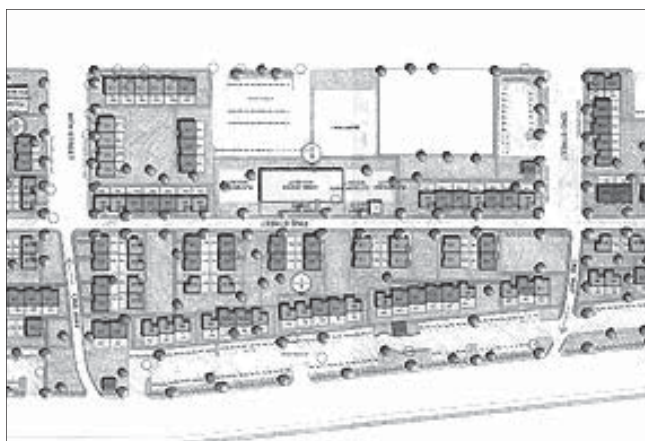


## The College of Architecture and Environmental Design Awards and Special Projects

### Cal Poly's Housing Team Upsets Berkeley and Stanford

An interdisciplinary team of Cal Poly graduate and undergraduate students from City and Regional Planning, Architecture, Business, and Construction Management won the 2005 Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge. This is the second time a Cal Poly team – traditionally coached by a CRP faculty – takes home the trophy upsetting teams from the Bay Area. The team chose to propose the revitalization of the Oak Park, a facility which was originally built as temporary military housing during World War II. Now belonging to the Paso Robles Housing Authority, the structures house hundreds of families who earn only a fraction of the Area Median Income, but were suffering from many deferred maintenance problems.

Assisted by a panel of university experts who brought advice in finance, design, construction, and planning, the Cal Poly finetuned their project, which rehabilitates the structures and revitalizes the community so that Oak Park continues to attract lower income families. Besides accommodating the 150 families who already live in the site through a phased building plan, the project increases the total number of units by 50%. In addition to the quality of the design and its technical aspects, a key to Cal Poly's victory was the creative financing and legal structure proposed.



*Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge Winning Entry: Oak Park Community in Paso Robles*

### Student Team from City and Regional Planning is Finalist in the Cool Cities National Urban Design Competition

A team composed by graduate students Craig Minus and Robert Betts, and senior Noah Christman, all from the CRP Department, was a finalist in the Cool Cities urban design competition in Jackson, MI. Responding not only to the existing community needs but also the needs of the future population, the team's proposal weaves the old with the new and creates a thriving new mixed use area. It maintains existing historic and civic elements which are complemented by a culinary arts center and digital arts studio, a shopping center, town homes, apartments, and other attractions, interconnected by a system of small parks. The team considered the feasibility aspects associated with a practical design which the city Jackson could successfully use to help guide, incorporate future development, and revitalize its downtown.

### Cal Poly Shines with Third Place Finish in International Solar Decathlon

Cal Poly's solar house and student team, Solar CalPoly, won third place at the international Solar Decathlon competition in Washington, D.C., in October 2005. Cal Poly held on to second place throughout most of the weeklong competition, and earned first place in many of the individual daily decathlon competitions that gave teams points toward an overall total. Judges commented that Cal Poly's entry was excellently crafted and offered elegant design and living solutions. "The best part has been watching the students from all the teams rise to this significant challenge," said Cal Poly Architecture Professor Robert Peña, one of the team's advisors.



*Cal Poly Solar Decathlon Entry. Photo courtesy of Solar CalPoly*

Over the last two years, more than 100 Cal Poly students from numerous departments, along with architecture and engineering faculty, designed and built the 650-square-foot Solar CalPoly structure. The design was based on some very specific challenges, including the longest overland travel route. Cal Poly's house traveled across the country by truck to the National Mall.

### **Architectural Engineering Department Student Creates Safe Haven for Kenyan Orphans**

David Lambert, a fifth-year architectural engineering student, is attempting to create an ideal adobe brick to be used in Kenya. The bricks are for villages that will be home to 600-800 orphans whose parents have died because of the AIDS virus. Bricks are being tested with blows from a nine-pound sledgehammer, as that is the ideal tool used by intruders in Kenya, who literally knock down the wall to a building and make-off with supplies for the needy.



