

DIMENSION



A NEW ERA OF DESIGN

COVER STORY

A Conversation About AI
and Design Education

INNOVATION

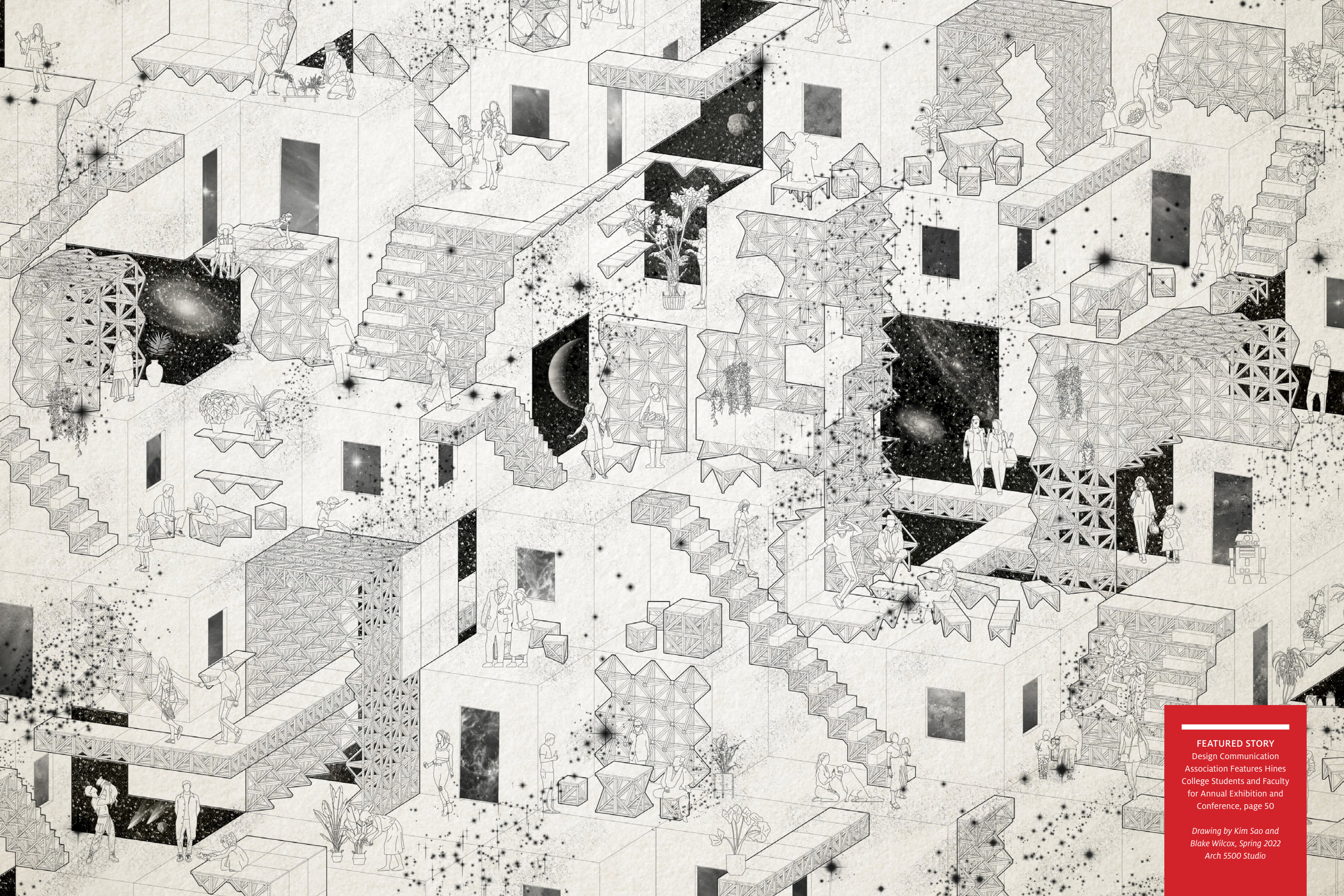
Student Successes
Faculty Honors

IMPACT

Making a Difference in
Our Communities

INSPIRATION

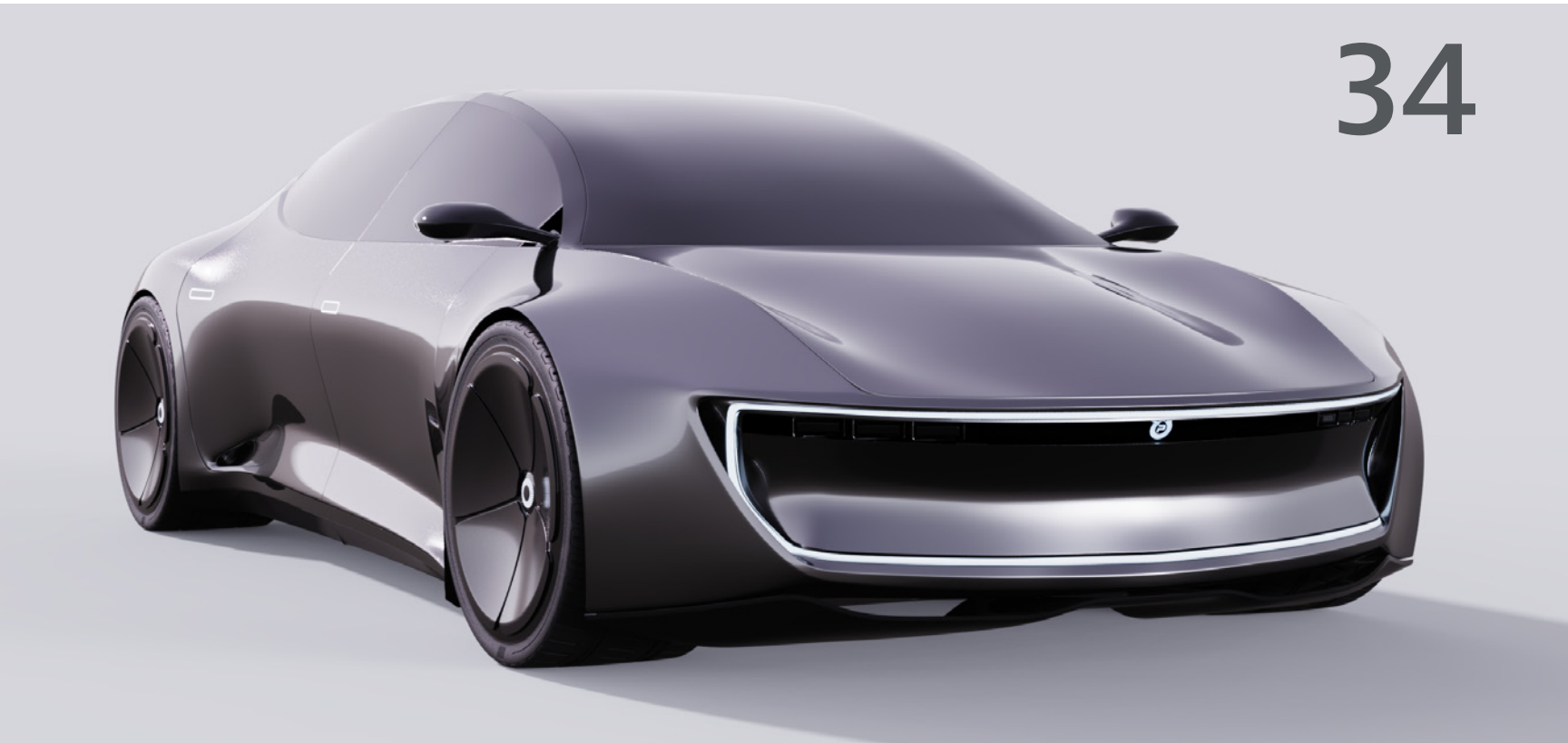
Alumni Spotlights
...and more!



FEATURED STORY

Design Communication
Association Features Hines
College Students and Faculty
for Annual Exhibition and
Conference, page 50

*Drawing by Kim Sao and
Blake Wilcox, Spring 2022
Arch 5500 Studio*



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A conversation with Andrew Kudless exploring AI and design education



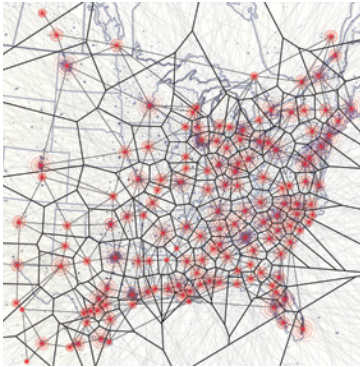
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On the cover:
An image of an architectural concept model generated by Professor Andrew Kudless, using Midjourney AI and Stable Diffusion, two text-to-image platforms.

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Dear Friends,

As dean of the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, I could not be more excited about the work our students and faculty are accomplishing. Emerging from the recent pandemic, it truly feels as though we are beginning to define a new era of design in the College.

In that vein, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to *DIMENSION*, the inaugural edition of our new Hines College magazine. This publication will highlight the extraordinary stories from our College community at the end of the fall and spring semesters.

In this Fall 2022 issue, you will see how our industrial design students are taking the international stage and expanding their design portfolios to include automotive design; our Community Design Resource Center, Graduate Design/Build program, and the Center for Sustainability and Resilience have made their mark working with our communities; our interior architecture students and faculty continue to receive national recognition for their work and will present some impressive exhibitions this coming spring; and our alumni are making headlines for their impact in industry and our communities.

Our cover story showcases Andrew Kudless, the College's Bill Kendall Memorial Endowed Professor of Design Technologies. Professor Kudless' recent article, "Diffused Narratives," published by *Gradient Journal*, illustrates his journey from learner to instructor through artificial intelligence (AI). Our conversation with Kudless features his thoughts on how automation is changing architecture and transforming design education.

I hope you will find delight and inspiration in the exemplary work defining the Hines College and guiding our trajectory forward. I am incredibly proud of our students and faculty and know we will continue to celebrate design in every *DIMENSION*.

Warm regards,

Patricia Belton Oliver, FAIA, Dean
Chancellor, ACSA College of Distinguished Professors
Director, designLAB

FEATURED STORY

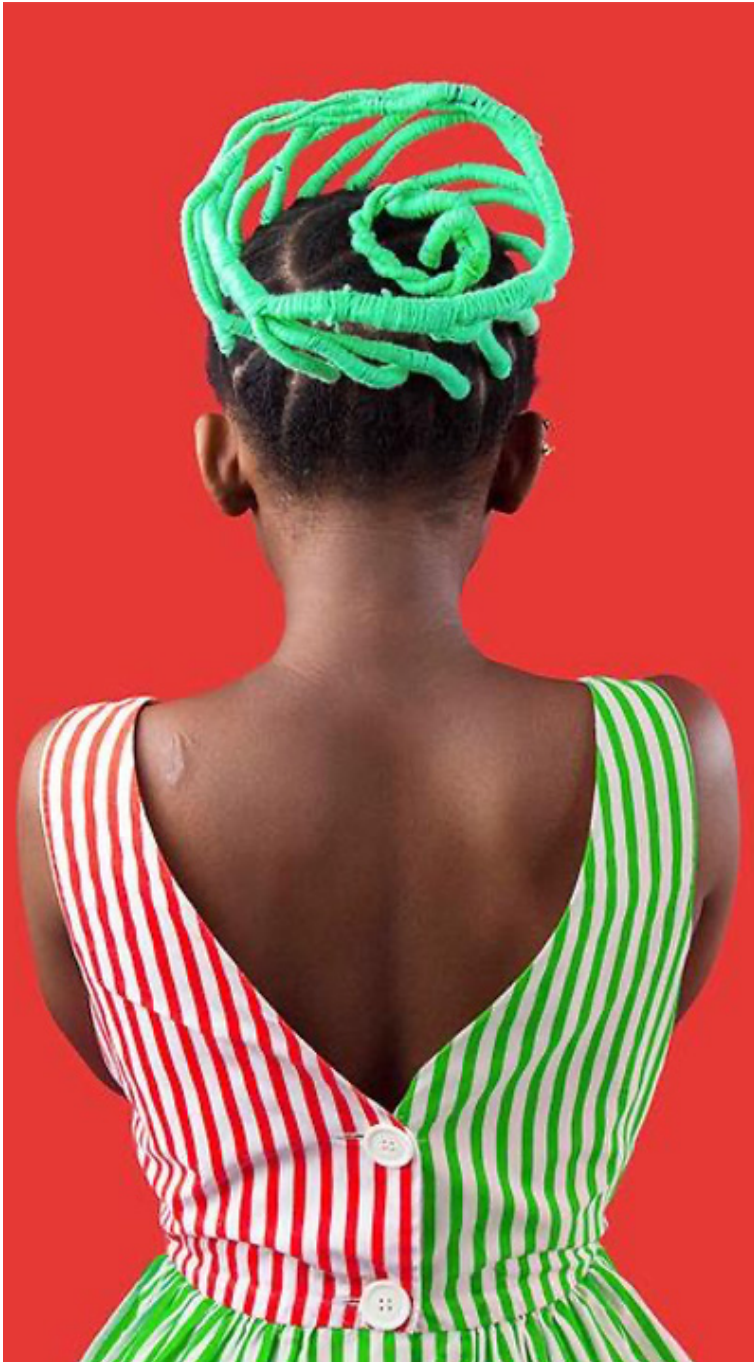
Today, AI has the power to quickly generate images like the one on this page by Professor Andrew Kudless. Read our conversation with him on page 28 about the future of design.



EXHIBITION OPENING:
K-67

January 26, 2023
Blaffer Art Museum

Designed in 1966 by Sasa Machtig, K-67 kiosks were a central part of Yugoslavian daily life, serving as newspaper stands, coffee shops, flower shops, post offices, and more. The kiosks were neutral and accepting, in contrast to the brutalist architecture and forced ideology of Yugoslavia at the time. Most of the 7500 pieces produced until 1999 were destroyed in the war, and the remaining kiosks are in poor condition. Interior architecture professor Dijana Handanovic has journeyed to find four kiosks and restored three. This installation of the restored kiosks is on display through June, hosting multiple temporary art exhibits.



EXHIBITION OPENING: **HAIR SALON**

February 2, 2023 • 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Mashburn Gallery at the UH Architecture Building

Hair Salon, an exhibition showcasing the architectural potential of Black diasporic hair practices, is sponsored by the UH Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design and the UH African-American Studies Department. The exhibition builds on research funded by the Graham Foundation, led by UH Interim Director of Interior Architecture Sheryl Tucker de Vazquez, and in collaboration with professors and designers from across the United States. Its research focuses on how traditional African material culture and practices in the Americas can be leveraged as a source of new technologies. Very little African material culture survived the Trans-Atlantic slave trade; however, the unique material properties of Black hair, more than any other genetic trait, signify how Blackness and its hair care practices are a vibrant, living inheritance throughout African diasporic cultures. The exhibition kicks off Black History month and celebrates, as a community, how the natural texture and maintenance of Black hair can be translated to architecture.

CAREER FAIR

February 16 + 17, 2023
UH Architecture Building

The Hines College's annual spring Career Fair is a collaboration with the Architecture + Design Alumni Association and University Career Services. The event is open to all the College's students and recent alumni. Each day, the morning is dedicated to meet-and-greet opportunities, and the afternoon is devoted to pre-scheduled interviews. If you are an employer interested in participating in the Career Fair, contact Dianca Chase at dlchase@central.uh.edu.



STRATEGIC PLANNING: **OPEN HOUSE #2**

March 9, 2023 • 5:00 p.m.
UH Architecture Building Atrium

Join the conversation! As the Hines College continues its year-long strategic planning process, our College community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends — are invited to view the progress of the Working Group and provide feedback to impact the final strategic plan framework.

END-OF-YEAR SHOW OPENING

Friday, April 28, 2023
UH Architecture Building

The end-of-year show is an extension of the works presented during Jury Week, allowing more time for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the College to view this semester's work outside of the busyness of Jury Week. Stop by the Hines College and explore student work of all levels and disciplines pinned up throughout the architecture building. The show will run through graduation on May 12.

EXHIBITION OPENING: **ANNUAL ID EXHIBITION**

May 2023
UH Architecture Building

The College's industrial design program hosts its annual ID Exhibition and Senior + Graduate Showcase, full of cutting-edge and innovative student work from the 2022-2023 academic year.



LECTURE SERIES: **TRANS-SCALAR**

Spring 2023
UH Architecture Building Theater

The Trans-Scalar Lecture Series kicked off in Fall 2023 and will continue with the following featured speakers and dates:

- **Seçil Binboga**
Monday, January 30 • 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
UH Architecture Building Theater
- **Zelig Fok, Leah Wulfman, and Joseph Algieri**
Monday, February 6 • 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
UH Architecture Building Theater
- **Architecture Office**
Monday, March 6 • 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
UH Architecture Building Theater
- **Home-Office**
Monday, March 27 • 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
UH Architecture Building Theater
- **Cooking Sections**
Monday, April 17 • 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m.
Zoom and UH Architecture Building Atrium

Strategic Planning Update

In August, the Hines College launched a year-long strategic planning process to identify our collective aspirations and provide a path forward toward reaching our goals. The process brings together the entire College community – students, faculty, staff, and alumni – in an organized and intentional framework ensuring everyone has a voice in our College’s future.

The strategic planning process is facilitated by Jim Oswald, Senior

Business and Organizational Strategist at Gensler. Oswald has decades of experience strategizing with organizations throughout the country, including Apple, Microsoft, NASA, Stages Houston, the University of Houston, and more.

Over the course of the fall semester, the College hosted strategic planning events, including a two-day faculty advance (August), the first of three open houses (September), and the first of

three Working Group meetings (September). The Working Group, comprised of representation from all the College’s constituents, is currently divided into six topic groups: curriculum and programs, technology, sustainability, global reach, interdisciplinary education, and CoAD and the professions. The final strategic plan will be presented in fall 2023. —Stephen Schad

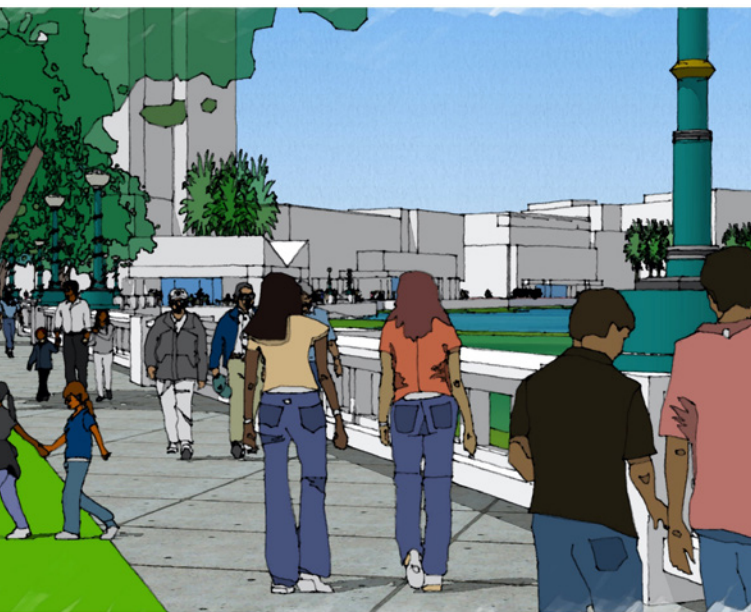
BELOW: Photos from the first Strategic Planning Open House in September



UH Researchers Engage Community to Create Award-Winning Plan for Resilience

‘Generational Opportunity’ to Create More Resilient Infrastructure and Development in Southwest Harris County

LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Race poses outside City Hall with the proclamation given on August 23, 2022; a look at how the Ruffino Hills area could be transformed



A master plan developed at the University of Houston to transform a former landfill in southwest Harris County into a town center, park and flood control facility has been recognized by industry peers and local government.

The city of Houston proclaimed August 23, 2022, as *Ruffino Hills Redevelopment Community Day*, acknowledging efforts by Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design Professor Bruce Race, his students and the community to redevelop former household waste landfill Ruffino Hills at the intersection of I-69 and the Sam Houston Tollway.

The *Ruffino Hills Landfill: Resilient Redevelopment and Detention Strategy* is an integrated economic and environmental resilience project that demonstrates how to meet the demanding targets in the city of Houston’s climate action and resilience plans. The concept for The Town Center at Five Ponds fulfills the community’s desire for a development that could be a catalyst for new investment, according to Race, who leads the project along

with non-profit organization Houston One Voice and the Southwest Houston Redevelopment Authority.

Race calls it a “generational opportunity” to transform a former landfill site while balancing the community need for stormwater detention, economic development and recreation. The proposal projects to create 1,800 jobs and provide housing for 6,700 residents at the site.

“The community wanted something that would improve their economy, as well as recreational parks and educational components,” said Race. “But this isn’t just an urban planning assignment, it’s a research project that can improve the quality of life for people in the area. My students and I showed how to make this an energy positive project that meets the city’s climate action plan targets.”

The project also received the American Planning Association Houston Section’s Gold Resilience Award, which honors outstanding contributions to planning in the region. The award for resilience recognizes projects that improve

“This isn’t just an urban planning assignment, it’s a research project that can improve the quality of life for people in the area. My students and I showed how to make this an energy positive project that meets the city’s climate action plan targets.”

a community’s ability to bounce back from natural disasters, climate change and human-made disasters.

