

# Designotes

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF DESIGN

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SPRING 2009



## CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

30 AND BEYOND: COLLEGE OF DESIGN ALUMNI EXHIBITION

We're mid-way through the academic year, and our 30th anniversary celebration is in full swing! You can read more about fall activities just completed and preview the schedule of spring events on our anniversary web site, [www.design.iastate.edu/30](http://www.design.iastate.edu/30).

As we look ahead to the conclusion of these festivities, we encourage alumni who have not yet submitted work for the "30 and Beyond" exhibition to get those entries in! A postcard Call for Entries was mailed in mid-November to all College of Design alums in the U.S. and abroad. The response has been good so far—keep 'em coming!

Our theme for the 2008-09 year has been "Design : Community." We are all a part of so many communities—physical and social—and our interactions with these

communities influence how we think, create and respond to challenges. We in turn affect our communities—as artists and designers, activists and advocates.

The alumni exhibition is an opportunity to recognize the important work you're all doing, globally and locally, in your own communities. The show will highlight the very best work by a selection of alums from all departments and programs in the College of Design. "30 and Beyond" references the college's anniversary as well as the future—it is forward-looking and celebrates not only what you as alumni are producing and contributing to society, but also the potential of our very talented students, who will become the next generation of successful alumni.

*continued on page 2*

### ENTRY GUIDELINES

The show is open to all Iowa State alumni from architecture, art and design, art education, biological and pre-medical illustration, community and regional planning, graphic design, integrated studio arts, interior design and landscape architecture.

Each alum may submit up to two entries of original work completed since 2003. All media are eligible, but work must fit through a standard door frame. Digital/electronic files only (JPEG or PDF, no slides) will be accepted for selection purposes.

There are two ways to enter: 1) fill out our online entry form and upload your images; or 2) print out the entry form from our web site and mail with images on CD. Go to the Registration link at [www.design.iastate.edu/30/alumnishow.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/30/alumnishow.php) to get started!

*Entries are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, 2009.*

## 30 AND BEYOND: COLLEGE OF DESIGN ALUMNI EXHIBITION

*(continued from cover)*

### Guest Curator

We're delighted to have David McFadden, chief curator and vice president for programs at the Museum of Art and Design in New York, serve as guest curator for our alumni show. McFadden will both select the works and guide installation of the exhibition. He will also attend the public reception on Aug. 24 and present a lecture at the College of Design on Aug. 25.

### Gallery 181/Internet Exhibitions

Thirty total works by 30 alumni will be selected for the exhibition in Gallery 181 of the Design Building. Those works will be featured in a printed catalog with an introduction by College of Design Dean Mark Engelbrecht and an essay by McFadden. One submission from everyone who enters will be posted in an online show accompanying the gallery exhibition.

### IMPORTANT ALUMNI EXHIBITION DATES

Jan. 30	Last day to receive entry materials
March 20	All entrants notified of selection results by this date
July 8-9	Hand delivery of work to Gallery 181
July 10	Last day to receive shipped entries
Aug. 3	Exhibition opens to the public
Aug. 24	Reception for alumni and public
Aug. 25	Lecture by guest curator
Sept. 25	Show closes
Sept. 28-29	Works delivered by hand to be picked up
Oct. 2	Works shipped to College of Design will be returned

### Questions?

A complete prospectus is available on the exhibition web site, [www.design.iastate.edu/30/alumnishow.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/30/alumnishow.php). If you have any questions, please contact Heather Sauer, College of Design communications specialist, (515) 294-9289, [alumnishow@iastate.edu](mailto:alumnishow@iastate.edu).

## COMING EVENTS

Find more information on these events at [www.design.iastate.edu/30.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/30.php).

### JANUARY

14-28 Senior Exhibition: Jacob Cantu

### FEBRUARY

2-21 Art and Design Rome Show  
 4 Industrial Design Lecture: Ricardo Gomes  
 11 Industrial Design Lecture: Craig Vogel  
 12 Industrial Design Panel Discussion  
 25 Anniversary Lecture: Daniel Wildcat  
 26-27 Career Days

### MARCH

2-20 Flyover Country: GDSA Regional Exhibition

### APRIL

3-7 Interior Design Accreditation Site Visit  
 13-24 BFA Senior Student Exhibition  
 15 Awards Day  
 15 Mark Engelbrecht Lecture

### MAY

1 AIA National Convention Alumni Reception  
 9 Graduation Convocation  
 13-27 MFA Thesis Exhibition: Hiromi Okumura  
 15 Alumni Days Reception

## ABOUT DESIGNOTES

Designotes is published three times per year (spring, summer, fall) by the College of Design, 134 Design, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-3091. We encourage correspondence from alumni and friends via our online form at [www.design.iastate.edu/alumniinfo.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/alumniinfo.php), or mail to the college.

