Architecture project put to the test

When sophomores in the School of Architecture's studio program recently built a class project, they had some tough customers — 115 children at the South Side Day Nursery who were ready to play. Their job was to build two play structures tough enough to withstand the heavy use of rambunctious children.

The purpose of the project was to give the 11 fledgling architects experience working for a client and designing and building useful objects. They interviewed the nursery school teachers about their needs, visited South Side to see the space, researched what the children like to play on and how tall they are and tried to estimate costs and stay within a budget.

The project, which took just two-and-a-half weeks from initial interview to finished product, was assigned by Gary Lobertaum, affiliate associate architecture professor. Each year Lobertaum searches for a community group needing a structure that architecture students could build. One year, for example, a group of Lobertaum's students built a sensory playground and a ball pit for the Delta Gamma Foundation for Visually Impaired Children.

This year, the students worked with South Side, located at 2910 Iowa, just west of the Anheuser-Busch brewery. The nursery was founded 105 years ago to provide quality day care to those who could not afford it. The purpose still holds true today. A sliding fee scale helps accommodate income member families, whose annual salaries average $13,000.

This was the first time many of the students had put hammer to nail. Many of the other courses in sophomore studio (students rotate through seven new courses, such as 2-D drawing and lighting) are more theoretical.

The South Side project also required students to collaborate. For each student, constructed a scale model. The South Side teachers wanted a sturdy structure that could be built as a single unit in the building's central courtyard and as two smaller units that could be separated and placed in different rooms.

They then met to develop a single plan. The students discovered that the most difficult part of the project was finding a consensus. "It was especially hard because we tried to incorporate something from everyone's original idea," says Sarah Johnson, one of the students in the class.

Once the design was agreed upon, the students had only 10 days to build it. Each student devoted more than 40 hours to the project, in addition to regular classes. Many were hammering and sawing in Givens Hall until 1 a.m. some days.

"It will take me the rest of the semester to catch up with my classes," sighed Carl Sledgister. "But seeing the semester to catch up with my classes," it all worthwhile."

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is a very exceptional group of stu-dents," says Lobertaum. "Theyworked way beyond the standardrequirements of this studio. And theycame in six dollars under budget," sheadded, beaming.

Judging by the squeals and smilesof the four schoolchildren brought to"test" the final product, their new toywas a hit. Complete with a brightgreen ladder and a blue slide, thejungle gym section was designed forthe older children, while the ball pit,with mirrors, carpets and hugging spaces,was designed with toddlers in mind.

The University students, dressedin baseball caps, cutoffs and overalls,stood near by as the children fromSouth Side scrambled on their masterspiece. No one seemed ready to leaveto tackle their neglected classes. Aside from enjoying the playhouse, there was asecond motive that made the studentslinger.

"This could be a front-line defense to detect even the subtlest changes, especially regarding pollutants and toxic wastes." — Wayne Nichols

Children at the South Side Day Nursery explore their new play structure, which was designed and built by architecture students at the University.

Visitor, short-term parking meters installed

In an effort to enhance visitor and short-term parking options, approximately 60 new parking meters will be installed on the Washington University Hilltop Campus. The plan to install the meters was reviewed this fall by the University’s Transportation Advisory Committee.

About a fourth of the 60 meters are 30-minute meters and will replace the 30-minute parking zones on campus. The remaining meters are for two-hour time periods. The meters will be placed in the following parking areas: north and south sides of Brooks Hall, southwest corner of the lot near the Plant Growth Facility and Rebstock Hall; South 40, southwest section of the Athletic Complex lot, near John E. Simon Hall and the Mudd Building; immediately behind the Women's Building, Millbrook Apartments; and a small area near the Post Office, which is located behind Louderman Hall.

The additional meters are scheduled to be installed during the Christmas holiday break. Once they are in place, approximately 150 meters will be available on campus.

The existing meters are located on the two large lots below Brookings Hall, in front of Mallinckrodt Center and at the Athletic Complex.

Gary Sparks, director of the Transportation Department, said that the new meter locations were selected to provide a balance between the need for additional short-term parking and the desire to maintain adequate spaces for individuals with parking permits.

The placement of parking meters throughout the campus has proven to be an extremely effective way of providing short-term and visitor parking. The combination of meters and the availability of daily and weekly parking permits will make parking more flexible for everyone,” Sparks said.

Many departments routinely

Algae discovery helps uncover prairie mysteries

Scientists are exploring the secrets of the last great ecological frontier — the Midwestern prairie. The prairie, a wilderness that early settlers on horseback got lost in the 10-foot-tall grasses, native prairie today amounts to less than 1 percent of what it was before 1848. In that year, John Deering described the steel plains, inaugurating the great rush to domesticate the land. Most of the remnant prairie now grows around railroad tracks and "pioneer" cemeteries — the rare areas spared the plows and axes of development in the 19th and 20th centuries.

But ecologists over the past 20 years have found that the prairie's biological resource was anomalously slipping away, began rehabilitating prairie restoration research areas throughout the Corn Belt with varieties of some 500 plant species that once carpeted the area. Also, they have begun to take a closer look at the entire ecosystem — the plants, animals, insects and microbes — the prairie fosters.