A key motivation for working with the community was to plan a project that overcame the costs of converting the landfill into a flood control facility, said Race. The master plan aims to meet flood control detention goals through a public-private approach of blending development income with detention funding as a pathway to a more feasible project. The project covers almost half of the needed detention for Keegans Bayou, which runs next to the site and feeds into Brays Bayou.

“These are research projects with impact,” said Race. “We are demonstrating how innovative planning and implementation can make Houston more resilient and prosperous.” —Rebecca Hawley

READ MORE

Flip to page 26 to learn more about the Ruffino Hills project and how it has won two American Planning Association awards.



Hines College's CDRC Wins 2022 Great Places Award

Community Design Resource Center honored for Greater Northside Urban Design Toolkit

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (EDRA) recently selected the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design Community Design Resource Center's (CDRC) *Greater Northside Urban Design Toolkit* as the recipient of the 2022 Place Planning Award included in this year's Great Places Awards. The annual awards seek to identify work combining expertise in design, research, and practice and contributing to the creation of dynamic, humane places engaging attention and imagination.

At the time of development, the CDRC's team, under the leadership of director Susan Rogers and assistant director Adelle Main, with designers Gabriela Degetau, Angelica Lastra, Jose Mario Lopez, Constanza Pena, Barbara Venegas, and consulting

artist Jasleen Sari, created the *Greater Northside Urban Design Toolkit* in 2018 with sponsored funding from the Greater Northside Management District. The toolkit is a set of place-based design strategies promoting connectivity, enhancing public spaces, and sparking economic development while strengthening the identity of the District overall, as well as all five neighborhoods comprising it: Greater Heights, Near Northside, Northline, Independence Heights, and Eastex Jensen.

The CDRC is known for its award-winning and impactful work in Houston communities. The Center's mission is to work collaboratively with community partners to define, develop, and apply transformative design strategies bringing Houston closer to a more just and equitable city at every scale. The opportunity

to develop the Urban Design toolkit through the CDRC's partnership with the Greater Northside Management District, Houston Northeast CDC, and leaders and stakeholders across the five neighborhoods directly aligns with its mission.

The toolkit was developed through five focused neighborhood workshops and four larger community meetings. Interactive visioning workshops were held in each of the five neighborhoods, where participants engaged in a collaborative mapping and brainstorming exercise informing the design opportunities and locations for intervention. The larger community meetings focused on visioning, sharing the findings from the neighborhood workshops, and exploring early design concepts and strategies. More than 150 neighborhood leaders, residents, stakeholders, elected officials, and


business owners attended the meetings, sharing their vision and place expertise.

The toolkit builds on a set of shared values developed by stakeholders to honor and amplify the community-centered stories of place, culture, history, and tradition while also weaving these


stories into the broader textile of the District. As a result, the toolkit is a set of grounded design interventions specific to the contact and celebrates the existing qualities of the place.

While a project created solely by the CDRC team, in spring 2020, before the pandemic, students of Rogers'

ARCH 5500 course and Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts professor Fiona McGettigan's graphic design course developed public art projects aligning with and supported by the toolkit. Three of these projects were refined and installed by the CDRC through a grant with the Northeast Houston CDC in the summer of 2021.



Completed "We Are Jensen | Nosotros Somos Jensen" Installation on Former Foodarama Sign



Original Sign Proposal

OUR STORIES: SIGNS

Identifying strategies to celebrate the stories of place in the Greater Northside is the foundation of this toolkit. This includes activating vacant walls, buildings and signs with creative interventions that share the rich histories and stories of place. The Foodarama sign project, proposed in the toolkit, was recently implemented through a collaboration between a local university, art and architecture students, community leaders, and a community-based non-profit organization.

ESTIMATED COST

\$ \$ \$

TIME FRAME


< 2 Years

OUR STORIES: SIGNS

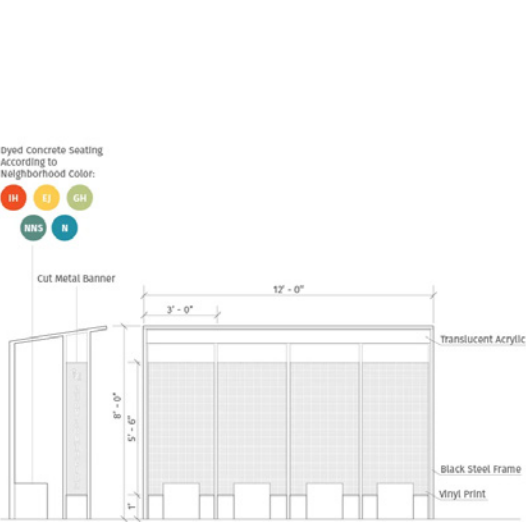
STUDENT DESIGN TEAM: Santiago Cubillos, Nicole Dinh, Tess Wright

FUNDING: Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation (through a LISC Grant)

PARTNERS AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM: Community Design Resource Center, Greater Northside Management District, Eastex Jensen Super Neighborhood Council, Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation



Completed "We Are Jensen | Nosotros Somos Jensen" Installation on Former Foodarama Sign



ESTIMATED COST: \$ \$ \$

TIME FRAME: 2-5 Years

METRO Bus Shelter Art

METRO bus shelters are located throughout the Greater Northside. Transforming the shelters to include art that celebrates place and community were proposed in the toolkit. Three shelters were recently funded and completed along Jensen Drive through a partnership with the local university, art and architecture students, community leaders, the management district, and area non-profit organizations.

METRO BUS SHELTER ART

STUDENT DESIGN TEAM: Paloma Bond-Reading, Jilian McNulty, Hannah Montalvo

FUNDING: Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation (through a LISC Grant)

PARTNERS AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM: Community Design Resource Center, Greater Northside Management District, Eastex Jensen Super Neighborhood Council, Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation

OUR STORIES:
FENCES AND WALLS

STUDENT DESIGN TEAM: *Utopia LaStrap, II, Mary Nguyen, Tina Raffoul*

FUNDING: *Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation (through a LISC Grant)*

PARTNERS AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM:
Community Design Resource Center, Greater Northside Management District, Eastex Jensen Super Neighborhood Council, Northeast Houston Community Development Corporation



OUR STORIES: FENCES AND WALLS

Stories of place can also be told by activating neighborhood fences and walls with creative interventions. The "Reflecting Memories" project, illustrated here, was developed in a partnership between art and architecture students, community leaders, and a non-profit community-based organization. The project is sited at the former Weingarten's Grocery store, which is now a Family Dollar. Composed of historic images and mirrors framed and displayed on an exterior wall the project blurs the boundaries between domestic and public space, while celebrating the history of the neighborhood.

ESTIMATED COST
\$ \$ \$

TIME FRAME
< 2 Years



In addition to these three projects, the Greater Northside Management District has also implemented many proposals in the toolkit, including the Serape project and the neighborhood scaled signs.

Since completing the toolkit in 2018, the Greater Northside Management District has continued collaborating with community leaders and other partners to work towards implementation. To date, six projects

have been completed, and five are in progress. Partners include both local community development corporations, foundations, non-profit organizations, artists, students, business partners, and community stakeholders. Approximately \$100,000 has been invested in completing projects from the toolkit.

The *Urban Design Toolkit* was developed based on two shared values. First, all planning

efforts should begin and end in conversation with community leaders and stakeholders. Second, our neighborhoods' everyday streets, buildings, and infrastructure can become a basis for developing innovative design interventions. While the *Urban Design Toolkit* is a small and humble plan, it has dramatically impacted the District, its five neighborhoods, and all the people and organizations involved.

Trang Phan Promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Congratulations to Trang Phan, Ph.D., on her promotion to Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at the Hines College!

Trang has been a significant asset to the Hines College for decades, working closely with students, faculty, and staff to support our College's student experience.

In September, Trang successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Situating the Identities and Experiences of Asian American Pacific Islander Students at an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution*, aimed to raise awareness of the complexity of AAPI student identities and experiences.



Hines Professors Receive VentureWell Grant for Sustainable Design

Course aims to equip students with system-level exploration and entrepreneurship



VENTURE WELL RECENTLY ANNOUNCED HINES COLLEGE assistant professor for UX/UI advanced design technology Min Kang and associate professor and co-director of Industrial Design Jeff Feng as recipients of the VentureWell Course and Program grant, part of the spring 2022 sustainable design grant cycle. Their proposal, *Design for Sustainable Consumption in People's Daily Living: Exploration and Entrepreneurship*, was awarded \$26,500.

The proposal allows students to investigate critical unsustainable consumption issues in waste-producing industries and provides students with system-level sustainable design knowledge. Students have the opportunity to introduce solutions and inventions promoting zero-waste products and services with advanced technology.

"The impact of natural resource scarcity on industries and human living has intensified in recent years across the globe," shared Feng. "Sustainability has become a major criterion in most, if not all, designs we do. In response to the strong demand for sustainable design in our society, as a long-term plan, we decided to develop a curriculum in

Design for Sustainability to provide systematic design education and training to our students."

The curriculum focuses on cultivating students' minds of care and responsibility for natural resources, and better equips them with systematic thinking and methodologies to address the intertwined, complex unsustainable issues.

Designed to implement learning material focused on unsustainable consumption in people's daily lives, the course explores design solutions with viable business opportunities. It encourages students to experiment with a systemic process leading to participants in the university's entrepreneur ecosystem. It also provides students with a system design education and a new UX design minor.

Design for Sustainable Consumption in People's Daily Living: Exploration and Entrepreneurship targets upper-level undergraduate students in the industrial design program and the C.T. Bauer College of Business entrepreneurship class. The collaboration inspires and fosters students' creativity and entrepreneurship in sustainable design exploration and experimentation.

"We are building this course for students to study system-level solution design that can create sustainable problem-solving systems," said Kang.

"Most of today's problems came from yesterday's solutions. The impactful 'sustainable design' comes from discovering and solving the problems within the context of the systems, not merely applying green materials to the products," said Kang. "We are building this course for students to study system-level solution design that can create sustainable problem-solving systems."

The course will officially begin in fall 2023 after the pilot class occurs earlier next year. Consisting of ten to sixteen students forming three to five teams, students will learn sustainable design concepts and tools to map and measure sustainability through a series of lectures, workshops, and laboratory activities. The teams with the most state-of-the-art ideas will benefit from mentorship to form startups and participate in the entrepreneurship program.

Kang and Feng hope to forge a long-term innovation & entrepreneurship lab course focusing on sustainable design and entrepreneurship as part of the core topics. —Symone Daniels

ABOVE: Feng teaching an industrial design junior class

Students Lead Annual Welcome Day Tradition

Hines College student organizations prepare incoming students for a new year



THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN IS fortunate to have such strong and dedicated student organizations focused on student support and advancement throughout their academic careers. Each year, new Hines College students are invited to Welcome Day – an annual tradition facilitated by the College’s student organizations the weekend before the start of the semester.

Welcome Day is an entirely student-run event taking place annually – even virtually in 2020 – for almost three decades. Current students spend the summer meticulously planning and organizing every event detail in preparation for the start of the new academic year. The event is funded solely through donations from the community and allows new students to attend a less formal orientation, giving them a more personal look into College life.

“Welcome Day is an amazing opportunity for incoming students to get to know their new College. Incoming students are paired with current students from their major to tour the building and learn more about where their classes will be and the resources on campus available to them,” said Emmelia Ward, Future Women in Architecture, Vice Chair of Administration. “By spending the day with students from various years within the College, new students get a chance to learn from what others before them have experienced.”

Incoming students also have the opportunity to interact with faculty and firm sponsors and learn about the

College’s student organizations and how they can be involved. Through a series of presentations, tours, and conversations, new students come out of Welcome Day ready to begin their studies at the College.

“Typically, there is an organization fair on Welcome Day. This can help students decide which organizations would help them achieve their college goals,” shared Kadmiel Konan, CoAD Student Council President. “There is also a raffle of useful items collected and purchased by the upper-level students.”

There is no short supply of goodies for new students attending Welcome Day, including free t-shirts, small gifts, and other architecture supplies. Every part of Welcome Day focuses on supporting incoming students.

“It is amazing to see all of the student organizations work together to plan this event and extremely rewarding to see students enjoy Welcome Day and wear their shirts in the following weeks,” said Ward. “The volunteer work by current students makes this event so special!”

For many, Welcome Day is something that creates a lasting impression on their time at the Hines College. This impact drives students to continue the tradition for future years.

“Welcome Day is important for all students because it is an opportunity for upper-level students to share their stories with freshmen,” shared Konan. “This usually leaves them less intimidated and more inspired about their first semester.” —Stephen Schad

PHOTO BY EMMELIA WARD

- HINES COLLEGE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:**
- American Institute of Architecture Students
 - Alpha Rho Chi-Cleisthenes Chapter
 - Future Women in Architecture
 - Interior Architecture Student Organization
 - LGBTQ+ CoAD
 - National Organization of Minority Architecture Students
 - Student Industrial Designers Society of America
 - Student Council
 - The Architecture Lobby
 - The Makers and Doers Club

STUDENTS WHO PLANNED WELCOME DAY 2022:
Mary Aguilera, Emmelia Ward, Amber Quinn, Ashton Ezell, Aya Daouk, Christopher Torres, Edison Chu, Kadmiel Konan, Loryn LaMonte, Mae Boutwell, Marina Latto, Nancy Mosqueda, Regyna Palacios, Phillip Le, Vivian Ian Ung, Estelle Lee

STUDENTS WHO HELPED OR SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER AT WELCOME DAY 2022 (EXCLUDING THE STUDENTS ABOVE):
Adriane Monroy, Aishwarya George, Amaris Bobbio-Tarco, Ariyan Fouladvand, Avery English, Dave Schuman, Estefy De anda, Esther Olukosi, Grasiela Magana, Isabella Nguyen, Kirsten Crowson, Kirsten Reyes, Marcos Coronel, Maria Noguera, Morgan Mendenhall, Pooja Desai, Saige Prucha, Samuel Charbula, Sarah Rupani, Sarah Wong, Shayna Smith, Sofia Sierra, TaMyria Levy, Taylor Langmead, Thomas Feuillet, Kate Rodriguez, Danielle Zabaneh, Elissar Zabaneh, Eriberto Luna, Haleigh Esene, Holly Skipton, Jane Vu, Jeffery Sosa, Jessica Merhav, Lucky Subramania, Maritsa Cabrera, Melissa Amaro, Nancy Mosqueda, Shruti Shukla, Tiwanioluwa Bayo-Adeyemo, Vincent Taylor, Davone Morgan, Insherah Alhajrasi, Jordan Lueck, Tarek Moubayed

Starting the Semester Strong

As they prepared to welcome new students, we also asked student leaders what they looked forward to before classes began.



KADMIEL KONAN '23
“I am excited to be serving as the chair of the Student Council this year. I feel blessed to work with the current representatives. Finally, I am excited to meet and assist the incoming freshmen. No doubt that during the semester, they will have questions and concerns. That was me when I entered the CoAD, and I reached this point because upperclassmen were kind and willing to help.”



REGYNA PALACIOS '23
“I will be part of the thesis program this year. I want to focus on designing emergency housing models that do not overlook human values and can help with the development of communities. I am grateful that the college offers opportunities like these to students. This project was the reason I decided to study architecture so I can’t wait to see the outcome of this journey!”



EDISON CHU '24
“The thing I’m most excited for is meeting all of the new freshmen design students! I absolutely love coming downstairs and meeting all of the bright minds imbued with the passion for design. Seeing these students grow over the course of a single semester gives me the motivation to work as hard as I can. With only two more years remaining, the curriculum will be tough, but I’m absolutely up for the challenge!”



EMMELIA WARD '24
“I am excited to challenge myself as a designer as I go into my fourth year studio and tech class. I look forward to building my portfolio and enhancing my knowledge on details as I move into the comprehensive level of our bachelor program. Of course, I am also most excited for the many amazing social and professional events held by our student organizations. I can’t wait to help organize these events for our community as well as attend them. FWIA painting night is coming soon!”



TAYLOR LANGMEAD '25
“I’m excited to be starting my 3rd year in the architecture program because of the amazing professors in the CoAD. There is always something to gain from each professor I have, so I’m excited to meet my new professors and start on a new project. I know I will learn new skills this year that will benefit me in my future career. I’m also happy to be back in studio so I can meet new friends and collaborate with my peers.”



GINA BISCARDI '23
“This will be such a busy and eventful school year! There is so much to look forward to, but what I am most excited about is researching for and preparing my thesis project. I am super interested in experiential spaces, and the power they hold to make others feel things. I will be further investigating ephemeral architecture as a means of social justice, specifically bringing awareness and support to victims of human trafficking.”

Student Organization Updates

Here's what some of the Hines College student organizations shared with us about their proudest achievements and noteworthy events

AIAS FREEDOM BY DESIGN

The American Institute of Architecture Students Freedom by Design madeover and renovated the photography room for students to document their projects earlier this fall. Now, they are working on building three studio carts to help provide extra material storage for CoAD students.

ALPHA RHO CHI - CLEISTHENES

Alpha Rho Chi - Cleisthenes (APX) had a productive year recruiting new members and planning activities and events that included the CannonDesign firm tour. APX also hosted a portfolio Q&A with alumni, sold Halloween Candygrams, and designed the Welcome Day t-shirts.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

AIAS participated in the AIA Houston Sandcastle Competition. This was an opportunity for CoAD students to collaborate in teams but also to network in a professional event.

This past October, AIAS presented HALLOWEEK, a week full of social and fun events where students could win prizes and meet new people.

We continued to operate the AIAS store, run by students for students located on the third floor. It serves coffee, snacks and materials at affordable prices. We thank the CoAD students who volunteered this semester as well as those who buy. The funds collected by the store enables AIAS to keep having professional and social events available for students as well as maintaining lower prices at the store.

BLACK STUDENTS IN DESIGN

BSID under the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students held their first-ever mixer earlier this year and continued to hold events like a Kirksey Construction tour and

welcoming guest speakers like Libby Bland from Row House CDC to come speak to students.

COAD STUDENT COUNCIL

Food trucks: STUCO advocated for more food options around the College. This semester, a food truck has been available Monday through Thursday beside the CoAD.

Chairs: STUCO has also been advocating for new furniture. This semester, we took the feedback from our first town hall, and met with the administration to address this urgent need. This semester, the College has purchased 100 new chairs based on the feedback we provided.

Graziegiving: Graziegiving is our CoAD version of Thanksgiving. We challenged ourselves to organize a Graziegiving dinner that will be memorable. We first organized a can drive for students to donate to the Houston food bank. More than 3,000 cans were donated. This all culminated in our Graziegiving dinner on November 17. This event was possible because of the numerous sponsors who generously donated. It was "one of the best events we've had in the College" according to Associate Dean Phan.

FUTURE WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

Future Women in Architecture (FWIA) is an inclusive organization open to all students within the College, and is dedicated to growing its members through professional events and opportunities. FWIA started the fall semester with their second annual Supply Drive, supporting over 75 incoming students with over 200 completely free supplies and materials. FWIA also continued its mentorship program, pairing 1st and 2nd year studios with an upperclassman to support them. This year, over 25 incoming students have received a mentor.

On top of general meetings, a woman-owned firm tour and painting night, FWIA also had their bi-semester Drawing Competition. After every midterm and final presentation week, FWIA hosts a college-wide drawing competition. Students can submit their studio project drawings to showcase their work to the College and professionals, and even have a chance at winning a cash prize.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

IASA held a number of events for members to celebrate holidays like Halloween. In addition to social activities, the group also held professional gatherings, bringing in guests from RH Houston for a Q+A session. IASA also invited all CoAD students for a tour of facilities and prototyping event at the Ion.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS

NOMAS participated in Welcome Day events and held officer elections in the fall. In addition to having meetings and firm tours, NOMAS also hosted the Adobe Tutorial Series to help CoAD students strengthen their skills in PhotoShop, Illustrator, and InDesign.

STUDENT INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS OF AMERICA

SIDSA held fun events like lunch socials, a Pumpkin Casting Workshop, and a Museum Night at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Professional events like a Portfolio Workshop and an Internship Panel helped prepare members for real world experiences. Working with IDSA Houston, students also hosted the IDesign for Life Conference at the end of the semester.



Hines College Students Earn Industrial Designers Society of America Honors

David Edquilang '22 won the 2022 Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) South District Undergraduate Student Award, while Zain Jamjoom was selected as a finalist for the 2022 IDSA Graduate Student Merit Award. Both students' projects explored healthcare design. Edquilang designed a concussion-diagnosing headset called Axon, inspired by his family members who work in the medical field. Similarly, Jamjoom designed SutureLab, a kit to help surgeons practice their suturing, after watching her husband work on makeshift models from pegboards. —Nicholas Nguyen

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: David Edquilang and Zain Jamjoom
BELOW, TOP TO BOTTOM: Edquilang's Axon headset and Jamjoom's SutureLab



Another Win for “Homecoming”

Hines College architecture students Kieran Inteus Renfrow and Michelle Ovanessians, who were advised by faculty member Emily Moore, won a 2022 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Houston Design Award for their project, *Homecoming* (Conceptual). The students previously won an AIA Fort Worth Merit Award earlier in the year.