Share your e-mail address with us to receive the monthly Designotes e-newsletter. The message is sent the second Thursday of every month in both HTML and text-only formats.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ARTISTIC INTERVENTION

# THEASTER GATES, JR.

*“My art has grown from a central interest in ceramics to convening dinners as an art form, to designing space for these dinners and performances, to looking at the role that ritual plays in how people interact.”*



Theaster Gates, Jr., constructs *Forest for Tea* (2008), a “forest” of 1,200 ware boards (modular wooden units used to store and move wet ceramic ware) that conceals five ceremonial tea bowls. *Photo by Autumn Berg.*



**Top:** Gates sets the table for a community dinner at his home on the South Side of Chicago. **Above:** Gates, in red, performs in the Tea Shack (2008), an abstract combination of Japanese tea house and Southern shotgun shack built with salvaged wood. *Photos by Michelle Litvin, top, and Sarah Pooley, above.*

Theaster Gates believes in the transformative power of community—especially those relationships and creative endeavors forged among people from dissimilar backgrounds when they are presented with the opportunity.

A Chicago native, Gates is a two-time graduate of Iowa State who earned his bachelor’s degree

in community and regional planning, with a minor in sculpture, in 1995, and then returned in 2005 to complete a master’s in interdisciplinary graduate studies, with a focus on planning, religious studies and public sculpture.

As the coordinator of arts programming at the University of Chicago, Gates helps develop collaborations among faculty and student organizations, and coordinates campus arts activities. But it’s the work he does off campus—as a studio artist, musician, and self-described “cultural planner”—that resonates most broadly, reaching audiences from Illinois to the Netherlands.

Paving his path to the present, Gates chose planning as a tool to effect transformation. “The choice I made to study planning arose directly from my desire to create change in neighborhoods like the one I grew up in,” he said.

One of Gates’ primary vehicles for change has been the community dinner. He convenes dinners in areas with political, racial and social tension with the goal of generating discussions of such tensions. His hope is that positive new relationships are created.

Another way Gates brings people together is through performance and music. He recently founded the Black Monks of Mississippi, a group that blends slave spirituals,

monastic chants, and jazz to create a new kind of soul music.

At the same time, Gates has been developing his own art practice, experimenting with not only traditional ceramics but also site-specific installations and social interventions.

“My art has grown from a central interest in ceramics to convening dinners as an art form, to designing space for these dinners and performances, to looking at the role that ritual plays in how people interact,” he said.

Gates currently is involved in “Heartland: the exhibition” at Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, the Netherlands (through Jan. 25; <http://vanabbemuseum.nl>), and “Theaster Gates: Temple Exercises” at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago (through Feb. 1; [www.mcachicago.org/exhibitions](http://www.mcachicago.org/exhibitions)).

“Art should free us up to respond to the questions in our heads with whatever capacities we have,” Gates said. “I am only trying to use my capacities, to keep learning. But making without thinking is no fun. Thinking and making together creates works that my hands or mind alone couldn’t really express.”

Read more about Gates at [www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=249](http://www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=249).

INTEGRATING IMMIGRANTS INTO COMMUNITY PLANNING

# GERARDO SANDOVAL

*“I’m interested in the challenges emerging with the Latino population and how planning institutions respond and interact with the immigrant community.”*



In the past decade, communities across Iowa have been profoundly affected by an influx of immigrants—a majority from Latin American countries—moving here to take jobs primarily in the meatpacking industry. While many towns struggle to adapt to their rapidly changing demographics, some are finding ways to integrate these new residents as vital members of their communities.

The mix of tension and accommodation in areas with growing numbers of immigrants brought Gerardo Sandoval to Iowa.

“I’m interested in the challenges emerging with the Latino population and how planning institutions respond and interact with the immigrant community,” he said.

