

Six accredited programs of architecture, led by the University at Buffalo/The State University of New York (SUNY), were honored by the 2005 NCARB Prize jury in early March at the ACSA Annual Conference. Each provided a sustained design studio model—one that is ever evolving as it embraces both academic and professional goals.

University at Buffalo/SUNY Wins \$25,000 Grand Prize

A jury comprising NCARB member board members and academic deans and chairs from across the U.S. has selected the **University at Buffalo/The State University of New York (SUNY)** as the grand prize winner of the 2005 NCARB Prize. With this honor, the University at Buffalo's Department of Architecture will receive \$25,000 and will be officially recognized in late June during the Council's 2005 Annual Meeting and Conference in Miami Beach, Florida.

Former NCARB President C. Robert Campbell, FAIA, (2003) and jury chair Barbara Sestak, AIA, announced this year's Prize winners at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Annual Conference in Chicago in March.

In the University at Buffalo/SUNY entry, "West Side Streetscape/Small Built Works Project," more than 120 undergraduate and graduate students have created thesis-like conceptual projects within the framework of civic improvement. Initiated in spring 2001

as a senior undergraduate option studio, Small Built Works has focused on four umbrella projects—the Community Transformation Project (2001-2004), the Bus Shelter Project (2002-2005), the Gateway Project (2003-2005), and the Totem Project (2004-2005)—that emphasize green design, renewable energy strategies, and tectonic design strategies. Students also have worked directly with the community and have provided construction documents (including shop drawings, bill-of-materials lists, and project budgets) to City Hall as part of the permitting process.

Clinical Assistant Professor and architect Brad Wales, AIA, explains, "Small Built Works is a pedagogical experiment that uses the city as its laboratory. While working on site, students hear the questions and comments of neighborhood passersby. The social connection between student designs and the life of the city is made explicit as they see their work 'performed' within the cultural milieu of the city."

The 2005 NCARB Prize jury noted, "This was a design-build studio series where small projects—unique tangible outcomes—were realized and contributed to the environment of the community. [We] saw an effort to push the limits of design and materials, and the structures were very useful. Students worked with architects, engineers, artisans, contractors, and city officials from design through the permitting process and construction. [We] also appreciated the beautiful presentation submitted." Jurors also appreciated the program's longevity: Small Built Works Project is part of a decade-long effort to re-establish university-community collaboration.

The 2005 NCARB Prize jury chose five additional programs as winners of the NCARB Prize for the Creative Integration of Practice and Education in the Academy. Entries from Miami University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Florida, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) will each receive a \$7,500 award.



2005 NCARB Prize Jurors

Practice Education Task Force members are as follows:

- C. Robert Campbell, FAIA, chair (New Mexico)
- Karen L. W. Harris, AIA (Colorado)
- Barbara Sestak, AIA (Oregon)
- John C. Wyle, AIA (Georgia)
- Robert A. Boynton, FAIA BOD liaison (Virginia)
- Michiel M. Bourdrez, AIA NCARB staff liaison

The academy is represented by

- Jeff J. Stein, Director School of Architecture Boston Architectural Center
- Brian Carter, RIBA, Dean School of Architecture University at Buffalo/SUNY
- Stephen Schreiber, FAIA, Dean School of Architecture University of South Florida
- David Chasco, AIA, Director School of Architecture University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- J. Randall Seitsinger, AIA, Dean School of Architecture Oklahoma State University
- Bob Mugerauer, Ph.D., Dean College of Architecture and Urban Planning

MIAMI UNIVERSITY—

“THE ALUMNI TRAVELING STUDIO”

Organized by alumni practitioners and faculty members, the traveling alumni studio model fully exposes students to the intricacies of practice. Reflecting alumni topics of expertise, the studio emphasizes such practical concerns as compliance with building codes, construction costs, and integration with other design disciplines.

In their comments, NCARB Prize jurors explained, “[We were] impressed with a variety of aspects: the distance-learning aspect; the diverse location of projects; and the specific guidelines as to the selection of students, faculty, firm, and location, and their clearly detailed responsibilities. This project has strong mentoring and real impact by the professional. The jury believes that this is a wonderful concept that could be transferable to other schools that could adapt the model to their own circumstances.”

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS—

“THE BIG BOX STUDIO IN THE COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER”

The Big Box Studio develops community-based design solutions that are ecologically, socially, and economically responsive to big box retail, which has created its own form of urbanism. Originally commissioned by large discount retailers, the Big Box Studio works with leading industry designers and consultants to create best design practices and models addressing community development.

“Contrary to other studios,” the NCARB Prize jury observed, “this one deals with a client [Wal-Mart] that has a huge effect on communities across the U.S. Work was done at the invitation of Wal-Mart that had students working with some interesting design issues. [We] felt the entry is a complex, ambitious investigation where students stepped outside of their comfort zone—this is where learning takes place.”

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA—

“BRIDGING: THE LINKS BETWEEN PRACTICE AND EDUCATION IN THE ACADEMY”

This submission is based on a collaborative, comprehensive project that embraces a new understanding of “interdisciplinary bridges.” Students from a graduate architecture seminar in environmental technology and senior and graduate students in interior design work together to provide a design program for the renovation of a university building.

NCARB Prize jurors liked that architects affiliated with the firm chosen to complete the renovation project were named adjunct professors. The jurors further noted, “This is a precedent-setting project for future building opportunities within universities. The jury especially liked that the students served as ‘adjunct professionals’ in the way the class operated.”