Homecoming orients itself towards serving surrounding communities of the Sweet Auburn Historic District in Atlanta, Georgia — a significant historical region containing markers and monuments from the Civil Rights Movement.

Ovanessians and Renfrow sought to create a space honoring John Lewis and perpetuating the notion of “grounding.” The idea of centering oneself within their

origins and cultivating community inspired *Homecoming*.

Homecoming’s multipurpose space integrates a time-share program allowing for utilization of the greenhouse during the day and the social garden at night, permitting communal integration. The project’s exterior and interior utilize spaces, materials, and plants as a means of “grounding,” providing a space stimulating mental health, physical health, and communal activities. —Nicholas Nguyen and Destiny Vaquera

ABOVE: The 1950s comic graphic style used throughout the design encapsulates an “old way of representing a new idea.”

FWIA Midterm Drawing Competition Winners

Future Women in Architecture hosts a midterm drawing competition each semester with cash prizes for students across three levels of studio categories.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: "Site Model 110 Milam St.," "Subject #002's Graphic Novel Account - Representation of the Spatiotemporal: A Domicile for a Climate Apocalypse," and "Morte Luminosa (Brightful Death)"

1500+2500 CATEGORY: *Site Model 110 Milam St.* by Martin Sierra, Axander Villasana, and Jorge Morales

"This site model consists of very noticeable features depicting the geographical area from which it was replicated from. These details were put together through a topography program which allowed us to CNC our wood, which we sanded down to highlight the topographical features of the site," the group explained.

"Through precise observation, we put together the visual aspects like the buildings, trees, and bridge, to bring out model to life. Special thanks to Jesus Garza and Rais Prasla for their incorporation of the project—[we] wouldn't be done without them."

3500+4510 CATEGORY: *Morte Luminosa (Brightful Death)* by Hussein Al Hamadani and Ariyan Fouladvand

"*Morte Luminosa (Brightful Death)* was created while thinking about human emotions, stages of grief, sustainability, and the exploration of materials. Through the repurposing of the St. Thomas offices and Houston library buildings, the amount of material waste for this project has been reduced," they said.

"The inspiration for the design was to provide different experiences as visitors move from one space to another," they continued. "The unconditioned reception hall and waiting room are surrounded by openings, high ceilings, water channels, and plenty of indirect natural lighting to keep the air cool and provide an area for relaxation to those who are going through the loss of a loved one. As visitors move into the auditorium, they can observe the spiral staircase connecting all the floors, which celebrates the high ceilings and vertical qualities of the design. Moving to the second floor, the spaces become brighter with natural light diffusing in through the polycarbonate

panels connected to an undulating ETFE roof. The ceiling flows between 8'-6" and 15'-0" as visitors travel through.

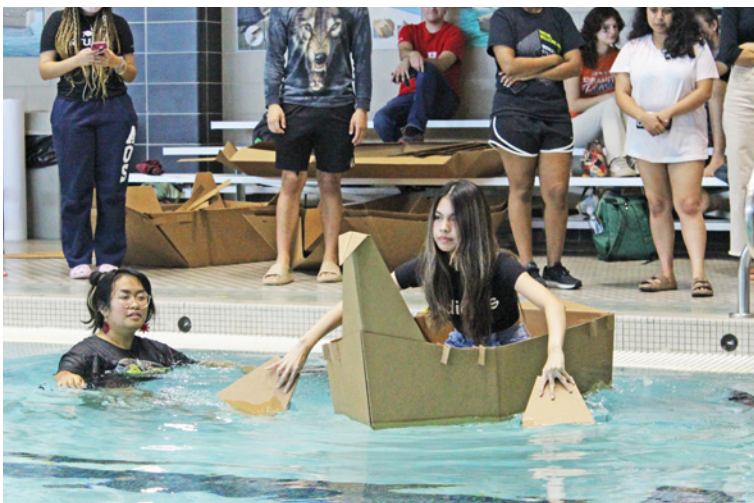
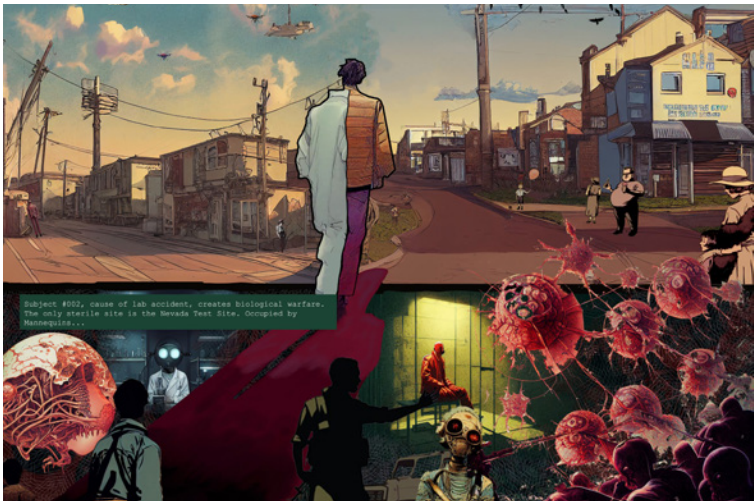
"The roof has a gradual slope towards the courtyard which contains water fountains and vegetation. The rainwater travels across the roof and is collected in the channel to be used for the building's non-potable activities. The design provides a comforting and restorative space that celebrates the life of the human body."

5500+GRAD CATEGORY: *Subject #002's Graphic Novel Account - Representation of the Spatiotemporal: A Domicile for a Climate Apocalypse* by Michelle Ovanessians

"The project resides in the Nevada National Security Site (Nevada Test Site) adjacent to the famous Area 51. Formerly known as the Nevada Proving Grounds, the site was established in 1951 for the testing of nuclear devices. After the government testing located at Area 51 went wrong due to the lead scientists' own objectives, a mass pandemic arises where the Nevada Test Site is the only sterile site due to its highly restricted nature," Michelle described.

"The scientist is incarcerated, but to save face, the scientist, otherwise known as subject #002, is recruited to take part in a government experiment of a domicile to protect against all things apocalyptic. Subject #002 is brainwashed into thinking that the historical faux towns populated by mannequins are actually real. However in Nuketown, [the] population is 1.

"Unbeknownst to the subject the following documents retrieved are post experiments illustrated by the subject himself, a graphic novelist in the subjects free time. The documents portray the duality of reality and the subject's own reality. Birds to the subject are drones, people [are] mannequins..."



Making a Splash

The UH Industrial Design program hosted its first Cardboard Watercraft Regatta early this semester

Industrial design students designed and built their own flat-packable, cardboard personal watercraft which had to cross the 75-foot width of the pool while fully supporting their body weight. They were challenged to use only a three sheets of 4x8' corrugated, c-flute cardboard with no tape, fasteners, or adhesives allowed.

Following the awards honoring students in specific categories, they cheered on studio professors Aaron McEuen and George Chow as they took some of the boats for a race.

WINNING STUDENTS

- **Fastest to Cross:** Peggy-Khanh Thai, 26 seconds
- **Lightest Watercraft:** Yasmine Almadi, 3.3 lbs
- **Fastest Assembly Time:** Valente Zambrano, 43 seconds
- **Most Aesthetically Pleasing:** Di Nguyen
- **Most Style/Flair:** Anthony Hoang
- **People's Choice Award:** Adron Blount

Concept to Construction

New outdoor classroom created by UH students opens at local middle school



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS PUT their design, planning and implementation skills to the test to build an outdoor classroom at Frank Black Middle School in the Oak Forest neighborhood of Houston. The 296-square-foot steel structure includes an array of features that promote sustainability.

The classroom’s v-shaped canopy provides shade while simultaneously funneling storm water into a 1200-gallon rain tank that will be used to water the school’s garden and grass. Cantilever beams are used as benches. Slate chalkboards are also included.

The graduate students involved in the project are part of the Graduate Design/Build Studio at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. It’s the first year of their three-year curriculum led by Patrick Peters, professor of architecture, and Jason Logan, associate professor of architecture.

“These students are in the early stage of their architectural educations and their budding careers, so the impact of this hands-on, full-scale work to their professional growth is profound,” Peters said.

UH students not only were involved in building the structure but also secured vendor donations, communicated on orders and arranged a manufacturing plant tour to view the production process of building materials.

“This has been an incredible, hands-on experience,” said Kasey McGuigan, an architectural studies master’s student. “We spend 90% of our time as students working at our computers with conceptual projects, so to get our hands dirty and learn from professionals what life outside of the education setting will be is an experience I will treasure throughout my career.”

The work also provides permanent benefits for the school and its Oak Forest neighbors. Peters adds that the project underscores the architecture students’ awareness and responsibility for their future roles in community building. “Through our classwork, we demonstrate that edifice and edify share a common root,” he said.

The primary donors for the project are husband and wife Robb Bunge and Dianne Murata. They hope the outdoor classroom shows what is

possible in any community with creative partnerships.

For Galen Kragas, an architecture master’s student, it is an exciting opportunity to work on projects that have a tangible impact. “It’s a win-win for everyone,” he said. “The students and teachers will get to utilize it, we gained valuable experience by building it, and hopefully the donors will get recognized for their commitment to the community by funding it.”

“The UH students have been spectacular to watch as they developed the concepts and executed the project,” Bunge said. “It is more than we could have hoped for, and to say we are grateful for all of the work is a tremendous understatement.”

The project funding was \$18,000, which was provided by parent donors, the PTO and augmented by engineering and construction industry partners who provided in-kind goods and services.

—Rebeca Hawley, photos by Jon Burke

ABOVE: Galen Kragas, Patrick Peters, and Kasey McGuigan pose with students at Frank Black Middle School; the outdoor classroom in use



New Faculty Move College Forward in Innovative Areas

Hines College welcomed four women to new faculty positions



AS THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGAN, THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN WELCOMED FOUR NEW FACULTY SET TO BUILD ON NEW AREAS OF GROWTH AND opportunity. Elham Morshedzadeh and Dalia Munenzon joined the College as tenure-track assistant professors resulting from President Khator's recent Presidential Frontiers Faculty initiative. Dijana Handanovic and Ophelia Mantz moved into new roles as tenure-track assistant professors of interior architecture.

Morshedzadeh began as the College's assistant professor for healthcare innovation, a position allowing the industrial design program to build on its impressive record of designing products for the healthcare industry. Munenzon served as the assistant professor of urban design in sustainable communities and infrastructure, allowing the College's graduate architecture program to take a critical step forward in developing a future urban design degree program.

Handanovic and Mantz are the newest additions to the College's interior architecture program. Both previously taught as adjunct faculty at the College and have taken on new positions as assistant professors in the program. Handanovic is a proud alumna of the Hines College, and Mantz currently directs the College's Materials Research Collaborative (MRC).



ELHAM MORSHEDZADEH
Assistant Professor for Healthcare Innovation

Degrees:
Chiba University, Japan | Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial Design

Tabriz Islamic Art University, Iran | Master of Science in Industrial Design

Alzahra University, Iran | Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design

Interests and Focus:
Elham Morshedzadeh, Ph.D. is an industrial designer, usability researcher, and educator whose research focuses on healthcare, community-centered design, and usability. She has taught design internationally and in the US and was honored with the 2021 Young Educator Award from the Industrial Design Society of America (IDSA).

Since 2017, Morshedzadeh has collaborated with clinicians, engineers, and faculty (at her former institute Virginia Tech) to create unique research opportunities that are also learning experiences for her students.

Prior to teaching, Morshedzadeh spent ten years as a professional industrial designer in Iran, where she was lead designer on a range of high-profile projects. She now incorporates her prior industry experience working with teams of engineers, anthropologists, and architects into the classroom by emphasizing the importance of experiential, evidence-based decision-making in participatory design.



DALIA MUNENZON
Assistant Professor of Urban Design in Sustainable Communities and Infrastructure

Degrees:
Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Master in Architectural Studies

Technion - Israel Institute of technology | Bachelor in Architecture and Town Planning

Interests and Focus:
Dalia Munenzon has a decade of professional experience in architecture and urbanism, focusing on adaptive strategies and resiliency methods. She leverages experience in urban systems design, environmental planning, and architecture to work with local communities across scales toward resilient cities and urban environments. Her work in urban resilience is innovative and instrumental to the national effort to address and adapt to climate impacts.

Munenzon's work on resilience is focused on waterfront design and long-term strategic planning, while leading the efforts of One Architecture & Urbanism on many high-profile, award-winning projects. Prior to joining the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design, she taught at the College of Architecture at Texas Tech University, the Rhode Island School of Design, and has been a guest juror for architecture programs at MIT, RISD, Harvard GSD, Syracuse, Cooper Union, UC Berkeley, and others.



DIJANA HANDANOVIC
Assistant Professor of Interior Architecture

Degrees:
University of Houston | Master of Architecture

University of Houston | Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Social Science in Interior Design

Interests and Focus:
Dijana Handanovic is an assistant professor of Interior Architecture at the University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design. She graduated as a top graduate student with a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Social Science/ Interior Design degree from the University of Houston. She is a founding principal of the Houston based design-research firm, Studio Ija, whose projects encompass various scales ranging from furniture to urban design.

Prior to establishing Studio Ija, Dijana worked at Abel Design Group where she worked on designing and building commercial and hospitality projects. Dijana's European heritage inspires a love and fascination with Brutalist architecture in the former Yugoslavia. Her work investigates architecture's role in the creation and dissolution of Yugoslavia, while exploring the convoluted relationship between monumentality and anti-monumentality.



OPHELIA MANTZ
Assistant Professor of Interior Architecture and Director of the Material Research Collaborative

Degrees:
École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, UP8, France, Diplômée par le gouvernement, Master in Architecture

Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, Spain (ETSAM – UPM) M.Arch in Bioclimatic Architecture and Sustainability

Interests and Focus:
Mantz currently leads the firm Z4A with Rafael Beneytez. Her education in architecture and the works she developed in the professional practice have closely related to ecological problems. This experience and knowledge, acquired through 15 years of professional work, have helped her structure the contents and the pedagogy of the courses she has taught.

Since 2016, Mantz was Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, and taught mostly at the undergraduate level in design studio courses and seminars on Special Problems in Architecture.

Her work has been recognized and awarded an ACSA 2019 Faculty Design award, the Architectural Review Emerging Architecture 2016 (Finalist), S.ARCH 2018, COAM 2016 Award (Finalist), Spanish National Award of Public Parks and Gardens 2015, and European 10 (Finalist). —Stephen Schad



Architecture Faculty Win Texas Society of Architects Design Awards

Collaboration key factor influencer in award-winning work

THE HINES COLLEGE CONGRATULATES PROFESSORS Jesse Hager, Amna Ansari, and Marcus Martinez for receiving the 2022 Texas Society of Architects (TXA) Design Awards. The annual awards recognize design excellence among architects throughout the state of Texas. Of 150 submissions, a panel of jurors from across the United States selected 25 top exceptional works for this year's award winners.

The *Allston Residence* is a collaboration between Hager's firm, CONTENT Architecture, and the homeowners. Located in a neighborhood of Houston's historic Heights district, the two-story home is a modern interpretation of the traditional surrounding bungalows. Throughout the design process, CONTENT Architecture learned the couples' preferences, designing a custom and unique living space based on the homeowner's needs.

Hager believes the homeowner's involvement in the project's design process is as essential as the architects themselves.

To those familiar with the architecture and design industry, CONTENT Architecture's recent win is not surprising. The firm continuously wins awards and gains recognition for its breadth of outstanding work. For Hager, though, this 2022 TXA Award is an exciting and validating win for the firm. Sharing this experience with the homeowners has been the most rewarding part of the experience.

Alongside CONTENT Architecture in this year's awards is UltraBarrio, an architecture and urban design practice founded by alumni and faculty members Amna Ansari '03 and Marcus Martinez '04.

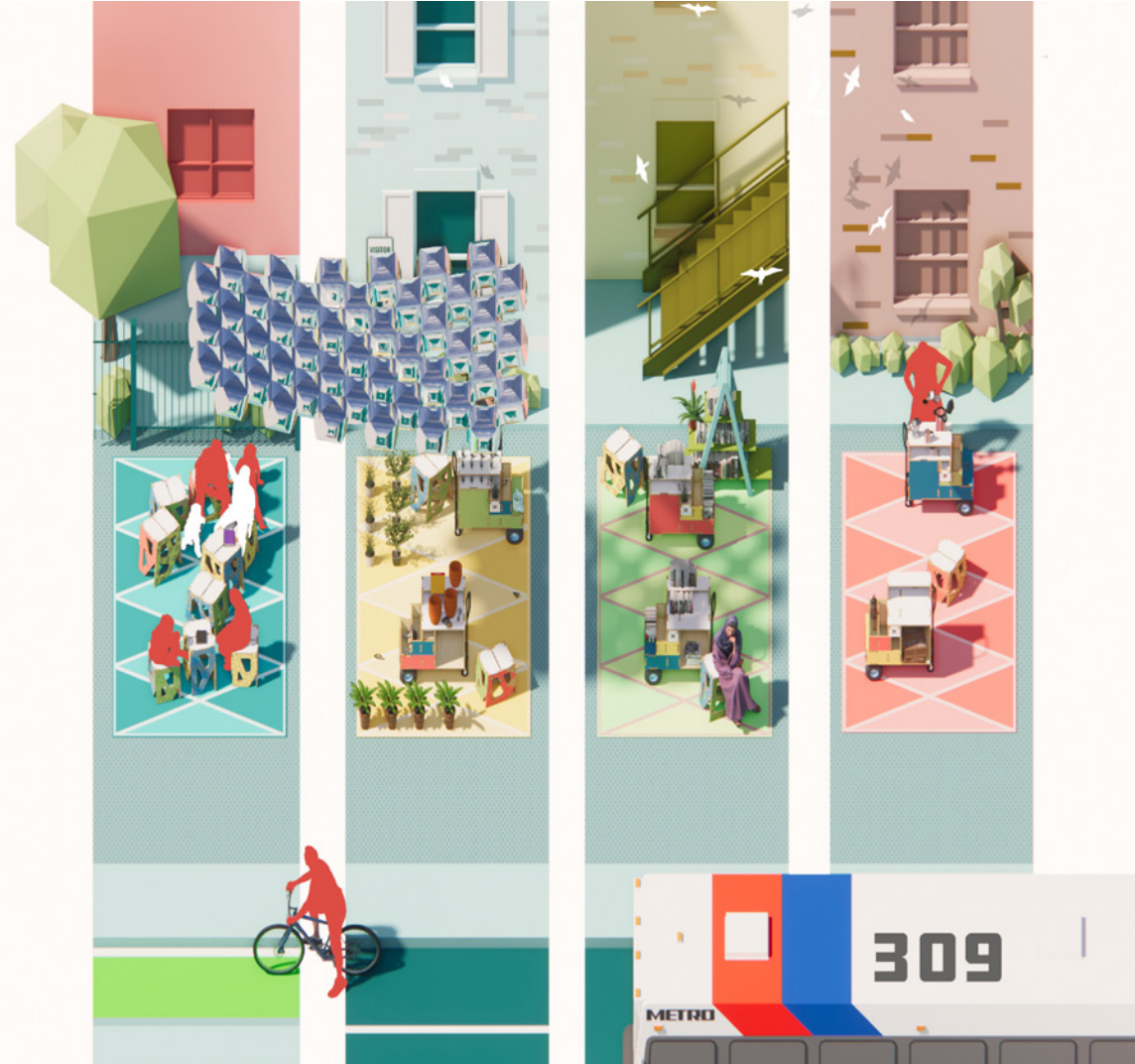
Roaming Cart-Ographies is made possible through a series of grants

and the collaboration between UltraBarrio, a nonprofit organization called Connect Community, and the Gulfton area.

The southwest community of Gulfton is located in an area known for being one of the densest areas in the City of Houston with the least amount of "green space," making it difficult for the residents to gather. The goal of *Roaming Cart-Ographies* centers around the idea of finding ways through placemaking that, in turn, bring the community together.

UltraBarrio used the visitor parking lots and courtyards as an opportunity to show that these "forgotten spaces" can be utilized as spaces where residents can communally gather. Ansari and Martinez sought to produce a design that clearly radiated it was part of the community.

Ultimately, they conceived the idea to design a series of mobile



furniture for community and outreach events, including Story Day, Culinary Day, Music Day, and Green Day. From a design standpoint, the carts are considered extremely sturdy. Each cart, made to be natural and adaptable to the operator's needs, is on top of a steel chassis that can hold 600 pounds, allowing for ample storage.

Bringing design empathy to Gulfton was important to UltraBarrio. Additionally, Ansari has strong ties to the area. Growing up in Gulfton and having firsthand experience, Ansari learned sharing is an essential value to the community.

"Part of my childhood was in Gulfton, in one of the many apartment complexes prevalent throughout the community. I deeply connect with what the density of cities produces," Ansari explained. "In Gulfton the density in population generates a necessity of sharing and

Having the opportunity to give back to Gulfton left Ansari and Martinez feeling honored and wanting to work harder to design something that would respond to the community's needs.

trading skills with an undercurrent of informal entrepreneurship." Ansari understands that while the community does not have an ideal gathering space, members of the area still come together to utilize the carts, demonstrating the community's ability to provide for themselves through entrepreneurship.

