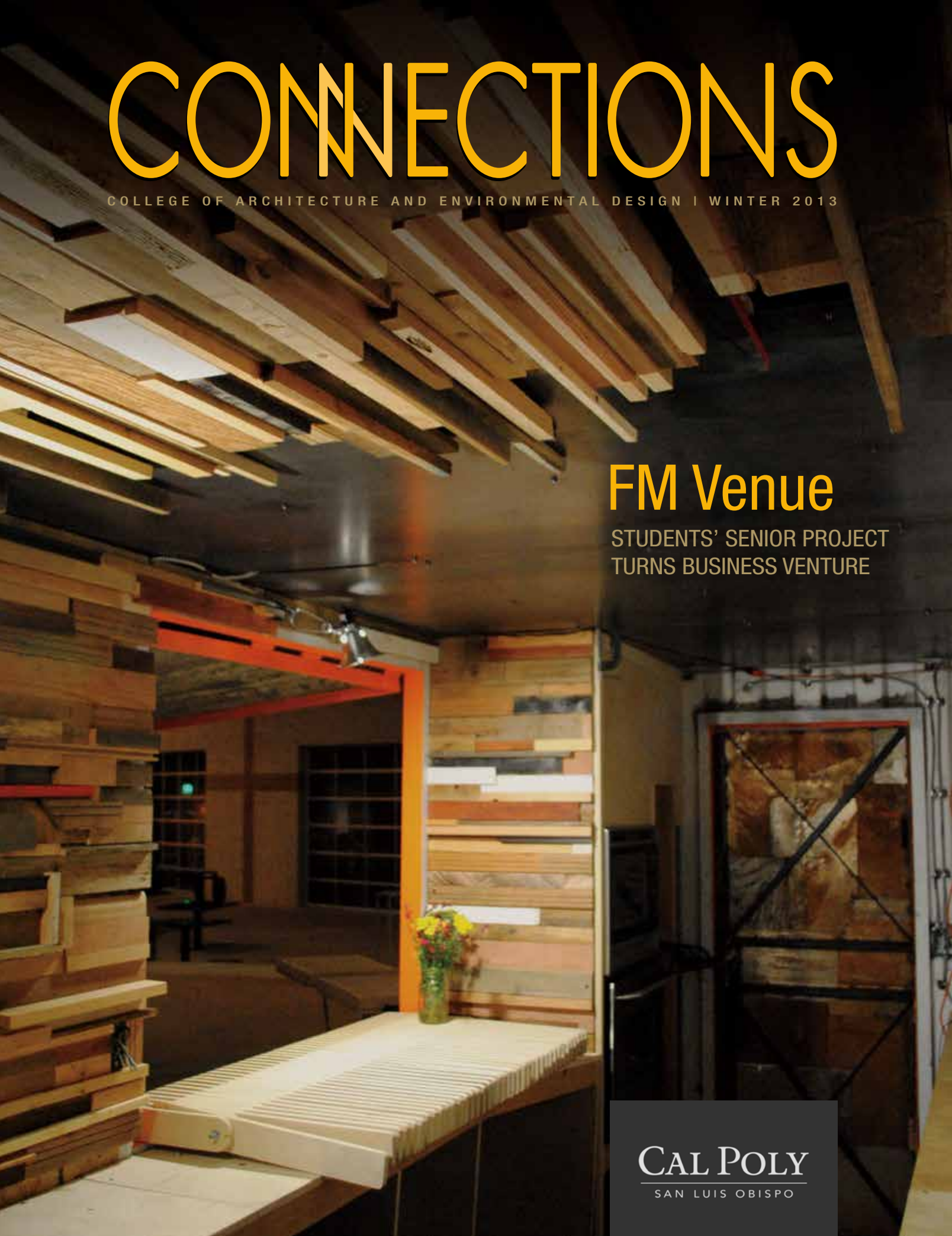
CONNECTIONS

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN | WINTER 2013



FM Venue

STUDENTS' SENIOR PROJECT
TURNS BUSINESS VENTURE

CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

Q&A

With Christine Theodoropoulos

THE COLLEGE WELCOMES A NEW DEAN

CHRISTINE THEODOROPOULOS ENTHUSIASTICALLY picked up the reins as dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design in September. It was a logical next step for the former head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Oregon.

An architect and civil engineer, Theodoropoulos earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from Princeton University in 1979 and a Master of Architecture degree from Yale University in 1985. Her interest in the built environment goes back to her early teenage years.

"My family moved several times, so we lived in Brooklyn, New Orleans and Washington, D.C.," she said. "I also stayed with grandparents in Greece and Sweden – all places with extraordinary and strikingly different built environments. I began to appreciate the profound connections between experience, culture, place and building. I wanted to be part of that."

Read on for more insights into Theodoropoulos.

Q: What do you see as your role as dean?
A: As a leader who helps the CAED community achieve professional goals and make meaningful contributions to Cal Poly, to environmental design practice, and to communities.

