A Message From Dean de Noble

The following pages are full of stories and news illustrating the impact of our APDesign not only through our unique educational model, but in the actions of our faculty, students, staff and alumni as they serve our society in providing design leadership to their clients and communities.

While our educational mission is obvious and inviolate, we rarely take time to think of the breadth of the impact of our work. In working through our recent Targeted Enhancement Request to the Kansas Board of Regents we had the opportunity to take stock of the many ways we make a positive impact as a college and as design professionals. Here are some interesting facts to consider:

- With five programs ranked in the top 15 nationally, we are obviously making a positive impact on the design professions across the nation.
- Nearly 60% of our students are from outside of Kansas. We are an attractor of talent and intelligence to the State of Kansas.
- APDesign is visited by nearly 500 prospective students and their families annually who stay in Manhattan’s hotels, eat and shop in area establishments. We are a tourist destination!
- APDesign engages in service learning and outreach activities to the tune of 85,000 student hours and 7,000 faculty hours annually. That contribution is valued at $2 million and setting the table for $200 million of economic development annually, if the projects are fully executed.
- All of the professions housed in APDesign are projected to grow well above the national average for all employment sectors through 2020 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- The bulk of design professionals in the state engage in a vast majority of projects located outside of the state. Our professions are bringing revenue into the state.
- Every $1 million spent on vertical construction and site development creates approximately 28 jobs annually. Every design professional administers on average approximately $6 million of construction per year, thus generating nearly 170 jobs annually.
- APDesign and our alumni and friends are focused on the most significant issues of our time-social equity, environmental stewardship, economic viability and aesthetic delight. We are about quality of life, now and for the future.

As you read through this APDesign Newsletter I hope you take a measure of pride in our impact and are motivated to share your stories of design leadership with us in the near future!
The Victor L. Regnier Distinguished Visiting Professorship brings talented and insightful architecture professionals into the classrooms of APDesign, exposing students and faculty to distinct, international viewpoints.

In past years, the Regnier Visiting Professors have made a few visits to the campus, assisting in the teaching of studio classes throughout the year. In 2013-14, Javier Sanchez of JSA Architecture in Mexico City will be residing in Manhattan for the duration of the school year.

“Sanchez is an award winning professional for his work in Mexico City, he’s a highly regarded architect and has taught all over North America,” said Matt Knox, Architecture department head.

“We’re very grateful he will be in residence, instead of making a handful of trips to assist in a class, he will have his own fifth-year studio.”

Javier’s wife and daughters will accompany him in the move to Kansas. He will continue his practice in Mexico City remotely, running part of his office from Manhattan.

“Sanchez has a very critical eye, and talented hands but he’s approachable and selfless,” said Tim de Noble, dean of the College of Architecture, Planning & Design. “He genuinely wants to improve others’ talents. He’s exactly the kind of person I want our students learning from.”

“Javier Sanchez has a unique, problem-centered approach to design -- that includes a broad range of both building types and services,” said Victor A. Regnier, ACSA Distinguished Professor of Architecture at the University of Southern California. “His architecture practice in Mexico and Peru is a future-oriented model from which students can learn a great deal.”

From Dean Tim de Noble
Legislative and Programming update:

The 2013 Kansas Legislative session has ended and while all the news is not good for higher education in the State of Kansas, the College of Architecture, Planning and Design has some great news regarding our efforts to revitalize our Seaton Home.

As many of you are aware, with full support President Kirk Schulz and his cabinet, the College of Architecture, Planning and Design forwarded a Targeted Enhancement Request to the Kansas Board of Regents last June, asking for state monies to be matched by monies generated by our college through college-specific fees, research funds, increased enrollment and philanthropy. In turn, the KBOR forwarded their support of our request to Governor Brownback.

I am pleased to tell you that with the support of Governor Brownback, the legislature carried through on provided initial monies for our project by dedicating $1 million towards the design and planning of the Seaton complex, with a plan for an additional $1.5 million in the 2015 budget. These monies will allow us to move forward with hiring a design team to take the project through construction documents, while we continue to advocate for funds allowing us to bond our project with the intent of breaking ground in 2015.

In line with our trajectory, APDesign has been engaged in a programming and conceptualization study led by Ennead and Andropogon since December. Recently completed, the programming and imagery serve as the underpinning for both public and private funding of the project. We are extremely pleased by the thoroughness of the process and the result. As we begin to roll out the images over the next few months, I am sure you will find the images of our new Seaton facility as compelling and exciting as we do. In the main, this material, funded by the APDesign Founders Guild, served as the backbone of an 80-page capital improvement request submitted to the KBOR in May for our $75 million project, including a first phase of $50 million.

As for our part, we are well on our way to meeting the annual funds we committed to in our original request. This past spring, members of the Dean’s Student Advisory Committee, representing all students and organizations in APDesign voted unanimously to increase their technology fees from $19 to $35 per credit hour, significantly increasing our ability to provide students and faculty with the technologies underpinning the practice of our disciplines. Our research funding and profile continues to increase as faculty identify and win grants sponsoring theirs, and their students, engagement in meaningful research opportunities with profound impact on design and planning. As a result of extraordinary effort by our recruiting and enrollment staff, our incoming class is near our maximum, limited only by our facilities, while our retention continues to lead the university, reflecting the quality of our student services personnel and policies. And to cap it all, we just completed a record setting year philanthropically at APDesign, raising over $2 million in support of our programs, students, faculty, staff and facility.