*Architectural engineering senior David Lambert.*

The bricks are being made out of materials that cost almost nothing. Dirt and bamboo are easily accessible by the villagers and can make strong and durable structures. More conventional building materials, like steel and concrete, are too expensive and not readily available in Africa. Lambert hopes to go to Africa to teach the villagers how to make the bricks this summer. This project may be on display at Open House in April.

### **Cal Poly Architecture Program Again Ranks High in National Survey**

A national poll of practicing architects ranked Cal Poly's architecture program as one of the best in the United States at producing "graduates most prepared for real-world practice."

The 2006 survey, conducted for the architecture and engineering journal DesignIntelligence, rated Cal Poly's

program No. 3 in the nation tied with Rice University in Texas among Bachelor of Architecture degree programs.

In other categories, the magazine polled within regions. Firms in the West chose Cal Poly's architecture program as tops in the nation. When western firms were asked to list the "most innovative architecture programs that are growing, changing, transitioning," Cal Poly's undergraduate program was judged second in the West, ahead of several universities offering master's programs. And when firms in every region considered all bachelor's and master's programs, the architecture program was ranked second nationally in the assessment of how construction methods and skills are taught.

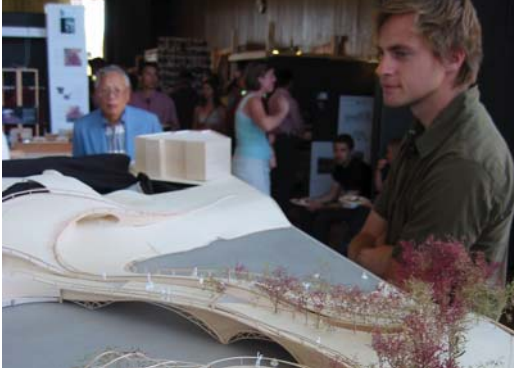
### **Students from the Construction Management Department Win National Homebuilders Competition**

Cal Poly's construction management team topped 34 other universities to earn first place at the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) Student Competition last January in Orlando, FL. The "Polytex" team spent more than 300 hours developing the winning plan for a 10-acre, 28 buildings, 175 units, condominium project in Addison, TX. Team members included Aaryn Abbott (Medford, OR), Aaron Amuchastegui (Klamath Falls, OR), Jeremy Johnson (Pauma Valley, CA), Dan Loper (Chico, CA), John Parnell (Whittier, CA), and Clayton Thompson (Portola Valley, CA). The first-place award included \$2,000, a plaque for the department, and a traveling Legacy trophy that will be displayed at Cal Poly until next year's event.

### **Landscape Architecture Department – National Ranking and Design Competition**

Cal Poly's Landscape Architecture program moved up two spots over last year to be rated sixth in the nation in a survey on undergraduate education. In the regional survey of western firms, Cal Poly was rated as the best undergraduate landscape architecture program in the nation.

Two recent graduates from the program are among the 2005 winners of the sixth annual Wayne Grace Memorial Student Design national competition. Joshua Circle-Woodburn (of Kula, Hawaii) and Kathryn Hergenrath (of San Luis Obispo) were both awarded \$1,000 from the Landscape Architectural Registration Boards Foundation. They were among only four students honored for the landscape design plans which served as their entries. Circle-Woodburn and Hergenrath graduated from Cal Poly in June, but submitted their entries before the competition deadline in May. The landscape foundation announced the awards in late September.



*Visitor exploring project at 5th Year Architecture Show, Memorial Weekend. Courtesy of CAED Archives.*



*Cal Poly's construction management team.*

The judges found the students' winning entries covered a "wide-range of issues impacting public health, safety and welfare, many of which are not clearly seen or easily understood by the public and legislators."

Circle-Woodburn's project was titled: "Lokahi, A Culturally Centered Sustainable Resort." His entry united ancient Hawaiian cultural design elements with modern techniques for environmental preservation and protection. His plans called for construction using green building and sustainable design principles.

Hergenrather's project, "A Sustainable Redesign of the Cal Poly Equine Center," provided for a complete restructuring of the existing equine facility at the university in order to build a new, more efficient, environmentally responsible and enjoyable facility using sustainable design principles.