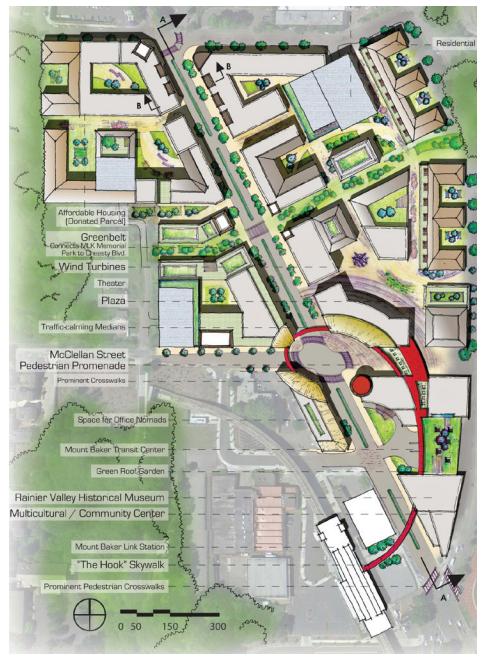
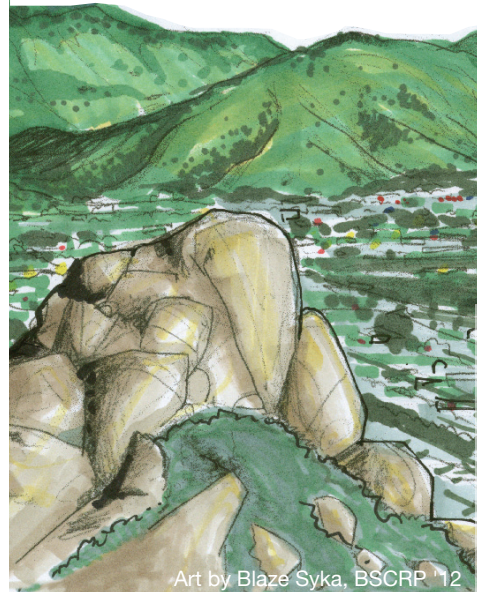


City & Regional Planning Spring 2011



City and Regional Planning Department
College of Architecture and Environmental Design
California Polytechnic State University
1 Grand Avenue, Building 21
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

CAL POLY



CRP Leads Cal Poly Teams in Urban Design & Low-Income Housing Competitions

Urban Land Institute's (ULI's) annual Hines Student Urban Design Competition promotes innovative built- environments and intensive collaboration across disciplines and sectors. This year, CRP led three five-person teams of planning, architecture, and business students. After ULI announces the city, project area, and "challenge," teams have only two weeks to submit their proposals, including a plan for the whole area, a "demonstration project", a pro-forma, and creative solutions for financing and implementation.

This year's challenge was, "Maximizing the Transit Opportunity: Mount Baker Station Area Seattle, Washington." Students reported that - though grueling at times - the competition was the single most valuable experience they have been involved in at Cal Poly.

This year, Cal Poly's Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge team has 10 undergraduates and 2 graduate

students, representing Planning, Business, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Construction Management. The team is partnering with Madonna Enterprises to design live-work and a variety of low-income units for a site on Los Osos Valley Road, near Highway 101. Notable design challenges the team will address in its proposal include managing the impacts to nearby Froom Creek, the wetlands, and Irish Hills open space.

The final presentations/reception is on May 19th in San Francisco. Alumni are encouraged to attend. For details of the event, please email crp@calpoly.edu in late April.

You can participate!

Competitive design teams depend on feedback from business, architecture, and planning professionals. If you are interested in reviewing proposals, email crp@calpoly.edu.

Charting the Path to Solar Farms

CRP and Public Policy students in Dr. Greve's class visited the proposed site of Topaz Solar Farm in SLO County.

Representatives from the development company First Solar presented the proposed site design and mitigation measures planned to minimize aesthetic and biological impacts in the area.

The proposed solar farm would provide 550 megawatts of renewable energy to PG&E's supply, as well as provide future jobs for students of Planning, Engineering, and Agriculture.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report estimates that the energy will offset 352,826 metric tons of carbon emissions, 133 percent more than the 2005 City of San Luis Obispo Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The County Planning Commission has conducted study sessions and hearings are expected to follow. If entitlements are issued and construction starts this year, the farm should be operational in 2014.

Ken Topping on County Planning Commission



Faculty member Ken Topping was appointed to the San Luis Obispo County Planning in January. Topping has taught at Cal Poly since 2002.

He is project director at Cal Poly for the 2010 California State Hazard Mitigation Plan and active internationally in disaster mitigation and recovery. He served as director of city planning for the City of Los Angeles from 1986 to 1990, planning director for the County of San Bernardino and general manager of the Cambria Community Services District. "I look forward to serving as a planning commissioner and to carrying forward the excellent progress which has been made toward creating a vibrant, resilient and sustainable county," Topping said in a written release issued by Supervisor Gibson's office.