We all hope you are energized by the momentum of APDesign and are as excited as to see a facility commensurate with our long-standing national reputation as we are. Most of all, we hope you take a measure of pride in your association with APDesign and in turn revisit your continued commitment to supporting our sustained excellence.

With great excitement,

Tim
Our students participate in internships all over the state of Kansas, the nation and the world! Here are where our 2012-13 class of interns are:

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Alumni Profile: Jill Sorenson Kurtz

Jill Sorenson Kurtz (‘05 ARCH) has been involved in many global ventures since graduation, including being placed on the list of the top 100 global designers for her project with Michael Kuany and Rebuild Sudan. Kurtz among the first students to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification (LEED) and took her passion for “green” architecture to California. Though the economy was bad, she and a colleague started Rebuild Consulting to utilize the knowledge they had amassed and to make themselves more accessible to clients.

The clients they served were primarily those who may not have been able to afford services offered by larger, and more developed companies. They took the time to teach people how to build better buildings, helping them see the value of design thinking and using buildings as communication tools. When she met Kuany in 2009, he approached her about building a school in south Sudan, which was crippled by civil war. Kuany was one of the “Lost Boys of Sudan” who were brought to the United States during the conflict.

Kuany hopes the school will be one of equality, open to students regardless of faith or gender. Kurtz began design later that year, where she originally served as a volunteer, until she was asked to serve on the board and eventually became president. Rebuild Sudan broke ground in summer 2012, with hopes to solve many issues that the community expressed as vital. Millions of people have been displaced, and a permanent structure provides a sense of belonging, allowing the community to begin the healing process.

Alongside its permanence, the building will provide a space for community involvement with a large gathering space and access to books and computers. The design of the building will allow for the most comfortable and practical use of space, using natural elements such as wind and sunlight to heat, cool and allow classes to take place throughout the hot, humid days.

Kurtz returned to Sudan in April 2013 to evaluate the progress, but things don’t always go as planned. Rebuild Sudan has faced many roadblocks since breaking ground last summer, including black cotton soil which is very expansive and hard to excavate without heavy machinery.

“It costs about $300,000 to build a school in this area, it requires a lot of trust in the partners to get the work done, especially using local contractors,” Kurtz said. “We met with the governor of the state, he has to rely on NGOs to build the schools but will fund the teachers and supplies to keep the schools running.”

In addition to her work with Rebuild Sudan, Kurtz also taught two intersession courses on public interest design for the College of Architecture, Planning & Design in May 2012 and January 2013.

“It was really cool that the students actually practice this on an everyday basis, they don’t wait for the project to be dropped on their desk, but instead walk by a building and interview the residents about what problems or issues should be addressed in the future. I loved teaching at K-State, the whole experience was great.”

Kurtz hopes to continue educating students in public interest design to cultivate stronger leaders for the design professions in the future.

For more information on Rebuild Sudan, go to http://rebuildsudan.org/

Other Alumni Updates

Jeffrey Dalton became a licensed architect in the State of Kansas, on March 5, 2013, after graduating from the department of Architecture in the summer of 2010. He is currently employed at SGA Design Group in Tulsa, OK.

Staci Reed Chivetta is now the design solutions consultant at Scott Rice Office Works in Kansas City.

Kenneth Frashier has been on the Missouri State Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects, as an architect member for four years, and has been involved as a member of NCARB from Missouri, and selected by NAAB to make a visit to a university in April 2013. He also is on the planning commission at Lake Lotawana, his hometown.

Barb Stricker Bradley retired in June as CEO of Action for Children North Carolina in Raleigh. Action for Children is a statewide nonprofit public policy organization working to improve outcomes for children and youth in North Carolina.

Clemente Jaquez is the design advocate for the Dallas RTKL office and was recently named the Chair for Latinos in Architecture for the AIA Dallas chapter. He also won RTKL’s Kagan Fellowship, one of three winners globally.

Alicia Roberts recently moved to the program management department under the director of the entire construction of the new World Trade Center construction in New York.

Adam Stover, Populous was named one of 40 under 40 for 2013 by Building Design + Construction (www.bdcnetwork.com/40under40_2013)
MANKO Window Systems sponsors design competition
By Marisa Larson

What started out as an idea to improve sales and save money for MANKO Window Systems Inc. of Manhattan has grown into a design competition that is a win-win for the company and K-State’s College of Architecture, Planning and Design.

“MANKO would fly architects and general contractors in to tour the facility and learn about our products,” said Kevin Bahner, architectural sales representative at MANKO.

Bahner and Gary Jones, president of MANKO, realized they were missing a great opportunity by not familiarizing architecture students with their company and products while they were still students. Bahner met with Tim de Noble, dean of the college, and they decided a design competition for the students would be a good way for them to partner.

“It was definitely a major win-win for MANKO and the architecture department,” Bahner said. “It was a way to get students to tour the plant, and in turn we supported the program for the competition.”

The competition was designed around the architecture department’s fall fourth-year comprehensive studio.