Q: Do you have a vision for the college?
A: I see our college as the 21st century's premier model for hands-on, Learn by Doing environmental design education.

Q: Why do you think interdisciplinary collaboration is important?
A: It increases the relevance of our professions. As future leaders who aspire to transform the built environment, our students will engage complex social, technical and economic contexts. Interdisciplinary collaboration prepares them.

Q: You started in civil engineering then switched gears, earning a master's in architecture. Why?
A: As an undergraduate, I chose engineering because it opened doors for career opportunities designing structures. My graduate work, with its focus on building design, was a natural next step in my development that gave me a more holistic understanding of architecture.

Q: In your short time as dean, what has impressed you most about Cal Poly?
A: Cal Poly is a truly student-centered campus where the most important person is the student. Our faculty measure their success by the success of their students. Our staff are deeply committed to making sure every student has access to an excellent education and the support they need for personal growth.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Hitting the Ground Running

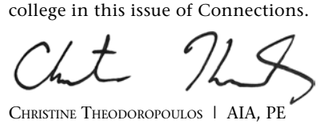
I AM EXPERIENCING AN EXCITING YEAR OF DISCOVERY: discovery of the amazing talents and achievements of the CAED's students and faculty; discovery of the traditions and qualities that make Cal Poly one of the best public universities in the nation; and discovery of the uniqueness of each of the college's distinguished academic programs where Learning by Doing transforms the built environment.

For the 20th straight year, Cal Poly was rated the best public master's university in the West by U.S. News & World Report. CAED's programs continue to be recognized for excellence, garnering top placements in independent rankings of professional schools.

Every day students make their creative mark in work that spills out of our studios into galleries, construction sites and communities. Every month there is news of our students winning awards from national professional organizations. Last fall more than 1,000 visitors and judges from the furniture design industry were dazzled by their innovative entries for the Vellum Furniture Competition.

Helping to support our students, CAED alumni continue to inspire. Many thanks to our alumni who volunteered for Mustang Mentoring's student-to-professional networking sessions. We celebrated the renovation of one of the college's largest event spaces with the KTGY Group, which joined us to dedicate the gallery and spend time with students. Jack Berridge, architectural engineering class of 1959, received the college's Honored Alumnus Award for his innovations in architectural metals design and fabrication. John Shoals, city and regional planning class of 1987, gave an inspiring address on leadership in community planning at our winter commencement ceremony.

I hope you will enjoy reading more about the life of the college in this issue of Connections.



CHRISTINE THEODOROPOULOS | AIA, PE

INSIDE:

ON THE COVER:

Architecture students Derrick Lee, Matt Faller, Kyle Usselton and Matthew Yungert collaborated in their Fifth Year Thesis Design Studio on transforming "flexible modules" from shipping containers to retail and office spaces. Read more on page 12.

CAED 2012 HONORED ALUMNUS BERRIDGE ATTENDS LAB DEDICATION

CAED 2012 HONORED ALUMNUS Jack Berridge (ARCE '59) and family joined faculty, staff and students at the Berridge Lab dedication ceremony held during Homecoming. The lab gives architecture, architectural engineering, and construction management students their first exposure to structural courses.

"We have labs where we design things and labs where we break them," said Al Estes, Architectural Engineering Department head. "The Berridge Lab falls into the latter category, operating as a classroom, an activity room, and an experimental lab."

Berridge, founder and owner of Houston-based Berridge Manufacturing Co., is a prolific innovator of architectural metal roofing products and is considered a pioneer of the architectural metal panel industry.

At the dedication, President Jeffrey D. Armstrong thanked Berridge for helping improve the space for student learning. "Cal Poly's Learn by Doing spirit means we are constantly striving to improve, and thanks to Jack's support, we are building a program of continuous improvement," he said.

The Berridge Lab marks the seventh lab that has been renovated as part of a program that provides opportunities for companies and individuals to make a $10,000-a-year commitment for five years to pay for upgrades and enhancements. The lab is named in the donor's honor.

In addition to Berridge Manufacturing's five-year commitment, the company also provided some of its own materials in the renovation.

The lab dedication included (from left): ARCE Department Head Al Estes, CAED Dean Christine Theodoropoulos, Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, and alumnus Jack Berridge.

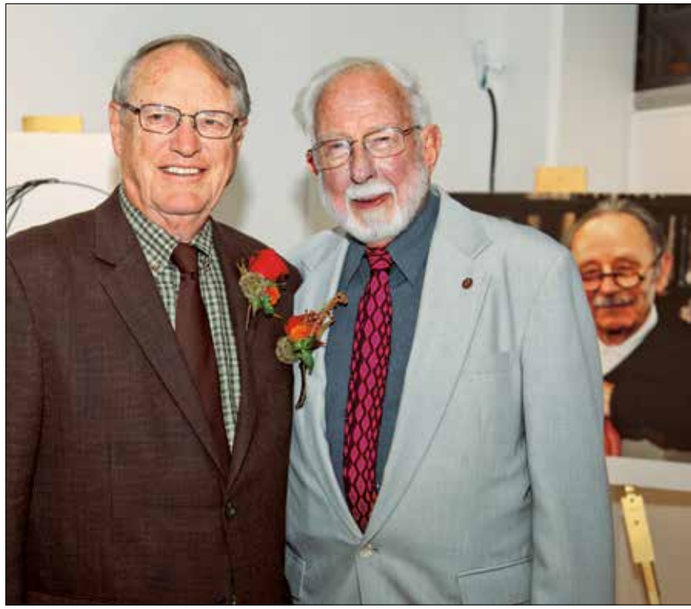
FACULTY EMERITI SCHWARTZ, BROWN AWARDED HASSLEIN MEDAL