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO—

**“ORGANIC FARM MARKET:
A COLLABORATIVE STUDIO”**

This accelerated design-build studio allows students to design, detail, create permit documents under the direct supervision of local architects, and then construct an organic farm market for the client, an internationally known conservation community. Through this capstone graduate project, students focus on the principles of sustainable design and build full-scale mock-ups for client approval.

The NCARB Prize jury especially admired the collaborative aspects of the UIC entry: “It was

intriguing that this project, from schematic design through construction, involved a great deal of community involvement whose focus was on sustainability. The construction detailing was very well done, and the project was well presented.”

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY—“CHICAGO STUDIO”**

This entry provides an alternate model for a traditional upper-level design studio. The studio is built around a series of integrated, collaborative courses that introduce daily professional practice activities in an urban setting. Student teams create a collective

master plan for one of three sites along the Chicago River; each student then designs a building for that master plan.

The “Chicago Studio” especially is noteworthy for its intricately planned curriculum. VA Tech students leave behind their rural environment and plunge into Chicago’s urban landscape. This shift is necessary to the project and provides an immediate means of learning for those involved. As NCARB Prize jurors related, “[We] liked this project as it provided an opportunity for students to work on actual projects outside of their community.”

**Entries for the 2005 NCARB Prize for the Creative Integration
of Practice and Education in the Academy**

- Ball State University “Experiential Learning Through the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan 2020”
- Clemson University “Hybrid Furniture”
- Iowa State University “The Montreal Studio”
- Judson University “Strategic Grafting in Cabrini Green”
- Lawrence Technological University “Satellite Community Outreach Studio and Design as Deliberative Practices:
The Institute for African American Farmers Project”
- Miami University “The Alumni Traveling Studio”
- New Jersey Institute of Technology “A Research and Redevelopment Initiative”
- North Carolina State University “Making Connections | Building Knowledge: An Assessment of Construction Management
at Risk”
- North Dakota State University “Earth System Science & Policy”
- Pennsylvania State University “Fourth-year Service-learning Urban Studio-Ocean City Mixed Use”
- Temple University “Urban Design Workshop: Process Based Community Design”
- Tulane University “Concerns of the Profession”
- University at Buffalo/SUNY “The Queen City Hub: A Regional Action Plan for Downtown Buffalo”
- University at Buffalo/SUNY “West Side Streetscape/Small Built Works Project”
- University of Arkansas “The Big Box Studio in the Community Design Center”
- University of Arkansas “Promoting Creative Development in Our State: Recombinant Design Solutions,
School of Architecture Community Design Center”
- University of California, Berkeley “Practicing Architecture”

The NCARB Prize jury also recognized entries from **North Carolina State University** (“Making Connections | Building Knowledge: An Assessment of Construction Management at Risk”) and from the **University of Utah** (“designbuildBLUFF”) as 2005 honorable mentions. Jurors said that the NC State entry provided “very good initial research and comparative analysis of different delivery systems.” The Utah entry was recognized for its environmentally sensitive team-built projects as well as its beautifully presented boards.

As envisioned by Peter Steffian, FAIA, who served as Council president in 2001, the

NCARB Prize recognizes excellence and innovation when bringing together architectural education and practice. Architecture schools with NAAB-accredited degree programs are invited to submit established projects that demonstrate creative initiatives that integrate the academy and the profession within a studio curriculum.

Thirty-three entries, representing 26 different colleges and universities, were juried for the 2005 NCARB Prize. Speaking on behalf of the NCARB Prize jury, former Council president Campbell noted, “The fourth year of the NCARB Prize has brought together yet another

outstanding group of diverse, thought-provoking projects. Once again, we are very pleased with the high quality of the winning programs. The University at Buffalo’s remarkable entry maintains the high standards of our previous grand prize-winning submissions from Oklahoma State University, the University of Kansas, and the University of Detroit Mercy.”

The NCARB Prize was first initiated in the fall of 2001. The Prize is inspired by the 1996 Carnegie Foundation report, *Building Community: A New Future for Architectural Education and Practice*, written by Lee D. Mitgang and the late Ernest L. Boyer. **DC**

2005 NCARB Prize Entries (cont'd)

- University of Florida “Bridging: The Links Between Practice and Education in the Academy”
- University of Florida “Vernacular Metropolis I: Hong Kong-China Program”
- University of Illinois at Chicago “Organic Farm Market: A Collaborative Studio”
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign “The Healthcare Design Studio: A National Prototype for Integrating Architectural Education and Practice”
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign “Reweaving the Fabrics of the South End: Community Outreach Studio’s Work With a Faith-based Development Corporation in East St. Louis, Illinois”
- University of Kentucky “The Avatar”
- University of Kentucky “From Installation to Inhabitation: Creating Links Between Industry and Professional Practice Through Fabrication”
- University of Kentucky “studio as atelier”
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette “Fundamentals in Action: Urban Theory in Practice”
- University of Michigan “7 Detroit Charrettes 1999-2005”
- University of Michigan “Media Design Workshop: (Im)Material Productions”
- University of Nebraska “Students in the Middle, Guides on the Side”
- University of Pennsylvania “Tents and Temporary Structures”
- University of Utah “designbuildBLUFF”
- University of Washington “The Noji Commons Project: A Neighborhood Design-Build Studio”
- Virginia Tech “Chicago Studio”