“This studio is geared toward students integrating holistically conceptual and technical knowledge into one complete project,” said Nathan Howe, the architecture professor in charge of administering the competition. “Each studio was given a different site and program for a building by their instructor. The students then individually conceptualized a design, tested and eventually detailed their design through the semester.”

At the end of the semester, two students from each studio — six students out of 42 — were selected to compete for the MANKO award. They presented their designs to a jury of three professional architects from the Denver and Kansas City areas.

Huiyuan “Leland” Li won the $5,000 award for his design of a fitness center that allows people to do aerobic exercise in a natural way through rock climbing and swimming.

“His design was pure poetics from its initial concept which he was able to push further into his development and eventual detailing of his project,” Howe said. “His detailing was innovative in its use of glass both in its technical detailing but also in the experiential quality it would have on the public as they move through his design.”

“The three judges were incredibly impressed with what the students had done,” Bahner said. “They were just blown away with the detail of the projects. They said it was a very tough decision.”

This competition benefits MANKO Windows, K-State and the students. MANKO gets to introduce students who will eventually get jobs all over their service area to their products. The competition helps the architecture college highlight its achievements.

“In inviting guest critics from across the country, the amazing achievements of our students in developing their technical and conceptual knowledge of architecture are reaching a new audience,” Howe said. "The judging competition serves as one more motivator for the students to learn to communicate clearly their design intent," Howe said.

All 42 students first had to create a board presentation of their design, forcing them to select the drawings and renderings that best describe it. The six finalists then had to describe their design through a narrative slide presentation.

“Students are learning through these various mechanisms that to build great buildings one has to be able to clearly describe the idea and create images to get buy-in from the audience,” Howe said.

MANKO, a family-owned business in Manhattan, has a long history of supporting Kansas State University. Many buildings on campus have MANKO products in them, including the basketball training facility and the West Stadium Center currently under construction. The MANKO Window Systems Design Competition is just one more way the company and K-State have partnered to benefit all involved and Bahner said he expects the partnership will continue.
Oscar Ekdahl was a K-State alumnus in 1943 before he moved to Topeka to start his professional career. Ekdahl was involved with the creation of the Topeka Public Library, Stormont Vale Hospital, Meniger’s Hospital and the Topeka West High school.

Celebrating 40 years this Aug., the Ekdahl Lecture Series has been an incredible resource for decades of students. “I had suggested the concept of lectureship to my father before his death. I experienced the benefits of the programs as an undergraduate at Harvard, and there was nothing like it at Kansas State University. The funds hadn’t been growing very much, and I’m in a position to help it along so I thought I’d do it” said Jon Ekdahl, Oscar’s son.

“The Ekdahl family’s generous long-term support of the APDesign Distinguished lecture series aligns with our desire to offer a wide range of educational enhancements outside of the curriculum. It helps prepare them for their intended trajectories in practice” said Tim de Noble dean of the college of Architecture, Planning & Design.

The lecture provides students with something extra, a different perspective from the one the faculty provides. Sometimes it hopefully has a real-world feel to it, what the presenter brings can take things to a more personal level to apply the concepts they learn.

Oscar’s daughter, Janis said “his association with Kansas State University was very important to him. He always wanted to provide future students with a wider view of the world, and bring more to Kansas. He wanted to broaden the experience.” The Ekdahl lectureship has served dozens of prominent and impressive names through its 40 years.

The Ekdahl family has funded the lectureship, but sets no parameters on the execution. “It has been well administered through the years; just looking at the list of speakers makes it obvious. I think visiting scholars should spend more time in the classroom, in addition to giving the lecture. That’s the way I operate, I’m better interfacing with the expert, something more hands-on.”

Janis said “I’m impressed with how it has been used. I’d like to keep it going. The family name is there, and it’s nice to have that legacy for him.” The series was very important to her father, it continued the expansion of learning, and he loved the University.

“College is more than an education, it’s learning how to be a person and develop relationships,” said Louis Meilink, Jr., a 1987 graduate of Kansas State University’s College of Architecture, Planning and Design. “K-State is just a wonderful environment to create those relationships and to grow as an individual as well as professionally.”

Louis and his wife, Janetann, have created the Louis A. Meilink, Jr. and Janetann Meilink Scholarship in Architecture for the Department of Architecture at Kansas State University. The scholarship will be $1,000 awarded annually to a third, fourth or fifth-year student in the department.

Louis grew up in St. Louis, Mo., and knew he wanted to major in architecture and play football in college. “Being able to find a school that had a good architecture program and a football program was challenging,” Louis said. “K-State provided both, although at the time, K-State football wasn’t as good as it is now. The fun part of my freshman year in 1982 was we went to the first bowl game in Kansas State history.”

Many fond memories fill Louis’s time at K-State such as the gatherings professor Jones would hold so students could speak with visiting architects and guest lecturers in a casual setting. “Another fond memory is the picture we took every year in front of Seaton Hall with all the students,” Louis said.

“They’d be up in the rafters and everything. That was always great to see everybody come together in that picture.”

Louis and Janetann, who live in Haddonfield, N.J., visited campus this fall with their youngest son, Doug, who is considering going to K-State in architecture, like his dad. They took some time during their visit to share why they created this scholarship.