FACULTY EMERITI Ken Schwartz and Bill Brown were recently awarded the 2012 George Hasslein Medal in honor of their passion for and commitment to interdisciplinary learning and teaching.

The medal, named in honor of George J. Hasslein, founding dean of the college, is awarded to alumni or benefactors who demonstrate a commitment to interdisciplinary learning and teaching. The medal is awarded by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Foundation (CAEDF).

"Bill Brown and Ken Schwartz were awarded this prestigious medal for their lifelong commitment to George Hasslein's passion for interdisciplinary learning and teaching and advancement of the industry, said CAEDF President Drew Erickson. "Both Bill and Ken have demonstrated exceptional contributions to Cal Poly, the Learn by Doing approach, mentoring students, and professional student education. Both medal winners helped George build the interdisciplinary foundation for the college as we see it today. Both have given to Cal Poly and our college in ways that will be felt for generations."

Nominations for the 2013 George Hasslein Medal are being accepted. For more information, call 805-756-5138.



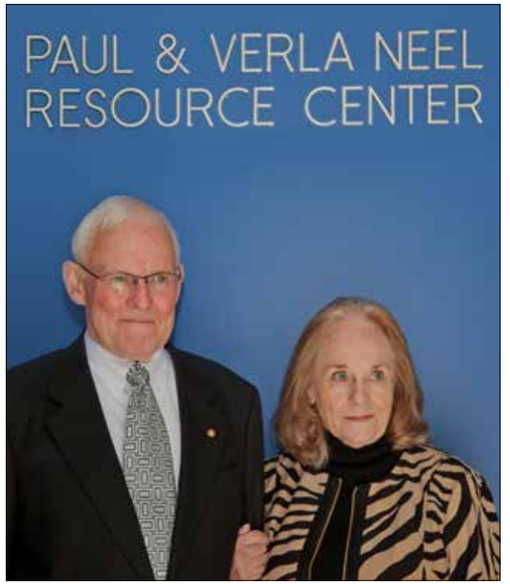
Bill Brown (left), Ken Schwartz, and George Hasslein looking on

DEDICATION CEREMONY HONORS NEELS' GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

CAED DEAN EMERITUS Paul Neel and his wife, Verla, were the guests of honor at the dedication ceremony for the newly named Paul and Verla Neel Media Resource Center. The Neels have recently made a generous pledge, which will fund the center's acquisition of media materials, subscriptions and equipment in specialized support areas that will benefit all CAED majors.

The center provides students access to architecture and environmental design-related resources. Collections include books, periodicals, slides and digital images, working drawings, and material samples of flooring, concrete, tile, and more.

In his more than 35 years at Cal Poly, Paul taught architecture and served as director of the Architecture and Landscape Architecture departments and as dean of the college. Verla Neel also enjoyed a successful career in education, specializing in curriculum and program development. The Neels have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the support of students and faculty in the CAED. They have long championed the value of professional development, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary education.



Paul and Verla Neel visit the resource center named in their honor.

THINKING **BIG**

ARCE STUDENTS BUILD WORLD'S LARGEST PORTABLE TELESCOPE

IT STARTED OUT as a senior project for three architectural engineering students, but it turned out to be so much more. Laura Rice (ARCE '12), Mike Vickery (ARCE '12) and Mounir el Koussa (ARCE '12) put Learn by Doing to the test to build the base for the world's largest portable amateur telescope, which turned into a beautiful piece of award-winning art, and perhaps even helped them land jobs.

The three collaborated on the project with Russell Genet, a Cal Poly research scholar in residence and director of the Orion Observatory in Santa Margarita, Calif. The project was undertaken as part of the Alt-Ax Telescope Initiative, which aims to develop a new class of low-cost, lightweight research telescopes and spur growth in scientific research programs.

"Amateurs could recreate it for under $1,000," Rice said. "Large telescopes typically cost upwards of $200,000."

Dubbed "Big Woody," the telescope's mirror reflects light from stars onto a specialized camera that can record up to 600 images per second. The images are then analyzed on a computer.

The finished product will allow Genet and his students to conduct pioneering research.

"We architectural engineers analyze buildings, not telescopes," Rice said. "This was new. It was exciting to take what we learned and apply it to an entirely new structure. It was interesting to see the similarities in designing this and designing buildings."

