



Greetings Friends and Colleagues!

Welcome back to the UC Davis Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design (LA+ED) quarterly newsletter, where we share our latest news, announcements, and resources. Please share in our enthusiasm, excitement, and pride as we recount the events of Summer and Fall!

A Message from LA+ED Chair, Steve Greco

With fall quarter wrapping up shortly, we're off to a good start this year! This is my first quarter as chair of the Landscape Architecture + Environmental Design (LA+ED) Program in the Department of Human Ecology and I'm looking forward to working with the students, staff and faculty on a number of existing and new initiatives. Our former chair, Professor Patsy Owens, is on an exciting year-long sabbatical (partly in Brazil) and we are so grateful for her leadership over the past five years as we transitioned to the new departmental structure that includes the programs of Human Development and Family Studies, and Community and Regional Development.



LA+ED Program Chair
Steve Greco

Our department now houses four undergraduate majors and four graduate programs. In addition to the Landscape Architecture (LDA) undergraduate major, we now have a new major, approved in 2014, called Sustainable Environmental Design (SED). In just the first two years the SED major has grown as large as the LDA major and continues to grow. The other two majors in the department are 'Human Development' and 'Community and Regional Development.' We also house three graduate groups (Geography, Community Development, and Human Development) and the new Graduate Academic Certificate program in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design, or as it is affectionately known as the "LA+ED GAC." The GAC is designed for any graduate student who wants formal training in the field of environmental design in addition to their degree objective; it is somewhat akin to a "minor" for undergraduates. We have our first student enrolling this year! For more information see the LA+ED GAC website [here](#). The Geography Graduate Group also offers a Specialized Area of Study in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design for master's and Ph.D. students. For more information, click [here](#).

As I hope most of you know, we moved into our new renovated space in Hunt Hall in 2009. The consolidation of the LA+ED program into a single coherent space has been a great success. We actually run into each other in the hallways and talk! One of the things we are very excited about is the courtyard space defined by the three wings of Hunt Hall. For the past six years we focused on developing the exterior edges of this space and the landscape architecture students created six installations of various interesting landscape ideas and concepts, for example, a bike parking structure with a succulent roof garden! That's one of my favorites. Starting this fall we are embarking on developing the interior portion of the courtyard with the Design and Build Studio (LDA 160), led by lecturers Keith Wilson and Haven Kiers, who procured many building material donations. We want the courtyard to be a living landscape laboratory for our students.

Recently the campus planning division has become a partner in developing the courtyard

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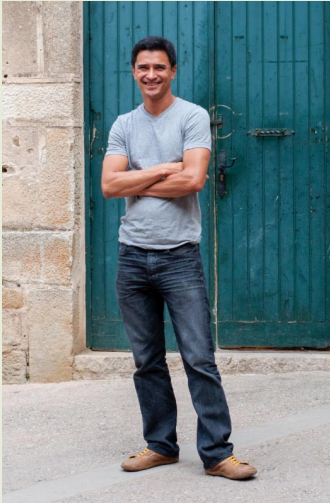
Our Mission



As the only accredited undergraduate Landscape Architecture program in the University of California system, we strive to prepare students to be future leaders in the profession. Our design philosophy, present throughout our coursework, is to increase the quality of life through the development and preservation of landscape design and planning processes that are

space as a UC Davis Arboretum GATEways Project which is a new campus initiative that envisions "a new model for a university garden and a new 'Front Door' for UC Davis." GATEways stands for Gardens, Arts, and The Environment. This is a match made in heaven. This exciting new partnership will bring much needed resources to the courtyard for development and maintenance of the space. Please come by and check out the courtyard as it is transformed!

-Steve Greco, Professor and Chair



LA+ED Assistant Professor David de la Peña in Barcelona.

