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Fall 2003 Issue
University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture

Warren Loranger and GM Foundation Recognized



On Wednesday, October 8, 2003 more than 125 alumni, friends, donors, faculty and students gathered to honor Warren Loranger '51, and the GM Foundation for their significant contributions to the School of Architecture. UDM President Maureen A. Fay, O.P., opened the event, which took place in the new Genevieve Fisk Loranger Architecture Center.

Dean Stephen Vogel introduced Loranger and assisted Jenna Murphy, vice president of the AIAS, in presenting him with a framed photograph from the students, faculty, and staff. The photo, taken by Laszlo Regos, was a thank you for Loranger's generosity in transforming the architecture building into the beautiful, state-of-the-art facility it is today. The photo featured a view of the "pit" area and the signage that prominently recognizes Loranger's mother. Also attending the event were several members of the Fisk family who were deeply touched by the honor afforded their aunt. The Center includes a new exhibition hall, critique spaces and a student lounge. [more...](#)

Photo (left to right): Dean Stephen Vogel, Jenna Murphy, third year student and vice president of the AIAS, Warren Loranger, President Maureen A. Fay, O.P.

Welcome to *The Nautilus*, a periodic web-based newsletter from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture. This "publication" is one example of our technology-enhanced efforts to communicate with alumni in the ways that will serve you best. This online communication will keep you informed about activities in the School, as well as what some of your fellow alumni are up to.

Other UDM Alumni Newsletters Online:
[The Current](#) (Business Administration)
[Healthy Times](#) (Health Professions)
[The Highlighter & Laureate](#) (Liberal Arts and Education)
[Impact](#) (Engineering and Science)

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Message from Dean Stephen Vogel, FAIA

The Nautilus, Fall 2003

Stephen Vogel, teaches design and the Degree Project Seminar. He is a licensed architect with extensive experience in urban design, adaptive reuse, historic rehabilitation and multi-family, mixed housing communities, and is a principal and partner in his firm. He is past president of the American Institute of Architects, Detroit Chapter and Michigan Chapter. He was inducted into the College of Fellows of the AIA in 1994 and received the AIA Detroit Gold Medal in 1996, among other awards. He holds B.Arch and M.Arch degrees from the University of Detroit.



Dear Alumni:

These are very exciting times at the University of Detroit Mercy and at the School of Architecture. The University has completed its largest fundraising campaign ever and has announced a new Vision for the entire University through the year 2020. The Vision 2020 plan was developed in large part through the efforts of the School of Architecture and the Detroit Collaborative Design Center. This plan includes a dynamic new Riverfront Campus with a new School of Law as its centerpiece and a re-energized McNichols Campus with a host of improvements, including renovated and new student residence halls to accommodate the growing full-time student enrollment.

This enrollment growth is very evident in Architecture as we welcomed in 2003 our largest ever first-year class. The class has, consequently, been capped. An enrollment cap is also in effect for next year as we bring in the best and brightest of new students. We have limited the School to approximately 250 students to continue to achieve the sense of personal attention and community that we all remember from our days here.

To celebrate the renovation of the Loranger Architecture Building, we held a program on Wednesday, October 8, 2003—with many of you in attendance—to honor Warren Loranger and dedicate the Genevieve Fisk Loranger Architecture Center. We also honored the GM Foundation for its contributions to the operations of the Design Center. If you have not seen the new exhibition hall, critique space and student lounge, you must find an opportunity to stop by.

We are now ready to move into the next phase of fund raising to complete the building and to support our academic programs—including scholarships. We are also finalizing the second floor studios and a new lecture space. These studios will open to the steel truss work spanning the roof structure to allow flexibility in the size of studios as we accommodate a building full of budding architects. The "smart" lecture space will accommodate students with laptops downloading the lecture notes and images presented by architecture professors. Although we have a number of named spaces in the building, there are still many naming opportunities available. Please consider a gift to the School to help advance our programs and to help us continue to give the quality education that you received. Stop by and see us!

Sincerely,

Stephen Vogel, FAIA
Dean of UDM School of Architecture



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Warren Loranger and GM Foundation recognized

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Photo (top right): This photo of the Genevieve Fisk Loranger Architect Center by Laszlo Regos was presented to Warren Loranger at the recognition event in October.

Photo (middle right): The Fisk Loranger Architect center offers exhibition and conference space for UDM events.

Photo (bottom right): The Dedalo Minosse prize projects were on display during the recognition ceremony.



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Dan Pitera, director of the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, introduced and recognized Laura Utley, president of the GM Foundation. Utley presented the School of Architecture with a \$300,000 check to represent its support of the Design Center.

Also present for the evening was Giovanni Vincato of Vincenza, Italy, who represented the Dedalo Minosse International Prize. The winning 2002 Dedalo Minosse prize projects were on display in the exhibition hall for the evening and included a prize for Homeboy Industries, a job training center for former gang members in Los Angeles, Calif. Homeboy Industries, designed by the Design Center, was the only winner of this coveted prize from the United States.