"For some it's what makes ends meet, for others the sharing of craft and cuisine just needs more visibility to go farther," Ansari explained. "This project exhibits these culturally entrenched skills through different types of events supporting the local entrepreneur. Yet these events, taking place in hot parking lots,

highlight a community gathering together despite their open space and green space deficits."

Having the opportunity to give back to Gulfton left Ansari and Martinez feeling honored and wanting to work harder to design something that would respond to the community's needs. They find the most fulfillment in seeing pieces of the collection as a central part of community life.

Both winning projects were featured in the September/October issue of *Texas Architect Magazine*.

—Symone Daniels

OPPOSITE PAGE: An interior view of the Allston Residence which used collaboration with homeowners in the design process.

AT LEFT: A drawing representing the Roaming Cart-Ographies project by UltraBarrio to create spaces for communities in the Gulfton area.

BELOW: Amna Ansari and Marcus Martinez of UltraBarrio; Jesse Hager of CONTENT Architecture.



CONGRATS AGAIN! In addition to earning TXA Design awards, CONTENT Architecture and UltraBarrio also earned 2022 AIA Houston Design Awards. CONTENT won in the "Residential" category for the *Rice Magister House* while Ultra Barrio's *Roaming Cart-Ographies* racked up another win in "Urban Design."

FACULTY FOCUS

Ruffino Hills
Landfill Project
Wins Second
APA Gold Award

The Hines College remains committed to resilient Houston communities



AT RIGHT: A drawing of the Ruffino Hills project depicting how the landfill might be transformed

THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION TEXAS CHAPTER awarded University of Houston Gerald D. Hines School of Architecture and Design professor of architecture Bruce Race FAIA, FAICP, Ph.D. with a 2022 Gold Award this fall for his Ruffino Hills Landfill proposal. The project received the APA Houston Chapter's Gold Resilience Award earlier this year.

Similar to his *Robins Landing Town Center: Strategies and Guidance for Resilience* project, *Ruffino Hills Landfill Resilient Redevelopment and Detention* was first considered by UH students who strongly believed in impacting communities. Located at the intersection of the Sam Houston Parkway (Beltway 8) and I-69, Ruffino Hills Landfill is a project motivated by the community.

"The community wanted something that would improve their economy, as well as recreational parks and educational components," shared Race. "The purpose of the process and the developed plan was to find consensus."

Ruffino Hills Landfill is an integrated economic and environmental resilience project demonstrating how to take a landfill site with a negative environmental contribution to a progressive and effective

environmental contribution. The project also features net zero energy and greenhouse gas strategies, showing that an investment in Ruffino Hills will exceed Houston's environmental goals in the City's climate action plan and resilience plan. At a regional level, the Ruffino Hills

"The challenge is that it requires a kind of innovation we have not tried before," said Race.

Landfill development increases the flood detention capacity and, in turn, provides solutions for the current urban heat island. Ultimately, the redevelopment will result in a cooler part of the City.

Building a detention pond like this can be quite costly and tedious, especially considering the excavation and infrastructure required. However, including it as part of a real estate project creates an opportunity for the public to benefit from private investments in the area.

Race believes ensuring the community receives balanced economic, environmental, and social equity is challenging because Houston has not experienced many

opportunities to plan and implement a project of this magnitude. It is also difficult to decipher who will take over the project's leadership concerning economic development, detention, and recreation.

"The challenge is that it requires a kind of innovation we have not tried before," said Race. "We do not have good examples in Houston focusing on how the public sector can put together a project where the private sector can take advantage of the location and have a successful development that can help pay for the detention and the recreation."

Ruffino Hills will not only reflect the desires of the community, but the project will also create a lasting impact, including benefits such as a regional park with educational programs for children, more diversified housing, and regional dentition reducing flooding.

Projects like Ruffino Hills Landfill show how the University of Houston is committed to and always working towards supporting resilient communities through Houston. The City of Houston proclaimed August 23, 2022 as *Ruffino Hills Landfill Day* on which Race presented the Ruffino Hills plan to Houston City Council. —Symone Daniels

Susan Rogers Wins AIA Houston Honor Award

In October, Hines College professor and the director of the Community Design Resource Center (CDRC) Susan Rogers won the AIA Houston Civic Vision Award.



"I was honored and humbled to receive an Honor Award for Civic Vision from AIA Houston on Thursday, October 13, 2022. Over nearly two decades, I have worked side by side with community leaders, students, partners, and allies to define and develop design strategies that bring us closer to a more just and equitable city," she shared.

"As a result, this award and recognition from AIA Houston is shared with everyone who has been part of the Community Design Resource Center and each of the community organizations and leaders who have trusted us."

Congratulations to Professor Rogers, the CRDC, the students who worked on its many projects, and their community partners!

Fall Faculty Publications

- Andrew Kudless was featured in online articles for *Dezeen* and *Fast Company*; interviewed in the September/October issue of *MIT Technology Review* and the November/December issue of *Attitude Interior Design Magazine*; and wrote "Diffused Narratives" for *Gradient Journal*
- Rafael Beneytez-Durán penned "The Garden and Breathing: A Narrative About the Architecture of Air Amid the Fears of the Anthropocene" for *Materia Arquitectura*
- Ross Wienert contributed the feature story "Magic Island" for the November/December issue of *Texas Architect*



All the Pieces
Come Together

The Puzzle House by Hines College professor Jesse Hager and his firm CONTENT Architecture contains many custom elements, interlocking form and function. It also features a room dedicated to the family's favorite hobby: doing puzzles together (pictured at left). Professors Ross Wienert and Katie LaRose, as well as alum Otilia Gonzales, were also part of the team. The home was featured in the AIA Houston 2022 Home Tour and covered in *Houstonia* magazine. —Nicholas Nguyen

DEFINING A FUTURE WITH AUTOMATION



A conversation with
Andrew Kudless exploring AI
and design education

story by Symone Daniels • renderings by Andrew Kudless

ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN SITS the future Construction Robotics and Fabrication Technologies Lab (CRAFT Lab) under the leadership of director Andrew Kudless, the College's William D. Kendall Endowed Professor of Design Technologies. Currently, in phase two, the lab will support the Hines College through groundbreaking technologies and research. While the idea of artificial intelligence (AI), the theory and development of computer systems performing duties usually requiring human intelligence, is not new, thanks to recent advances, the world is seeing an influx of AI. Kudless has recently received attention for his article, "Diffused Narratives," published by *Gradient Journal*, for his perspective on AI and its impact on the design industry. Hines College writer Symone Daniels recently sat down with Kudless to discuss his thoughts on the future of AI.

SYMONE DANIELS: *How did living in Japan impact the way you approach architecture?*

ANDREW KUDLESS: After graduating from Tulane University in New Orleans, I moved to Japan. It was quite a shock for me because I was not used to seeing anything being built. Most of my professors worked on preservation projects during my studies in such a historic city. When they worked on construction projects, they mostly renovated historic buildings, which is vastly different from creating something new. Despite moving to Japan during a recession, I had never seen so much construction. Everywhere I looked, there was scaffolding covered with construction curtains.

In New Orleans, I was accustomed to a more solid architecture: brick, concrete, and stone. In Japan, it was almost as if the buildings being constructed were made out of fabric and blowing in the wind. It was just beautiful. I was very interested in this kind of architecture that would constantly be changing.

After five years of studying at Tulane, I had become quite burnt out and found that Japan was the cure. I began walking around and taking photos of buildings, and eventually, I became interested in how these buildings worked. I was inspired to start designing more. I began creating just fake projects for myself. For example, I would find an empty site somewhere in the city and then develop a hotel. I would work on that until I was done. There was not an actual client or project, but it was just something I wanted to do. In many ways, this ultimately reignited my interest in architecture.

SD: *Your article, "Diffused Narratives," was recently published in Gradient Journal. What inspired you to share your story about your growth as a designer and instructor?*

"My goal is to make our students critical users of technology. AI will be one of the most important technologies affecting their careers ... It is critically important that students can be adaptive and feel comfortable switching from pencil to AI and back, as needed, in their process."

AK: During the summer, I began showcasing images of my work on Instagram. I would include a short post about my ideas on how the software worked and was utilized in the design. As a result, the editor of *Gradient* approached me about turning my posts into an article. I agreed to the idea because I had been writing a lot recently and wanted to formalize the writing from short social media posts to a long-form article. "Diffused Narratives" also allowed me to explore a non-traditional writing style combining four different narratives.

The first narrative (in black text) is personal – "This is a story spanning two decades of setbacks and growth as a designer and instructor." This narrative shares the struggles I faced along the journey, beginning as a student, developing into an architect, and eventually becoming a professor. The second narrative (in pink text) describes and critiques the technical aspects of AI tools. The third narrative is a comparison between two of the most used AI platforms: Midjourney and Stable Diffusion. Everything on the left-hand side is one Midjourney, and everything on the right is Stable Diffusion. I was interested in understanding the similarities and differences between two different AI models. The fourth narrative is an illustrated biography with fake images. Rather than show images of my work, I wanted to describe it through text prompts that the AIs then used to illustrate it visually. I wanted to talk simultaneously about my experience, my projects, and the technical and ethical aspects of using AIs in architecture and design.

SD: *How did you go from architecture to AI? How did that transpire?*

AK: Although I had been following a lot of the development of AI in general and specifically within the architecture discipline over the last three or four years, I had yet to dive in as it was very technical. And while I know how to code, it was still a leap for me. The change in training AI from three or four years ago to just a year ago is very different. Instead of training on a limited data set, you now train AI on everything. This allows much more creative freedom as the AI "understands" more. It is fantastic on a technical level because you can interact with it in a Discord chat channel and not have to install some esoteric software and code your own model.

In the last year, new platforms began supporting AI at a much more accessible level for the average person, allowing access to non-experts. In architecture, I have had clients who use this with me and like the results. Typically, an architect would want to avoid a client coming to the table with a drawing of what they want. However, AI has broken down some of the borders between designers and non-designers or artists and non-artists, in which architects can get a better glimpse into their client's vision.

Scan the code below to read "Diffused Narratives" at the *Gradient Journal* website.





SD: *How do you see automation impacting the architecture and design industry?*

AK: There is a process called design development. This happens before the building is built, when you are just developing the design, and things are constantly changing. In the early phases of concept design, AI can help explore your imagination. Your desires may change as you receive new information from the window manufacturer or new instruction from the city, and perhaps your data even fluctuates. Design development is a form of automation.

In the middle phase of design development, parametric modeling helps structure the project in a way where small modifications can be made that might normally require much work. If something changes in the equation, everything downstream adjusts with it. For example, if you need to change the width of the building, everything is recalculated within the parameters of the changes.

In the final phase, during construction, we can use robotics to help reduce the dirty, dangerous, and dull tasks to make building faster, cheaper, and safer.

SD: *What are your thoughts when people talk about robots taking over the future and causing humans to have fewer job prospects?*

AK: When we look at the history of automation over the last one hundred years, we see that instead of massive unemployment, automation has led to reasonably stable employment levels and a massive increase in productivity. Some jobs are lost, but roughly the same number of jobs are created in new industries that never previously existed.

Although robotics has been used in the manufacturing industry for decades, they are relatively new to architecture and construction, as we do not benefit from the same scales of production. Instead of producing ten-thousand identical cars or millions of phones, each building is often custom-designed for its client. But recent advances in both the software and hardware of automation make this customization possible.

I think what is beginning to happen is that we are trying to find ways to make the design and fabrication of

buildings more efficient – lowering the cost and building them more safely, with fewer people involved in the process. We could build 24 hours a day and deliver much more quickly in the future. Hines College alumni Russell '93 and Rame '00 Hruska are already working in this realm. They started a company called boxprefab, an off-site construction company building prefabricated homes from design to completion.

SD: *As the Kendall Endowed Professor of Design Technologies and director of the CRAFT Lab, what are your plans for the lab?*

AK: Throughout my career, I have been interested in automation to one degree or another. Toward the end of the "Diffused Narratives" article, I tried to articulate that architecture is more complex than it needs to be. The design of buildings is more complicated than it needs to be. The construction of buildings is more rigid than it needs to be. And this makes everything more expensive.

The CRAFT Lab will work on multiple fronts to solve these problems. First, I want to investigate the potential of AI tools to help us explore our imaginations. Second, I want to work with students, colleagues, and industry partners on computational design logics. Using parametric design tools helps streamline the design process from early design to pre-construction. Third, the Lab will be a hub for University researchers developing innovative construction processes through various robotic workflows and new material assemblies.

SD: *How will work with AI impact Hines College students?*

AK: My goal is to make our students critical users of technology. AI will be one of the most important technologies affecting their careers. Within AI tools and all of the design technologies we teach at the College, I want our students to feel empowered not only because they know how to use them but when not to use them. It is critically important that students can be adaptive and feel comfortable switching from pencil to AI and back as needed in their process. They will continue to experience rapid technological change throughout their careers, so I want them to have the skills and confidence to navigate those changes. □

AI IN THE STUDIO

HINES COLLEGE PROFESSOR ROYA PLAUCHÉ SHARES HER THOUGHTS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SOFTWARE BEING SLOWLY INTEGRATED INTO THE CLASSROOM. Software like Midjourney uses computer-generated learning algorithms to help produce images creating a unique opportunity for students to approach the concept of design differently.

SD: *What made you want to introduce AI to teach your students in your lesson plans?*

ROYA PLAUCHÉ: We introduced Midjourney as an experiment at the beginning phase of our design process. We were seeing text-to-image AI-developed imagery everywhere and wanted to test and learn about the process.

SD: *How has using AI in the classroom impacted your students?*

RP: It was a great learning experience for the students since none had ever used this tool before. It was a great way to use the generated images as a sketch and ideas generator.

SD: *What advice would you give to other professors considering using AI in their classrooms?*

RP: New tools are emerging in the profession, and as faculty, we can engage with them differently. These tools are not necessarily replacing previous ones but are different in process and can be used as a complement to traditional ones.

RACING
TOWARD THE

FUTURE



Industrial design students create
interior and exterior EV concepts in
College's first automotive design studio

by Rebeca Hawley

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON STUDENTS COMPETED THIS FALL TO DESIGN THE NEXT GENERATION of luxury electric vehicles as part of their coursework at the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design.

Mark Kimbrough and Jeff Feng, co-directors of the industrial design program, offered students enrolled in junior- and senior-level classes the opportunity to participate in the design competition while still gaining class credit. Seniors, who designed the vehicle exteriors, paired up with juniors, who created the interiors, to form eight teams.

“Through our program, students in the past have designed other modes of transportation, such as bicycles and electric scooters, but we’ve never done a car,” said Kimbrough, instructional associate professor of industrial design.

“The timing for this project is amazing, because the electric vehicle industry is moving to Texas. This is an opportunity to position our design program and be ready for the industry.”

The competition was made possible through the sponsors Photon Auto, TexPower EV Technologies, and IQP (Integrated Quantum Photonics). Photon Auto, based in Houston, is developing a new electric vehicle with a range of 500+ miles and is equipped with lidar systems, which send pulses of laser light to determine the presence, shape and distance of objects, and advanced crash prevention systems.

TexPower develops cobalt-free high-energy cathode materials for lithium-based batteries for premium electric vehicle markets and special applications. Additionally, it is working on a new 350-watt hour per kilogram battery to power Photon Auto electric vehicles.

IQP has invented and patented a new type of photonic sensor with aims to transform the industry and make electric vehicles safer.

“The competition challenged student designers to think critically about how to respond to rapidly advancing electric vehicle technologies, which revolutionize the concept of driving,” said John Houghtaling, CEO of Photon Auto.

Students were judged based on innovation, originality, quality of aesthetics, and quality of execution. Scaled 3D printed models of the exterior designs on display served as study models for judges to understand the form of the design. A more detailed look at the vehicle exteriors was provided through large, high-resolution digital renderings. Interior designs were also presented through digital renderings.

At a December 5th exhibition event at the Hines College’s Mashburn Gallery, the competition’s sponsors judged the work of each team and announced Pedro Sandoval as the first-place EV exterior design winner and Josh Lu as the runner-up for EV exterior design. Khanh Vu and Thomas Feuillet were chosen as the EV interior design winning team. All four students receive a monetary prize and internship opportunity with Photon Auto.

The event was also notably attended by indIGO Auto Group, a luxury vehicle dealership in Houston, and Evolve, a non-profit promoting electric transportation in Greater Houston.

FOSTERING HUMAN CONNECTION

Senior Ethan Hunter and junior Danny Blacker designed a sedan that offers a throwback to the DeLorean – aggressive, sturdy, and sleek.

“It’s still very early in the life of electric vehicles,” Hunter said. “Electric vehicle design is still pretty open to interpretation, and you can try new things. For example, traditional gasoline-powered vehicles have a giant engine in the front; therefore, there is a need for a grill. With electric vehicles, the motors are small, so you can keep them down low in the car.”

Smaller motors present numerous possibilities from a design standpoint. The extra room in front could be converted into storage space, which is what Hunter and Blacker decided to do. They also used the additional space to foster human connection in the vehicle.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: A rendering of the Photon Vision by Pedro Sandoval, the first-place EV exterior design winner

BELOW: The Hines College Industrial Design students, faculty, and sponsors behind the EV Concepts Exhibition

OPPOSITE PAGE: An interior rendering for the Photon Vision created by winners Khanh Vu and Thomas Feuillet



EXHIBITION GROUP PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG OAK TREE MEDIA





PHOTON



PREVIOUS SPREAD: EV Exterior Design Runner-up Josh Lu's project, Vindur, a family vehicle

THIS PAGE: Scenes from the exhibition opening night as the industrial design students have opportunities to speak with guests and industry professionals about their work

"We've attempted to minimize, or even hide, screens and other distractions that would take away from interaction with other passengers," Blacker said. "In addition, we're using a lot of wood, metal accents, and wide-open views to connect with the world inside and outside the vehicle. We've prepared for when autonomous driving becomes more prevalent by allowing the front passengers to pivot their chairs toward each other while in motion to enhance connection."

The project ultimately diversifies the students' portfolio as they add the experience to the skills they acquired through UH's industrial design program.

"I've always had the desire to solve problems around me, but for the longest time, I never knew how that equated to a profession in the 'real world,'" Blacker added. "Once I learned about industrial design and not only the breadth of problems industrial designers solve but how they were solving them, I just knew it was a community that I had to be a part of. That intersection between engineering and art is a rewarding and beautiful place to be."

IMMERSING BEFORE INNOVATING

Kimbrough and Feng wanted the project to be as immersive as possible for students, so to inspire them, they visited indiGO Auto Group's Houston dealership, where students familiarized themselves with the exterior and interior of luxury vehicles like Lamborghini, McLaren, and Bentley.

"The representatives gave us very detailed introductions to the exteriors and interiors," Feng said. "Through that exposure, students gained understanding and experience. Sometimes they have to touch the controls, feel the seat and examine the shapes and details, so they have an idea of what to create."

The students' designs may become real-life cars one day, depending on the interest of the sponsoring companies.

"The high-quality work from this project will enhance students' competitiveness," Feng said. "This will give them an extra edge against other recent industrial design students." □

CHARGED UP

The winners of the EV Concepts Exhibition competition share what inspired their work and what winning means to them

Classic cars from the 60's, like the Ferrari 250GTO and Jaguar E-Type, inspired first-place EV Exterior design winner Pedro Sandoval's *Photon Vision*. "Just the way light bounces off those beautiful curved surfaces is brilliant. I wanted that car to be very organic, and I looked at how the water was just so soft, smooth and flowing," he added.

Sandoval feels this was "icing on the cake" having also won a prize for his *Blum* chair (read more on page 60). "Beyond that, I think this is a great internship opportunity as it is a brand new startup. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

Exterior EV Design runner-up Josh Lu tried to be as thoughtful as he could with every design decision aimed at fostering family connection on road trips. He shared, "Vindur aims not

only to connect the occupants to one another, but also to the grand natural vistas outside their vehicle."

Like Sandoval, Lu is excited to help build a brand. He expressed, "I am incredibly thankful to both the Photon Auto team and the UH faculty for all the support and recognition this project received. The prospect of being able to help define the brand of a future facing company is very exciting!"

Aiming to keep user experience in mind, the winning team for Interior EV Design, Khanh Vu and Thomas Feuillet, wanted things to feel fresh and smooth. The pair looked to cave architecture and luxury yacht designs to guide their process.

"We wanted users to experience a feeling where the space flows

seamlessly around them without sacrificing the luxury aspect," said Vu. Not only did he truly enjoy working on the project, Vu added, "I'm excited to tell my family about my accomplishment who live overseas."

With feelings of gratitude, Feuillet said, "I am extremely proud of our group for achieving such a high degree of fidelity, not only with the model and the renderings, but with the idea as a whole. It makes me really proud to be part of the team with Khanh and Pedro and as a part of the UH ID program. I would never be able to achieve such a milestone without the skills and ideas introduced to me by faculty. I am so excited to explore this opportunity because car design is truly the dream, and to live it is something I will forever be grateful for."

—Nicholas Nguyen



GOING FOR THE GOLD

Hines College student wins first place in
Toyota Logistic Design Competition

by Symone Daniels





THE 2022 TOYOTA LOGISTIC DESIGN COMPETITION ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 27 AT TOYOTA'S Logiconomi Forum in Antwerp, Belgium, that University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design industrial design (ID) student Jacob Abraham ('22) is this year's first place winner for his design of Oro, a delivery vehicle created for transportation of valuable items in urban environments.

