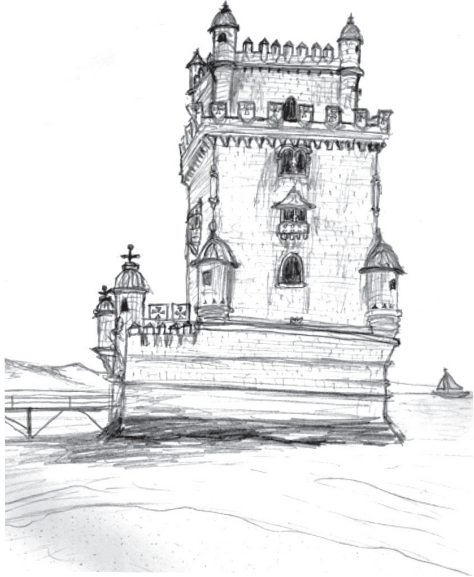


City & Regional Planning Fall 2011



Torre de Belem, Lisbon; by Jenna Hahn.

Cal Poly's MCRP Program Ranked No. 1 Among Non-Ph.D Granting Universities

Planetizen, a Los Angeles-based urban planning news website, again ranked Cal Poly's masters in city and regional planning No. 1 nationally of all accredited programs not offering a Ph.D. Of the 132 ranked programs, 83 do not offer a Ph.D.

Since the 2009 rankings, Cal Poly's MCRP program moved from 25th to 20th of all graduate planning programs in North America, and it has been placed sixth in the top 10 graduate programs in the Western U.S.

For the 2012 edition of its Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs, Planetizen surveyed hundreds of schools, educators and students to gather information about what makes a good planning program and assess which schools meet those criteria.

"These rankings are a testament to City and Regional Planning's superb faculty

and evidence of the outstanding training the program provides to prepare students for the professional workforce," said Hemalata Dandekar, CRP department head.

"I am delighted at the recognition of the quality and commitment of our students and faculty... it is an indication of the excellent service our students will be able to provide to the State of California and the profession through innovative and creative work with diverse communities," Dandekar added.

First published in 2006, and every two years since, the Planetizen Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs is a highly regarded resource for prospective graduate planning students. The 2012 edition of the Planetizen Guide to Graduate Urban Planning Programs is available online at www.planetizen.com.

(PARK)ing Day 2011



Students Cindy Ma and Dan Findley enjoy the temporary park they helped create.

Cal Poly's MCRP students created a temporary park in a downtown San Luis Obispo parking space as part of this year's PARK(ing) Day in September. The worldwide event saw over 850 "parklets" created in parking spaces in more than 30 countries to increase awareness of the need for public space and to challenge the public to re-imagine streets and parking. The site was loaned by Santa Barbara Bank and Trust, and plants were donated by Miner's Ace Hardware. This was the first year CRP students have participated in PARK(ing) Day.

A note from the Department Head

Greetings. It has been an eventful few months since our spring newsletter.

In late spring quarter 2011 a Cal Poly team had an exciting win in the Bank of America affordable housing challenge. At the end of the summer, CRP had a significant presence in the California APA State Conference in Santa Barbara. Summer courses in Portugal and Turkey enabled our students to learn from other countries and gain professional international experience while our students domestically continued to be of service to communities that needed assistance.

In early October the Planning Accreditation Board evaluated our two programs. The team's draft assessment report is very good, and we are looking forward to a positive outcome in April 2012 when the PAB board makes the accreditation decisions.

This newsletter reaches you before the holiday giving season. We ask you to please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the City and Regional Planning Department. Your gift will help us to continue training excellent planners who make a difference.

-Hemalata Dandekar, Dept. Head

A note from the College Dean

The college is proud of the many CRP student and faculty achievements this past year, some of which are featured in this newsletter. It is particularly rewarding to follow the department's deep engagement in such a wide range of community-enhancing projects. In addition to its tradition of working in partnership with California cities and its leadership in interdisciplinary competitions, the department has also added international projects to its educational repertoire. Its high rankings reflect the vibrant educational experience, and we thank our alumni contributors who help make it all possible.