A note from the CAED Dean

The CRP department faculty and students continue to be in the vanguard of Cal Poly programs, connecting the university to real communities with deserved public acclaim. The college remains proud of the leadership and innovation demonstrated as our planners learn to shape great places around the globe. This issue showcases a sampling of what makes the education so exceptional, and the world a better place, thanks to CRP. We also thank our community of alumni, civic leaders, and donors who help us stay connected to the real world so strongly. Kudos to all.

R. Thomas Jones, A.I.A.
Dean, College of Architecture and Environmental Design

A note from the Department Head



We are delighted that our Fall 2010 newsletter prompted connections between alumni, students, and

faculty. It is a pleasure to send you the second of our biannual updates. I trust you received the CRP holiday card; thanks to the many of you who made a donation and returned the enclosed survey. If you did not, it is not too late! The survey is available online at planning.calpoly.edu and will help us to provide an accurate report of alumni in our self-study.

The Planning Accreditation Board makes its site visit October 2011. In preparation, we have taken a hard look at the department's goals and objectives. Input on these from you is welcome at: crp@calpoly.edu.

This newsletter touches on some of our current activities, from solar farming near the Carrizo Plain to taco truck policy in metropolitan Los Angeles. As you read, I urge you to consider opportunities to engage with the CRP family – by creating an internship, serving as a mentor, organizing an alumni get together, creating a scholarship, endowing a grant for international travel, or facilitating a planning-related symposium.

It has been a very productive six months. The budget concerns have not dampened the enthusiasm or high quality of work by our students and faculty. We continue the long-standing tradition of excellence and look forward to your support. Please do stay in touch; we're eager to hear of your news and achievements.

Hemalata Dandekar, Ph.D.
Department Head, CRP
hdandeka@calpoly.edu
805-756-1315



In the field!

Valuable experiences occur outside the classroom:

Walking tour of San Francisco planning projects with Dean Jones

Agricultural & conservation easement site tour (SLO Land Conservancy)

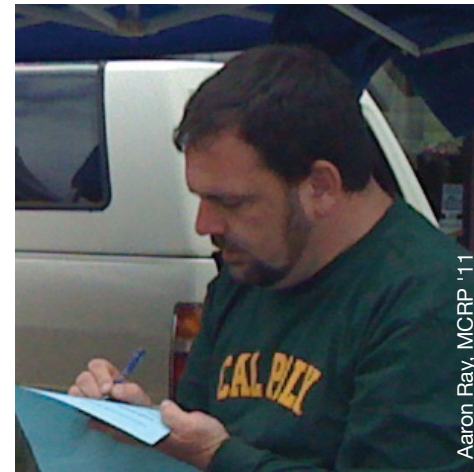
The Morro Bay National Estuary Program's offices and estuary site

A tour of downtown SLO infill development challenges / opportunities.

Internship leads to adoption of Master Plan in Oregon

MCRP student Aaron Ray's internship work resulted in adoption of a 20-year master plan for the 56-acre Row River Nature Park and natural resource area in Cottage Grove, Oregon. The citywide park system master plan adopted in 2003 required the preparation of a master plan for Row River Park. Budget cuts had left the 9,300-resident town with only one planner. To create the Plan, Aaron convened a steering committee, which

included members from the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Lane School District, the Public Works Department, and the Planning Commission. Aaron discovered the need to be a "generalist" in a small town context: "As the only planner, one must be fluent in different aspects from historic preservation to riparian corridor protection to hazard mitigation, and all areas in between."



Aaron Ray, MCRP '11

Dr. Dandekar Receives Prestigious McCoy Award for Advancement of Women

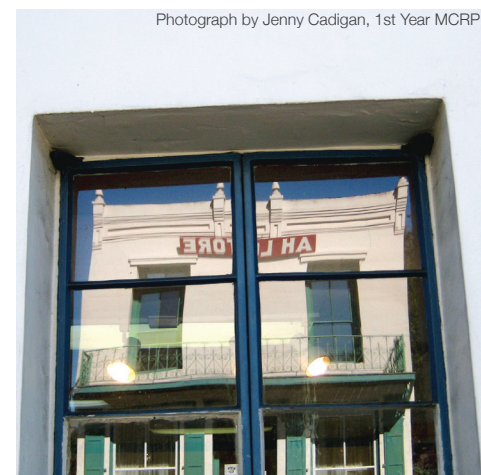
In October, Dr. Dandekar was awarded the Margarita McCoy Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, for her outstanding contribution toward the advancement of women in planning through service, teaching, and/or research. McCoy Committee Chair Professor Ann Forsyth of Cornell reported that Dandekar's nominating letters highlighted her dedication

to "advancing the work of female faculty and students at a number of institutions." According to Dandekar's former University of Michigan student Sujata Shetty, the fact that Dandekar "demanded and got our best work was itself an enormous gift to us. That she has been a steadfast supporter and champion of so many of us, for so long, in all facets of our lives, is a testament to her deep commitment to her students."



