

The 21st Century Project

Design Showcase: The Neighborhood

February 1, 2008 St. Petersburg, Florida



Net+Work+Camp+Us Wins Jury Prize at 21st Century Project Design Showcase

Innovative design ideas earn firm \$25,000 grand prize

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Powered by the belief that, when considering the future of collegiate housing, every space is a potential learning space and that open structures promote interaction and connections the net+work+camp+us team was the winner of this year's 21st Century Project Design Showcase competition, presented by the Association of College & University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I).

Yang Tian, Suping Li, Yuzhu Zheng, and Nathan Herold comprised the award-winning team. The young professionals were advised by Rob Reis, AIA, LEED, AP, a design principal with Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company in Norfolk, Virginia. The four team members are also employees of Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company as well as recent graduates from institutions such as the National University of Singapore, Southeast University in China, University of Virginia, SUNY Buffalo, Guilin Institute of Technology in China, and Clemson University in South Carolina. The team received a \$25,000 prize for their work. The competition was held February 1, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The team explained that their proposal “conveys an essential message about what can be, about student's new way of living and learning, about the impact of new technologies, about new methods of exchange, and new social relationships in an ever-changing information age.

“ACUHO-I's competition rules emphasized flexibility and sustainability. Our solution was about the architecture, but also in thinking about how the architecture could participate in and foster community in a reality that is evolving in terms of technology, teaching and learning. New technology should facilitate connections among people instead of becoming a barrier in the real world. As a built environment, net+work+camp+us becomes an interface between individual students and the community, between real and virtual world, between local and global. It promotes the connections among people. The identity of the community materializes in the ongoing dialogue between students' campus life and net+work+camp+us.”

"Congratulations to the net+work+camp+us team," said ACUHO-I Executive Director Sallie Traxler. "Their presentation showed a fresh and creative approach and was obviously the result of a great deal of work, thought, and talent. It is wonderful to see that amount of effort being put into creating collegiate housing for the students of tomorrow."

Other showcase competitors included MGA Partners of Philadelphia, Ayers/Saint/Gross of Baltimore, Little Diversified Architectural Consulting of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the team of Mackey Mitchell Architects of St. Louis and the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

The showcase jury awarded a special commendation to the Ayers/Saint/Gross team "for applying technology to community." The team's proposal centered around a complete computer network interface called "Odin" that would connect students to each other and their campus. The program would allow students to reserve campus facilities, communicate with others, display their individual personalities, adjust environmental specifications to meet pre-loaded preferences, and much more.

Mackey Mitchell and SIUE won the people's choice award, voted on by nearly 200 event attendees. Their plan featured a building design structured around European-style piazzas as well as sliding doors that would be rearranged easily to expand and contract communal areas within suites.

"For the second straight year, event attendees were fortunate to see a host of fascinating ideas," said 21st Century Project coordinator Michael Coakley who is also the associate dean of student affairs and executive director of university housing at Arizona State University. "Elements from each of the designs were inspiring and point to a bright future for collegiate housing."

Results from this competition will be shared at the ACUHO-I Annual Conference & Exposition to be held this June in Orlando, Florida, as well as in ACUHO-I publications and online at www.21stCenturyProject.com.

The 21st Century Project is a multi-phased initiative leading to the construction of a new, state-of-the-art residential facility for colleges and universities. In addition to creating one or more prototype residential facilities on several campuses, the project will assist colleges and universities in designing new residential facilities that reflect the ever-changing roles that residences play in the collegiate experience.

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[Learn more about the 21st Century Project.](#)

The 21st Century Project is presented by the [Association of College & University Housing Officers - International](#).