'Visions for Downtown Paso Robles' To Be Featured At Paso Robles Farmers’ Market June 5

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly third-year architecture students will present “Visions for Downtown Paso Robles: Part Two,” an exhibit of drawings and models, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 5, at the Paso Robles Farmers’ Market at the Park on 11th and 12th streets.

The students have identified buildings and sites in the downtown area that they believe would be good candidates for mixed-use development, with lofts and apartments on upper floors for both living and working. The exhibit incorporates ideas presented at the two earlier Community Vision Workshops.

Students designed a hotel-conference center, a new city hall, an artists’ “live-work” housing project, two new spas, and two new parking garages. They also explored the possibility of using water and the existing Sulfur Springs for geothermal power.

The projects were developed as part of the Cal Poly Downtown Studio, located at San Luis Obispo's Pacific Coast Center. The studio combines academic instruction with actual community projects in an approach called community-based service learning.

“One goal of the studio is to provide creative prototypes for addressing the housing problem and maintaining the downtown ‘soul’ of small towns,” said Architecture Professor Alice Mueller. The studio’s off-campus, downtown location is intended to spark community participation. The studio also aims to funnel information and creative ideas on housing to government officials, practicing professionals and community members.

“We challenge students to apply imagination, innovation, sustainable principles and cutting-edge technology in their housing designs,” said Mueller. “The project also seeks to document not only the best examples of housing design, but ways to adapt old uses to new, to re-use and preserve old buildings, and to mix different uses in one location.”

The Downtown Studio has received two grants from the Cal Poly Community
Development Initiative, a joint project of the Orfalea College of Business and the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Bank of America provided the funds for the two grants.

Student finalists in the 2002 Stephen O. Anderson Scholarship Competition also will present their ideas for a San Simeon Earthquake Memorial.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: Members of the media are invited to preview the exhibit at the Cal Poly Downtown Studio from 2-4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, May 31-June 2. Call 544-1570 for more information.)