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Cal Poly Students Win Mock Architecture Team Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO – An “organic and architecturally stunning design” was how the jury at the Mock Architecture Firm Competition described the work of Cal Poly students O-Chong Kwon, John Bellisario and Buck McBroom. The architecture students won first place overall in the collegiate category as well as “Top Model” for their design of an educational and research tower in Dubai.

The theme of the national competition, hosted by the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago, was “No Fear of Heights!” According to IIT guidelines, the team had to design, construct and commercially market a mixed-use high-rise or skyscraper on an actual existing plot of real estate in a city of their choosing. The scope of the project was to be visionary in design but practical and feasible in construction.

The Cal Poly team was selected as one of eleven finalists invited to present in Chicago, which involved drawings, models, illustrations, video and oral presentations. A total of 22 secondary and post-secondary institutions entered the two-division competition from the East Coast to the West Coast. The jury was composed of leading national architects gathered in Chicago.

The Cal Poly project originated in faculty member Stephen Phillips’ fourth year studio. “Chong designed a terrific skyscraper for the class. We saw the potential to enter his project in a National competition and created a team with two of his classmates who had also done terrific work,” Phillips said. He advised the students on their Mock Architecture Firm Entry.

For more information, go to <http://www.chicagoarchitecturetoday.com/contests.htm>.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.ctbuh.org/Research/DesignResearch/OtherInstitutions/MockFirms/tabid/947/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>.

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