What inspired you to create this scholarship? I’ve been very grateful for the education I received at K-State and how that prepared me for my professional life, so I’ve been giving some thought for a couple of years on how to give back to K-State. Creating a scholarship seemed ideal because we know how education is so expensive and a lot of students struggle. We thought it would be great to give back and create this scholarship.

What do you hope this means to a student getting this scholarship? I hope it takes some tension out of the cost associated with college. With the rigor of the selection process of all of these scholarships, it also honors the student recipients. Obviously, if they receive the scholarship it’s because the dean and the committee felt strongly about that person’s performance and growth academically.

What would you say to inspire someone to create a scholarship at K-State? I guess everyone personally thinks about these things but I think it’s important to give back to the institutions that have helped you be successful in your career. It certainly feels good to give back. And I’m sure over the years, as scholarships are given out and students start to receive them, you’ll feel really good about helping the K-State program. The architecture program is one of the best in the country and it does a great job of educating and creating a good work ethic in the students. Being able to educate more students at K-State and give them the resources to do that is just a nice thought. It’s a good way to give back. There are nearly 900 students in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design and only 90 scholarships to give out. This year there were only four new scholarships created to be given out next year. With 6,500 K-State graduates of the college out there, we hope others will be inspired to create scholarships.

Louis and Janetann hope this scholarship will create a chain reaction of giving, inspiring the recipients and others to give back.
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commitments totaled $2.09 million, eclipsing last year’s total of $733,000.

APDESIGN DONORS EXCEED $2 MILLION IN PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

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Thank you for your generosity.

apdesign donors exceeded $2 million in philanthropic support at kansas state university. the college is pleased to support that alumni, friends, firms, faculty, parents and corporate partners supported the college at a significant level in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2013. outright gifts, private and future support, provided a total of $2,09 million, eclipsing last year’s total of $733,000.

quote from tim said tim de noble, dean of apdesign.

while the amount contributed is impressive, the real fulfillment lies in this impact this philanthropy has and will have on the college in the form of scholarships, student enhancement opportunities, faculty and support fiscal year. apdesign donors created nine new scholarships, three student

employment funds, one professorship and one faculty enhancement fund. furthermore, three new

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therefore, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, and are committed to providing high-quality education and research opportunities for our students.

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therefore, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, and are committed to providing high-quality education and research opportunities for our students.
Surveys by the Design Futures Council tell us that clients of design- ers you are going to work with are quite happy working with architects and designers. Why wouldn’t they? Design is a great pro- fession to win friends, to build quality relationships and inspire people.

Design thinking offers a cognitive shift in how people think about the future. It offers a way for people to start a conversation about self-actualization. Ultimately, it makes the places where we live and work more beau- tiful – places of well-being too. Design thinking offers hope for the future.

Thus, there is a lot of responsibility that goes along with being a designer.

You will have opportunities to improve the condition of those around you. Both tangible and intangible situations leading to new solu- tions can be realized. Yes, you will have it take to boost morale in your families and your workplaces. You will have clients who will trust to do what’s right. They will look up to you for solutions.

And guess what, that will not just be for buildings and products and places but also for processes and attitudes and communities. Like Kansas State graduates you will take leadership and social responsibility for making the world a better place.

Now I want to talk about money.

I know from our surveys that the average debt – the amount you owe – on average is about $38,000. This is debt you have and some have more and some are lucky to have less. Many of you have bor- rowed – or your parents have borrowed – in order to create future employments in Kansas and all around the world. Quite a few of you work will go further with your education; will work in academia or in public service positions. 11% of you are still undecided on your longer term careers. And that’s okay, because you will have some interesting choices to make and puzzles to solve along the way.

Not only do you have a school with significant strengths but you also have strong students. Smart students. There is a whole lot of stu- dent talent here. These students have been nurtured by their families and parents and they have proven that they can be successful in the professions.

Let’s give a shout out for the students and their parents who have sacrificed and invested in this KSU education. ______, Yes, a big cheer.

The credential that you receive today will serve you throughout your careers. And that's okay, because you will have some interesting choices to make and puzzles to solve along the way.

The credential that you receive today will serve you throughout your careers. You will have clients who will trust to do what’s right. They will look up to you for solutions.

Let’s not squander this time.

The choices you make will determine your destiny. And you cannot manifest your destiny by making sloppy choices. You’ll want to focus on getting the most out of the KSU credential.

According to our latest research you will start your career this year earning about $43,000 annually plus benefits. Some will start below that and some will be in the mid-sixties. Most of you will also get a yearly increase of 3% or 4% on that. That is what typical starting salary in design professional practices is today. It’s not as high as you would like perhaps but it’s a start. A good start.

Actually, many of you will make more. Let me explain. The laws of supply and demand are bringing the compensation levels up.

And so salaries are going up somewhat because it is expected that there will be a global labor shortage for talent. On top of your base salary and bonus salary you will get benefits that will include healthcare, retirement supplements and other benefits. 98 percent of employers in your field of employment offer good benefits. And the average increase motivation in going from 2013 to 2014 will be about 3.5% according to the latest DesignIntelligence survey. That is what employers are paying in North America.