The project also gave el Koussa a better understanding of the theoretical structural engineering concepts he learned in school. And, he says, it helped him land numerous interviews and job offers.

Architectural engineering students Mike Vickery (left), Mounir el Koussa and Laura Rice built "Big Woody" as their senior project.

BUILT TO LAST

ERHART AGRICULTURE BRIDGE TURNS 30 AMID ALUMNI FANFARE

PAUL W. DOOLEY (B.Arch '82) and about 60 alumni, faculty, staff and friends gathered on campus last April to celebrate the 30th anniversary of an "impossible" idea.

Dooley, while in his third year, brought the idea to then-Dean George Hasslein: Dooley wanted to erect a bridge from North Poly View Drive to the top floor of the Erhart Agriculture Building.

"When you were at the top of the stairs outside the building, you were eye level with the second floor hallway, seemingly steps away," Dooley said. "But you had to go down the stairs, enter the building, and go back upstairs to get to the top floor. George said the bridge idea was impossible and that the university had given the CAED Poly Canyon in which to make our messes."

Dooley persisted. Within 18 months, he and Ralph Teyssier (ARCE and CM '82) designed the bridge and had gotten conceptual approval. "By then I was interning with George. I asked if he remembered what he had told me. He replied that he had learned two sure ways to motivate students: tell them their idea is impossible or that it is not allowed."

Eric Dybevik (CM '82) and Joe Lapasinski (CM '82) were lured to the project. During summer and fall of 1981, they secured donations of material and cash. The following two quarters, they led a class in which 18 students enrolled and completed construction of the Erhart Agriculture Bridge.

The 1982 bridge building partners included (above, from left): Eric Dybevik (CM '82), Paul Dooley (B.Arch '82), Ralph Teyssier (ARCE '82) and Joe Lapasinski (CM '82).

Alums who attended the bridge's 30th anniversary included (top, from left): Ralph, Paul, Joe and Eric, with David Boone (C. Eng.), Perry Schacht (ARCE '83), Mark Rawson (B.Arch '87), Ken Herrmann (CAFES), Kathleen (Dillon) Cambra (ARCE '84), David Beck (CM '83) and Alex Bergtraun (B.Arch '82).

"The project was Learn by Doing at its finest," Dooley said. "Looking back, I'm amazed they allowed a group of kids to do this. But that brings to mind another Hasslein quote: 'They didn't know that they couldn't.' "

At the anniversary/rededication, each member of the team spoke about what the project meant to them. "Everyone involved was affected in a way that remains with them to this day," Dooley said.

Todd Davis' Wild Ride

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ALUM REINVENTS HIMSELF ... AND EARTH'S LIVING SPACES

Todd Davis enjoys many sports, including skydiving.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ALUMNUS Todd Davis ('96) is like Superman on steroids. For fun, when he's not flying through the air skydiving, wingsuit diving, or BASE jumping, the 6-foot-4-inch tall, 225-pound daredevil might be working on a project for a client at his Epic Spaces design company or hosting an episode of HGTV's hit remodeling/decorating show "Room Crashers."

At 40, the married father of two young sons has experienced life's highs and lows and has probably lived a fuller life than most people twice his age.

Right out of college, Davis began competing in extreme skiing and snowboarding, earning a good living from sponsors, modeling, TV commercials and stunt work. He did that for 10 years, enjoying life to the fullest.

"Then I got hit by a snowmobile, and life as I knew it was over," he said. "I was messed up physically and psychologically. The phone quit ringing. I had to reinvent myself."

Picking up where he left off when he graduated Cal Poly, he went to work for a landscape architect. After a few years, he founded Epic Spaces, a San Francisco design firm specializing in unique indoor and outdoor spaces that he says reflect a sense of refined relaxation, adventure and fun.

"I love landscape architecture," he said. "It is such a personal experience because of the 'vibe' and the relationships you build with people."

Life was good, business was brisk. Davis was again enjoying sports. Then a friend suggested Davis audition for "Design Star." In the HGTV reality show, contestants compete for their own design show. Each week, they participate in an interior design challenge in which they are given a specified amount of time and money to create their designs. Davis was accepted as a contestant.

"I did these off-the-wall designs that blew the judges' minds. I created a room for Wayne Newton that rotated 360 degrees by putting the room on a rotating stage that could spin in any direction he wanted.

