

Student Architects Show Off Work in Gallery

Even the first detail of a child's house has an architect's size. Although this model is showcased, student behind the project is the real star.

From Feb. 14 to 25, the Art Gallery opened its doors for its first-ever sculpture exhibition, featuring projects produced from spring to fall 2010.

Featured were six residential projects (a study of design and structure influenced by newly built homes), seven residential design projects (picture for a family setting while adhering to the restriction and environment), one urban commercial project (using space design surrounded by shops, restaurants and offices of student private projects (a constructed model, original and creative design).

All of the projects were both 2D and 3D format. Production involved manual TOCAD 2D and 3D (two-dimensional drawings, general floor plans and elevation view), Basic and Advanced (as to the previous, Rapid-prototyping (using an enhancer which prints a 3D solid model) and basic modeling).

There was also a slide show, created by student Armen Sarkisian, documenting the architectural classes, ASEA program (American Students and Architects) and the student projects that were in the gallery.

Student Gordon Au displays his own models in the gallery, the "Temple City Mall," "House" and lastly, "Surfer's House."

Au's vision for "Temple City" is influenced by his comprehension of the circulation within.

"Whenever I drove by, what needed in the community," said Au.

"Surfer's House" was Au's project, in which he was able to show his true colors and with determination, he spent most of his time improving its columns and base.

"Every change I make is something else and that leads to another change," said Au.

Student Ronald Hernandez "House for a Painter." Catering to the interests and desire of a painter, Hernandez's model incorporated workspaces and meeting rooms, with ceilings reaching as high



Story by Kate Krantz



Photos by Mario Camino

THEIR STARS ARE SHINING BRIGHTLY: Shahe Gregorian, above, Ronald Hernandez, upper right, and Armen Sarkisian proudly display their projects during the architecture show in the Art Gallery.

[See Architecture, page 14]

Farr Honored by College Theater Festival

By Adriana Orellana
EL VAQUERO STAFF WRITER

Glendale Community College Theater Arts instructor Jeanette Farr was awarded the 2010 Excellence in Theater Education Award by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) Region VIII on Feb. 9 at the Los Angeles Theater Center.

"It was an honor and a proud moment to receive this award," said Farr. "It was great to see some of my mentors present to watch me receive the award, and I hope to be there in the future, watching my students who I have mentored receive awards."

Farr was given the award at a dinner during the 43rd annual festival.

Farr holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theater Arts with an emphasis on playwriting, and she is a member of the Dramatists' Guild. She is an assistant professor of theater arts at GCC and teaches playwriting. She has served as a reader for playwriting awards and has responded to over 200 new plays through the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. Farr was a past Chair of the National Playwriting Program for Region VIII, appointed as

Regional Fellow for Region VIII, and served on the National Selection Team for 2010. She was recently appointed National Vice Chair of Playwriting for Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Region VIII comprises Central and Southern California, Arizona, Hawaii, Southern Nevada, and Utah. The festival is a good opportunity for students and faculty from various colleges and universities to see each other's work and participate in several activities. Students and staff can attend workshops and seminars, which include topics such as playwriting, movement, scenery construction, scene painting, and voice.

The GCC Theater Arts Department was also invited to the College Theater Festival to recreate a scene from "Little Shop of Horrors," its from spring of 2010, from which they selected the song "Suddenly Seymour," for the festival's "The Evening of Invitational Scenes" selection.

The production was directed by Melissa R. Randell, with musical direction by Clare Delto, and featured Greg Lewis as Seymour and Lindsey Conway as Audrey, as well as the Do-Wop Girls Chelsea Bearce, Carmen Barkan, and Ashley Zabala.



FEED ME SEYMOUR: Do-Wop Girls Chelsea Bearce, from left, Carmen Barkan, and Ashley Zabala with Melissa Randell, Lindsey Conway and Greg Lewis were also honored by the Kennedy Center.