Sandoval joined the community and regional planning department at Iowa State as an assistant professor last August. His research and teaching focus on the intersection of economic and community development in immigrant, rural and inner-city neighborhoods, particularly the revitalization of immigrant low-income communities.

As an immigrant himself and also a planner, Sandoval is in a unique position to understand and evaluate the issues emerging as the Latino population increases in Iowa. Sandoval’s family moved to the U.S. from Guatemala when he was 6. He grew up in an immigrant neighborhood in Los Angeles and went to college in Northern California, where he earned a BS in community and regional development from the University of California, Davis, and master’s and doctoral degrees in city and regional planning, both from the University of California, Berkeley.

For his PhD dissertation, Sandoval studied a large-scale redevelopment project in MacArthur Park, Los Angeles, and how the immigrants in that neighborhood were able to take advantage of the type of top-down revitalization effort that often undermines such communities. His book based on this research, “Immigrants and Revitalization: A Case Study of MacArthur Park in Los Angeles,” is forthcoming from Cambria Press.

In the fall, Sandoval brought some of his experience to bear while teaching the senior-level community planning studio at Iowa State. Working with the town of Perry, the class developed a planning strategy to incorporate Latino residents fully into the community.

“In Perry, they’re trying to revitalize their downtown and increase activities downtown. I challenged my students to think of innovative ways to integrate the elderly Anglo population, Perry’s youth and immigrant Latinos and create a more vibrant downtown,” Sandoval said.

Students worked with the Center for Town/Craft, which is a partnership between the ISU College of Design, ISU Extension Community and Economic Development, and Perry. Students used the Town/Craft facility for community forums and spent time working in the design studio there.

The class presented its plan to the community at the Town/Craft center on Dec. 3. Titled “Iowa’s Re-Emerging Hometown: Planning for a Multicultural Perry,” the plan includes recommendations for strengthening immigrant community resources and small businesses, and creating a downtown

public plaza with artwork that celebrates multiculturalism.

“I’m very impressed with my students. They already have good design skills, good GIS skills, good quantitative demographic skills. My goal with this course was to help students take those skills and supplement them with analytical and more qualitative, process-oriented skills, to create a plan that can be implemented by the community.”

Beyond this studio, Sandoval also plans to study the challenges and opportunities presented by growing Latino populations in Marshalltown, Postville and other Iowa communities. He’s particularly interested in the relationship of hometown associations—philanthropic organizations formed by immigrants to raise money for development projects in their native countries—to their adopted towns in Iowa.



Photo by Bobbi Jo Kruckenberg.

For someone who grew up and went to school on the West Coast, moving to Iowa hasn’t been as big a change as one might expect.

“In terms of scale,” Sandoval said, “it’s a difference. But in terms of my research and the types of challenges I’m seeing in these towns with immigrants, it’s quite similar. In Los Angeles I studied how city institutions were adapting to immigrant communities. I learned that those institutions that adapted, that co-evolved with immigrants, saw some real improvements.

“Here in Iowa, I’m curious as to what I will uncover.”

Read more at [www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=252](http://www.design.iastate.edu/stories.php?ARTICLEID=252).

## DESIGNING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR FLOOD-DAMAGED COMMUNITIES

## CEDAR RAPIDS OUTREACH

In the wake of devastating tornadoes and floods throughout Iowa last June, Gov. Chet Culver convened the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission to assist with recovery efforts. Individual task forces are addressing such issues as housing, infrastructure and transportation, flood-plain management, etc. Through her participation in housing task force meetings over the summer, Nadia Anderson, a lecturer in architecture at Iowa State University, found a timely project for her fall-semester studio class.



The Ability House concept centers on flexibility. The base module is a one-story, one-bedroom residence. With the addition of other modules, a family could construct a two- to four-bedroom, two-story house in two stylistic variations.

“I met the director of Iowa Prison Industries, who said IPI could create prefabricated modular panels to build houses for flood victims,” Anderson said. “He brought in the director of the Iowa Finance Authority, and IFA proposed a competition for my students to design affordable housing using modular construction.”

Anderson’s class worked with the Oak Hill Jackson neighborhood in Cedar Rapids, which had been targeted for urban revitalization prior to the 2008 floods. The neighborhood already had at least 50 empty lots outside the 100-year flood plain that could be used for new housing.