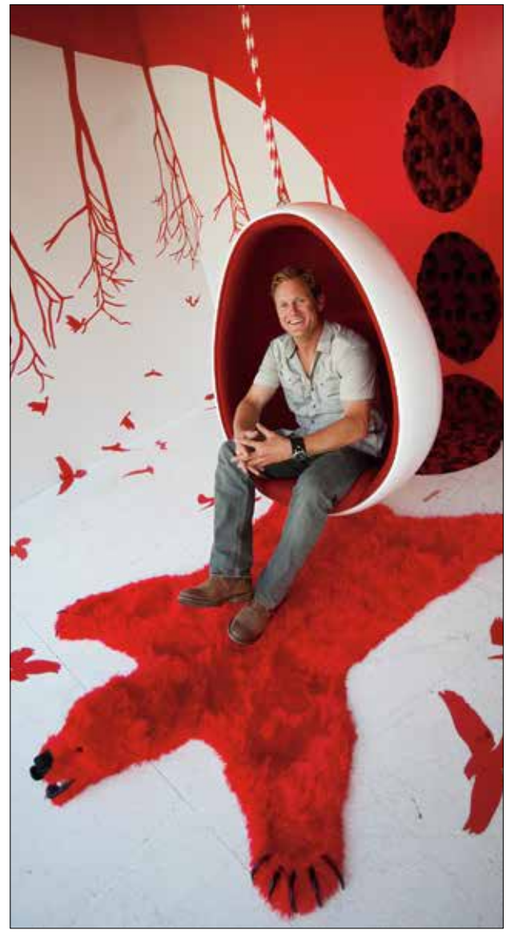
"I also created a tsunami room," Davis continued. "I painted a mural of a wave that looked as if it had exploded through the walls, into the room. All the furniture was bolted to the walls."

His unique creations earned him a second-place win and a spot as the host of "Room Crashers." Now in its third season, the 13-episode show alternates back-to-back filming in Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"We hang out in consignment furniture stores to find couples who are already remodeling or thinking about remodeling," Davis said, "I walk up to them and say, 'I am coming home with you right now' and bust out my credit cards. We literally pounce on people. I go for the startle entrance, which doesn't always go over well."

Apparently not. Up to 90 percent of the people Davis approaches turn him down. "I've had people literally drop whatever they were carrying and walk out of the store. I've tried crazy; I've tried ridiculous; I've tried nice. I've tried everything."

He likes helping people fulfill their desires, but it's not an easy gig. The physical aspect can be intense. "We do all the work in three days, working 14-16 hour days, three days in a row. It's physically and mentally exhausting. It's the most difficult thing I have done."



A landscape architecture project for Epic Spaces (above).

Davis' sense of adventure and fun are evident in interior design projects, such as the tsunami room for "Design Star" (top right); and a room for the Country Music Awards in Nashville (right), "where I had $2,000 and three hours to do anything I wanted."

A stark contrast to his more carefree days at Cal Poly, where he fell in love with the city's environment and Cal Poly's hands-on educational approach. "The professors trusted us," he said. "They would assign us one project and say, 'See you in 10 weeks.'

"That allowed me to take the project in any direction I wanted. I would create it in eight weeks and take off skiing for two weeks. I would spend a wicked amount of time on the project beforehand. I would anticipate the questions that could potentially be asked of me, then disappear. When I came back to present my project, I was prepared and excited to explain it."

He admits the path he has chosen is not for everyone. "I loved landscape architecture, but it wasn't what I wanted to do right away," he explained. "It became Plan B. When I was injured, it became Plan A, and now that I'm hosting 'Room Crashers,' it is Plan C.

"I've had to change direction in my life many times," he continued. "After college, I never lived more than five months in one place. I've experienced extreme highs and lows. My life has been a long, continuous organic flow of what I love."

And that includes Cal Poly. He still feels a connection to the university. "It was a major influence on me," he said, "and I plan on giving back."

CM alumni Bret Eberhart (above, left) and Bryan Mione are working on a library project in San Diego.

Alfonso Dominguez and his business partner, Sarah Filley, are renewing "Old Oakland" (right).

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ALUMS MAKING THEIR MARK IN SAN DIEGO

BRYAN MIONE (CM '10) AND BRET EBERHART (CM '11) are working for Turner Construction on San Diego's New Central Library. They gave Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and CAED Dean Theodoropoulos a tour of the project, now under construction.

"We owe it to Cal Poly for providing us with the excellent education to work straight out of college for a national corporation such as Turner," the alums said. "We couldn't have done it without Cal Poly, and we are proud to be proof of the success one can accomplish by attending Cal Poly."

ARCHITECTURE ALUMNUS HELPS REVIVE 'OLD OAKLAND'

ALFONSO DOMINGUEZ, with partner-artist Sarah Filley, is helping rejuvenate the shopping scene in "Old Oakland" with PopUpHood, a for-profit social enterprise they co-founded. Dominguez took the initiative to develop and propose to the city a plan to encourage retailers to move into vacant commercial space. These new, creative shops complement nearby restaurants and promote long-term economic development.

PopUpHood researches and selects tenants and negotiates free rent with property owners, while Oakland's Economic Development Office offers marketing support and advice. The combination of opportunity and service benefits the retailer, the consumer, and the City of Oakland. For more information, go to www.popuphood.com.

Landscape Architecture's class of 1974 – the department's first graduating class – gathers outside classrooms in the "Old Post Office."

JOIN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN MARCH FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

IT WAS 1972 when Roger Osbaldeston and Richard Zweifel were hired to teach in the newly created Landscape Architecture Department. Then came Alice Loh, Jerry Emory, Dale Sutliff, and a host of diverse, talented faculty followed suit.

