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THE ARCHITECTURAL TEAM Announces Winners of Student Design Competition with BAC for Affordable Housing: “Transforming Boston’s Neighborhoods”

Sponsored by the 42-year old Boston-area firm best known for master planning, waterfront development, multifamily housing and historic preservation and adaptive reuse, the student competition created new ideas in housing to serve today’s society.

BOSTON, January 15, 2013 – The Boston Architectural College (BAC) recently announced the winners of *Transforming Boston’s Neighborhoods: The Future of Multifamily Housing*, a new student design competition focusing on multifamily buildings and innovative urban planning, and sponsored by the nationally regarded, award-winning architecture and master-planning firm, The Architectural Team, Inc., in celebration of its more than four decades of designing affordable, creative housing solutions.

The program, which became public news last July, is an “open ideas design competition” for graduate and undergraduate architecture students to envision the future of Boston and encourage critical design approaches to create livable, affordable, multifamily housing strategies for the future in downtown Boston. From eight entries, the BAC leaders and an invited jury selected two students for the top honor – Agustin Jesus and Jessica Leong – while Niusha Aghdali earned an honorable mention. Top honors were also awarded to an undergraduate student team from the Gateway Program*: Stan Poreda, Mandy Li and Marwan Ghabour.

The competition jury, BAC-selected members of the College’s faculty and Boston’s architectural design community, presented the winners with a total of \$2,500 in cash prizes, a portion of The Architectural Team’s \$5,000 donation to fund the inaugural course.

“This new competition aims to build on our belief that engaging in creative efforts with our local communities can create innovative and affordable living environments for all people,” says The Architectural Team’s cofounder and managing principal, Robert J. Verrier, FAIA, who served as president of the BAC’s Alumni Board from 2006-2012 and has been an active alumnus. “The goal is to continue the successful transformation of our dense urban landscape into a supportive environment from which we can all benefit without compromising the unique historic attributes of the city and surrounding neighborhoods.”

The BAC and The Architectural Team developed “Transforming Boston's Neighborhoods” to engage students in real-world, urban design challenges. “The competition’s spirit and program will focus on encouraging multidisciplinary, imaginative ideas for our urban future,” Verrier adds.

Winning entries

Student entries were reviewed by the jury last December. The jury included BAC faculty and members of the architectural community. Two entrants, Agustin Jesus and Jessica Leong, share first place. Jesus' winning submission focused on

apartment modules 27' x 27' in size, in a building sited to maximize views of green space; the project, described as containing "a variety of live/work units ... for professionals, students and artists," emphasizes maximizing use of the space while respecting the zoning limits and the tenor of the surrounding neighborhood. Leong's submission

combines several wall types to present an aesthetically engaging contribution to the neighborhood; one of the wall types is a "living wall," composed of systems that allow the covering of the facade with vegetation.

Niusha Aghdali received Honorable Mention for a proposal that combined waterfront development on Boston Harbor with a unique louvered wood facade design that balances natural daylight and views with privacy needs. The student team from the Gateway program was honored for its entry incorporating varying levels of semi-private garden terraces on each floor, providing residents with outdoor gathering spaces in an otherwise congested area of the city.

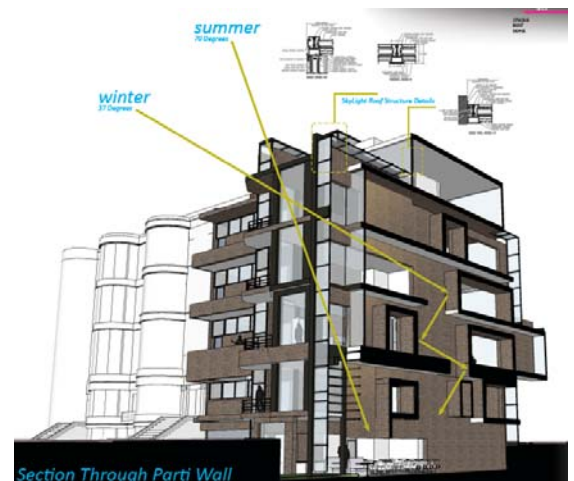


BAC student presenting an entry during reviews with TAT senior project managers: Gary Kane, AIA, and Andrew Stebbins, AIA.

Mentoring the next generation of architects

In addition to the course competition, Verrier and TAT senior project manager, Mark Rosenshein, are involved with the BAC's "Gateway Program" – a learning and mentoring program designed to assist students in increasing their practical hands-on knowledge of the design and construction industries while leveraging the expertise of practicing architects. Programs like Gateway and the BAC course competition reinforce The Architectural Team's commitment to mentoring and educating socially committed designers. The benefits extend not only to new students, but also to those graduates just launching their careers.

"Our motivation for engaging students is practical. Students learn by doing," says Verrier. "These students -- not just the winners, but all entrants -- remind us that the work is its own reward. As an alumnus and, I hope, a mentor, I could not be more proud of the students at BAC, who clearly have bright futures ahead of them in this competitive industry." ###



Partial images of student submissions (L) – Agustin Jesus; (R) Jessica Leong

About The Architectural Team, Inc.

Founded in 1971, The Architectural Team, Inc. is a 70-person master planning and architectural firm that has grown through its design excellence and commitment to responsive and collaborative client relationships. The firm has developed a portfolio of distinctive design solutions for a broad range of building types and programs, and has earned more than 90 awards for design excellence. These include the new construction of large urban mixed-use developments, multifamily residential, senior residential, assisted living, commercial, hospitality, recreational, and academic facilities, as well as a national reputation in the area of historic preservation and adaptive reuse. The firm is located in the restored 1840s-era Commandant's House in Chelsea, Mass. Visit the firm's website at www.architecturalteam.com.