



Designnotes

News from the College of Design

Volume 1 – Issue 1 Spring 2008

ISU Design West studio offers new opportunities for education, outreach

Sioux City Built it, and the College of Design moved in.

By means of an Iowa Great Places grant, Sioux City transformed a derelict steam-boiler plant in the city's Fourth Street Historic District into a modern design studio. The city invited the College of Design to make the refurbished facility its second home, and ISU Design West was born.

The ISU Design West studio is a new satellite program that provides Iowa State design students an opportunity to study and work in a vibrant urban environment that's also rich in history. The program is a partnership of the College of Design, ISU Extension, and Sioux City.

Course offerings will involve upper-level students and faculty in projects that address real design issues and engage community members in the design process. In summer 2007, for example, a class of architecture graduate students created prototype bus-stop shelters for downtown Sioux City; in fall 2007, an advanced landscape architecture class studied the effects of the pending Interstate 29 relocation on the Missouri River waterfront and central Sioux City.

Three Design Studies studio classes will work on projects with the community at the Design West facility this spring:

- The design/build studio will explore ways concrete might be used in a prototype camping cabin for South Sioux City, Neb.
- A second studio will examine urban design and planning issues that challenge Sioux City and its surrounding metro region.



Photos: Sandra Oberbroeckling; Carol Faber; Aurora Photography / Chadd Goosmann

Clockwise from top left: A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the grand opening of ISU Design West in Sioux City on Sept. 22. One of the building's distinctive features is its 80-ft.-tall smokestack. The facility has studio space below and lecture space above. The façade at night.

- Working with local housing officials and potential clients, the third studio intends to study economic and social inequalities in the housing sector and to develop affordable housing concepts for Sioux City.

All three classes will be based in Ames but will use Design West when in Sioux City for field research, charrettes and meetings.

In the future, some core design classes may also be offered at ISU Design West for local students

interested in transferring to Iowa State. Additional future activities may also include an urban extension program focused on design, historic preservation and community development, and public seminars and workshops.

For more information on ISU Design West, visit www.design.iastate.edu/ISUDesignWest or contact Susan Fey, program coordinator, (515) 238-5128, susanfey@iastate.edu.

Catching up with Michelle Kaufmann



Photo: Cutter Cutshaw Photography

When Michelle Kaufmann was looking for a home to buy in California and couldn't find something both well-designed and affordable, this 1993 architecture graduate decided to take things into her own hands. Michelle designed and built her own home, then went on to develop her own successful design firm.

Building Michelle Kaufmann Designs

"All the work we do at MKD goes toward the mission of creating thoughtful, sustainable design that is accessible to more people, and hopefully soon accessible to all," Kaufmann said. "It's the value of care: care about good design, care about the environment and care about people. If it doesn't have all three, it's not successful."

Kaufmann founded Michelle Kaufmann Designs in Oakland, Calif., in 2002, and opened her own factory in 2006 to build all models of the firm's green modular homes. Her work has been widely published, and her homes have been showcased in a number of museums. MKD was listed as one of "The Green 50" by Inc. magazine, and Kaufmann was named one of the top 100 "People Who Matter Now" by Business 2.0 magazine.

Reflecting on ISU

"One of the great strengths ISU has is its faculty. They care and go well beyond the call of duty," Kaufmann said. "Their care was translated into the care I had about my work, about design and about others."

Kaufmann said that her education taught her to think technically and theoretically at the same

time. Thinking outside of the box was both encouraged and rewarded, and the College of Design always promoted a strong work ethic.

"Growing up in Iowa, the balance between our environment, climate, human beings and what we do with our landscapes was an integral part of the culture, and ISU enhanced that," Kaufmann observed. "I owe so much of my success and belief system to the architecture department at Iowa State."



Photos above and below: John Swain Photography



Kaufmann's first home design, the Glidehouse, is built in her own factory using environmentally friendly methods and materials.



Photos top and above: Thomas J. Story

The Sunset Breezhouse is a collaborative design effort of MKD and Sunset Magazine. Its key feature is the center BreezeSpace, a glass-enclosed breezeway or porch situated under a distinctive butterfly-shaped roof.

Read more about Michelle and her work at www.mkd-arc.com.