Students focused on a typical lot size in the neighborhood (40 feet wide by 140 feet long,

including setbacks). Project guidelines specified that a three-bedroom unit should be about 1,200 square feet, and students should develop both a two-bedroom and a three-bedroom scheme. They also had to include a full bath and potential for a bedroom on the first floor, and universally accessible means of entry.

“Looking at modular systems was an interesting approach. It gave students a set of constraints instead of leaving it up to anything they could possibly do,” Anderson said.

For the first two weeks of the semester, students developed individual design concepts. Then they teamed up around common themes and worked on schematic design proposals. Interns from local architecture firms served as project mentors and offered students access to the firms’ libraries and other resources as they developed their proposals.

Four teams of three to four students each presented proposals to the competition jury in November. Iowa Finance Authority provided \$7,000 in prize money, which the jury divided among all four teams. The jury included stakeholders in the rebuilding effort, faculty members and practitioners.

Members of the first-place team were Cole Baessler of Grand Rapids, Mich., Chris Cummings of Wall Lake, Thomas Grier of Aurora, Ill., and Jeremy Perreault of Sioux City. They received \$1,000 each.

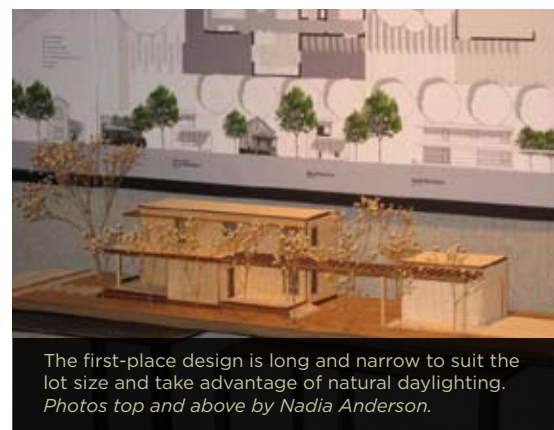
The winning project, called the Ability House, focused on a number of “abilities,” including constructibility, flexibility, sustainability and liveability, Baessler said.

“We paid close attention to efficient use of space, energy efficiency and lifecycle costs. In adapting our scheme to the Oak Hill Jackson neighborhood, we designed a welcoming front porch and a nice back yard with a rain garden for on-site water catchment,” he said.

“The team really exploited the flexibility that’s possible with a modular system, and they had a number of options, ranging from one bed-



Architecture senior Chris Cummings presents his team’s winning project to the competition jury.



The first-place design is long and narrow to suit the lot size and take advantage of natural daylighting. Photos top and above by Nadia Anderson.

room to four; a single, stand-alone house or multiple units grouped together; and a couple of stylistic alternatives—one more modern, one more traditional,” Anderson observed.

The group also incorporated “green” features such as advanced wall framing, icynene insulation, fiber cement cladding, a tankless water heater, low-flow plumbing fixtures and a whole-house fan for natural ventilation.

“Incorporating sustainable or green features into a home may raise the monthly mortgage payment but dramatically reduce the homeowner’s utility bills,” Anderson said. “We have an opportunity to help raise awareness and understanding of this issue.”

The jury thought all four teams’ designs showed merit for future construction. Anderson and a graduate assistant are pursuing partnerships with housing organizations and developers in order to build some of the homes this summer.

## SENIOR WINS BEST OF SHOW IN NATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN COMPETITION

Andrew Kopp's furniture designs have earned accolades wherever he goes. Most recently, at the International Woodworking Fair (IWF) in Atlanta, the Iowa State University senior won Best of Show in Design Emphasis '08. Held biennially at the IWF, it is the nation's foremost furniture design competition for students.

The 2008 competition attracted nearly 300 entries from 37 schools around the country. Seventy-five entries by 64 students were named as finalists. Of those, three were from Iowa State: Kopp, a double major in integrated studio arts and business management from Solon; James Ian Killinger (BA 2008 Art and Design / Psychology); and Ryan Seiler, a senior in studio arts from Ames.

Kopp's winning entry, "Concept Bench," is made of hard maple and Crypton Super Fabric, a new stain-and liquid-resistant material that holds up well to wear.

Entries were judged on design, manufacturing, marketability and workmanship. Kopp's bench was the standout in every area, said Max Shangle, one of nine judges for the Design Emphasis '08 competition.