Organized by the Toyota Material Handling Europe Design Center, in collaboration with Toyota's European Design Studio and Toyota Europe Design Development, the competition challenged students across the globe to develop strategies for delivery logistics in urban settings where delivery has become increasingly difficult due to increasing density.

Oro was born during Abraham's senior year when his professor, ID co-director Mark Kimbrough, tasked the studio with developing a design addressing micro logistics. Kimbrough recommended Abraham and his classmates enter the Toyota Logistic Design Competition. The opportunity asked designers to tackle one of several delivery issues, including how to deliver, what to deliver,

where and when to deliver, and who will deliver. Abraham decided to focus on how to deliver as the central idea of his design.

"I focused on the transportation side of things. Specifically, how to get from point A to point B," Abraham shared. "I wanted to concentrate on the vehicle and the product solution."

Oro, which translates to "gold" in Spanish, acquired its name due to its overall form, which includes two sliding rings on the vehicle. Although there is no actual gold in the

product design, the name Oro is a metaphor for its two rings and the precious items transported by the device.

While creating his cutting-edge design, Abraham emulated scooters, bird scooters, and other objects with smaller-scale transportation micro-mobility. Oro utilizes ABS plastic (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) and comes in various finishes. The vehicle has two modes of use – carry and ride modes, with a deck in front as a kickstand. Toyota's e-Palette autonomous vehicle, a part of their mobility exhibit in conjunction with the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, served as a muse for Oro's aesthetic.

"My main source of inspiration was the round void design on the micro e-Palette," Abraham explained. "I took strong inspiration from that idea and adapted it into the final design of Oro."

Drawing from his life experiences as a Dallas native and now a Houstonian, Abraham heavily researched the future of logistics. He carefully considered different factors that could delay or obstruct a package's delivery.

Seeking to solve issues of micro-mobility and urbanization, Abraham designed Oro for use in densely populated areas consisting of midrise buildings, construction, and low access to parking. Oro is intended to be loaded into a delivery vehicle before leaving the fulfillment center. When the driver encounters an obstructed pathway, making it challenging to navigate the delivery vehicle, the driver can take Oro out of the delivery vehicle and then navigate Oro to reach the delivery location destination more efficiently. The design offers the ability to carry three different sizes of modular packing and even includes a handlebar equipped with a navigation screen for routing through obstructed pathways.

The Toyota Logistics Design Competition is the first time Abraham has entered a competition of this magnitude, so his top-place finish is quite an accomplishment. The design challenge allowed Abraham to explore his passion for city planning and provided him with the opportunity to work with the urban environment. He hopes to pursue impactful community design and establish more livable cities. □



Oro, which translates to "gold" in Spanish, acquired its name due to its overall form, which includes two sliding rings on the vehicle.



A KNACK



**FOR HUMAN-
CENTERED**

DESIGN

Hines College researchers develop affordable, more precise prosthesis and win 2022 International Design Excellence Award

by Stephen Schad



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN industrial design (ID) students David Edquilang ('22) and Niell Gorman ('21), along with ID co-director and professor Jeff Feng, recently received a Bronze Award from the Industrial Designers Society of America's (IDSA) International Design Excellence Awards (IDEA) for *Knack* – an upper limb prosthesis developed to provide disadvantaged amputees with an improved ergonomic and functional prosthesis experience.

Building on the ID program's human-centered design focus, the design team found inspiration for *Knack* from the overwhelming demand for prostheses worldwide. Across the globe, over three million people currently live with an arm amputation. In the United States, almost 200,000 amputations occur each year, with over half of those due to vascular diseases. After identifying a significant need in the local underserved communities for more affordable

prostheses, the team determined it wanted to develop a more economically accessible prosthesis.

"Through a partnership with local healthcare professionals, the team saw the opportunity to develop and build fully functional prostheses for patients in need at no cost," said Feng.

Occupational therapists currently create their original splints using materials from hardware stores to provide minimal and basic functionalities. The Hines College design team sought to develop more customized and lightweight prostheses with more capabilities.

Knack was fashioned in part using 3D scanning and virtual reality sculpting, capitalizing on the advantage that 3D printing has brought to the design process. Utilizing 3D scanning as part of the design process allowed the team to achieve a perfect fit by collecting

a high-fidelity model of the amputee's body interface. The multi-material 3D printing method allows for a lightweight prosthesis with high dexterity. The design leverages the flexibility of the additive process to create compliant, variable density parts with a unique personalized aesthetic.

The streamlined process occurs much more quickly and results in a more affordable prosthesis due to the significantly reduced labor expense. The design team concluded that *Knack's* readily available technology costs an estimated one-tenth of existing prostheses.

As a considerably more flexible and preferred option, 3D-printed prostheses offer a higher level of dexterity. The hand mechanism is simplified by using elastic thermoplastic polyurethane hinge springs at all joints. The kinetic movement comes from a hybrid system with body-powered arm actuation and a motorized hand unit.

The design is lightweight and breathable, seeking to provide a comfortable experience for the user. Using an anthropomorphic aesthetic to match the user's body and hand, *Knack* can also create a sense of realism, resulting in a stronger psychological connection between the user and the prosthesis.

"With the new aesthetic identity of *Knack*, the patient regains their confidence at work and home," shared Feng. "They are happy to wear it at all times with little stigmatic concern."

Thanks to UH students and faculty, there is no doubt that *Knack* has opened a new world, making prostheses more accessible to amputees through modern design and fabrication. □

BEST IN SHOW

Design Communication Association featured Hines College students and faculty for its annual exhibition and conference

by Symone Daniels

EARLIER THIS FALL, THE DESIGN COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION (DCA) RELEASED SELECTIONS FOR ITS 2022 DCA JURIED DESIGN Communication Exhibition as part of the 2022 DCA Biannual Conference. From 175 total submissions, University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design students and faculty are among the 69 entries selected for the exhibition. DCA is a professional organization consisting of professors from different architecture schools, interior designers, and graphic designers, aiming to support educators, teach, and promote design communication to students.



INVENTORY + REVEAL LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

By Brent Montero, Rohini Nair and Antonette Serafin

After being tasked to visually represent the Venice Biennale for a class project, Brent Montero, Rohini Nair, and Antonette Serafin sought to create a specific theme connecting the biennales through time and using it to predict the future of architecture. The trio joined forces because their experience in studio together made them comfortable with each other's work ethic.

"While researching the biennales, we found out it had one of the oldest running exhibitions, which we found intriguing," shared Nair. "There was a lot of data we could present in the timeline."

Since 1895, the Venice Biennale has been an art and cultural exhibition

hosted annually in Venice, Italy, by the Biennale Foundation. By recreating this theme, the group wants viewers to understand their narrative.

"When going through all this information, we wanted to focus clearly on technological advancements and environmental awareness within architecture from the start of the biennale to the present day," said Montero. "Hopefully, by understanding that trend, maybe we can provide some undertone on what comes next."

Not only did the group enjoy the design challenge, but it allowed them to expand on their skill set and knowledge about design communication.

"I think we saw it as a challenge because it was something we were trying to work on in our studios, as well as how to visually represent things, especially early on in schematic design," Serafin explained.

The group's professor, Roya Plauché, hopes her students inspire others taking part in the conference this year.

"The exhibition is mainly about academics and teaching," Plauché shared. "I always find it a great learning experience to see what your peers and colleagues are doing and working on."

LIGHT POLLUTION

By Angel Presas

Light Pollution is a Voronoi representation of the amount of artificial light contained in the atmosphere and preventing the general population of the United States from viewing the pure beauty of stars at night.

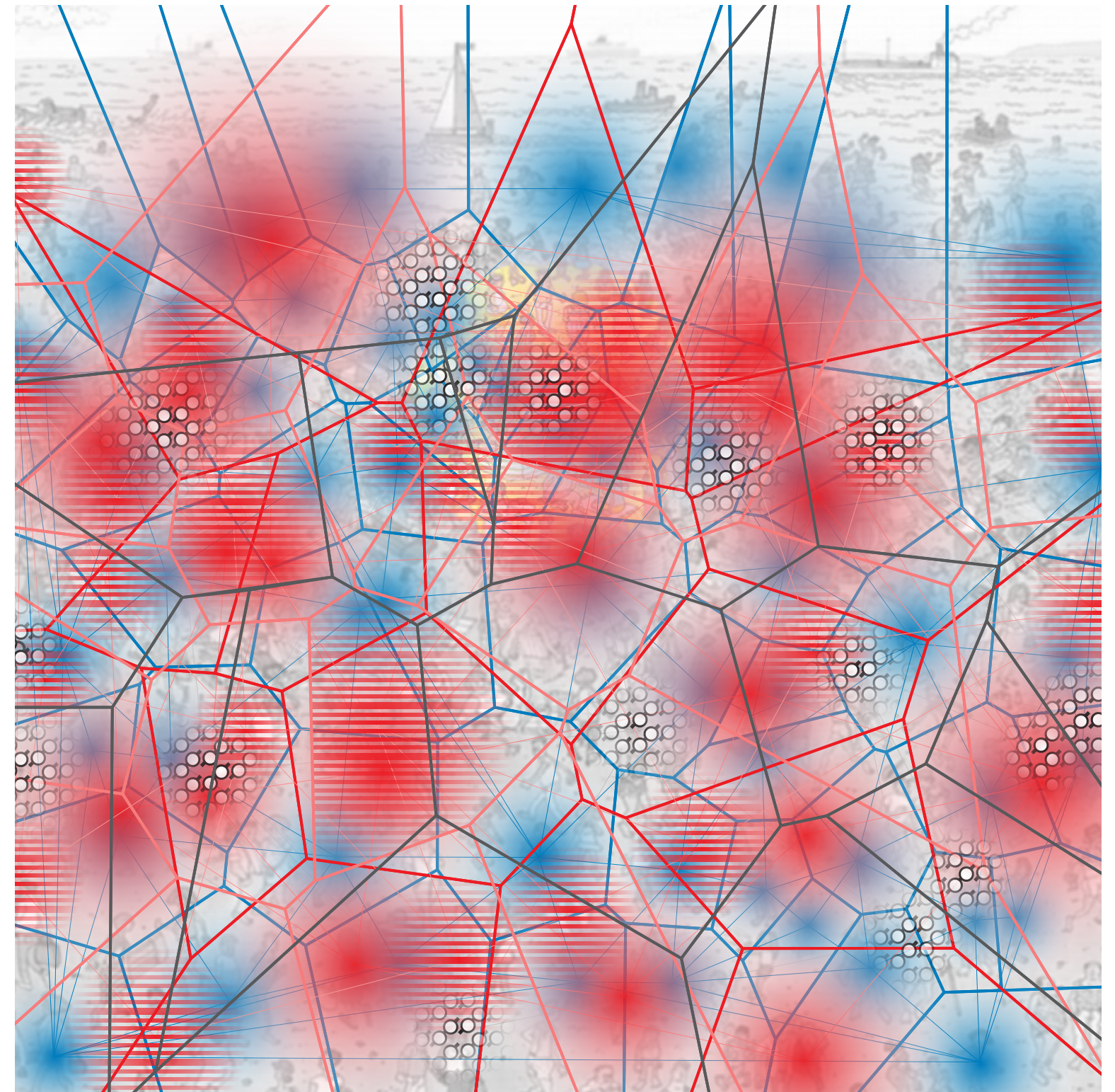
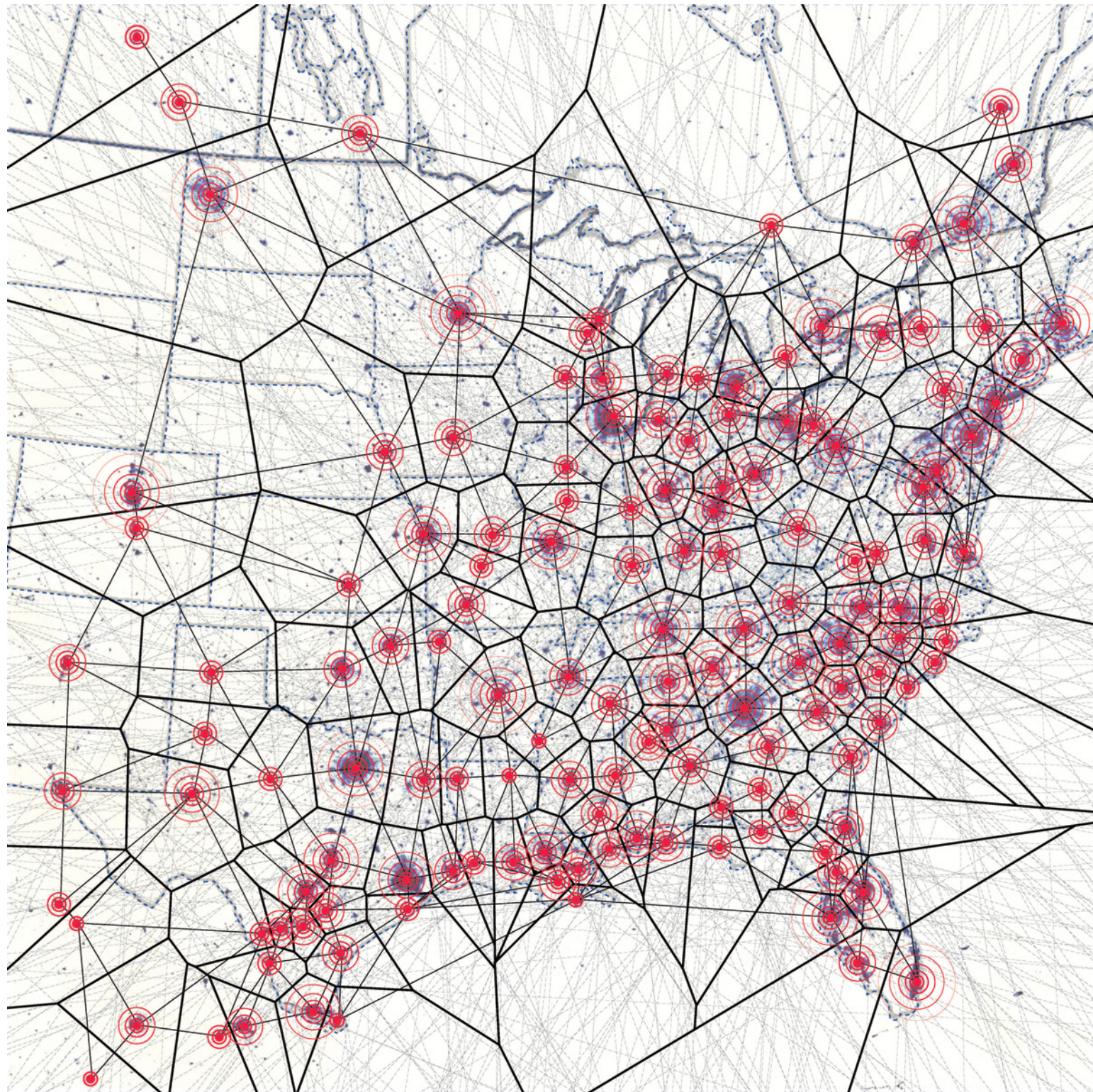
The map indicates areas emitting artificial light as red dots on the map with a radius depicting its zone

of effect while also linking to their nearby areas.

"Since I was young, I was enamored with how breathtaking the sight of hundreds of stars and sometimes planets are above us, along with a perspective of how significant and insignificant we are in this infinite cosmos," explained Presas. "It was highly disappointing to know that to

observe the stars, one would have to drive so far out of the city where artificial light does not contaminate the sky," she explained.

Presas hopes this project highlights the effect of this type of pollution and how, despite everything, the universe is beautiful. She wants her project to serve as a reminder of our impact on the environment.



VORONOI DRAWING: WHERE'S WALDO?

By Kai Wen Chua

From a class exercise applying the Voronoi system, Kai Wen Chua created *Voronoi Drawing: Where's Waldo?*, inspired by the *Where's Waldo?* books. The Voronoi system defines space in a way revealing latent characteristics in imagery and follows logic defined by the designer.

The rules for the placement of the points, cells, and other graphic additions vary. Still, in all cases, they

are applied consistently across the entirety of the image to map out specific characteristics and create a visual language. These drawings are intended to take something implied within an image and make those characteristics explicit.

"The intention behind *Where's Waldo* is to locate Waldo from the points and cells created by the bisectors," said Chua. "In this form,

there were three layers of Voronoi Diagrams helping to pinpoint the location. Each layer signified Waldo's signature look: a red striped shirt, blue jeans, and round glasses. When the cells of all three layers overlap, Waldo can be found."