Let me share with you the differences in compensation from low to high. And keep setting goals. And keep this in mind: no margin, no mission. And it’s true.

And where should you work? Ask these 3 questions when you interview. These are easy to remember – just three. And keep in mind that some places of employment are excellent but others are approaching their sell by date. In other words, some practices are growing, expanding, evolving, and creating new value, niche by niche. Yes, some designers are getting tired and no longer rele- vant. You don’t want to work in one of these firms. Many of you have been strong in the past but don’t offer opportunity today. No, you want to work for an organization that is exciting, energized, and building for the future. Here are the three questions to ask when you interview:

1. Ask: What is the vision of the firm or organization? And ask yourselves: Do I find this vision motivating? Do I get excited about this vision?
2. Ask: Do I admire the work of the firm or organization? Their designs? Can I see myself adding value to this work?
3. Ask: Do I find these people likeable and professional? Do I feel a kinship? Can I grow professionally in the organization? Can I be proud of the work?

These three questions will help you know that you have found a quality organization. You will matter and you will be mentored.

As I look out into the eyes I see the future. I know that you will have many opportunities ahead of you, even more that you can imagine right now. You will be able to achieve and you can make yourself in- dispensable as a professional.

All of this is possible. This can be your future. You can achieve it by designing and then making your own careers.

And finally, let me close with this: as you graduate from Kansas State University. Take this education and run with it. Keep your energy high and keep setting goals. And keep this in mind: no margin, no mission.
As a faculty member in our Regional and Community Planning (RCP) program, naturally I am profoundly interested in seeking innovative ways to improve regions and communities for all people who reside in them. While my general concerns in planning are as broad as the field itself, my research concentrates on sustainable community infrastructure. My current work on sustainable community infrastructure addresses an array of sub-topics of amenity: schools, parks and open spaces, pedestrian connections, neighborhood design, and housing options. A sub-topical thread in a recent set of publications, since arriving to Kansas State University in 2010, focuses on our public K-12 school facilities, arguably a vital part of any community hoping to remain sustainable.

**The Importance of the School Facility**

Currently, I am leading an LARCP group umbrella topic master's report focused on sustainable community amenities. The three RCP students in this group focus on creating sustainable community amenities in Union, NE, in coordinated efforts to foster local growth and health in this community and region. Through a process of interviews and population and economic trend analysis, we found that a pivotal point in this town’s downward trajectory was the closure of its school.

Figure 1 shows a painting of the Union community schoolhouse in its heyday. This painting hangs in the American Legion Auxiliary Hall on West Main Street, alongside several graduating senior class photos, including its very last one. Figure 2 is a photo of the schoolhouse today. Now children in Union attend schools some 20-30 minutes from their homes. The town’s identity was forever changed by the school closure; the school’s graduates are aging, younger families are more and more scarce in the area, and civic morale has declined. This is but one example of how a school closure might influence the life and death of a town.

**Our Regions, Our Communities, and Our Schools**

Huston John Gibson, PhD, Assistant Professor, LA/RCP

Much debate is ongoing between the smaller neighborhood school versus the larger campus style facility. Questions of efficiency and equity arise throughout this debate. Schools are fundamental centers of communities and show up squarely placed in communal concepts like the Perry neighborhood unit (please see Figure 3). However, today, not just small towns like Union, but metropolitan areas of all sizes across the US, see older, smaller community-focused facilities are closed as larger campuses are erected in the exurban areas.

As a planner, I must ask questions like the following: what future do our communities face when they no longer center on our schools; how can providing education provision and developing community be better coordinated; what should communities do with abandoned facilities?

These and other school closure issues were addressed in a roundtable in which I recently participated as a panel member at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conference: “School Closures: Decision-Making Processes and Community Impacts.” Roundtable 1 in Track 11 (The Planning Process, Administration, Law and Dispute Resolution), at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 53rd Annual Conference (Resurgence of Planning in a New Century), Cincinnati, OH, 1 November 2012.

**School Facilities and Housing Markets**

“Hey! They’ve got a nice new school, let’s move there.” —Gurwitt (2004, pp. 24)

My first school focused manuscript addressed new school facilities and their relationship to housing markets. This work was an extension of my 2009 doctoral dissertation.

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (1995) cites a person’s home as the single largest financial investment most Americans will ever make. Thus, we can rationally assume that...
housing market value is at least reasonably important. This makes research on influences on housing value a topic of relevance, since influence on housing price is commonly thought to be school quality. The relationship between school quality and housing choice is seemingly bi-directional, although the most basic explanation of the relationship is an underlying desire by parents to send their children to “good” schools.

Education is an access to opportunity for children; due to the importance of education, parents will seek out housing in the best school zone they can afford, exclusive of other influences on the decision (Tiebout, 1956; Fischel, 2000; Briggs, 2005). Essentially, when shopping for housing, many consumers will simultaneously shop for schools, deciding whether or not to pay higher home prices to live in better school zones. In addition, households without children in the K-12 public school system also want to capitalize on a perceivably good school zone via solid resale value (Judd and Watts, 1981; Briggs, 2005). One of the best measures of desirability for any commodity is the price that someone is willing to pay. In housing studies, school quality is one of the most important variables in house prices (Haunin and Brasington, 1996).

