PRESS RELEASE 25 January 2013

small studio wins Honor Award for Design at the Sustainable Student Farm

The *small studio*, an ongoing series of teaching and research projects that focus on detail and tectonics at the School of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, received the 2012 Honor Award for Sustainable Design from the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Studio Critic Professor Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA received the award on behalf of his spring 2012 graduate architecture design studio and summer 2012 research team for their projects with the Sustainable Student Farm on the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Thus far the small studio team has completed: 1) graphics and master plan concepts for the farm, 2) a pair of Portable Deployable Farm Stands to transport and display produce, and, 3) the first phase of the *Wash/Pack Pavilion*, a multi-use structure for preparing produce for market, and as a location for the *Fresh Press* crop waste papermaking startup.

AIA Central Illinois
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

2012 AIA Central Illinois Design Awards Submittal - Sustainable Design

GENTLE STEPS ON GOOD LAND
The small studio Builds Sustainability and Community

Project Name: Wash/Pack Pavilion

Project Location: Sustainable Student Farm, University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Substantial Completion, Phase One: August 2012

Design Team: small studio (Arch 571), UIUC, Spring 2012
Team Leader: Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA
Graduate Students: Rebecca Bierbower
Jordan Buckner
Meagan Calnon
Daniel Jeuk
Zachary Helmick
Charles Huss
Michael Johnson
Shafer Kirby
Ethan Rattray
Fadi Salem
Elyse Townley

Structural Consultant: Marci Uhlein, PE

Design/Build Team: small studio, UIUC, Summer 2012
Team Leader: Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA
Research Assistants: Jordan Buckner
William Burdett
Meagan Calnon
Daniel Jeuk
Ethan Rattray
Fadi Salem

Client: Sustainable Student Farm, University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

Sponsors: Sustainable Student Farm, UIUC
Fresh Press, UIUC
Office of the Chancellor, UIUC
Student Sustainability Committee, UIUC
Tire Barn, Inc.
Amerilux International, LLC

Photography, Drawings: small studio, UIUC

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Project Description:

Introduction
This project began in a spring 2012 graduate architectural design studio at the University of Illinois. The focus was to create needed equipment and infrastructure for the campus' Sustainable Student Farm (SSF). This student-operated farm, initiated in 2009 to promote alternative growing practices and agriculture research, produces significant quantities of fruits and vegetables for purchase on campus and for use in the university's food service operations. The goal of the farm is to be prototypically "off the grid," and every project undertaken on the farm must contribute to that goal. In consultation with the SSF manager, we decided to approach the farm's needs through three projects.
One: develop designs for deployable farms stands.
Two: begin to implement designs for structures needed on the farm with an ultimate goal of realizing some of our visions.

We began this endeavor with little money to support our ambitions, but we did have potential funding sources, and hoped that if everything came into alignment the resources would follow.

Project One: Motivated Portables
The architecture studio began with a four-week project to design Portable Deployable Farm Stands (PDFSs). As individual concepts emerged, trends became apparent, and some projects were consolidated into teams of two to five students. We then sought construction funds for two designs (one powered by a bicycle and one loaded into the farm's minivan) from the Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), a student resource for sustainable campus projects.

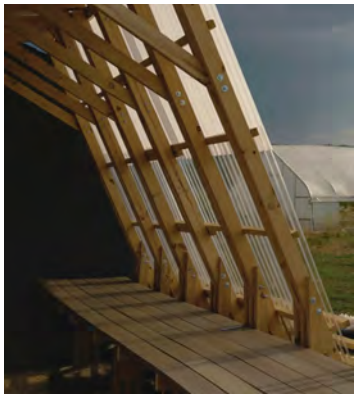
Funding from the SSC was approved in March 2012, and we proceeded to develop the prototypes in parallel to Project Two, for completion in two months. These prototypes deliver and display their produce in local marketplaces, become demonstrations of design solutions that serve the environmental needs of the local community, reduce transport carbon emissions, and act as movable "billboards" for local market goods.

Project Two: The Wash/Pack Pavilion
The second project focused on the design and development of a "Wash/Pack Pavilion," a protected location where crops could be sorted, triple washed, and packed for transport to market. In addition, the Fresh Press, an agri-fiber paper laboratory, required a protected space for the production of recycled papers and packaging from leftover crop waste. Finally, the classroom portion would educate college, high school, and elementary school children on small farm food production. Combining these functions with an existing storage shed allowed the program spaces to overlap, the use adapting to daily, weekly and seasonal changes. The scope of the project precluded that the semester would end before much of the Wash/Pack Pavilion could be constructed. The images and ideas generated by the studio were packaged and sent to potential funding sources. The Chancellor responded and awarded the project funds to employ five of the studio participants during the summer (2012).

Impact and Future Development
This design-build studio dealt with actual unmet needs and linked methodology to opportunities to positively impact people's lives. Students have demonstrated that they were totally engaged and challenged by a methodology that required them to think and adapt to solve evolving problems. Students understood that constructing things with their hands not only develops useful skills, but also brings them into contact with the essential aspect of their innate intelligence. It provides an opportunity to create architecture at a sensual scale, with direct physical connection to the scale of the human body.

In this project that intimate scale is best represented through the rainwater collection system conceptualized last spring and begun this summer. The system "tunes" the collection of rainwater like a musical instrument, which reveals and symbolizes the important connection between rain and food crops, between sky and land, that is always evident but rarely celebrated in this rural landscape.

The build-out of the farm will continue. At present, there are plans to expand the Wash/Pack Pavilion to the north to complete the classroom portion, and to the south to create a headquarters for the Fresh Press. Final build-out of the pavilion includes embedded solar panels and wind turbines, with the goal of creating a totally off-the-grid facility.



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Project Credits

small studio (Architecture 571) Spring 2012
Critic: Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA, Professor, School of Architecture
Students: Becca Bierbower, Jordan Buckner, Meagan Calnon, Robert Deering, Zac Helmick, Chuck Huss, Danny Jeuk, Michael Johnson, Kwansoo Kim, Shafer Kirby, Brad Mitzelfelt, Ethan Rattray, Fadi Salem, Elyse Townley, Madina Sharipova, Xiaozhon Zou

small studio (Funded Research) Summer 2012
Advisor: Professor Jeffery S. Poss, FAIA
Research Assistants: Daniel Jeuk, Jordan Buckner, Meagan Calnon, Ethan Rattray, Bill Bodel, Fadi Salem

Advisors:
Eric Benson, Associate Professor, School of Art and Design; Co-Director, Fresh Press
Zachary Grant, Manager, Sustainable Student Farm
Marci Uhlein, PE, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture

University Sponsors:
Office of the Chancellor
Sustainable Student Farm
Student Sustainable Committee
Fresh Press
School of Architecture
School of Art & Design

Corporate Sponsors:
AmeriLux International, LLC
Tire Barn, Inc

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