Four GCC students were nominated in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition. Libby Letlow and Lindsey Conway were nominated for their performances in "Little Shop of Horrors," and Amanda Fontoura and Edith Kordjian were nominated for the fall 2010 production of "The Servant of Two Masters."

"I am very proud that GCC students were nominated amongst the many students from various colleges and universities. They all did a wonderful and excellent job in "Little Shop of Horrors," said Farr.

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival aims to "encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs, as well as provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight."

"Anyone can participate in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, but I encourage students to participate in acting and theater colleges in the college, as well as audition for plays or participate in the production and the set design and building, so that they can get a better understanding and more comfortable with theater arts," said Farr.

Adriana Orellana can be reached at adriana.orellana@elvaq.com

Art Gallery: Student Architects Place First in Competition

[Architecture, from page 13]

Other student projects displayed belonged to Varand Abrahamian, Edwin Aghajani, Shahe Gregorian, Haik Kirakossyan, Lila Montero, Roxana Perez and Armen Sarkisian.

Assembling the gallery exhibit was a huge dedication.

In association with Art Gallery Director Roger Dickes, Architecture Department Chair David Martin and significant involvement from Architecture Instructor Paul Chiu, students Au and Hernandez spent a considerable amount of time arranging the displays.

The entire two-week process forced the students and Chiu to give up at least a quarter of their day five times a week.

"If you like design and don't mind working for less, then go for it. And if you love it, it's not for the money," said Au.

The students of the Architecture

Department dedicated a lot of their personal time to not only the exhibit and competition but numerous assignments and portfolios as well.

"There is a lot of explaining why you're in this major," said Chiu. "And every single thing you do, you have to explain why you do it."

Au, an architecture major, intends to attain a B.A., and then a M.A., while Hernandez pursues a mechanical and architectural design major. The amount of hard work and passion that it takes for this particular major does not go unnoticed and the models genuinely take the most time to produce.

According to Au, each project generally takes two semesters to complete. "Plus, there's always something I want to change," said Au.

Models are usually constructed using materials such as basswood, foam core, plastic, museum boards, plexiglass, zip gap glue, rubber cement and "basically anything we can find," said Chiu.

In Chiu's Architecture classes, all designs are hand drawn and models are assembled piece by piece.

"It's like taking apart a person... you have to know the components before building it," said Chiu.

As emphasized by the students, Chiu is an admired instructor. He spent much of his personal time organizing the gallery, assisting students to analyze presentation boards and advising students on their portfolios.

Chiu's critiques often sounded like, "Why would you place an elevator in a two-story house?" However, "friendly" criticism is not his only teaching technique. In addition, he offers advice, influenced by his commitment to the key objective of architecture.

"It's the implicit nature of certain things that drives your imagination. There is some sort of mystery behind it but you have to find a way to give hints to discover that mystery. You don't want to see the end right away; you want to keep the mystery alive," said Chiu.

According to Au, there was never a time when Chiu wasn't available. Even with the lack of Architecture classes during winter session, Chiu's door was always open.

Aside from the accomplishment of the exhibit, in fall 2010, president Au and four other student members of the GCC ASEA club entered in a table decoration design competition, it hopes of having its project as the main centerpiece during the ASEA 47th annual Awards Banquet. The theme was "a bowl of flower."

The students and Chiu spent numerous hours working on the project and even endured nights ending at 2 a.m.

With the group's secret weapon of a mechanical opening and closing flower, the first-place victory was a no-brainer amongst the judges. Martin was pleased with the outcome of the competition and wishes to have the Board of Trustees and local community view the project.

The club's award winning model is presently contained in a glass display case in front of AT 200. It is certainly an eye catcher.

Currently, Architecture Department students are designing a dollhouse this semester for ASEA's upcoming competition.

GCC ASEA club meetings will be held every Friday from noon to 3 p.m. in either AT 200 or AT 220. All are welcome so feel free to swing by.

For more information about the Architecture Department, visit Glendale.edu/arch.

Kate Krantz can be reached at kate_krantz@elvaq.com