"His craftsmanship was excellent, the piece was beautifully executed, and one could read into the object a very strong understanding of what it would take to produce that piece," Shangle said.

"Best of Show sets the standard for every other category and every other entrant to meet the objectives of the competition better than anyone else, and Andrew's bench did that. It sets the standard for competitions to come," he said.

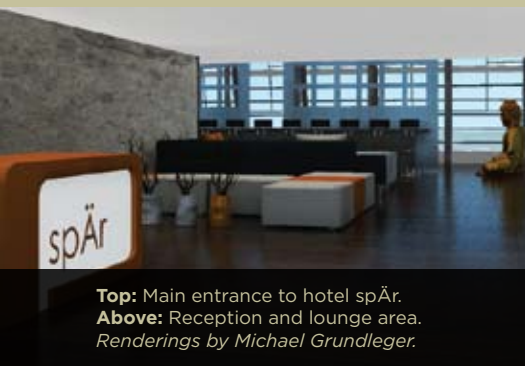
Kopp will receive his bachelor of fine arts degree from Iowa State in May. He plans to attend graduate school and would like to teach wood design and start his own studio.

Read more at [www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/oct/kopp.shtml](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/oct/kopp.shtml).



Andrew Kopp won Best of Show for his "Concept Bench" in the Design Emphasis '08 student furniture design competition. He received a \$2,000 cash prize and trophy. Photo by Bob Elbert.

## ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS' PROJECT WINS HD MAGAZINE AWARD



**Top:** Main entrance to hotel spÄr.  
**Above:** Reception and lounge area.  
*Renderings by Michael Grundleger.*

The work of two College of Design graduate students made the cover of the December issue of Hospitality Design magazine.

Michael Grundleger, of Des Moines, and Jennifer Lehmkuhl (BFA 2006 Interior Design), of Hiawatha, third-year graduate students in architecture, won the top award in the student category of the fourth annual HD Awards. The competition recognizes outstanding design projects in 13 categories that relate to the hospitality industry.

The awards were presented last summer, with details of the winning entries published in the May/June issue of Hospitality Design. The December issue's cover featured a new image of the ISU students' project.

There were 24 competition entries in the student category from schools around the United States. Judges selected two winning projects and one finalist. Entries were evaluated on creativity, practicality and function.

"The judges thought [Grundleger and Lehmkuhl's project] was very innovative and very well thought out," said Jana Schiowitz, project manager for the HD Awards.

Titled "hotel spÄr," the project concept calls for an art gallery within a hotel sited along the Mississippi River near Dubuque. The space plan is open and spare (hence the title), with interior walls placed strategically to protect the intended art collection from sunlight while permitting views to the outdoors.

Grundleger and Lehmkuhl developed their design last spring in an interior design option studio class.

"At the beginning, we took the project separately to brainstorm the overall concept," Lehmkuhl said. "Once that was done, we each had our parts to focus on, but no major decisions were made without consulting the other. Mainly, I am a big-picture person and Mike is a detail person, so we just work well as a team."

The award has helped both students gain perspective on their abilities and career options. Grundleger wants to work for a multidisciplinary firm that does both architecture and interior design. Lehmkuhl wants to enter the hospitality design profession.

Read more at [www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/dec/architecture.shtml](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/dec/architecture.shtml).

## IN BRIEF

### TOP 15 PROGRAM RANKINGS

Iowa State University's programs in landscape architecture, interior design and architecture are among the top 15 in the nation, according to a survey published by DesignIntelligence.

In the magazine's "10th Annual America's Best Architecture and Design Schools" report, our undergraduate landscape architecture program is ranked ninth among 42 accredited programs in the United States.

The undergraduate interior design program tied for ninth place out of 140 accredited programs nationwide, while the graduate interior design program tied for 10th. There are 52 interior design and related graduate programs in the U.S.

The undergraduate architecture program tied for 12th place among 48 accredited programs in the U.S. ISU also made the list of "America's World-Class Schools of Architecture."

Read more at [www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/dec/ranking.shtml](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/dec/ranking.shtml).

### DEAN SEARCH PROGRESS

A 14-member committee is conducting the search for a new dean of the College of Design. Chaired by Michael Whiteford, dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the committee has been working closely with Auerbach Associates, a professional search firm hired to help find a successor to Mark Engelbrecht, who will end his 15-year term as dean in June.