-Tom Jones, CAED Dean

Cal Poly Team Wins the 2011 Bank of America Low Income Housing Challenge

The Poly Housing Collaborative, an interdisciplinary team of Cal Poly students, won the annual Bank of America Low Income Housing Challenge in May 2011. With their dynamic presentation, exciting video, and compelling proposal featuring a San Luis Obispo site and a local developer, the 10 undergraduate students and two graduate students won over entries by master's students from UC Berkeley and UC Irvine.



Facilities such as this community center helped earn Poly Housing Collaborative its victory in the competition.

The Poly team consisted of students from CRP, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Construction Management, and Business.

Working with partner developer Madonna Enterprises, the team produced a hypothetical project named Entrada Ranch which would create 135 units of much needed affordable housing in San Luis Obispo on a site located adjacent to the Irish Hills Plaza on Los Osos Valley Road.

The competition judges were won over by the design of Entrada Ranch. Features and amenities included a community center, community garden, connections to trails

and open spaces, and a daycare center. Utilizing the LEED for Neighborhood Development guidelines, the team designed Entrada Ranch with sustainability in mind, earning it a LEED Gold rating. The proposal was commended for being highly feasible with real development potential. It is the team's hope to see a project built that draws inspiration from their award-winning concept.

Cal Poly has seen several victories in its decade-long history of participation in the competition. The full project proposal from this year's winning team is available online at www.polyhousingcollaborative.com.

Students' Work Garners City Grants

Projects based on the work of two MCRP students recently received funding for implementation in the City of San Joaquin. These projects were part of Cynde Kasperovich and Trina Blanchette's capstone projects for CRP 556, a community planning studio for second-year graduate students.

After completion in June, Kasperovich and Blanchette's respective projects on sustainable home design and bicycle mobility were used by the city as the basis for two different grants: a \$35,000 Community Planning and Technical Assistance Grant and a Safe Routes to School Grant.

With the funding for the Technical Assistance Grant, the city will create design guidelines and develop project specifications and a request for proposal, among other tasks. These efforts will go toward planning for the "model rural, energy-efficient home."

Incorporating much of Blanchette's academic report and sketches, the city's Safe Routes to School Grant totals

\$244,000. Of this, \$232,000 will go toward capital improvements, including striping and signage for Class I and II bike lanes and construction of bulb-outs at two intersections. The remaining \$12,000 will go toward non-infrastructure projects that include bike programs and public education and outreach.

The funding and implementation of these projects are significant for San Joaquin, a small farming city of 4,000 residents with limited financial resources. The city was also able to update its general plan earlier this year with the assistance of MCRP students in a general plan studio sequence guided by Professor Cornelius Nuworsoo. Development of San Joaquin's general plan update laid the foundation for Kasperovich and Blanchett's projects in the spring.

With the support of San Joaquin's progressive-minded city council, Kasperovich and Blanchette's projects attest to the quality of Cal Poly student work and their real-world impact on cities.

Paul Wack Enters Faculty Early Retirement Program



After 32 years of teaching in the CRP Department, Professor Paul Wack has entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP), a program that enables retiring faculty members to continue working reduced hours for a limited number of years.

Despite this designation as an early retiree, Wack has a busy schedule ahead of him. He plans to travel extensively throughout the Western United States to assess the impacts of climate change in the region. He will also continue to teach at Cal Poly and UC Santa Barbara, maintain his planning consultancy business, Jacobson & Wack, and remain deeply involved with the American Planning Association and California Planning Foundation.

Paul was extremely busy this summer co-chairing the California APA conference. He received the Planner Emeritus Network Honor for his lifelong contributions to the field of planning.

Wack says the thing he will miss most is the level of interaction with the students he has enjoyed through the years. He was formerly the advisor for the Associated Students in Planning and advisor for many of the CRP majors. As his teaching responsibilities taper off this year, he says he is "especially going to miss CRP 101...I've always enjoyed getting the brand new majors right off the bat and watching them go through the program and evolve." Wack will maintain an office in CRP, continue to advise CRP minors, and stay active with the sustainable environments minor.

Spring Studios Develop Plan Proposals for Long Beach and Half Moon Bay

Last spring, graduate and undergraduate students were hired by the cities of Long Beach and Half Moon Bay to develop urban design proposals with significant community input gathered through surveys and workshops.