Planners-Turned-Artists Exhibit at Art After Dark

In the second Public Art for Planners workshop, CRP hosted a photography exhibit at the Creamery, Downtown SLO. With training in composition and photo editing by professional photographer Ken Brandstetter and Professor Emeritus Brian Kesner, students portrayed the interplay between art, public space, and people. The exhibit was on display in the CAED Dean's office, and will be on display in Berg Gallery during Open House.



Photograph by Jenny Cadigan, 1st Year MCRP

Hungry Streets: Mobile Food, Public Space and Policy

Second-year MCRP Student Timothea Tway is studying food truck trends and policies in metropolitan Los Angeles under Dr. Toker's supervision. Here, she describes her research and why it matters.

"There are so many reasons street food is relevant to planners who are hoping to make our cities more diverse, vibrant, and economically successful places to live. Street food is a vital part of many cultures, and encouraging vendors in public places has the potential to not only incubate small businesses, but also make active, engaging streets. I was really drawn to this topic after living in LA when the gourmet mobile food vendors were really becoming popular, and the City and County were struggling with regulating these new "taco trucks."

I hate seeing cities and counties moving toward heavy regulation and even prohibition of mobile food vending because they aren't sure how the



Timothea Tway, MCRP '11

vendors impact streets, neighborhoods and nearby businesses. I hope that through my research, I can shed a bit of light on the relationship between vendors, customers, and public space use and vitality. It will be interesting to see how public space is used differently when a food vendor is present in the area. Perhaps if jurisdictions have a little more information about how vendors operate, where they locate and why, and how people perceive and use public space and vendors in the space, they can make more informed policy decisions."

The Legacy of Scholarships



"Receiving the Mike MacDougall Urban Design Award allowed me to study abroad in Brazil and work in some of the most underserved communities in the world. The professional and personal connections I made as a recipient of the award has had a wonderful influence on my career; I am very grateful."

Christina Batteate, BSCR '08



"The Crawford Multari and Clark Associates Scholarship was an honor not only as a fiscal, academic award, but also because the recognition stemmed from such a respectable planning firm. The award has subsequently provided inspiration to continue striving for professional excellence in planning."

James Hinkamp, MCRP '11

Over \$30,000 in merit-based aid are awarded to CRP students each year. If you or your firm would like to contribute to student scholarships or programs, please email crp@calpoly.edu.

Global Engagement

PUEBLA - MCRP/MS Engineering alumna Erin Cooper is part of a three-country project on sustainable urban management practices in Puebla, Mexico; Montreal, Canada; and San Francisco. The project is supported by the Mexican research organization ColMex, and co-led by Professor Bill Siembieda. In Puebla last December, Erin presented her research and gained exposure to international transportation systems.



Puebla, Mexico



Firm Profile M-Group

Metropolitan Planning Group

Our featured firm, Metropolitan Planning Group (M-Group) is a dynamic, innovative, firm that offers high-caliber planning services aiming "to create a new design on urban planning" and foster innovation.

Principals Geoff I. Bradley (BSCR 1992 and MS Arch 2005) and Whitney McNair, AICP, LEED AP, have extensive experience with large, complex and high-profile projects throughout the Bay Area.

Eight of their twenty energetic staff are CRP graduates and many are AICP certified and LEED Accredited. The work culture is one of teamwork, collaboration and open communication. Having worked in consulting firms, redevelopment agencies and over 30 Bay Area planning departments, the staff brings a wealth of wide-ranging experience and expertise.



M-Group principal, Geoff Bradley (BSCR 1992) and Julie Moloney (MCRP 04) at work in the M-Group's headquarters in Mountain View.

They are well versed in environmental laws and federal, state and local regulatory requirements. The firm offers comprehensive knowledge and technical expertise with a concern for the aesthetics of place, and extensive experience in public outreach. Their work includes Visioning, General Plan Updates, Comprehensive Zoning Code Updates, Environmental Review, Staffing Solutions, Sustainability Planning, and Urban Design.



Kas (modern day Lycia), Turkey

TURKEY - In Summer 2011, students will travel to Turkey for a summer studio course. Destinations include Istanbul, Western Anatolia, and the Mediterranean town of Kas. Students will develop urban design concepts for: the town square, the waterfront, the gateway to the town, and the commercial street in Kas. Local support and studio space will be provided by Kas Arts Council.

LISBON - In Summer 2011, students will study at the Universidade Lusofona de Lisboa. Students will develop mixed-use designs for the site of the former popular market in Lisbon and study European planning and urban design, globalization impacts, and make study trips throughout Portugal.



BRAZIL - Professor Adrienne Greve presented at the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas' Kickoff Event: Sustainable Urban Planning and Energy Efficient Construction for Low-Income Areas of the Americas. The Conference was held in Rio de Janeiro in November. Participants also toured local planning projects including efforts to upgrade housing and infrastructure in favelas (slum settlements).