While several studies across various locations have found significant and positive relationships between a school’s “quality” and housing price, previous studies have limited their evaluations of school quality mostly to student test scores, with some limited supporting evidence from demographic characteristics. This is problematic because such research does not include the full range of a school’s complete set of attributes, including the facility itself. Evidence suggests that a school facility’s age, its physical condition, and available resources affect a student’s education. This may explain a recent recurring phenomenon by increasing expenditures to city school programs, helping to create residential desirability within the city; and cities like Atlanta (GA), Chattanooga (TN), Philadelphia (PA), and Pomona (CA) have also acknowledged the importance of school quality by incorporating schools in their community revitalization plans (Myerson, 2001; Vardy and Raffel, 1995; Weiss, 2004). Pomona recognized the positive reaction created by new public elementary and high schools in distressed areas, stating that new schools were central in helping “jump start” revitalization by increasing desirability of housing in the surrounding neighborhoods. Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Philadelphia reported similar experiences (Myerson, 2001; Weiss, 2004).

In a policy piece advocating the coupling of smart growth principles with school reform, Baum (2004) focused on education, inferring that improving inner city schools could be an effective tool in managing suburban sprawl. In his article, he argued that if inner city schools are renovated when more space is needed instead of building new schools in suburban areas, this may not only help curb sprawl, but help racial desegregation in the public school system. The underlying suggestion is that “new” and “good” are perceived to be synonymous when it comes to school facilities, thereby making renovated facilities attractive (Baum, 2004).

In 2001, the Urban Land Institute (ULI) held a forum on Sustaining Urban Mixed-Income Communities with the emphasis on the role of community facilities. This forum concluded that community facilities, specifically schools, are vital in community revitalization (Myerson, 2001).

Yet, despite evidence suggesting that school facilities are important to a child’s education, that new school facilities are desirable because of their perceived quality, that school quality and housing price, according to ample research, are closely associated, few or no studies have specifically examined the relationship between school facility age and housing price. This was the significance of my study, how facility age affects perceptions of school quality, and thus might influence housing price. The central research question I addressed was whether school facility age related to home selling price. The importance of this study, how facility age affected housing price, due to “newer equals better” attractions. To test my hypothesis, I used a hedonic price model to estimate a consumer’s willingness to pay for a house located within a new school’s attendance boundary, as opposed to a house outside the boundary. The generated model allowed me to control for fixed housing and neighborhood characteristics, and focus on the school relationship. I ran the model for all owner-occupied primary, detached single-family housing transactions recorded as an arms-length transaction in the Orlando,
The hypothesis was not rejected by the outputs of the model, and thereby provided empirical evidence that housing prices are statistically associated with school facility age; with the houses near newer schools commanding higher prices when all other attributes were held equal.

Including facility age allowed us to expand the theoretical and policy discourse of community infrastructure investment (via new schools). If new schools were built in older communities as part of community development initiatives, they might help revitalize urban areas. Consequently, and of equal importance, lack of investment in schools in already disadvantaged areas could cause further economic decline and perpetuate socioeconomic community divisions.

Many cities have already indicated that school investment helped jump-start desirability in their community development initiatives, and the empirical findings in this study suggest that new schools in community revitalization projects could indeed help jump-start and/or sustain revitalization of communities linked with the facility. In addition, the findings suggest that revitalizing historic school facilities may produce similar results; we have also observed a relationship between housing prices and historic schools.

Although the overall direction of causality between housing choice and school quality is still uncertain, and school facilities certainly may not be a silver bullet capable of magically revamping depressed communities, school facilities may be an important component to community revitalization and sustainability via the relationship between school facility age and housing price. The implication is that if communities continue to invest in new schools, or renovate existing schools in older communities, then community development initiatives and urban revitalization efforts in those neighborhoods could be more successful.

On the other hand, and equally important, the lack of school investment in other parts of a region could help cause further economic decline in those areas and perpetuate regional socioeconomic community divisions. In summary, school facility planning must be addressed carefully, recognizing that all benefits and/or consequences could be felt by every household in a community and region.

The full manuscript “The Value of New: Elementary School Facility Age and Associated Housing Price,” can be found in the Journal of Housing Research (2011), Volume 20, Issue 1, pages 67-86. <http://hdl.handle.net/2097/12432>
The implications can be quite widespread. Ideally, including various stakeholders in making decisions will result in outcomes that best represent the desires of the community. This is not a new concept; citizen participation in community planning has been advocated for quite some time and has become a mainstream notion in the community planning field (Arnstein, 1969; Briggs, 2003). Stakeholder participation creates greater buy in; it certainly is more democratic than top-down planning; and including external forces will, moreover, bring new ideas to the table (Briggs, 2003). However, the sentiment itself outstrips any empirical evidence for it.

In the end, for public K-12 educational facilities, newer facilities do not necessarily have more classroom technological resources than older facilities. Technology is driven by stakeholders. In other words, given adequate leadership, it is entirely feasible to find older facilities with the latest and greatest technological resources.