Alumni featured in college video

As part of Iowa State's 150th anniversary celebration, the local Mediacom cable channel will air a series of 15-minute videos showcasing each of the seven ISU colleges as well as other units on campus. Kaufmann is among several alumni featured in the College of Design's video segment, slated to run in March. Check local listings.

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ISU earns spot in 2009 Solar Decathlon competition

Architecture professor leads university team

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected Iowa State University as one of 20 teams from four countries to compete in the fourth Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C.

Solar Decathlon teams design, build and operate attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered homes. Each team is awarded \$100,000 over two years to support the Solar Decathlon's research goal of reducing the cost of solar-powered homes and advancing solar technology. Teams were selected on the basis of their proposals.

In the fall of 2009, the National Mall will be transformed into a showcase for cutting-edge solar and building technologies as Solar Decathlon homes from 16 U.S. states and territories and three other countries (Canada, Germany and Spain) are displayed in a solar village. More than 120,000 people visited the houses during the 2007 competition.

ISU faculty and students from 11 departments in five colleges have met weekly for more than a year to establish the first Solar Decathlon team from the state of Iowa. Ulrike Passe, assistant professor of architecture, is heading the effort.

"Iowa State will bring a new and distinctive perspective to the competition

with our strengths in design, engineering and agricultural technologies," Ulrike says. "The project also offers our students a fantastic opportunity to solve real-world problems in an interdisciplinary and team-oriented setting."

More than 100 ISU students are expected to participate—either through the Solar Decathlon Club, in specific for-credit courses or through assignments and projects in various other classes. The project will also involve the building trades program at Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, and the Sustainable Energy Technology Program at Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge.

Fund raising for Iowa State's "Interlock House" is already under way, Ulrike says. Projects in past competitions (including travel, transportation, etc.) have cost more than \$500,000. The ISU Solar Decathlon Team is supported by the ISU Provost Office, ISU Institute for Physical Research and Technology, Iowa Energy Center, U.S. DOE's Ames Laboratory, ISU College of Design, ISU College of Engineering, ISU Center for Building Energy Research and ISU Department of Architecture. The team also seeks corporate sponsors to support the project.

For further details, including a full list of 2009 Solar Decathlon teams, visit www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/jan/solar.shtml.

Three design programs among best in U.S.



Iowa State University's programs in landscape architecture, architecture and interior design continue to be among the nation's best, according to a survey of practitioners by DesignIntelligence.

The magazine's annual report, "America's Best Architecture and Design Schools," is the only national college ranking survey that focuses exclusively on design.

Iowa State's undergraduate landscape architecture program tied with Ohio State University for eighth place in the survey (up from 15th last year). The program also earned high marks in an overall skills assessment of recent landscape architecture graduates.

The undergraduate architecture program is ranked 14th, while the graduate program tied for 18th place with Texas A&M, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Pennsylvania. The undergraduate architecture program has ranked in the top 15 nationally for the past five years.

The graduate interior design program tied for 15th place with the New York School of Interior Design.

Read more at www.public.iastate.edu/~nscentral/news/2008/jan/design.shtml.



Photo: Gary Clarke

Iowa State launches campaign

On Oct. 19, Iowa State University publicly launched *Campaign Iowa State: With Pride and Purpose*, an \$800 million fundraising campaign—the largest in school history. The campaign will raise money to support the high-priority opportunities of the entire institution.

Iowa State officially began the quiet phase of its campaign on July 1, 2003, with closure scheduled for Dec. 31, 2010. At the time of kick-off, the campaign had received \$520 million in gifts and commitments from almost 100,000 donors.

Within *Campaign Iowa State*, each college has established priorities that fulfill its own specific needs. Students, faculty and facilities are the focus for the College of Design throughout this campaign. To date, the college has achieved 65 percent of its \$8.5 million goal for private funding.

To learn more about the overall campaign, visit www.withprideandpurpose.org.

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Coming Events

February

27-29 Career Days

March

25 Developed Photography
Exhibition Reception

29 Interior Design Alumni Reunion

29 Interior Design Senior
Exhibition Reception

April

7-13 Veishea

9 Awards Day

9 Art and Design Rome Show Reception

May

10 Graduation Convocation

15-16 Alumni Days

More events and information at

www.design.iastate.edu/calendar.php

and www.design.iastate.edu/gallery.php



ISU Design West opens in Sioux City



Catching up with alumna Michelle Kaufmann



Three design programs among nation's best

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