In the ensuing 40 years, much has changed, but one founding ideal persists: maintain as much diversity on the faculty as possible to create a dynamic atmosphere. More than 1,600 students have earned degrees in landscape architecture since the first class joined the program in 1972.

Alumni, friends, family and students are invited to celebrate the department's 40th anniversary on Saturday, March 16, 2013, in conjunction with the Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council (LADAC) meeting. "It will be a great time to return to campus and see what's new in the department and connect with the future of the profession," said Interim Department Head Joe Ragsdale.

As part of the celebration, visitors to campus will be able to watch as landscape architecture graduating seniors present their final projects on Friday, March 15.

In addition, Ragsdale invites alumni to return to campus to give noontime, brown-bag lunch presentations about their work, experience and the time they spent at Cal Poly. Interested alumni should contact Ragsdale at 805-756-1319 or jragsdal@calpoly.edu.

OUT OF THE ASHES: ALLEN MESKIMEN'S AWARD-WINNING THESIS PROJECT EMERGES

ALLEN MESKIMEN (M.S. Arch '11) was a Santa Barbara County firefighter back in 1993, when he battled one of the largest fires in Malibu's history, the Green Meadows Fire.

Working alongside a crew of firefighters, MesKimen saved a house, unaware he was fighting flames between 250 and 300 feet high. Afterward, he was left wondering why some structures burn and others don't. That question was largely answered after he studied and conducted research at Cal Poly while working on his master's degree.

The resulting thesis, which was named Cal Poly's 2012 Outstanding Thesis Project, has contributed to the body of knowledge used by firefighters, planners, designers, developers, insurance underwriters and residents of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) to increase safety and mitigate the loss of WUI (an area where natural fuels expose human development to risk of wildfires). "That house and those flames were the fountainhead of my inspiration and the conceptual basis for the innovative mitigating measures," MesKimen said.

ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS TURN POST-INDUSTRIAL WASTE INTO OFFICE/RETAIL 'FLEXIBLE MODULES'

IS IT A SHIPPING CONTAINER? A community kitchen? A retail shop or office space? It is all those things thanks to a team of architecture students.

FM Venue was developed by Derrick Lee (B.Arch '12), Matt Faller (B.Arch '12), Kyle Usselton (B.Arch '12), and Matthew Yungert (B.Arch '12) as a "moveable" community kitchen for their Fifth Year Thesis Design Studio.

"It was created in two different studio classes, making it a unique, cross collaboration," Yungert said.

They saw the shipping container as a dynamic piece of architecture that could be easily moved where it was most needed.

"I was always interested in creating a temporary structure that could be deployed, serve a purpose, and be closed down when not in use," Yungert explained. "Deciding to use the shipping container came second. It seemed natural to use a piece of post-industrial waste that is inherently modular and movable."

Each student brought a different specialty to the project. Yungert provided the initial design, development and woodworking skills. Lee worked on marketing development and design. Faller's expertise is tectonics – how buildings come together. Usselton's interest is music and digital fabrication.

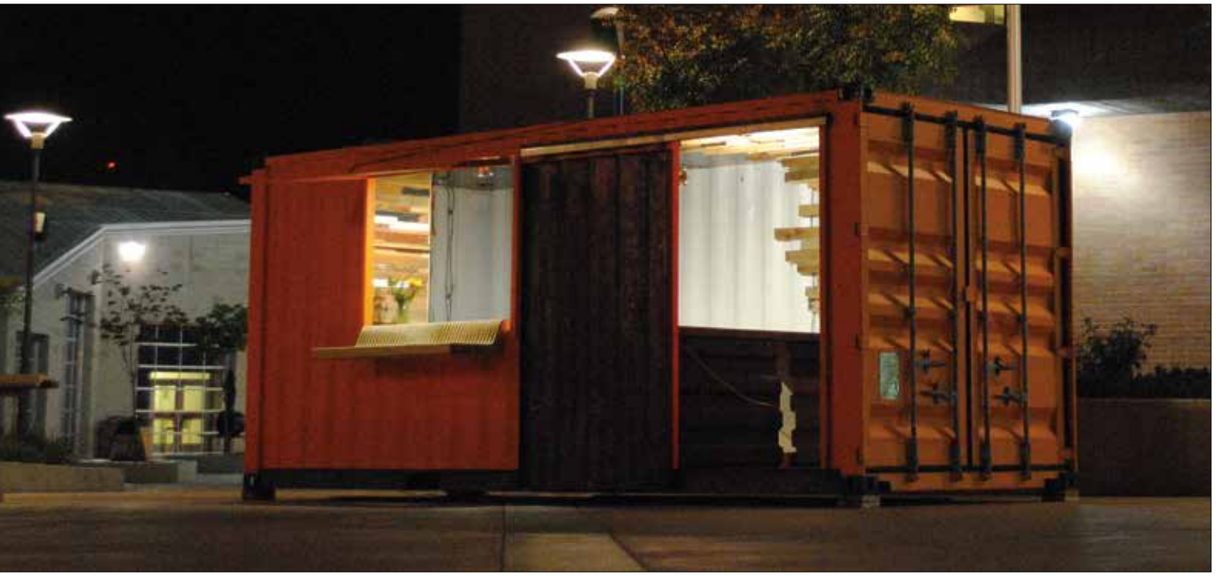
They entered their prototype – a flexible food venue that could easily change cuisines by bringing in different chefs – in Innovation Quest (IQ), an annual contest for Cal Poly students that recognizes outstanding innovative projects with monetary awards.