School Facilities and Student Achievements

However, when I investigated the relationship between the age of a public K-12 school facility and student achievement in the sample, school performance did indeed have an inverse association with facility age, with students at newer schools more likely to perform at higher levels than their counterparts at older facilities. We could hypothesize that even though new facilities do not necessarily have more access to modern technology, they still are more likely to have better physical conditions: proper lighting, acoustics, air quality, aesthetics, and so forth. Moreover, building condition enhances an educational atmosphere and student performance (Earthman and LeMasters, 2011; Schneider, 2002; Sheets, 2011).

To test the function of school facility age on student performance, I applied an ordered logistic regression model to the elementary, middle, and high schools in the dataset, to determine the statistical relationship for these variables, while controlling for student and faculty/staff characteristics. The findings from this paper bolster the idea that a school’s physical condition influences education. Some caution in interpreting these results is necessary because higher housing costs were also associated with the newer schools in this sample, so these findings also strengthened the notion that home environment, through resources, culture, or both, are just as important and stratified amongst our communities today as they were almost half a century ago (Briggs, 2005; Coleman, 1966). In the end, the influence of a facility’s physical is likely only part of a combination of many factors.


Fodder for Further Discussion

Collectively, this all indicates that communities and schools are not independent of one another. Strong schools are related to strong communities, and the opposite is also true. Figure 5 displays some of the key conceptual relationships these studies tested.

The research shows a need for policies that encourage increased, uniform facility maintenance programs and investments in our public K-12 school systems, as well as an increased attention to the barriers involved in America’s “geographies of opportunity” for our youth. In this case, children who attend the newer and better performing schools generally live in the more expensive neighborhoods of metropolitan areas.

If our communities are going to become sustainable, our collective infrastructure must be reliable. In addition to schools, I am now working diligently, both individually and collaboratively, on several new studies that look at other aspects of our infrastructure. I look forward to sharing these efforts as they are completed. Two have already been selected for 2013 journal publication and will be available soon.

References:


Faculty

• Associate Professor Vibha Jani had a paper selected for the Interior Design Educators Council Midwest regional meeting (October 19-20 in St. Louis). The paper is titled "Strategic Vision and the Dream: An Author’s Efforts to Develop Educational Materials to Introduce Diversity to Interior Design Students." The paper will be presented at the University of Missouri (October 26-27, 2013).

• Department Head Katherine Ankerkson served as one member of a three-person site visit team to the North Carolina for CIDA accreditation in early November.

• Associate Professor Vibhavari Jani presented the Wounded Warriors project at the Rotary Peace Forum on Saturday, February 16. She additionally was invited and presented the project to the University of Illinois’s architecture students.

• Assistant Professor Kendra Ordia was an invited member of the 2013 IDEC Interior Design Optimism about the Future among Emerging Educators session at the National IDEC Conference.

• Department Head and Professor Katherine Ankerkson attended the National Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) Conference where she led a task force to review IDEC regional conferences to increase diversity and involvement of members.

• Ankerkron was awarded the 2013 IDEC Book Award for Codes for Designers: Residential (published by Fairchild Books, Inc.)

• The IDEC Book Award is given for recognition of the content of an outstanding book that exhibits excellence in addressing issues of the discipline of interior design including practice, research and education. Selection committee comments: "Overall, the content, organization, and presentation of the book merit the award. The book is well-written and is free of scientific errors. The book is very well-organized and is easy to read. The content is current, unique, and practical."

• Lee Skabelund’s recent post (http://thefield. asla.org/2012/11/26/ecosystem-restoration- -and-ecological-design-are-trends-social-environmental-design- -campaign=06.12tmz#email) on the ASLA Recal for Nature Network includes many of his beautiful images of the Flint Hills landscape.

• Assistant Professor Kingery-Page and Landscape Architect Debra Brokesh were instrumental in securing the recent $14,200 award from the Sunflower Foundation for USD 383 for development of trails at Northview School. The grant is matched with a $14,300 from USD 383.

• Assistant Professor Kingery-Page and Landscape Architect Debra Brokesh submitted a proposal to the NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning program in Cincinnati, OH. The proposal was supported by the National Engineering, Horticulture, Art and the Beach Art Museum. Associate Professor Lee Skabelund and the Biology and Mathematics departments are also contributors. Pathways: Sparking Wonder in STEM Learning through Experiences of Landscape and Art will support development of a meadow near the museum complemented by an interactive digital exhibit.

• Assistant Professor Anna Beaminsh received a $4,000 Academic Excellence Award from the President and Provost for support of the Learning in the Outdoors: World of Night Trip to Toronto for Nuit Blanche.

• Assistant Professor Howard Hahn, Instructor Derratha Cross and MLA student Janis Sharratt participated in the 2013 GeoSummit at the ESRH Headquarters in Redlands, California, January 25.

• Blake Belanger has been promoted to associate professor with tenure.

• Lee Skabelund presented “Kansas State University: Seaton Hall Green Roof Research Project -Use of Native Plants on 4-7 Stories” in Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8 it was awarded. Professors Huston Galle, Lee Skabelund, Barbara Wigfall and Wendy Griswold are a part of the interdisciplinary team.

• The most recent K-State proposal to the EPA to provide technical assistance to Brownfields (FAB) in Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8 was awarded. Professors Huston Galle, Lee Skabelund, Barbara Wigfall and Wendy Griswold are a part of the interdisciplinary team.