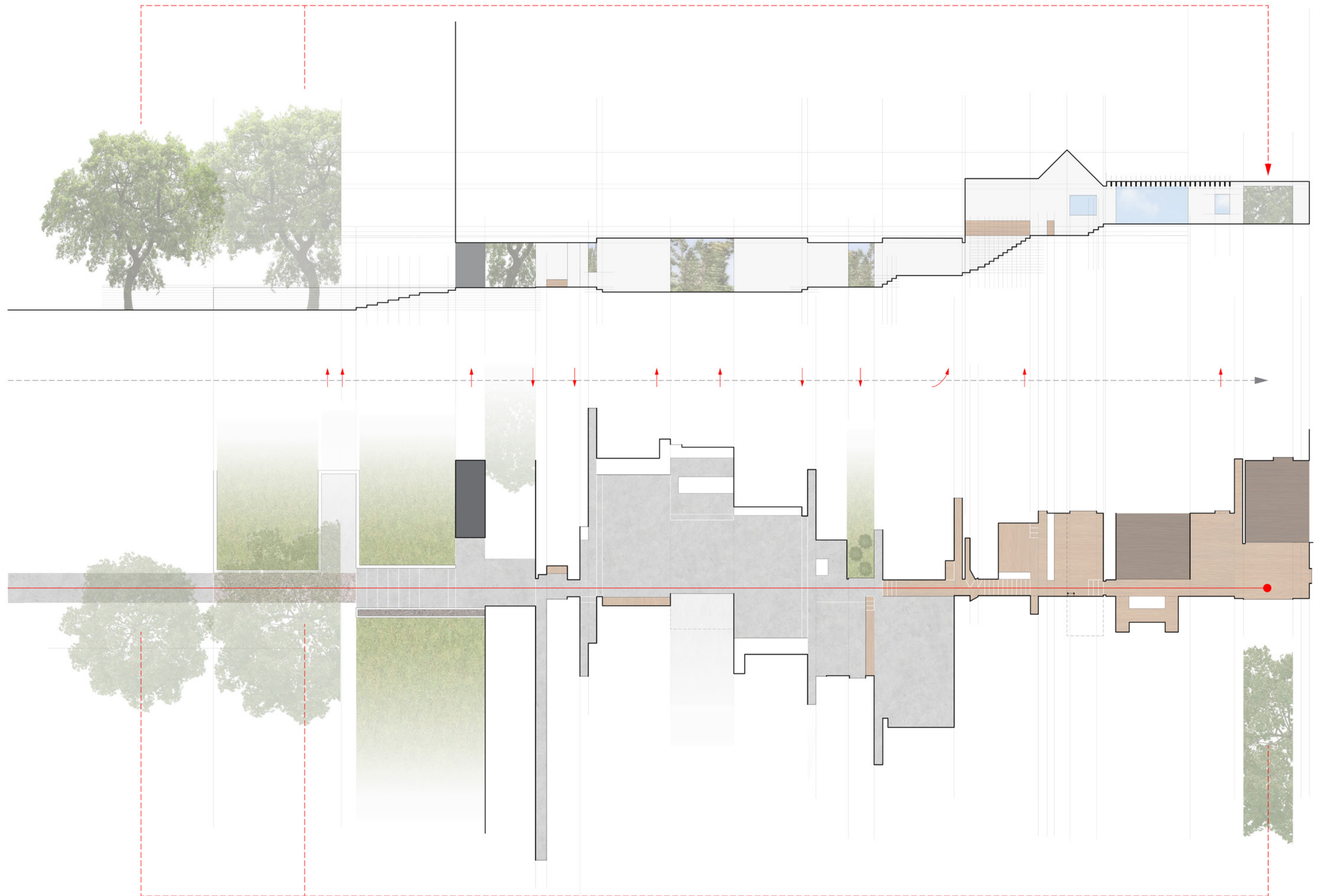
PUZZLE HOUSE

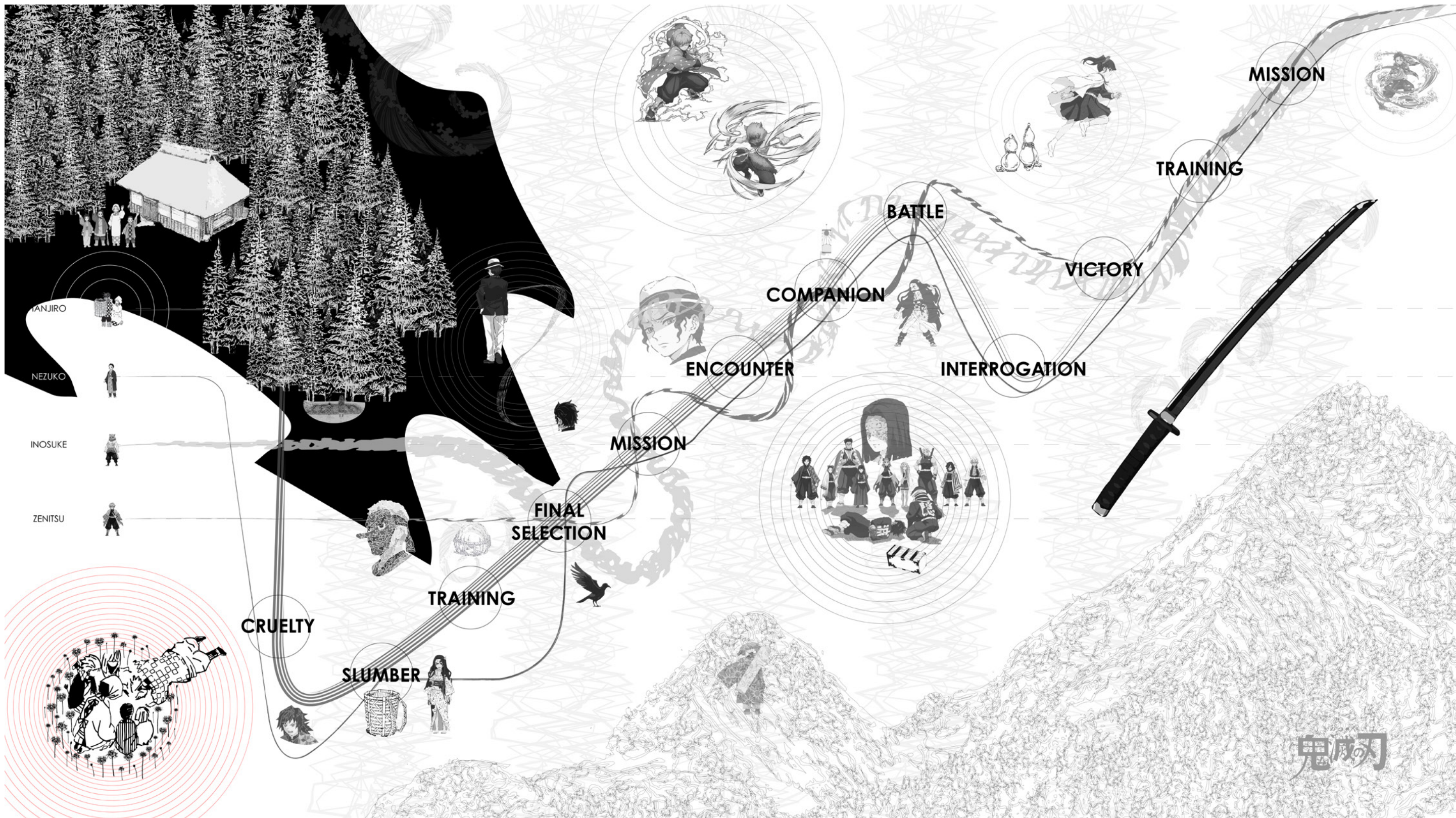
By Ross Wienert

Puzzle House, located in the Houston Heights, is a collaboration between CONTENT Architecture and a family of four. The inspiration for the drawing developed from two large oak trees playing a significant role in the design of the house.

"The drawing showcases how the lines form a path for someone walking the sidewalk toward the house," explained Wienert. "It then moves up the staircase to the second floor and then to the primary bedroom."

Wienert entered the drawing because he thought it would be a fun and creative way to represent a non-conventional drawing.





LOW FIDELITY

By Asia Nolan

Low Fidelity is a timeline used to show the trials of main characters in the popular anime show *Demon Slayer*. Nolan hoped to showcase how each character develops throughout each episode.

"Every dip you see is the mood of the episode and its characters," Nolan shared.

Demon Slayer is a Japanese anime series written by Koyoharu Gotouge. The show follows Tanjiro Kamado, who sets out to become a demon slayer to transform his sister, turned into a demon, back into a human.

Nolan chose to pay homage to *Demon Slayer* because the art style and the show's intensity captivated

her attention. Nolan hopes her visuals will evoke a feeling from the colors and types of lines used. She also recommends watching *Demon Slayer* for a deeper understanding of her timeline.

A MACHINE FOR DRAWING: PROCESS AND ARTIFACT

By Michael Gonzales and Meg Jackson

Fueled by their interest in traditional drawing and computation, professors Michael Gonzales and Meg Jackson submitted a paper about their advanced digital vocabularies class, focusing on the creation of drawing machines. Traditional

drawing focuses on pressure and speed, while digital drawing can become flattened.

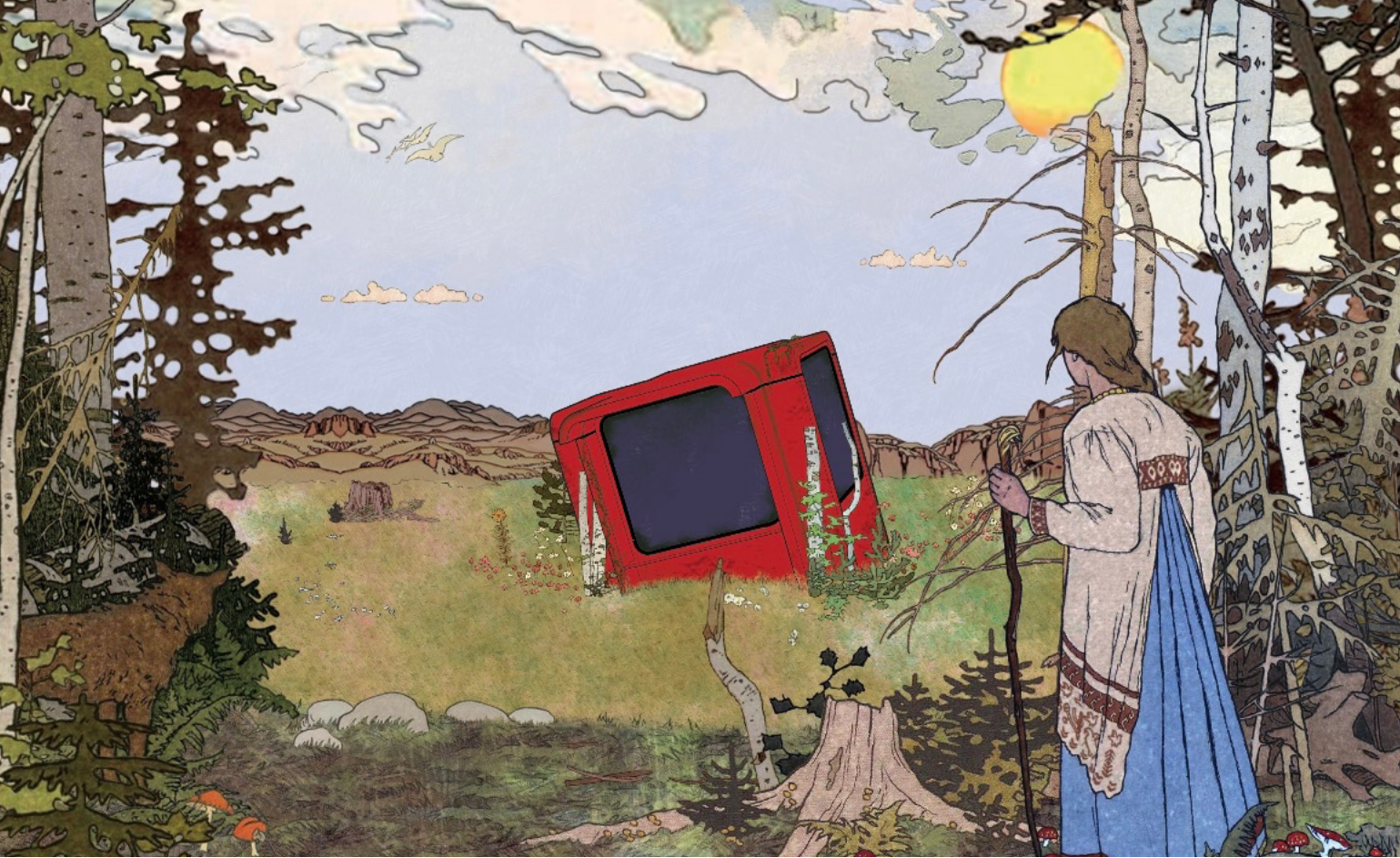
"We thought about how we can use computation as a way to bring some life and nuance back into the drawing," said Gonzales.

Drawing by hand is extremely important, although many disciplines are adapting to computer drawings and digital media. Jackson believes that by practicing both drawing by hand and drawing using technology, students gain a deeper level of understanding.

"By doing these kinds of hybrid situations, where you are actually looking at how something draws, you can understand how the computer draws," explained Jackson. "When you can make that connection, you then have more control over the software."

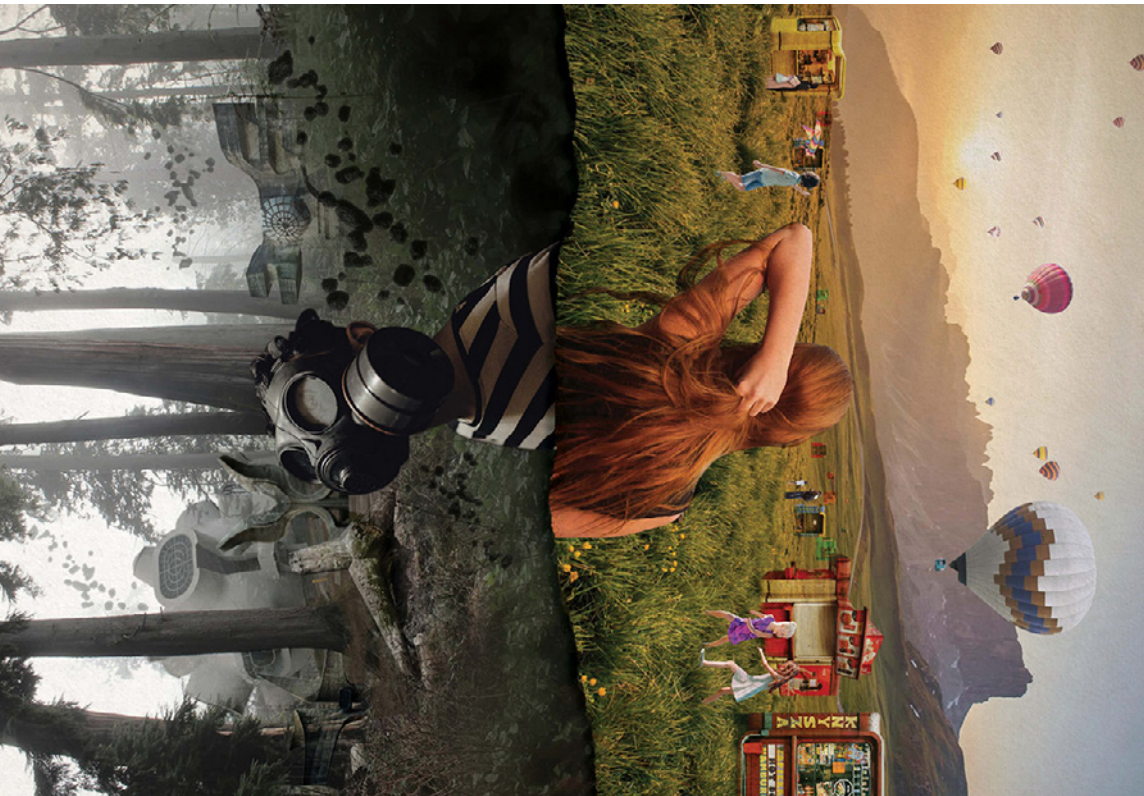
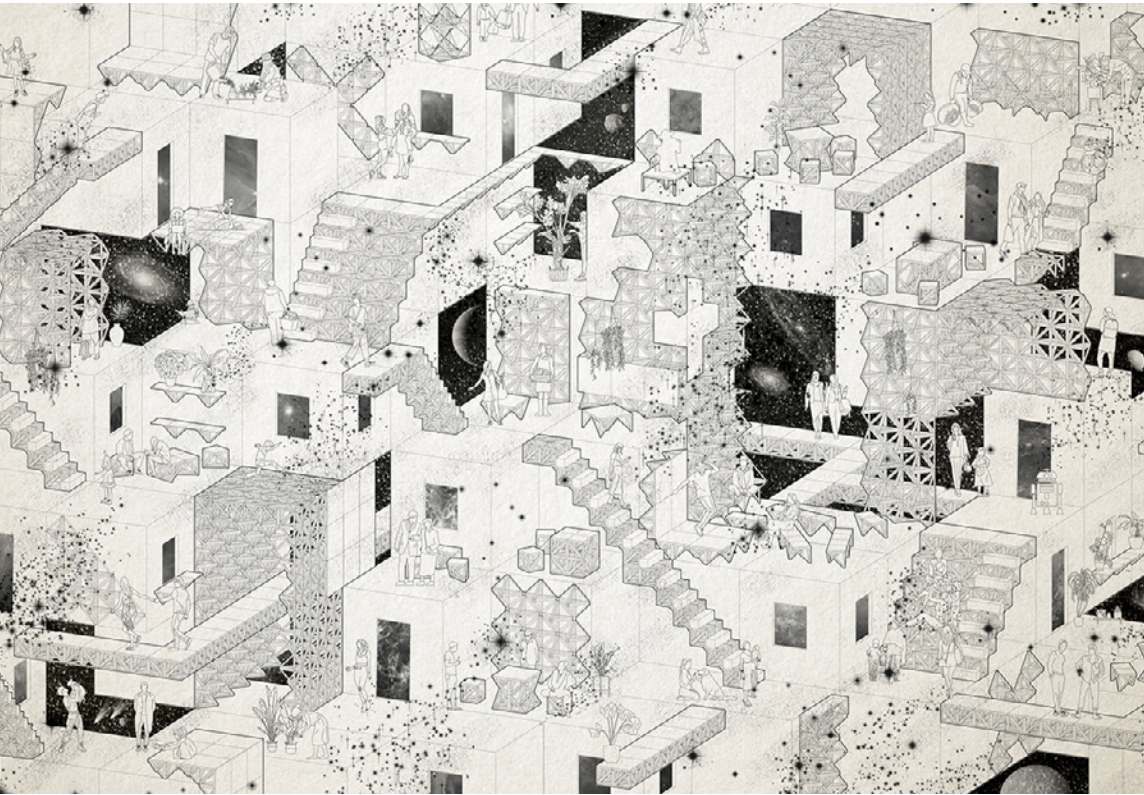
A BOSNIAN FOLKTALE

By Michelle Ovanessians and Bruno Xavier



DEFINING SPACE AND MIRROR

By Kim Sao and Blake Wilcox



Both of these projects resulted from a spring 2022 ARCH 5500 studio. Professor Dijana Handanovic challenged students to analyze the cultural and social significance of the brutalist architecture produced in former Yugoslavia and how the significance changed after its dissolution. From there, they

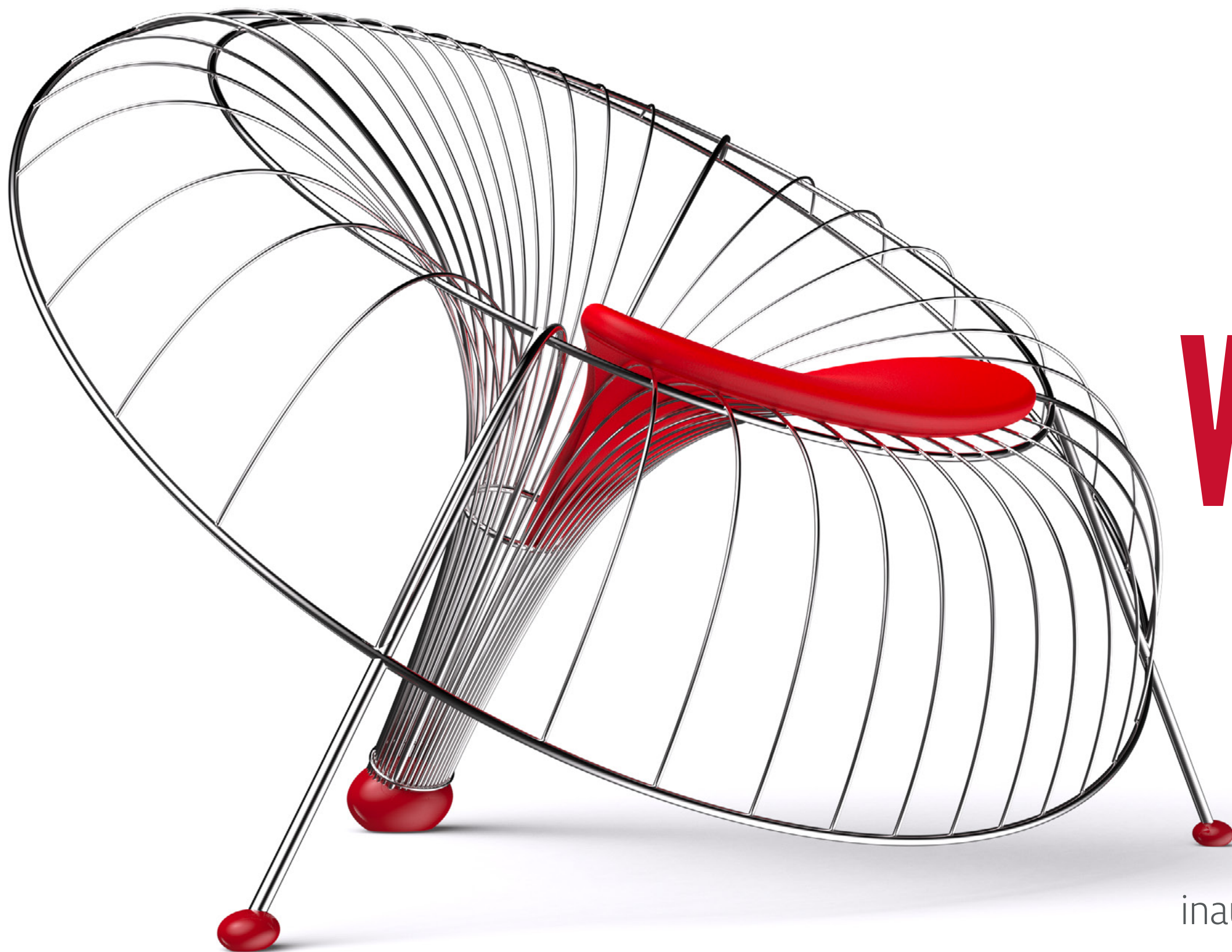
were tasked with answering what architecture's role in society is and how architecture can help promote productive dialogue and offer a solution through an urban intervention.

The drawings represent a small part of the research and interventions

proposed by the two teams. Handanovic wanted to push the students outside of their comfort zones.

"I think reaching out and learning from different cultures and traditions is important for our growth," shared Handanovic. "To

propose a project in a different country, you must immerse yourself in it and try to learn as much as possible. We could not physically travel to Bosnia, but the students did their best to immerse themselves into the culture by utilizing articles, interviews, and discussions." □



SEATED AT THE WINNER'S TABLE

Industrial design student
Pedro Sandoval awarded
inaugural 2022 John Conrad Student
Pinnacle Award for *Blum* chair

by Symone Daniels

“Essentially, it boiled down to a combination of complex geometry, as well as calculations, understanding the material, craftsmanship, a whole lot of quick design decision-making compromises, determination, and discipline.”



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FURNITURE AND DESIGN (ISFD) RECENTLY AWARDED University of Houston Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design industrial design student Pedro Sandoval with the 2022 John Conrad Student Pinnacle Award for his *Blum* Chair project. Since 1995, the Pinnacle Awards has promoted design quality and served as a platform for the achievements of furniture designers within the retail home furnishing industry. Sandoval is the first-ever student recipient of this award.

Blum started as a typical project for his industrial design studio, but Sandoval initially found it quite challenging to find inspiration for the design. One day, while sitting outside his home, pondering how to go about this project, a “vibrant, red hibiscus flower” caught his attention. Sandoval knew he had discovered his path forward.

“It was just there, glowing in the golden sunlight of my front porch,” recalled Sandoval.

It took Sandoval two and a half weeks to build the chair with all 118 welds. The chair took about a month and a half to complete. As for the actual building of the chair itself, Sandoval understood this would be a very intense process requiring thorough planning. He developed an ambitious timeline for the project.

While designing the *Blum* chair, Sandoval felt he would need more time to finish due to unexpected fabrication issues. In particular, he needed to figure out a way to make the chair as accurate as possible to ensure overall quality.