"We were one of 18 out of 100 applicants to be accepted," Yungert recalled. "Although we didn't place in the top three, we got a wealth of information and an invitation to participate in IQ's summer incubator program."

The summer program provided the students with the opportunity to develop a business plan and learn from industry

A flexible module is transported from Cal Poly's agriculture fields to the University Union Plaza (above).

Co-workers Kyle Usselton (left, front) and Matt Faller grind the original paint off the roof.



FM VENUE FROM PAGE 13

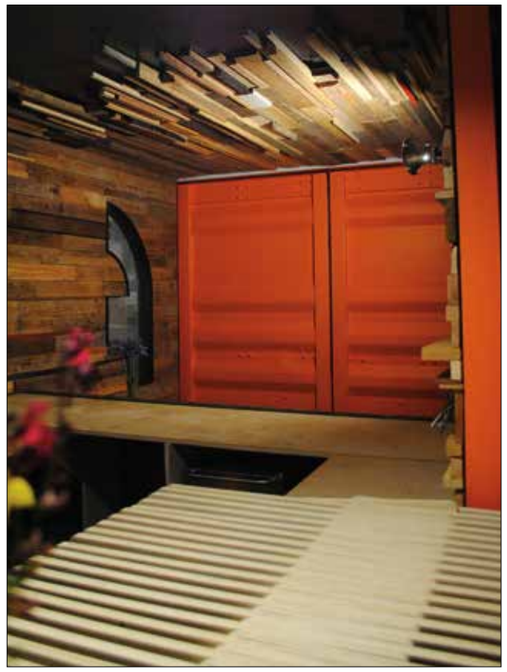
professionals. “It allowed us to really hone in on what we wanted to accomplish,” Yungert said. “We learned what the critical next steps were to get to the next level.”

Yungert and Lee are putting the finishing touches on a packet of information to show San Francisco and Oakland city governments how FM Venue can create a new form of infrastructure. Their goal is to finalize fabrication and have something to show city governments.

“We want to test different retail outlets. It was conceived as a community kitchen, but we are thinking it could be useful as retail/office space or even as an information booth at a farmers’ market,” Yungert said.

The FM in the company name stands for “flexible modules” and reflects the team’s goal to expand into retail, office and kitchen space.

“We want to be an incubator for small businesses,” Yungert said. “Many small businesses can’t afford a mortgage or rent on a brick-and-mortar venue. Our modular space could allow them to get their foot in the door. We can be that low-cost option.”



The finished modular structure offers a creative and affordable alternative to traditional office and retail spaces.

TEENS EXPLORE ARCHITECTURE CAREERS AT SUMMER WORKSHOP

MORE THAN 70 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS considering a career in architecture were on campus in summer 2012 as part of an intensive four-week residence workshop taught by faculty in the CAED.

The students – some from as far away as Vermont, Hawaii and Guatemala – were given an in-depth view of architectural education through hands-on experiences in architecture design, building science, structural engineering and site planning. Education and career advising are also integral elements of the Summer Career Workshop. The program culminated in an exhibit showcasing the students’ sketches, computer animations and physical models.

“It is so rewarding to see the Berg Gallery filled with projects at the final exhibit showcasing the incredible efforts of these students,” said workshop director Mark Cabrinha. “Working closely with these students every day for four weeks is also rewarding for me as I watch their interest and passion for architecture grow. Equally rewarding is helping students understand related career paths in architectural engineering, city and regional planning, landscape architecture, and construction management.”

For more information visit www.arch.calpoly.edu/programs/summer-career.html.

The workshop for teens culminated in an exhibit of their work.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VISIT CAMPUS TO LEARN ABOUT CONSTRUCTION JOBS

FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE SUMMER, high school girls came to campus as part of the weeklong MAGIC (Mentor a Girl in Construction) Camp.

Organized by the Central Coast Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction in collaboration with the Cal Poly Construction Innovations Center and the California Center for Construction Education, the program provides hands-on training designed to demonstrate the benefits of careers in construction.

This year 22 girls participated in electrical wiring, a concrete and tile project, safety training, and a class in Building Information Modeling. The group also took part in a team-building exercise and a jobsite tour of the Center for Science and Mathematics under construction at Cal Poly.

“MAGIC Camp allows girls the chance to experience a career field in which they have not previously pictured themselves,” said Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck. “I hope we opened their eyes to some new opportunities. The construction profession will be better with more women in it.”