In Half Moon Bay, a coastal town of 11,000 residents, a graduate class (CRP 553) under the guidance of professors Vicente del Rio and Zeljka Howard, worked for the city's planning department. Their urban design plan for the downtown area included solutions for stronger place identity and three gateways; a system of parks; new streetscaping and better walkability, parking and circulation; and architectural design guidelines. The students presented to the city council and the community, and the plan was featured in the local newspaper.



A proposed park next to Half Moon Bay's City Hall.



Graduate student Robin Wachen discusses her team's East Anaheim Street Area concept plan with a community member.

In Long Beach, a city of over 400,000 residents, graduate and undergraduate students worked with the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency to develop plans for two areas. Led by faculty member Umut Toker, the undergraduate students in CRP 203 developed three urban design plan proposals for the Atlantic Avenue area. With the additional supervision of Professor and Department Head Hemalata Dandekar, the graduate students in CRP 553 developed four specific plan proposals for the East Anaheim Street Area, a transitional neighborhood that includes a large Cambodian community and a nascent design district. Students in both Long Beach studios presented their work to the Redevelopment Agency board members in June 2011.

Plan for Olympic Park is Runner Up in Rio, Brazil

CRP faculty member Vicente del Rio's team entry for the 2016 Olympic Park Master Plan international competition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was awarded the second prize. The top three winners were selected from 59 entries by teams from all around the world. In addition to serving the Olympic games, the plan considered a long-term legacy mode that included a sustainable neighborhood. Professor del Rio's team included the SWA Group and Gensler (through their Los Angeles offices), CDC and MPG (architectural firms in Rio), Herrera Environmental (Seattle), and other consultants.



The Olympic Park proposal showing the 'games' mode (short-term) and the 'legacy' mode (long-term) visions.

Students Design in Portuguese Setting



Students were able to enjoy a range of historic cityscapes during their travels through Portugal.

From June 18 to July 15, a group of 19 Cal Poly undergraduate students lived and studied in Lisbon, Portugal to learn about urbanism and design. The group included students from the CRP, Landscape Architecture, and Architecture departments. The program was led by CRP faculty members Vicente del Rio and Zeljka Howard, and had the support of the Universidade Lusofona de Lisboa and faculty from its Urbanism Department.

Working in five interdisciplinary teams, that included Portuguese colleagues, the students developed urban design proposals for a 12-acre site in a key area of Lisbon. The task was a real challenge for the students not only because of their

immersion in a totally new context, but also because of the site's important cultural past and potential as one of the last big land reserves in the city. The teams came up with creative yet feasible solutions that impressed the local faculty and the director of Bragaparcos, the proprietors of the parcel.

The summer program included a series of lectures and visits to other Portuguese cities such as Porto, Cascais, Sintra, and Obidos. Students experienced cityscapes and landmarks that spanned the Roman, medieval, and contemporary eras, and were able to see the distinct architecture and design morphologies that generate a rich and dynamic environment.

Students Explore Urbanism in Turkey



Students learn about urban design at an archeological site in Turkey.

This past June, 11 Cal Poly undergraduate and graduate students traveled to Turkey to explore Turkish culture and urbanism. The trip was led by CRP faculty members Umut Toker and Hemalata Dandekar.

Their time in the nation was divided between travels in Istanbul and Izmir, and culminated in a design project undertaken in the village of Kaş. While in Kaş, students collaborated with the municipality and the Kaş Culture House to redesign two project sites: Emin Erdem Square and a municipal housing site slated for demolition. The Culture House served as a workspace for the design teams for the duration of the

project. The historic exhibits in the Culture House Museum served as inspiration for the students as they strove to incorporate the historic character of the village into their contemporary designs. The students also had the opportunity to work with the mayor and the residents of Kaş.

The five-day timeline for the project was a new experience for the students, who were accustomed to working on projects over the course of an entire quarter. Their ability to meet the project objectives was a combination of resourcefulness, constant collaboration, and flexibility among the design teams and contributors.

'Tis the Season for Giving

Help support our future planners. Make a tax-deductible donation to the City and Regional Planning Department.



Contact crp@calpoly.edu

In Pictures... CRP at APA



At the end of the summer the department had a significant presence in the California APA National Conference in Santa Barbara. CRP students organized an informal booth, eight faculty and two graduate students presented on panels, and current students mingled with many generations of alumni at a well-attended alumni reception. Professor Paul Wack co-chaired the conference and received well-deserved recognition for his years of service to the profession.