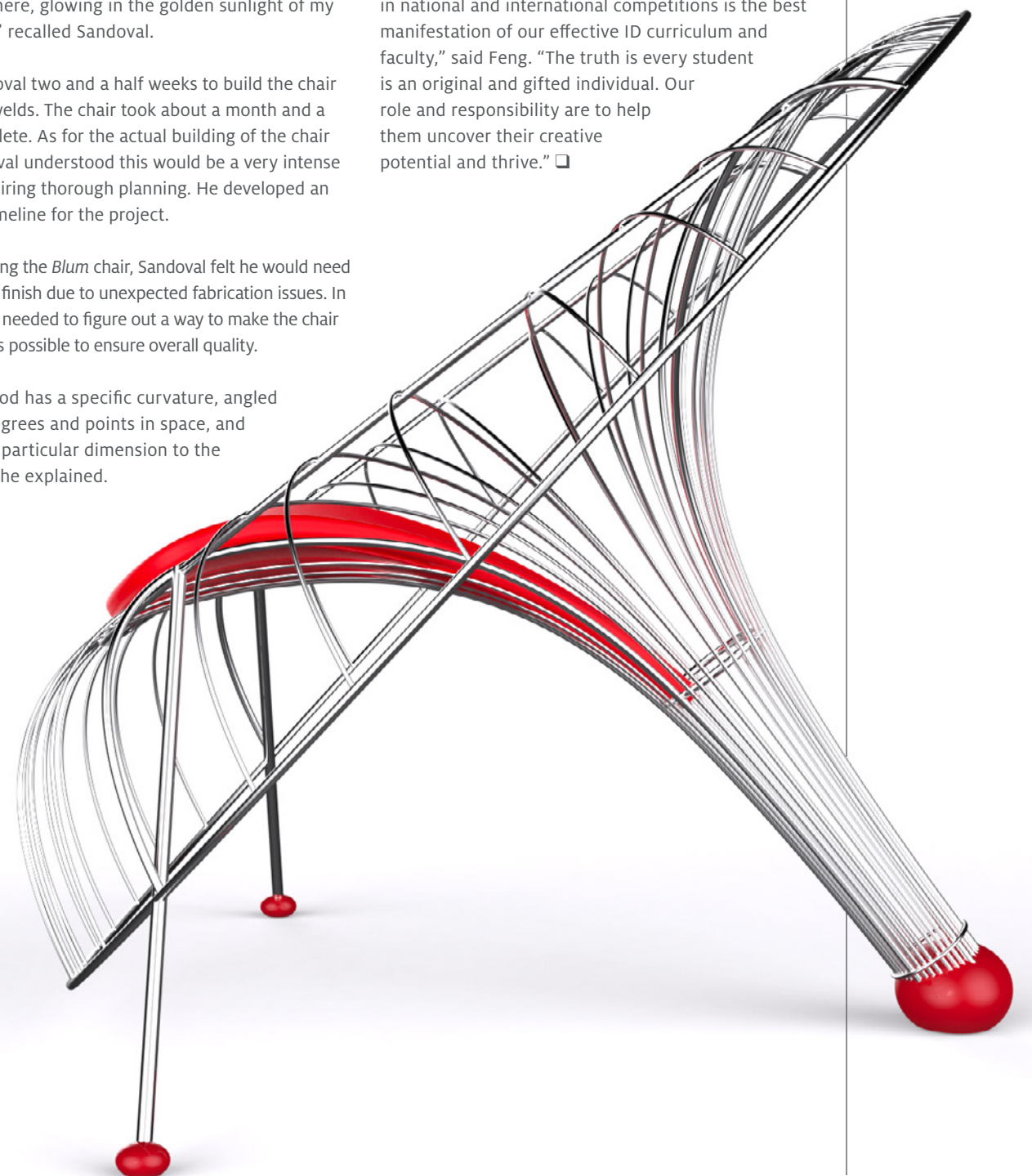
“Every steel rod has a specific curvature, angled at certain degrees and points in space, and relating to a particular dimension to the other rods,” he explained.

To solve this problem, Sandoval created a mold.

“Essentially, it boiled down to a combination of complex geometry, as well as calculations, understanding the material, craftsmanship, a whole lot of quick design decision-making compromises, determination, and discipline,” he explained.

ISFD presented Sandoval with the award at their annual Pinnacle Awards Gala on October 24, 2022. The event included professionals from across the globe, students from different programs, and other influential and accomplished designers. Not only was Sandoval excited about his award, but his professor, Jeff Feng, echoed his sentiments, stressing that Sandoval’s win was also a win for the UH industrial design program.

“Pedro is the very first recipient of the John Conrad Award. Our students’ continuous and vigorous success in national and international competitions is the best manifestation of our effective ID curriculum and faculty,” said Feng. “The truth is every student is an original and gifted individual. Our role and responsibility are to help them uncover their creative potential and thrive.” □



AWARD PHOTO BY VANDERVEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS INC.

The 2022 Alumni Awards



DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARD
MARGARET WALLACE BROWN,
AICP, CNU-A '83



LEADERSHIP
ALUMNI AWARD
MARK S. NOLEN, AIA,
LEED AP '82



SUCCESSFUL
ENTREPRENEUR AWARD
JAKE DONALDSON, AIA,
LEGACY LEED AP, NCARB '06



OUTSTANDING
YOUNG ALUMNI
RACHEL WILKINS '21

This fall, the University of Houston Architecture and Design Alumni Association and the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design celebrated another exceptional group of accomplished alumni award winners. The jury, consisting of Anica Landreneau '05, Trent L. Perez '05, and Christy Sepulveda '14, accepted the challenge of selecting the 2022 award winners.

The awards were presented at the alumni association's annual meeting on September 14, 2022. Thank you to this year's jury for their time, and congratulations to our four winners!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mark S. Nolen, '82; Rachel Wilkins, '21; Dean Patricia Belton Oliver; Margaret Wallace Brown, '83; and Jake Donaldson, '06.



THIS PAGE: Scenes from the Architecture and Design Alumni Association Annual Meeting held this past September

New Architecture & Design Alumni Association Executive Board



PRESIDENT
ERIC HUDSON '08



VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT KOHUTEK



TREASURER
JENNIFER MURRAY '22



SECRETARY
DAVID SAHAGUN '09



Hines College Alum Wins Early Career Professional Achievement Award

McLemore hopes recognition inspires aspiring future architects of color



IN OCTOBER, THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS BESTOWED Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design alumna Melvaleen McLemore, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP ('09) with their 2022 Award for Early Career Professional Achievement in Honor of William W. Caudill, FAIA. The award recognizes young, licensed members who have shown exceptional leadership through considerable contributions to the profession during the early stages of their careers.

McLemore graduated from the Hines College in 2009 with a Bachelor of Architecture. During her high

school years, McLemore focused on achieving her goal of becoming an engineer. However, after applying to different colleges, she took an unexpected career trajectory, ultimately changing her life.

"I accidentally ended up in architecture," shared McLemore. "I was filling out college applications and accidentally checked off architecture. I received multiple letters saying, 'Congratulations, you have been accepted to the College of Architecture.'"

Although the number of licensed Black female architects increased

to 500 in 2020, McLemore was only the 16th licensed Black female architect in Texas just six years ago (2016).

Diversity and inclusion have always been important to McLemore. Although Houston ranks as one of the most diverse cities in the world, McLemore recalls not seeing diversity reflected in the workplace.

"I remember being the first of our group to get a job at a firm," said McLemore. "This reality started sinking in when I noticed that most firms do not have many African Americans in their practices."

After realizing many students wanted to know about her process and experiences in the field, McLemore felt she could give back through mentorship. Her motivation was rooted in not wanting students to learn the hard way and hoping to help them be prepared to overcome different obstacles they may encounter.

In 2020, Jonathan Moody, President and CEO of Moody Nolan, spoke in a panel discussion about increasing the number of Black and brown students at architecture firms. His words inspired and empowered McLemore to create a professional development program for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) to connect firms with the best and brightest architecture students in their programs.

"Mentorship and my DEI work has been very fulfilling. I believed that if I won it could also help showcase some of the other ways an architect can add value."

Remaining faithful to her commitment to bridging the gap between HBCU students and architecture firms, McLemore reached out to her mentor Anzilla Gilmore for support. Gilmore connected her with Zhetique Gunn, a Prairie View A&M University alumna. Together, the trio began creating programs and events producing opportunities for students to navigate some of the cultural or financial pitfalls experienced by Black architects.

"We try to get them to where they need to be so that they are starting on their best possible foot," shared McLemore.

McLemore is honored to be selected as a recipient of the TXA Early Career Professional Achievement Award because she hopes her success is a visual representation that will inspire and benefit others. She understands there are not many Black women in architecture, and even more, there are not many licensed Black women.

"When I submitted for the TXA award, I made a point to focus on the contributions I made outside of my job," explained McLemore. "Mentorship and my DEI work has been very fulfilling. I believed that if I won it could also help showcase some of the other ways an architect can add value." —Symone Daniels

BELOW: McLemore, second from the left, at a Women in Architecture event



Alumni Elected to the AIA Board

Hines College alumni Melvaleen McLemore '09, Ricardo Martinez '01, and Chudi Abajue '10 joined the American Institute of Architects Houston Board this fall as new officers.

McLemore, who will serve as the President-elect, shared, "I have had the pleasure of being a part of the AIA Houston board for a few years now. I have enjoyed watching it grow in diversity in representation and contributions to our membership."

"I will continue to assist our chapter in embracing and promoting advocacy, engagement and education," added Martinez, serving as the new Treasurer. "Additionally, I would like to emphasize

the importance of being in one of the most diverse cities in the country. Our chapter should lead efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the architectural community."

As the Advocacy Director, Abajue said, "I am honored in bringing awareness to all the programs and events that AIA Houston has to offer. I look forward to contributing to matters dealing with local advocacy issues in Houston and surrounding areas."

Other alumni returning to the AIA Board of Directors include Kiza Forgie '17, Colley Hodges '12, Danny Rigg '08 and Micki Washington '04. —Nicholas Nguyen



Alumni Spotlight: Vy Mai '15



Name: Vy Mai
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Current City: Boston, Massachusetts
Major: Bachelor of Architecture
Graduation Year: 2015
Current Employer: Leers Weinzapfel Associates / Wentworth Institute of Technology
Title: Architect / Adjunct Faculty

Why did you choose the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design? What drew you to design?
In ninth grade, I was enrolled in art rather than theater, my original elective choice. I ended up asking to stay because I made some friends but also liked learning to draw perspectives. My art teacher said I should consider pursuing architecture. I did not act on that suggestion for another six years. I applied to the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design while taking general classes at the University of Houston. In my first-year studio, I felt like this was my place. Design education was right for me. I liked the models. I liked interpreting the brief and creating something original. I liked the trial-and-error nature of working in the studio. Although difficult and often anxiety-inducing, I also liked getting constant feedback from practicing architects on my design project. More than design itself, I was drawn to design education. Design is a fortunate by-product of design work.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time on-campus? Was there a particular professor who influenced your education?
While studying architecture, I acquired a taste for Karbach Rodeo Clown at Pink's Pizza. Celebratory (and delirious) bursts between weeks of late nights with friends were some of the best parts of architecture school.

My undergraduate thesis advisor Bill Truitt was a key influence in my architecture education and, subsequently, my career. The 2014 Pan Asia Summer Program took our studio to Thailand and Myanmar. At the time, Bangkok, Thailand was under curfew during an army coup. Yangon, Myanmar had only been open to foreigners for a couple of years after half a century of authoritarian-led isolation. We were living and learning about these places through analysis, writing, and design, and I had a lot of fun. On this trip, I started believing I could find meaningful architecture work outside my day-to-day life. This experience led me to focus my undergraduate thesis on Myanmar and work in Thailand for a year after graduation. In Thailand, I worked with Agora Architects on the Mae Tao Clinic, a free health clinic for refugees along the Thai-Myanmar border, designing and building a daycare for the children of the clinic. As I was applying to graduate schools while in Thailand, Bill was generous with his time looking over my portfolio. I left Thailand to

start my Master of Architecture degree at Harvard GSD. My academic experiences at UH opened up opportunities for me I could have never imagined, and I'm grateful to have had such dedicated professors along the way.

What does a typical day look like in your job? Do you have a particular design or business philosophy?
In the fall semester, my days alternate between teaching first-year studio at Wentworth Institute of Technology and working at Leers Weinzapfel Associates in Downtown Boston. One of the reasons I love living in Boston is because I can teach and practice while riding my bicycle or taking the train between both. I am in the studio two days a week, guiding students through projects with desk crits, presentations, and group discussions. On the other days, I work with a team at the office on presentations, construction documents, or construction administration for various projects. Currently, my main project is under construction, so I go on site visits often.

What is one career accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? How do you feel the College prepared you for this?
The current career accomplishment I am most proud of is the design of the Williams College Davis Center, a multicultural student center in Williamstown, Massachusetts. The project is a renovation addition restoring a pair of 19th-century residential-scale structures and adding a 100-person lecture space, community kitchen, meeting rooms, and classrooms

in a new mass timber building, all to facilitate future programming for the Davis Center. The Davis Center is home to student groups and resources, including the Black Student Union, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, and Minority Coalition groups. I am excited by the playful design of the folding roofscape and the merging of a contemporary architectural language with historical houses, enhancing the articulation of the Davis Center as a complete complex. The quality and rigor of the UH architecture studios built the skills I needed to convey design ideas through diagramming and graphic communication that ultimately spoke to the client.

What is one valuable lesson you learned during your time at the Hines College?
I learned how to persevere in architecture school. Architecture school is long. Late studio nights are long. Projects you work on after school are also very long. One building project can last years. Good things take time.

What piece of advice would you give to current architecture and design students?
Architecture school is a special time. It is where you will start learning what you care about in architecture, with the guidance and support of professors invested in the success of your ideas. You will have the rest of your life to work, so invest as much time as you can as a student during these pivotal years. I think if you prioritize this investment in yourself, you will find work you enjoy after school.

"My academic experiences at UH opened up opportunities for me I could have never imagined, and I'm grateful to have had such dedicated professors along the way."



OPPOSITE PAGE: A render of the Davis Center at Williams College. There is a new addition sitting between historic Rice and Jenness Houses, both of which will be renovated as part of the project

AT LEFT: Night render of Davis Center from Bank Street, the commercial street in Williamstown

Alumni Spotlight: Ryan Slattery '12



Name: Ryan Slattery
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Major: Master of Architecture
Graduation Year: 2012
Current Employer: Harris County Flood Control District
Title: Resilience Division Manager

Why did you choose the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design? What drew you to design?

When I decided to go back to school to study architecture, my mom's reaction was fitting – "Well, it's about damn time!" Growing up, I was always doodling. I started with Calvin and Hobbes comic strips and quickly moved on to anything Frank Lloyd Wright. Like with all things, though, life happens. I studied liberal arts as an undergraduate and went on to work in politics.

In 2010, I felt it was time to revisit my career trajectory. Houston is my home; it is the community I served for almost a decade, and it is the community I want to continue serving. The University of Houston is Houston. I visited UH, met Cord Bowen, and was sold! Cord emphasized that the doodling, which used to get me in trouble as a kid, would be encouraged! "Keep sketching. Your ordinary ideas are the ones closest to your fingertips. Keep sketching to get them on paper and out of your brain to make room for the really great ideas." I have not looked back since.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time on-campus? Was there a particular professor who influenced your education?

I look back on the first day of my second year and always smile. As a graduate student with a liberal arts undergraduate degree, my first year was with other students coming to architecture as a blank slate. In the second year, we were introduced to new studio mates joining the program with architecture backgrounds. That first day, we truly saw how far we had progressed on our design journey. Our new studio was filled with the most unique collection of humans I have ever been a part of and is a group on which I still rely today.

As far as professors go, I have already mentioned Cord Bowen (who would be my level one studio professor, along with Patrick Peters). Matt Johnson and Jason Logan were remarkable influences, teaching me that inspiration can, and should come from, any and everywhere. Nora Laos is the reason why I hug architecture anywhere I travel; however, Rafael Longoria – either by design or by accident – introduced me to the idea of designing cities! My study abroad in Barcelona, Spain, would be a turning point in my education.

I was able to curate my education to that point by taking electives focused on community design, the history and future of affordable housing, and other areas of study where politics and design hold hands, but Cerda and his Eixemple captivated me. Cerda took a comprehensive look at how people lived in cities. He spatially mapped services people need – grocery stores, shops, schools, and healthcare. He devised solutions for traffic, access to natural light and green space, and city services like trash collection. He even calculated the volume of air a person needed to breathe correctly. Who does that?! He also attended council meetings to advocate his position. My time with Professor Longoria in Barcelona was the first time I did not feel like I was starting over. Instead, he helped me find a path melding the things I love – civic engagement, good planning, and design.

What does a typical day look like in your job? Do you have a particular design or business philosophy?

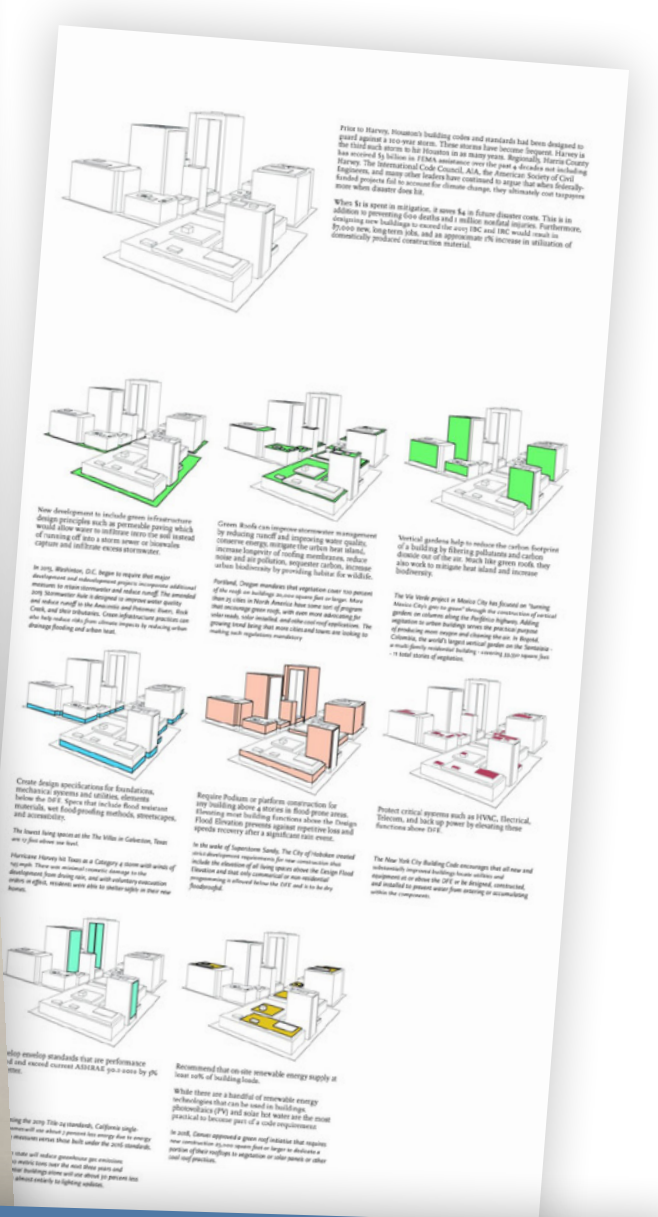
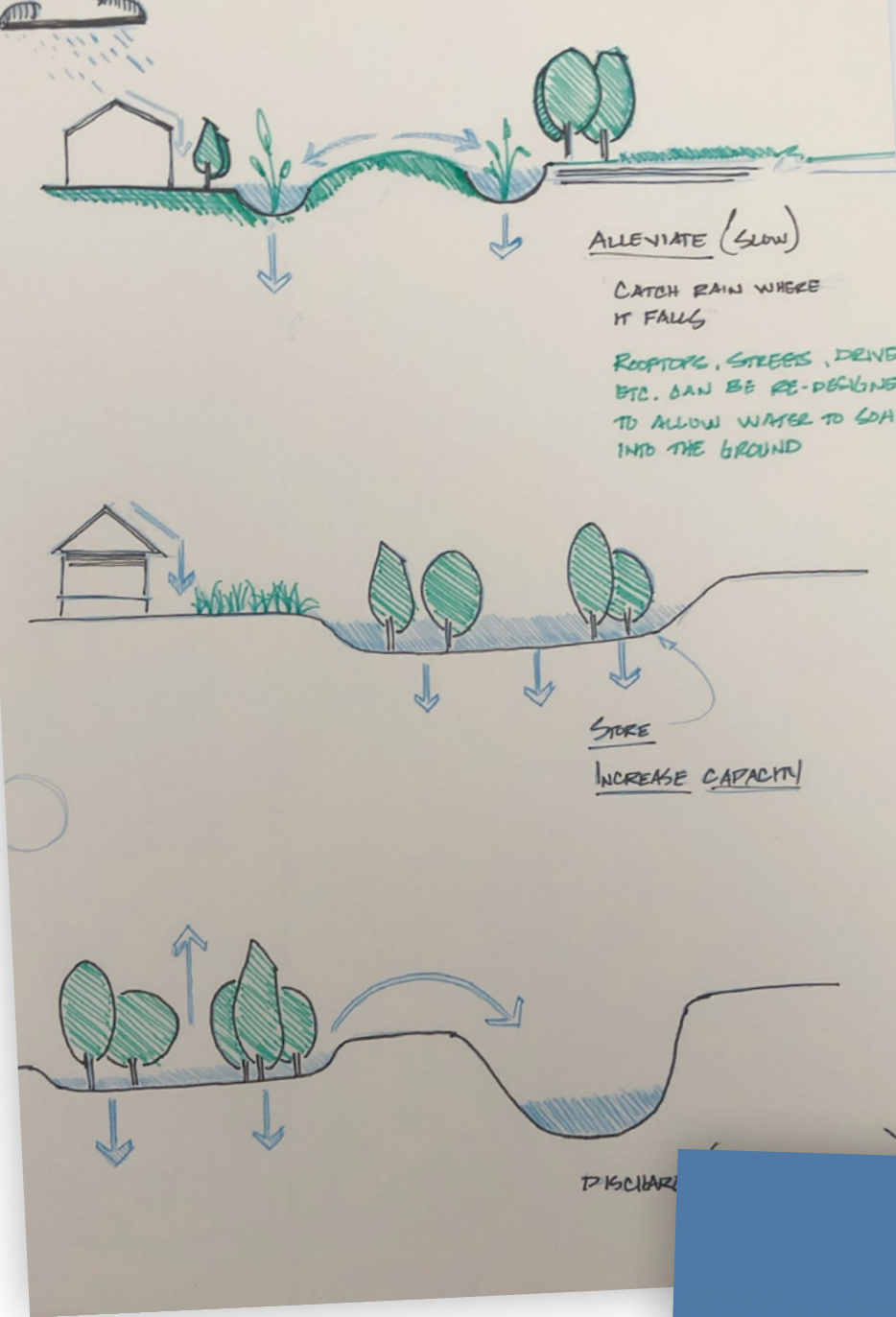
I work for the Harris County Flood Control District as the Resilience Division Manager. The Resilience Division is responsible for planning and implementing an equitable flood resilience strategy, and we will be responsible for advancing the Flood Resilience Plan.

