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# News

University News & Information



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Contact: Rachel Garrett  
805-756-5138; [rgarrett@calpoly.edu](mailto:rgarrett@calpoly.edu)

## **Cal Poly Architecture Students' Documentary Premiered at Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles**

SAN LUIS OBISPO – A documentary produced by three Cal Poly undergraduate architecture students premiered July 15 as one of more than 100 films shown at the fifth annual Downtown Film Festival Los Angeles.

"CAPACITY," a short film and research study by students Haley Coughlin, Derek McFarland and Katherine Quach, examines the inter-relationships of downtown Los Angeles infrastructure, natural resource consumption, and urban planning. The research and film seek to answer the question: What limits future urban development?

The study highlights the limitations of population growth in downtown Los Angeles.

By analyzing and visualizing the constraints to the city's future growth, the documentary pinpoints the limitations of the city's infrastructure and how the limits of each system, such as water and energy, might physically impact the city's growth.

The students' project was conceived and created while participating in the SLO\_Gen architecture studio at Gensler's Los Angeles office. The SLO\_Gen architecture studio is a collaboration between Cal Poly and Gensler, a leading architecture and design firm. The "CAPACITY" research study was led by Gensler designers Li Wen, Shawn Gehle, Marc Cucco and Kristen George.

"The SLO\_Gen studio is part of our commitment to nurture the next generation of architects and designers who will shape our cities," said Wen, design director at Gensler Los Angeles. "As downtown Los Angeles turns the page on its next chapter, we felt it was timely to understand the relationship between current resource consumption rates and the impact on future growth."

"CAPACITY" is intended to provide planners, architects, real estate developers, politicians and environmentalists with information that could lead to improved urban development and more efficient use of area resources.

"CAPACITY" can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/61751408>.

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### **About Gensler:**

Gensler is a leading design firm with 43 offices and 3,500 employees worldwide. Founded in 1965, it has expertise in design and architecture across 20 practices, including commercial office buildings, workplace, health and wellness, hospitality, retail, aviation, planning and urban design, entertainment, science and technology, sports and education facilities. Recent projects of note include the Shanghai Tower, JetBlue T5 at JFK International Airport in New York, Houston Ballet Center for Dance and Facebook's global headquarters in Palo Alto. For more information on Gensler,

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Phone: 805-756-1111