MAGIC Camp participants collaborate on a framing project.

Architecture senior Grace Choy's metal sculptural furniture piece (top) won top honors in the Vellum exhibit.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge team members and their faculty advisors (above, from left) Shanna Hurley, David Eng, Lisa Elgin, Kyle Mendizabal, Allie Freund, Jacob Hummel, Emily Pool, Carlos Krinsky, City and Regional Planning Department Head and Professor Hemalata Dandekar (advisor), Brenton Gibbons, and Professor Louisa Brown (advisor) strike a confident pose after an estimated hour-long question session by a five-member panel of housing experts at Bank of America's San Francisco offices.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR
Real-World Jobs

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SCORES AT ASC RENO

Cal Poly construction management students continued to win at the 2013 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Student Competition in Reno, Nev. Five Cal Poly teams placed, winning first in Marine Construction, Preconstruction Services and Determining Project Risk; and third in the Mechanical and Electrical divisions. After placing second in the two previous years, the Project Determining Risk team, led by senior Deanna Alexander, achieved first place this year. "After each competition, I always find myself with a renewed excitement to join the construction industry, gratefulness toward our staff and faculty, and most importantly, a stronger sense of Mustang pride," Deanna said.

CREATIVITY ABOUNDS AT VELLUM EXHIBITION

More than 140 one-of-a-kind furniture pieces were submitted to the ninth annual Vellum/CAED Furniture Exhibition of students' work. Begun almost a decade ago, the competition and exhibit aim to inspire creativity and challenge participants to press the boundaries of design while offering a tangible experience and exposure to the industry. The entries were juried by a panel of experts. Vellum Design Build is a San Luis Obispo custom home builder and interior design firm.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM WINS HOUSING CHALLENGE

For a second year, a Cal Poly team of multidisciplinary students tied with UC Berkeley to win the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low Income Housing Challenge. Cal Poly fielded two teams of students in architecture, city and regional planning, construction management and finance. The winning team proposed Alere, a 32,000-square-foot, $14.6 million apartment complex for low-income, single-parent families.

STUDENTS DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR SLO

A team of city and regional planning seniors, with guidance from Professor Adrienne Greve, developed a preliminary draft of the City of San Luis Obispo climate action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan supports the state's goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Reductions were achieved through strategies in transportation, solid waste, green building, water and land use, renewable energy, parks and open space. The students' draft was refined by city staff and a consultant, and then submitted for approval. "This was a collaboration we can be proud of," said Department Head Hemalata C. Dandekar.

Students in the Urban Design Studio rendered a new look for downtown Buellton.

SERVING COMMUNITIES

At Your Service

CAED STUDENTS LEND A HAND IN COMMUNITIES NEAR AND FAR

LEARN BY PLANNING: STUDENTS HELP TRANSFORM CITY

Last spring, students in Professor Umut Toker's Urban Design Studio helped the City of Buellton develop urban design plans for Avenue of Flags, Buellton's main street. The city aims to create a more vibrant downtown. Students met with community members and conducted a site inventory and site walk-through. One plan caters to pedestrians and creates an inviting environment that encourages walking. It proposes public spaces and outdoor seating, a central square, civic center and courtyard with a fountain, plazas surrounded by retail shops and restaurants, an amphitheater, open spaces, and a pedestrian path. "Working with community members throughout the design process constitutes an excellent example of Cal Poly's Learn by Doing approach," Toker said.

SERVING IN EAST AFRICA

Kevin Chen's (ARCE '11) three-month internship in Kampala, Uganda, with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) was a real eye-opener. "Kampala was built for about 50,000 people but is now populated by more than a million," he said. The internship helped Chen decide what to study in grad school. "I want to create an economical solution to building strong, safe structures in developing countries."

HELPING IN HAITI

When the 2011 earthquake devastated Haiti, several architectural engineering students responded. "What occurred in Haiti was not a natural disaster; it was manmade," said Ben Biddick (ARCE '11). "A 7.0 earthquake should never kill that many people." Biddick worked with Build Change to revitalize neighborhoods, retrofit and rebuild homes. "Our goal was to get displaced families out of tents and into homes better equipped to handle earthquakes," he said.

Jose Chig (ARCE '12) surveys earthquake damage as a member of Structural Engineering Students for Haiti (SESH).

INTERNING IN INDIA

Diana Durany (ARCE '12) embarked on a four-month journey to Mussoorie, India, where she interned with EMI. EMI was developing a facility to train pastors. The project included classrooms, workshops, dormitories, staff housing, a kitchen and dining area, a guardhouse, and a primary school. Durany worked with AutoCAD, SketchUp and Excel to crunch numbers, figure cost estimates, and determine the size of columns and beams.

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Flashback Architecture faculty members pictured circa 1961 (from left) are: Fredrick Langhorst, R. L. Graves, Hans Mager, William Brown, Kenneth Schwartz, Clarence Passons Jr., Donald Cotner, Wesley Ward, Anatol Helman, Rudolph Polley and Department Head George Hasslein.