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Design Center builds the community one project at a time

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Photo (right): The Design Center staff created interesting spaces with small children in mind when they developed the design for the Mercy Education Project.

Photo (left): The Mercy Education Project combined the expertise and collaboration of the Design Center staff, students, and members of the project team.



Now in its ninth year of operation, the School of Architecture's Detroit Collaborative Design Center has created a range of innovative and community-friendly projects from the "hay house" in a depressed area of Detroit to a brilliant full-service community center/gymnasium for people with a range of physical abilities for Friends School on the city's east side. Currently, the Design Center staff, headed by Director Dan Pitera, Associate Director Kathleen Teodoro and supported by project coordinators Andrew Sturm, Christina Heximer, Chris Lee and one to two architecture students per semester, are also working close to home as the lead project coordinators for the University's ambitious Riverfront Campus and McNichols Campus renovation.

Another recent endeavor is the Mercy Education Project, a Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Detroit-sponsored center, which opened in late September. The Design Center was challenged with a meager budget of \$25,000 to design and construct an 8,000 square foot facility that houses an after-school program for young girls, tutoring for older girls and a GED and life skills preparation program for adult women in southwest Detroit. The building includes administrative offices, classrooms, tutoring "pods," a library, and a digital technology center.



The Design Center staff conceptualized the facility with its users in mind. First, they wanted to create spaces that were inhabitable and fun for small children. They considered the kinds of places that children like to play, like under tables or under staircases, and created similar spaces in the facility. Second, they wanted to create a supportive learning environment that didn't feel like a traditional, sometimes intimidating, educational facility. Finally, they wanted a space where the children and adults could display their artwork. So, they created a "refrigerator with magnets," which is actually a wall where artwork can be displayed much like on the appliance in people's kitchens. The resulting facility is friendly and inviting to all of its new inhabitants.

The Design Center develops an astounding number and variety of projects each year throughout the city. Below is a sample of recent projects that demonstrates the range of creativity offered by the Detroit Collaborative Design Center.

- **Shrinking Cities**—An international study of Berlin/Detroit/Manchester/ Moscow. The Design Center is the co-curator of the Detroit section
- **Unity Temple Community/Youth Center**—Youth center and meeting hall for Unity Temple on Wyoming north of McNichols.
- **Friends School Gymnasium for All**—Design for a gym that celebrates people with a range of abilities. This is the first gym of its kind built from the ground up.
- **Detroit Hispanic Neighborhood Technology Access Center**—Renovation of a 30,000 square foot warehouse in southwest Detroit in the main offices, service center, and technology access center for DHDC.
- **NPower Michigan Training Facility**—An interior tenant improvement of an existing 2,450 sq. ft. office space in downtown Detroit into the NPower Michigan's headquarters and training/testing lab. Their mission is to empower non-profits to achieve their own missions by integrating the appropriate use of technology into their day-to-day work.
- **Russell Woods Sullivan Entry Marker + Bus Stop**—Landscape design located on the corner of Davison and Livernois.



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Alumni organize first annual continuing education event in conjunction with annual meeting

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The first in what is hoped to be an ongoing series of continuing education events took place on October 23 and October 24. Four programs were presented that allowed participants to receive a total of nine AIA Learning Units. Maria Kieras Vedral of Silver Edge Systems in Chicago, Ill. gave two programs—one on project cost accounting and one on firm financial management. James Partridge gave a presentation on the technical aspects of limiting moisture penetration and preventing mold growth in buildings. This program was eligible for Health, Safety and Welfare credits. Pcube, of Denver, Colo., presented a program on using Microsoft Project software. The programs were well received. Potential sponsors for next year's program have already been contacted, and planning is under way for a bigger and improved program.

On the first evening of the continuing education event, alumni held their annual meeting. Alumni Council President Lee Mamola discussed recent activity of the council and Dean Vogel presented his annual "state of the school" address. A silent auction was held in conjunction with the event and featured an original water color by Fred Bidigari, Lithuanian beer donated by Algas Bubles, Red Wing hockey tickets from several sources, dinner at Sweet Lorraine's and sketch books and albums. Also available for purchase were SOA knit caps, shirts and briefcases.

If you wish to participate with the Alumni Council or on its many committees, [contact the SOA](#) and give us your name—we are always looking for help! Watch for mailings on next year's programs.



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French students experience Detroit from street level and above

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The School of Architecture hosted 12 students and two professors from Ecole d'architecture de Paris Val de Seine, who came to Detroit for three weeks last June to explore the city. The group not only walked Detroit, they experienced it from cars, an airplane, by boat and by train. For example, they walked the entire length of the six radial avenues, from the center of downtown to the edges of the city, and they flew over the avenues and other streets on a small plane.