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Now, Wayne Nichols, Ph.D., professor of biology at Washington University, has discovered a species of algae, Sphacelariapectinifera, in a southwestern Missouri restored prairie that does something no other known alga can do — remove iron from the soil. The scientist, exploring the South Side Laboratory near Springfield, has isolated more than 500 different species of algae, including 40 that are new to science in Missouri. Nearly all of these species are new to science. Using the latest techniques in biochemistry and a computer program to set up databases for quick classification of the algae species he has discovered, Nichols has begun an ambitious project. He is developing the most complete catalog ever assembled on the prairie's most basic life form. "Algae and their role in the soil process are for too long overlooked. Anyone who has ever thought," says Nichols. "We've discovered they can act as a sink for nutrients from the soil and can select from groups of elements. This species we have found can remove iron from the soil, can even remove iron in laboratory cultures. It could serve as a survival mechanism in the prairie soil. We're looking at this as a potential combination of algae in undisturbed prairie soil."

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Happy holidays!

This is the last Record issue of 1991. The Record will resume weekly publication with the next issue dated Jan. 16, 1992. The Record staff wishes everyone a joyful holiday season and prosperous New Year.
Theatreworks/USA productions of fresh life into children's classics, "Robinson" and "The Velveteen Rabbit," and appropriate administrators, will solicit letters of support from faculty or department heads and make awards to the most promising. The Kemper Awards might allow for some released time, summer support, experimentation, materials, etc., depending on the proposal. The sole criterion for an award is judgment that the effort will result in a significant new learning experience for undergraduates—one that will continue to be supported by the University in the years ahead.

Established in 1989, the William T. Kemper Foundation is dedicated to the late Mr. Kemper's lifelong interest in improving the human condition, with emphasis on education, health and human services, civic improvements and the arts.

Kemper Foundation sets up grants to improve learning

The William T. Kemper Foundation—Commerce Bank Trustee, has presented Washington University with a $150,000 grant to establish the Kemper Faculty Grants to Improve Learning, according to Chancellor William H. Danforth.

Michael D. Fields, executive director of the foundation, said the grant is being awarded to the University to be administered by its newly established Teaching Center under the leadership of Robert H. McDowell, Ph.D., professor of mathematics. "This grant is made because of the foundation's interest in excellent teaching. I am confident that Washington University's focus on teaching and effective learning will augment the educational experience for students," Fields said.

Danforth expressed appreciation for the Kemper Foundation's dedication to teaching, "We are deeply grateful for this support of our central teaching mission," he said.

The Kemper Grants to Improve Learning will recognize creative work on learning in any of the University's core subjects, and support projects that use new and existing technologies, curricula and pedagogical innovations. The grants will fund courses, workshops, field trips, mentoring, and the purchase of computers and software. A major emphasis will be placed on projects that engage non-technical audiences. Grants will be paid directly to faculty members. Faculty members, who will be expected to demonstrate a commitment to the grant's mission, are invited to apply for grants. The funds may be used to purchase software, hardware or to support ongoing instructional initiatives. Faculty members are also encouraged to propose a collaborative approach, including projects that involve students, parents or members of the community.

The grants will be given to Washington University faculty members in all academic units, and no specific criteria will be used to determine which applications will receive funding. The grants will be awarded to those faculty members who submit the best proposals. The grant committee will review proposals and recommend funding for the most promising projects. The committee will be composed of representatives from each academic unit, and will include at least one representative from the Office of Academic Affairs. The grant committee will meet monthly to review proposals and make funding recommendations. The grant committee will also be responsible for ensuring that the grants are used to support the mission of the Kemper Faculty Grants to Improve Learning.

The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, and will be paid directly to faculty members. Faculty members are also encouraged to propose a collaborative approach, including projects that involve students, parents or members of the community.

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Louis V. Avioli, M.D., Sydney M. and Stella H. Shoenberg Professor of Medicine and professor of public affairs, was named to the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Internal Medicine Research Career Development Program (K23 Award) for his research in cardiovascular disease.

M. D. testosterone, associate professor of medicine, was awarded the 1992 American Heart Association's Woman's Heart Research Award for his research on heart disease in women.

Mary Jo Watson, Ph.D., professor of anthropology, was named a recipient of the 1992-93 Fellows Program of the American Council of Learned Societies, which provides support for scholarly activity and travel.

A strong foundation! Stanley and Lucy Lopez recently participated in a ceremony to lay the cornerstone of the new Children's Hospital of Washington, D.C. The hospital will be completed by late 1992.

Drama. The journal, which will be published twice yearly by the American Drama Institute at the University of Cincinnati, will explore the legacy of dramatic literature from the earliest to the most recent playwrights. The journal will also feature discussions of American dramatic diversity and promote critical examinations of trends in writing of drama, as well as specific examinations of the career of American playwrights.