While there is no "typical" day, collaboration is a common thread. No decision is made on an island, and I have a great deal of respect for varying perspectives and new ideas. This daily approach is my core philosophy – work together to accomplish really big things.

What is one career accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? How do you feel the College prepared you for this?

Before my current post, I was with the City of Houston in the Mayor's Office of Recovery. At the City, I was given the opportunity to be a part of some ambitious work reshaping the city and how it equitably responds to adversity.

Being part of how Houston, and the region, recover from disasters while focusing on future resilience has been an incredible journey. While by no means complete, this work has come along with some accomplishments of which I will always be proud, including being a part of the development and initial implementation of Resilient Houston. When I joined the City of Houston in 2019, the City had just begun developing a comprehensive resilience strategy. Developing a framework for how Houston can be a more green, resilient, and equitable place that is better prepared for the shocks and stresses that come along with being a large coastal community was remarkably rewarding.



The Hines College prepared me to contribute to those significant systems-level planning processes. Resilient Houston linked everything I cared about professionally – community engagement, policy, sound design, and thoughtful planning. Finding that space for myself was a huge accomplishment.

What is one valuable lesson you learned during your time at the Hines College?

In politics, there is an almost crippling fear of being wrong – saying the wrong thing, taking the wrong position – to the point of inaction. My time at UH taught me the value of being wrong and how to embrace those opportunities to learn. Design is iterative. Just like your ordinary ideas are the ones closest to your fingertips, so are your bad ideas or misconceptions. Collaborative design is a conversation. And part of that conversation is realizing you do not have all the answers.

What piece of advice would you give to current architecture and design students?

Listen more than you speak. Use four words instead of seven. Love something more than you love any job.

Alumni Spotlight: Nonfiction



Name: Phnam Bagley
Hometown: Paris, France
Major: Master of Science in Space Architecture
Graduation Year: 2006
Current Employer: Nonfiction
Title: Co-Founder + Creative Director

Name: Mardis Bagley
Hometown: Champaign, Illinois USA
Major: Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design
Graduation Year: 2006
Current Employer: Nonfiction
Title: Co-Founder + Creative Director

Why did you choose the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design? What drew you to design?
Mardis: Where many schools focus solely on form development, the University of Houston emphasizes ethnographic research, human factors, and impact design, in addition to form development. I joined the industrial design program in its infancy. This allowed me to be a part of the building blocks of the program, and to some degree, craft my own education. UH is very inclusive and offers a wide variety of coursework befitting a major university.

Phnam: I was invited to study space architecture as a graduate student, so I attended the program right after I was done with my studies in France and Denmark.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time on campus? Was there a particular professor who influenced your education?
Mardis: During the first year of undergraduate design, the industrial design and architecture students shared their core studio. This allowed me to experience two different disciplines and their respective approaches. I have developed many lifelong relationships through

that coursework and still have many friends in the architecture field today.

Phnam: I have fond memories of chatting for hours with professor Larry Bell about space, life, architecture, and art.

What does a typical day look like in your job? Do you have a particular design or business philosophy?
As consultancy owners, our roles consist of inspiring clients and team members to look beyond what is possible and then make it a reality. Our goal is to change the world for the better. We merge different disciplines including science, technology, business, art, and design to create meaningful innovation. We also have three criteria to work with Nonfiction.

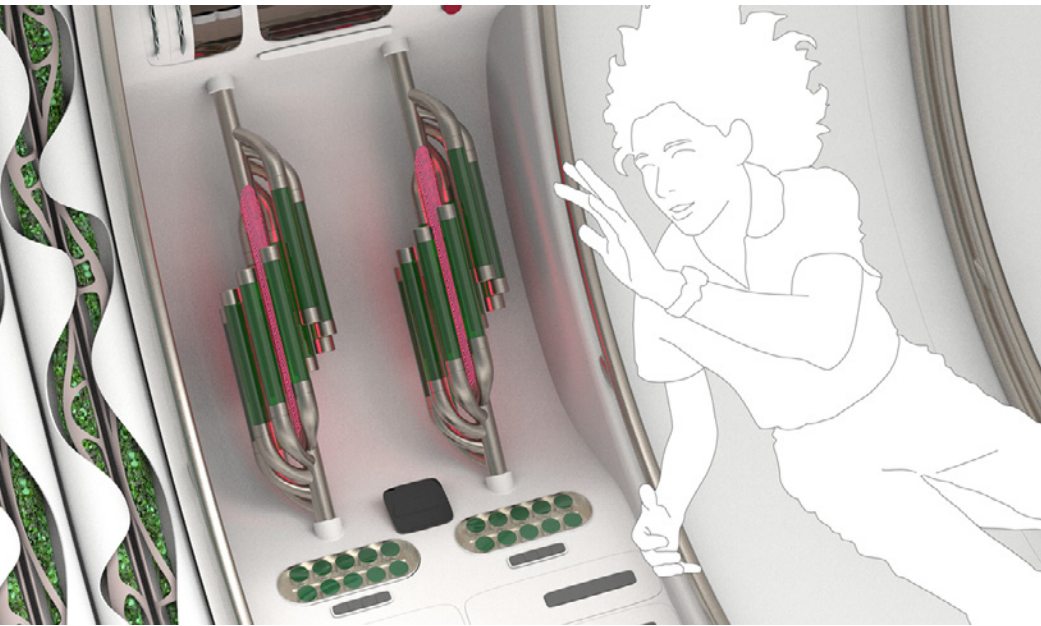
1. The design must be novel technology, allowing us to progress forward as a species.
2. The design must follow the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, or maybe we should not be making it.
3. The design must have a path to reality. Concepts are great, but turning an idea into reality can create a lasting, positive impact on the world.

"Diversity is our secret weapon. The University of Houston has an immensely diverse student body. Nonfiction is also a multidisciplinary and multicultural studio made of industrial designers, architects, computational and generative designers, researchers, and strategists with backgrounds from around the world, including Houston."

What is one career accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? How do you feel the College prepared you for this?
We work in many fields including medical devices, neuroscience and psychology, behavior change, and products for outer space. We have designed, and in some cases engineered, a number of products we are very proud of including a neuromodulator that received FDA Breakthrough Device Designation by helping people regain movement after traumatic spinal cord injuries. We have created an FDA-approved, non-invasive wearable that can provide therapy to many of the 25 million patients suffering from essential tremors. We are creating products to help police and military personnel manage stress and practice mindfulness, thereby making our world a safer place for everyone. We are currently designing food systems for long-term space travel that will help us become an interplanetary species. The systems we design and test in extreme environments like space can then be applied to our own changing environment here on planet Earth. Finally, we are exploring the future of education through physical space, and multisensory experiences aligning with individual neurodiversity.

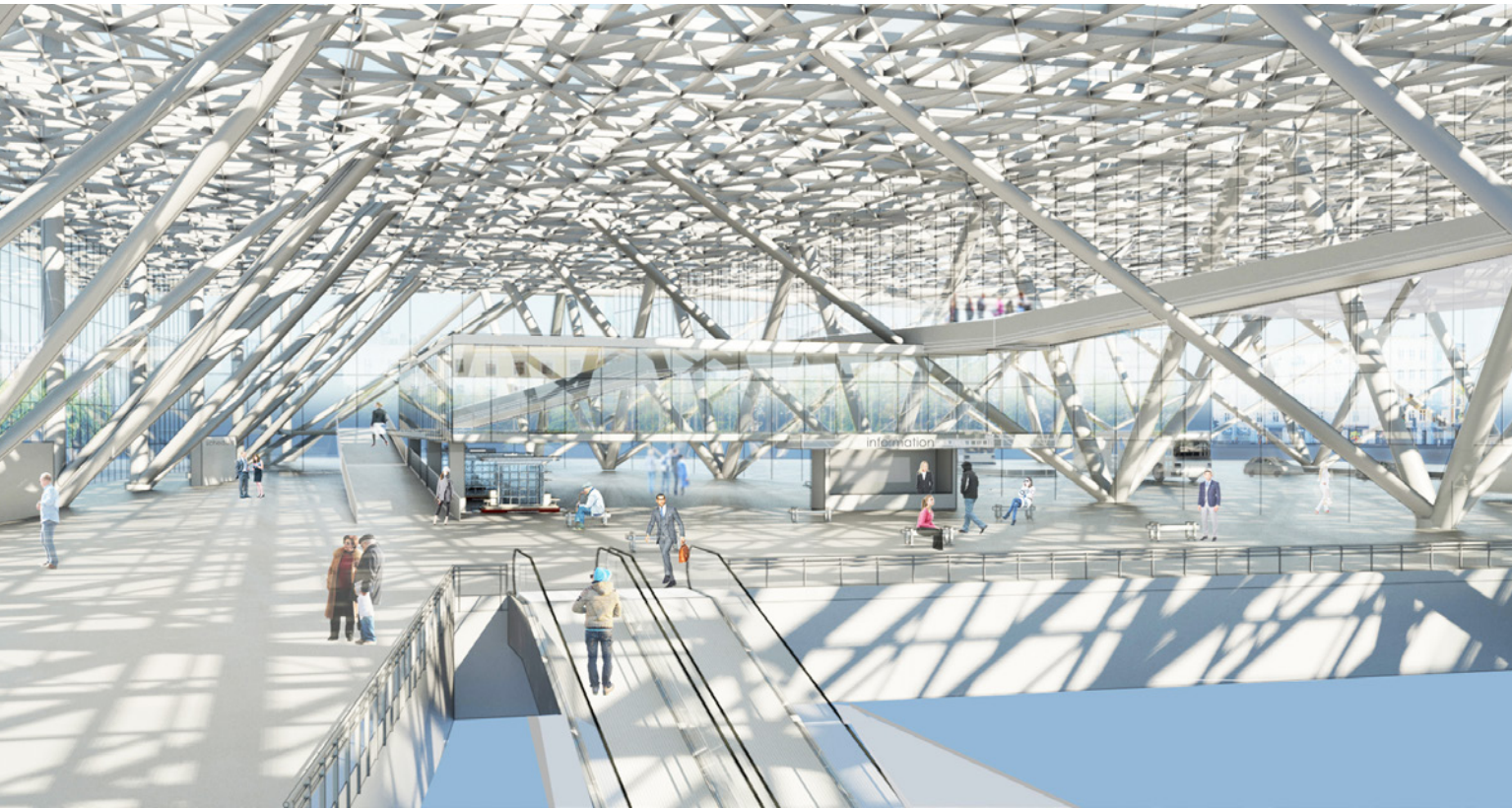
What is one valuable lesson you learned during your time at the Hines College?
Diversity is our secret weapon. The University of Houston has an immensely diverse student body. Nonfiction is also a multidisciplinary and multicultural studio made of industrial designers, architects, computational and generative designers, researchers, and strategists with backgrounds from around the world, including Houston. This diverse and varied atmosphere encourages innovation, collaboration, and cross-pollination of ideas.

What piece of advice would you give to current architecture and design students?
Find your purpose and stick to it, even when things get tough. What will people say about you when you are gone? Will they tell a story of generosity, empathy, raising others up, and giving back, or will they tell a different story? You only have one chance on this planet. Make your impact positive.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Somnee - Better Sleep Through Neuroscience; Human Headphones - Extending the Body's Capabilities Through Audio; Space Food Systems - Algae Bioreactor, Hydroponic System, Space Barbecue and Ultrasonic Creamer

Alumni Spotlight: Irma Sifontes '15



Name: Irma Sifontes
Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela
Major: Master of Architecture
Graduation Year: 2015
Current Employer: Goree Architects
Title: Project Manager

Why did you choose the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design? What drew you to design?
The Hines College is among the most valued architecture schools in the United States. This caught my attention when searching for a recognized NCARB architecture program that could help me pursue my architecture license in this country. The University of Houston is a beautiful campus located in an affordable city. I fell in love with this place, which became my second home for a long time.

What was one of your favorite memories from your time on campus? Was there a particular professor who influenced your education?
The comfortable campus and resources of the Hines College, UH Libraries, and Student Center provided me with everything I needed to have an excellent student experience. The great friends I made and each professor I had at UH truly influenced my education and development, but the most important professor for me was Dietmar Froehlich.

What does a typical day look like in your job? Do you have a particular design or business philosophy?
As a project manager, a typical day at work includes checking the progress of all the projects I am currently

managing and establishing priorities for those projects. Some projects require detailed attention when in construction documents, permits, or construction administration phases. I also conduct site visits, meet with clients, and collaborate with my team to achieve high-quality results.

What is one career accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? How do you feel that the College prepared you for this?
I am proud of being an international professional in the architecture field, where I can easily manage projects in different languages and countries, beginning from the schematic design phase up until the construction administration. The Hines College reinforced and broadened my knowledge in architecture, design, and drafting software. It also gave me the tools to successfully collaborate projects in architecture firms like Abel Design Group, Kirksey Architecture, and Goree Architects.

What is one valuable lesson you learned during your time at the Hines College?
Time management and scheduling are essential parts of your everyday work to reach your deadlines.

What is a piece of advice you would give to current architecture and design students?
Learn as much as possible, ask questions, and have conversations with your professors. Go above and beyond your research studies, using all the resources the University of Houston and Hines College have available for your success.

ABOVE: A rendering of a public transport hub in Copenhagen, Denmark, part of Sifontes's master thesis



"The Hines College reinforced and broadened my knowledge in architecture, design, and drafting software."

TOP TO BOTTOM: Wharton County Junior College, Johnson Health Occupation Center renovation and addition of a new building; Firm: Abel Group. Texas Tech Veterinary School - Mariposa Campus; Firm: Kirksey Architecture. Interior of Port 10 - Building 07; Firm: Goree Architects.

Alumni Spotlight: Ar Khushairi Muhammad '91



ABOVE: The Petronas Towers during construction in the 90's

AT RIGHT: A drawing from Muhammad during the construction period

OPPOSITE PAGE: A look at the towers today in Kuala Lumpur

Name: Ar Khushairi Muhammad
Hometown: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Major: Bachelor of Architecture
Graduation Year: 1991
Current Employer: Khushairi Architect
Title: Architect

Why did you choose the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture and Design? What drew you to design?
My late father was a schoolteacher and enjoyed painting and graphic design in his free time. Because of my father's interests, I was exposed to creative works at an early age. My ambition to become an architect started when I saw my elder brother's first-year studio assignment while studying architecture at Louisiana State University. After high school, I was offered a scholarship by the government of Malaysia to study architecture in the United States. I was provided with a list of universities. Without a doubt, I chose the University of Houston because of its well-rounded educational experience and the chance to build close relationships with students and lecturers from various backgrounds. More importantly, I was very attracted to the design of the Hines College architecture building. I will always consider Houston my home and hope I can visit again soon.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time on-campus? Was there a particular professor who influenced your education?
My most vivid memory is the feeling of nervousness standing in front of professors, crit panels, and my fellow studio mates during the fall 1988 semester. With my limited English speaking proficiency, I struggled through my presentations. Studio lecturer Virginia W. Kesley encouraged me to wade through that crit session, despite my difficulty communicating effectively in English.

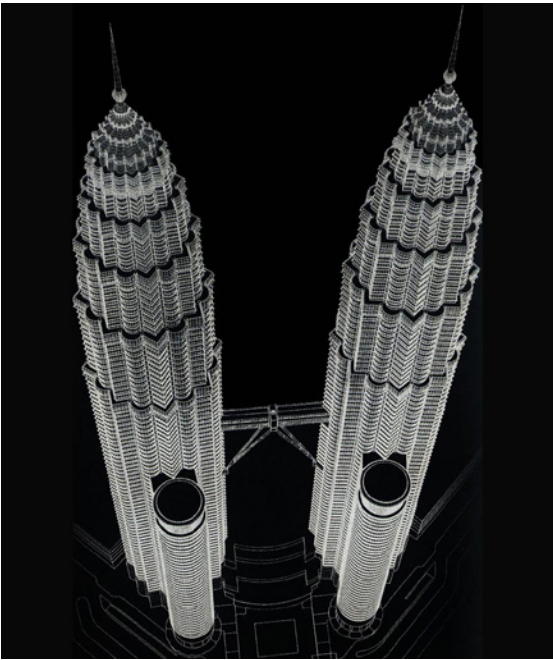
During my time at UH, I had no choice but to prepare many sketches, drawings, and physical models to minimize my verbal communication. We had many lecturers and students from various parts of the world, including Mexico, Taiwan, China, Nigeria, Lebanon, and many others. One year, we organized a Malaysian Day in the atrium showing our Malaysian wedding culture, dance, and food. No doubt, these interactions and experiences shaped the way I look at life now.

What does a typical day look like in your job? Do you have a particular design or business philosophy?
We work on small jobs, including private houses, chalets, building renovation, and upgrading projects. I also lecture part-time in architecture at the MARA University of Technology. I enjoy cycling and hiking to balance my architectural work. Life and education in Houston gave me tools that have shaped my mindset regarding responsibility for the built environment, community, and family. I am now in a semi-retirement mode focusing on my sole proprietor architecture practice.

What is one career accomplishment of which you are particularly proud? How do you feel that the College prepared you for this?
The university life at the Hines College prepared me to apply architecture broadly while emphasizing design projects. My education encouraged leadership, collaborations, integrations, and communications to accomplish tasks and execute our goals. One career accomplishment I am particularly proud of is the opportunity to be part of the technical team in constructing the PETRONAS Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, from 1993 to 1998. I was on the architectural design team for Samsung-Kukdong-Jasatera JV, the main contractor for Tower 2 and Skybridge. The design, construction, and completion of these 88-story, 452-meter-tall buildings were made possible by the collaborative skills and efforts of many individuals worldwide.

What is one valuable lesson you learned during your time at the Hines College?
The Hines College cultivated my passion for architecture and life. It taught me to believe in myself, respect and encourage others, communicate, work in teams, and maintain a work-life balance. It prepared me sufficiently for my professional career.

What is a piece of advice you would give to current architecture and design students?
Enjoy university life and the freedom of designing while you can work in your studio. After graduating, life in architecture is equally exciting when you are equipped with a good skillset required to function as an architect. Also, keep an open mind because your skills may lead you into a different profession. Architecture and design thinking processes and skills apply to many other aspects of life.



"The university life at the Hines College prepared me to apply architecture broadly while emphasizing design projects. One career accomplishment I am particularly proud of is the opportunity to be part of the technical team in constructing the PETRONAS Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur, from 1993 to 1998."



THIS PAGE: S-AR visited in September to work with Ponce's fifth-year studio and to deliver the Stern Lecture, the first part of the TRANS-SCALAR Lecture Series

OPPOSITE PAGE: The students displayed their works in the atrium in December for their final review with S-AR and as a part of the college's End-of-Semester Show



Scaling with S-AR

International architecture studio collaborated with Hines College students on the ideas of scale and material

THE WILLIAM F. STERN ENDOWED VISITING PROFESSORSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2015 TO bring world-class visiting critics and lecturers to the Hines College. Since then, the College has welcomed Wendell Burnette (2018), MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple (2019), Brooks + Scarpa (2020), MAIO (2021), and most recently, S-AR (2022).

This fall, professor Celeste Ponce joined with S-AR, an architectural design studio based in Mexico (Monterrey and Mexico City), led by architects César Guerrero and

Ana Cecilia Garza. Together, they collaborated on a fifth-year studio entitled, *Changing the Scale of Ideas*, based on the major theme of S-AR's practice, scale. The firm's approach is less concerned with a project's relationship to its site and more interested in its potential to transcend scales regardless of materiality.

Throughout the semester, S-AR visited the Hines College to work directly with students enrolled in the studio. Guerrero and Garza also presented the year's opening Stern Lecture on September 26. —Stephen Schad

PHOTO BY EMMELIA WARD





Gerald D. Hines College
of Architecture and Design
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