One might wonder why they needed such an extensive look at the city. The students, led by professors Nicola Borg-Pisani and Remi Schnebelin, came here as part of a workshop to document the city through photographs, videos and other audio and visual recording devices. The workshop was organized by Kyong Park, who has joined with the School of Architecture on many occasions and most recently served as a visiting professor of urbanism.

Like early explorations of this area, but with new technologies, this workshop allowed the students to discover their initial experience of Detroit and its metro area. The students also explored the question of "What is community?", and in doing so, collaborated with three community groups in the city.

The visit culminated in a dialogue that allowed UDM colleagues and the surrounding community to share their own ideas and dreams on the future of the city and its environs. The French students asked such questions as "How do you feel about bakeries, nature walks, urban agriculture, public spaces, bookstores, cafes, health clinics, community centers, pedestrian paths and recreational facilities?" The goal of the discussion was to engage the community in how individuals can become a vital force in determining the future, planning the city and developing relations among different communities.

The French students took notes at the discussion and will create visual representations based on the dialogue to be presented later this year.



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Ant nothing strange about this

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What do 229 students, 229 ants and a dean's size 13 boot have in common? Find out about an [innovative design project](#) that "tries students' soles."



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Architecture Career Day

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An Architecture Career Day at the University of Detroit Mercy is planned for February 17, 2004. The tentative agenda is scheduled from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., including employer panel discussion from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating with the panel or looking to fill positions with co-op students, recent graduates or alumni, please contact the Career Center at 313-993-1017 or mccormde@udmercy.edu.



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**Lecture series continues in
2004**

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The School of Architecture's annual Great Lakes Erectors and Fabricators Lecture Series will begin in January 2004 and will be held exclusively in the Genevieve Fisk Loranger Architecture Center. The lectures feature internationally renowned architects Jim Jennings of Jim Jennings Architects, San Francisco, Calif.; Doug Garofalo of Garofalo Architects Inc., Chicago, Ill; Patricia Patkau of Patkau Architects, Vancouver, British Columbia; Julie Eisenburg of Konig Eisenburg, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Carme Pinós of Estudio Carme Pinós, Barcelona, Spain.

Watch your mail for a brochure with exact dates or visit the [School of Architecture](#) website.



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Faculty Notes

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Julie Kim (photo right), associate professor, had two project proposals chosen by the ACSA to be funded with the East Central Collaborative Project Grant. The proposals, developed in collaboration with architects from other universities from around the country, focus on "building and strengthening the east central school network by encouraging joint projects across schools in the region."



Kim's first project, "Studies in Vehicular Culture," is a joint course between UDM and Lawrence Technological University that focuses on ways that texture in Detroit's landscape has been impacted by the placement of the John C. Lodge expressway. The course will examine the roadway as a barrier both physically and perceptually. The project will result in an exhibition to be shown at both schools with an accompanying publication.

The second project, "Mediations: A Traveling Exhibition," involves developing an exhibition of work by faculty and student teams within the ACSA East Central region. The individual projects will examine the role digital media and technology play in architectural education and practice. The exhibition will travel to UDM, the University of Michigan, Ball State University, Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky.

Kim also presented the paper "If You Could See the World Through My Eyes: Investigations of Electronic Teaching and Learning" at the ACSA East Central Regional Conference at Ball State University and the paper "Down the Rabbit Hole and Out Again: Reflections on the Master's Studio" at the University of Florida at the ACSA Southeast Regional meeting.

Steve LaGrassa, associate dean, met with alumni in the Chicago area at a reception in October. The reception, hosted through the generosity of Michael Szkatulski '76, was held at the offices of Miserow Financial. The group discussed the Vision 2020 proposals for the McNichols and downtown campuses and the continual improvements to the Loranger Architecture building. Attendees included Timothy Desmond '75, Nicholas Juhasz '01, and Eric Stackhouse '88.

LaGrassa was also recognized by UDM in November at the Colleague Recognition Program for having reached his 30th anniversary of service to the University.

Dan Pitera (photo right), associate professor and director, Detroit Collaborative Design Center, and **Andrew Sturm**, Design Center project manager, were invited to be keynote panelists at the New York City satellite of the 53rd Annual International Design Contest in Aspen, Colo. Sturm and other Design Center staff members also made presentations at the Association for Community Design in Baltimore, Md.



Steve Vogel, dean, was recognized by the University in November at the Colleague Recognition Program for having reached his 10th anniversary of service to the University.



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How to Make a Gift to the University of Detroit Mercy

The Nautilus, Fall 2003



Generous [contributions from alumni and friends](#) of the University of Detroit Mercy support The Fund for UDM, strengthen the University's outstanding scholarship program, renovate facilities, and enhance academic programming.

All gifts – regardless of their size – help ensure the continuing quality of a University of Detroit Mercy education. Your gift supports the project of your choice. A gift to The Fund for UDM provides the University with flexibility to use your contribution for high priority activities. If you want to restrict your gift to a specific college, school or program, please indicate your intent when you make your contribution.

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