greetings from the department of interior architecture
the university of north carolina at greensboro

building community...

At the beginning of the academic year, the IARc faculty confirmed an approach to telling about our work, tied to the latest initiative at the university, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. To echo this commitment, the [i]news and the [i]blog will focus on IARc's community engagement this semester.

a new place for IARc...

Last summer the provost announced a restructuring effort at UNCG that will result in the development of a new academic school or college focused on ‘health.’ The two existing schools most affected by the restructuring are Human Environmental Sciences (home to Interior Architecture) and Health and Human Performance. Not seeing a good fit in a school focused on health, faculty and staff in Interior Architecture looked to the College of Arts and Sciences as a future home. In late January the department was warmly welcomed into the College at an Administrative Council meeting that included Dean Timothy Johnston and others from the dean’s office as well as heads of all the departments. The move into the College will be effective 01 July 2011.

Interior Architecture has long-standing collaborative efforts with departments in the College such as History and Geography. The relatively new chairs in the departments of Interior Architecture and Art, Anna Marshall-Baker and Lawrence Jenkens, are actively exploring future collaborations that may include a downtown center for art and design, interdisciplinary instructional teams, and digital production facilities.

Interior design has been taught at UNCG since 1935. The Department of Housing and Interior Design formed in the 1970s and then became the Department of Interior Architecture in 2001. Clearly our historical strengths are in the School of Human Environmental Sciences. Dean Laura Sims actively supports Interior Architecture and the department flourished under her leadership. Though we will miss our alignment with the School of Human Environmental Sciences in many ways, we appreciate the encouragement and enthusiasm of Dean Johnston and look forward to our future in the College of Arts and Sciences.

laying the foundation...

Ill Menendez works on the foundation. photo courtesy of hannah rose mendoza.
Hannah Rose Mendoza and several students from IARc and the art department traveled to Ghana in January to start construction for a school in Kyekyewere. In addition to laying the foundation for a new school, they also brought books and school supplies thanks to IARc student Hope Talley's mom, Belinda, who works as a librarian with Durham County Schools. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, IARc has made an impression on a community on the other side of the globe. A few of the travelers reflected on their experiences read them here.

providing framework...

Designers Barbara Charles + Bob Staples of STAPLES + CHARLES LTD (Alexandria, VA) lectured on their design career, including a review of some of the firm's terrific exhibition work in museums. This dynamic duo talked to us about their connection to the design office of Charles + Ray Eames (where they both worked)....and some of the Eames' ideas that have informed their work for four decades. The couple inspired the students to take their designs to new levels and encouraged them to continue seeking out new opportunities.

reviving neighborhood space...

This semester, Jo Leimenstoll's fourth year studio takes on the renovation a building on South Elm Street in downtown Greensboro. Charles and Ruth Jones, who own the building and live on the third floor, host a monthly event called “Greensboro Grub,” a dining event with fifty guests.

In anticipation of this semester-long project, three students participated in “Greensboro Grub,” which opened their eyes to human interaction with the spaces they will design this semester. The owners took this opportunity to announce to the crowd that IARc students are developing the design for their proposed community theater space and P B + Java coffee shop. Read and see more here.

creating space for kids...

Last semester, the Central Regional Hospital at Butner, NC reached out to IARc to create an engaging, attractive, and functional child-friendly environment for their Child and Adolescent Unit. The management team of the hospital selected design proposals by third year students, Meghan Kaufmann and Katie O'Boyle. The students are pursuing an internship this semester under the guidance of Tina Sarawgi to synthesize their design proposals, build prototypes, and collaborate with the hospital staff to implement their design ideas. See their designs here.

investigating local architecture...

Nine first-year graduate students in the interior architecture and history museum studies concentration completed a research project on uncovering hidden stories of Elm Street's historic buildings in downtown Greensboro. Greensboro's online publication, 99 Blocks currently features IARC graduate student Natalie Wall's project.

expanding our community...

Jennifer Henneman began a new job with the Steelcase dealership here in Charlotte, Office Environments.

IARc alum, Erin Davis was featured in an article about what she and her husband have done with a mid-century modern home in Dallas.

And, as always, stay informed on all of the exciting IARc happenings through the [i]blog!

Know of someone who should receive [i]news? Forward this edition on and let us know their e-mail so we can add them to our list. If you do not wish to receive the [i]news from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Department of Interior Architecture, kindly let us know by return