• The Nicodemus Parks for the People project will receive a $50K grant from the KS Arts Commission. Led by Barbara Wigfall and Josh Cheek, the project was supported by Debra Brokesh, Anne Beamish, Katie Kingery-Page, Huston Gibson and partners from across campus.

• Ph.D. candidate Jeremy Merrill and Assistant Professor Jon Hunt will represent our department in the K-State’s Year of the Brain activities. They will participate in events leading up to the September 19 symposium featuring D. David Sosa, the author of How the Brain Learns.

• Assistant Professor Alpa Nawre has passed all sections of the Landscape Architect Registration Exam. Congratulations!

STUDENTS

• Jonathan Knight, MRCP ’12, received the Kansas APA New Horizon Award for his Master’s Report. The project is a study of Nature Access Opportunities. He worked with Major Professor Katie Kingery-Page with co-advisors. The project members included Amit Shukla and Jie Hong Kim. The New Horizon award is for pushing the boundaries of landscape architecture and innovative ways. The team had a special, traditional celebration in K-State’s Banana Hall when our team was awarded the K-State Student Union during the K-State 150th celebration.

ALUMNI

• Bob Hartnett, BLA ’80, was elected as the Region II Director for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards.

• Phil Meyer, BLA ’85, was re-elected as the Region IV Director for CLARB.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

• Assistant Professor Michael Gibson published the chapter, “Physical and Virtual Environments: Meaning of Place and Space,” in the 13th edition of Willett & Spalding’s Occupational Therapy, edited by Barbara Schell and Mark Winkels, published by Wippincott, Williams & Winkels in Philadelphia.


• Assistant Professor Michael Gibson presented a paper entitled “Construction Critical: Technology, Millwork, and the Biophilic Home”, at the NCARB Panel Conference in Philadelphia, September 27-29.

• Professor Peter Magyar traveled to Shanghai, China, October 15-22 to present his paper titled “Spatial Aspects of the I Ching/The I Ching, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and the Spaceplant Method” at the International Conference in Suzhou: Master Planning the Future of China and India.

• Assistant Professor Michael McGlenny and Blake Belanger, Assistant Professor Architecture, co-presented “Operationalizing...”
Diagramming in Design Education for Design Thinking and Communication at the 2012 Biannual Conference of the Design Communication Association at Oklahoma State University on October 23.

• Professor David Sachs presented a paper titled “Alden Krider and the Houses on Bluemont Hill” at the annual conference of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) in Athens, Georgia. His former student Mark Holton was also selected to present a paper, titled “Peter Bohlin and the Story of Soft Modernism,” which grew out of a presentation given in Sachs’ course. Holton was awarded a $400 student travel grant from SESAH, based on the quality of his paper.

• Sachs also presented a paper titled “Mentoring: Lessons from the Design Studio” at the Annual Mentoring Conference at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

• Professor Susanne Siepl-Coates presented “SLIM DOWNtown: Patterns of Place-Making to Increase Walking and Bicycling” at the 2012 Built Environment and the Outdoors Summit, Manhattan, Kansas, 24-26 October 2012.

• In the November 20, 2012 edition of the international e-newsletter e-architecture, Professor Peter Magyar was again the guest editor and wrote the editorial article titled “Scales.”

• Magyar’s peer-reviewed paper, “Roots of Infinity” has been accepted for presentation and workshop at the 7th International Conference on the Arts in Society, to be taken place in June 2013, in the Eotvos Lorant University in Budapest, Hungary. It will take place on June 24-26, 2013.

• The research and editorial department of the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge, England, named Magyar one of the “Top 100 Professionals – 2013.”

• Professor David Seamon has published a chapter in Resisting the Place of Belonging: Uncanny Homecomings in Religion, Narrative and the Arts, edited by religious-studies scholar Daniel Boscakjon and published by Ashgate.

• Professor Peter Magyar has published his book Urban Innuendoes. Professor Magyar also has an exhibition running at the Manhattan Art Center titled “Episodes by Water.”

• Magyar’s “Roots of Infinity Workshop” proposal has been evaluated and accepted for the 7th International Conference on the Arts in Society, to be taken place in June 2013, in the Eszvos Lorant University in Budapest.


STUDENTS

• The annual Bowman Design Forum was held on Wednesday, November 7. Special Merit awards went to: Wendy Lai, Nathan Niewald and Andy McAllister. Honorable Mention awards went to: Dain Susman and Kyle Cooper.

• Assistant Professor Nathan Howe and students Ethan Phoades and Matthew Whetstone are now drawing the construction documentation for the fabrication of the winning design after winning the design Competition for Seger Park spray park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dean’s Office

• DesignIntelligence magazine ranked five of our programs in the top 15 in the America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools 2013 issue.
Upcoming Events

For more information, go to apdesign.k-state.edu/events

09.5-7  DAC Meeting
09.06  Scholarship Reception
09.07  Family Day
09.11  Bryant Lecture: Perry Kulper
10.02  ARCH Distinguished Lecture: Thomas Phifer
10.04  Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament
10.14  LA|RCP Distinguished Lecture: Charles Marohn
11.06  Ekdahl Lecture: Ken Greenberg
11.07  Alumni Honorees Visit