John Sundym, a doctoral candidate in musicology, presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society in Chicago. The title of the paper was "Mein Traum and the 'Unfinished' Symphonic: A Reinterpretation." The paper was a psychobiographical study linking a Schubert document to one of Schubert's best-known compositions.

Marc Wallace, a senior mathematics major, has received one of eight prizes awarded nationwide by Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Honorary Mathematics Society. The prize is in recognition of his presentation titled "Pears, Sham Pears, and D.U.D.E.N.E.Y.,” delivered at the 1991 annual Pi Mu Epsilon meeting at the University of Maine in Orono.

Patty Jo Watson, Ph.D., professor of anthropology, and Richard A. Watson, Ph.D., professor of paleoanthropology, are 1991-92 Fellows at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, Calif. Patty Jo Watson is working on two books, one on Late Archaic shellmound archaeology in Kentucky and the other on proto-Zuni archaeology in New Mexico. Richard Watson also is working on two books, one on the question of how ideas represent their objects and the other on the later years of Descartes. Patty Jo Watson is receiving financial support from the National Science Foundation. Richard Watson is receiving funding from the Mellon Foundation.


William Gass, Ph.D., director of the Program in Humanities at the University of Maine in Orono, was named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which recognizes "outstanding contributions to the sciences, the liberal arts, or the humanities." Gass is the author of several novels, including "The Women's Room," and has written extensively on the nature of fiction and the role of the writer. He is also the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

How have you done something new or notable? Have you ever been presented a paper? Won an award? Been named to a committee or elected an officer of a professional society? Have you been invited to speak at a conference or participate in other critical interpretations of Gass' work? A Temple of Texts: the Humanities, was featured in the 1992 American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The award will be given to the best essay presented at the Orthopaedic Research Society meeting in February 1992.

Thomas Eagleton, Ph.D., a member of the St. Louis Regional Environmental Conference, was awarded the annual St. Louis Regional Environmental Conference's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Education for his work in promoting environmental awareness and education.

Arthur E. Carlson, M.D., professor of public affairs, was a David May Distinguished Professor in Honor of Archives, to be published in 1995. In addition, Carlson is chairing an Ethics Task Force for the Academy of Certified Archivists.

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Chinese astrophysicist Fang Lizhi will open spring Assembly Series

Master accostionist returns to University

It's already the start of the spring semester, and so it's no surprise that the University College helps us get our educational gears in gear, too. The first Assembly Series event this year is the return of the world-renowned Fang Lizhi. "Fang has been a great influence on the students here," said Assistant Professor of Mathematics, David Cistola. "He is an exceptional speaker and always manages to bring a new perspective to the table.

Fang will deliver the William C. Ferguson Memorial Lecture at 11 a.m. Jan. 15 in Graham Chapel. His lecture, which will open the University's spring Assembly Series, is free and open to the public.

Fang, who has accepted a position as a professor of physics at the University of Arizona, is finishing advanced study in Princeton, N.J. His awards and honors are numerous. Among those, Fang won the National Award for Science and Technology in 1978, the Chinese Academy of Sciences Award in 1982, and the New York Academy of Sciences Award in 1988. His research into the origins and backgrounds of Chinese politics has made him an important figure in China. Fang has spoken on Science and Politics in China, and his book, published earlier this year, is titled "The God of Science, Culture and Democracy in China.

"Fang's lecture is titled "The Power of Science in China," and I'm excited to hear his thoughts on this important topic," Cistola said.

For more information, call 935-6420.

Basketball

Basketball season has officially begun, and the cards are off to a great start! The men's basketball team has already won 3 of their 4 games, and the women's team has won 2 of their 3 games so far. "It's great to see the team geling so well," said Coach Mary Mathews. "They're working hard and it shows in their performance.

Friday, Jan. 17

7:30 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. U. of Missouri-St. Louis. Field House. Free.

Saturday, Jan. 18

8 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. St. Louis. Field House. Free.

Sunday, Jan. 19

4 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Missouri State. Field House. Free.

Monday, Jan. 20

6 p.m. Women's Basketball vs. Missouri State. Field House. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

6 p.m. Men's Basketball vs. St. Louis. Field House. Free.

As with all other sports teams, the maple leafs are working hard to improve and win. "We have a lot of talent on this team," said Coach Mathews. "They're dedicated and determined."

For more information, call 935-5501.

Calendar Deadline

The deadline to submit items for the Jan. 16-25 calendar is Wednesday, Jan. 15. Items must be typed and state time, place, date, place, nature of event, activity, admission cost, and important items will not be retailed. If available, include specific pricing and activities. Name of the event, as well as the name of telephone number. Send items to Marilyn Chill, Box 1010, or by electronic mail at p224500@wumail.wustl.edu.

Wednesday, Jan. 15


Friday, Jan. 13

5:30 p.m. Faculty Senate. Room 118 Brown Hall. For info., call 935-5151.

Saturday, Jan. 14


Saturday, Jan. 15


Saturday, Jan. 17


Saturday, Jan. 18


Wednesday, Jan. 15


Friday, Jan. 13

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