Cal Poly Architecture Students Win Awards At National Design Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Two teams of Cal Poly architecture students, under the direction of professors Jonathan Reich and assisted by Sandra Stannard, won awards for designs entered in the interdisciplinary 2004 National Low-Impact Development Student Design Competition.

Cal Poly's winning entries proposed designs for student housing as infill development in the central campus core, with 30-40 small housing units to be constructed on top of the Architecture Building.

The designs proposed changes to the landscaping around the building, rainwater harvesting, storage cisterns and alternative irrigation plans for existing lawns.

A team of fourth-year students, Trixie Castillo and Cheryl Lipang, won the third-place design award, and a team of fourth-year student John Ambert and second-year student Nick Leone earned sixth-place honors. The winning entries garnered a total of $11,400 in cash prizes for the students and the Architecture Department.

Cal Poly's was the only program in the competition to win multiple awards. The majority of the competition entries came from landscape architecture and civil engineering programs across the nation.

The subject was water and runoff, and students were asked to submit integrated site designs to address impacts to the environment normally associated with conventional land development on college campuses. The designs emphasized techniques for minimizing grading, preserving landscaping and topography, slowing water runoff, increasing opportunities to mimic pre-existing hydrology and rain water harvesting.

The competition was sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Landscape Architecture Department of the University of Maryland and Prince George County, Md. The winning entries were exhibited at the National Low-Impact Development Conference in Washington, D.C. and will be published in a catalog and CD ROM.

For more details about the competition, contact Reich at (805) 801-8848. Copies of the students' drawings are available for publication.

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