The committee is reviewing applications from a pool of qualified candidates and expects to hold confidential off-campus interviews with semifinalists this month. The goal is to bring finalists to campus for interviews in February.

For more on the dean search, go to [www.design.iastate.edu/deansearch.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/deansearch.php).

### CORRECTION

Two images that appeared on the cover of the Summer 2008 issue of this newsletter were not properly attributed. The photos of Jon Kamrath's Four-Way Chess Table and Jared Porter's Nest Necklace were taken by George Ensley, Ensley Photography.



Each year this student-run event attracts a larger and more diverse group of design-related firms with offices across the nation. More than 80 participated in 2008. Photo by Heather Sauer.

## JOIN US AT CAREER DAYS 2009

The College of Design will host its ninth annual Career Days, Thursday, Feb. 26, and Friday, Feb. 27.

The Design Career Expo, planned for Thursday afternoon at the Iowa State Memorial Union, will feature displays and presentations by architecture, interior design, planning and landscape architecture firms. Expo interviews will take place Friday at the MU.

Explore Graphic Design and Studio Arts will be held Friday in the Design Building. Tours of the King Pavilion (under construction) will be available Thursday morning and Friday.

Alumni play an increasingly important role in promoting and participating in Career Days. Firms that hire our graduates know they are

talented, creative and hardworking. Those firms often send employees who are Iowa State alumni to represent them at Career Days.

The benefits for our students are two-fold: they connect easily with alumni, who are familiar with the college, our academic programs, Rome studio and ISU. And our alumni are well prepared to discuss career options, internship and employment opportunities with them.

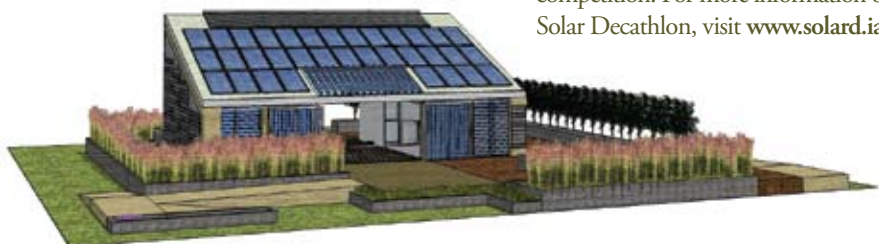
We invite you to encourage your employer to register this year. Sponsorships are also available. For complete details, go to [www.design.iastate.edu/CAREER/careerdays.php](http://www.design.iastate.edu/CAREER/careerdays.php). We look forward to seeing you on campus in February!

## CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON INTERLOCK HOUSE

Construction of the Interlock House, Iowa State's entry in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2009 Solar Decathlon competition, will begin early this semester. The ISU Solar Decathlon team secured space in a warehouse south of Highway 30 to build the home, which they will later take apart to transport and reassemble in a solar village on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Team members spent fall semester building a mock-up of the house, finalizing interior details, completing engineering aspects such as photovoltaic array design, and seeking donors for materials such as barn boards (to use as an insulated siding). They've also put out a call for proposals from students for artwork to be included in the design.

On Jan. 9 and 10, the group will meet with event organizers to prepare for the October competition. For more information on the ISU Solar Decathlon, visit [www.solard.iastate.edu](http://www.solard.iastate.edu).



On the Mall in Washington, D.C., visitors to the Interlock House will be greeted with Iowa native plantings and grasses, along with an innovative greywater system. The home opens up completely to the north and south, offering two options for entertaining and entry. Image by Iowa State University Solar Decathlon Team.

## KING PAVILION CONSTRUCTION MOVES INSIDE

Despite wet weather over the summer months, as of press time, construction of the King Pavilion remains on track. By January, the first new “green” building on campus should be enclosed and ready for interior work to begin. Occupancy is expected in fall 2009.

The new facility will use energy-saving techniques such as natural ventilation, daylighting, recycled building materials, storm-water control with a green roof, and unique site design.

In addition to 15 studio classrooms, the King Pavilion will include a two-story forum with a break-out space for lectures and critiques. It will be home primarily to freshmen in the college’s Core Design Program, as well as upperclassmen in architecture, interior design and landscape architecture.



Construction crews took advantage of dry days in early November to make progress on the roof and walls of the pavilion. *Photo by Heather Sauer.*



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