New Faculty Spotlight: David de la Peña

At UC Davis, LDA and SED students study for years to become experts in their fields, mastering a wide range of technical skills, historical facts, and research methods. Professor David de la Peña thinks this is terrific, but he also wants to make sure students don't think that expertise means always knowing what is best for another community. His own experiences and research in Spain and California look at how designers engage with communities in ways that support grassroots design autonomy. Each summer, about 30 UC students get a glimpse of what he means by this, climbing up the hills surrounding Barcelona to the self-managed community center, permaculture farm, and squatted housing complex called Can Masdeu. As the bustling Mediterranean city below endures an economic crisis, some of the most exciting social movements take place in this social center and in other hot spots like the community-run former factory of Can Batlló, or

the community gardens of Germanetes.

At these sites it becomes clear that cities and public spaces are constantly being made and remade by their inhabitants. Designers can play critical roles as they have in all of these examples, but not because they control the outcomes. They succeed because they observe, listen, and work closely with residents. These lessons have been at the heart of Professor de la Peña's work as an architect, urban designer, and teacher. Back in California, these same principles inform his research into activism and urban agriculture, where he challenges designers and policy makers to value the self-built work of Ukrainian, Latino, Hmong and African American farmers in Sacramento. It is also the basis of a book he is currently co-editing on new techniques in participatory design. De la Peña is still settling in to UC Davis, having arrived in 2013. Students are encouraged to seek out his courses or talk to him about getting credit while strolling the streets of Barcelona.

Claire Napawan receives 2015 Vanguard award

Assistant Professor Claire Napawan was awarded the Vanguard award at the sixth annual [Vanguard Conference](#) in Reno, NV, hosted by [Next City](#). Next City is a digital urban affairs magazine and non-profit organization. The Vanguard conference brings together the world's top urban innovators under the age of 40. This year's conference theme was "[Tactical Growth for a Smarter Future](#)". Claire was also a finalist in the [Big Idea Challenge](#), a design competition held on the second day of the conference.

Stephen Wheeler publishes "Built Landscapes of Metropolitan Regions"

Professor Stephen Wheeler's latest article "Built Landscapes of Metropolitan Regions: An International Typology" was published by the *Journal of the American Planning Association* on Oct. 2nd. The article develops a typology of 27 forms of large-scale landscape patterns that appear in the world's cities, and analyzes their relative prevalence for 24 global urban regions using GIS. The article and full-color maps of these regions are available on the Center for Regional Change's [website](#). Stephen aims to finish writing his latest book entitled *Built Landscapes* this winter.

#OurChangingClimate Project Awarded \$25k

LA+ED Assistant Professors Claire Napawan and Sheryl-Ann Simpson, alongside Design Assistant Professor Brett Snyder, were awarded \$25,000 in support of their #OurChangingClimate project.

meaningful, relevant and sustainable.

To find out more, click [here](#).

Links

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The funding comes from the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; the Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies; the Vice Chancellor of Research; and the Provost.

The project seeks to build a digital network of community-based perspectives on the everyday ways people experience climate change. More information will be available on the project's forthcoming website [here](#).

Congratulations Claire, Sheryl-Ann, and Brett!



3D rendering of UC Davis' entry into the 2015 Solar Decathlon competition. Original image can be viewed [here](#).

Solar Decathlon Seeks Participants for 2017 Competition

UC Davis competed in the 2015 [Solar Decathlon](#), a biennial competition hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy that challenges collegiate teams to design, build, and operate energy-efficient housing. LA+ED Assistant Professors Brett Milligan and David de la Peña provided faculty support for the project.

UC Davis placed 7th in this year's competition, which took place October 8-18th. UC Davis is now seeking participants for their 2017 competition, and has developed a series of undergraduate courses in support of this effort. The courses will be available to Engineering, Design, and Landscape Architecture students. The first course of the series, ECI 126: Green Planning, will be held this Winter Quarter. This will be followed by ECI 127: Green Design, and ECI 128: Green Construction. Students who complete this series will be well-positioned to receive a minor in "[Sustainability in the Built Environment](#)."

For more information on these courses, please contact [David de la Peña](#). To find out more about the UC Davis Solar Decathlon team, you may click [here](#).

Brett Milligan Awarded 2015 Hellman Fellowship, Graham Foundation Grant

LA+ED Assistant Professor Brett Milligan was awarded the 2015 Hellman Fellowship for his work on [Dredgefest California](#), a weeklong event that addresses sediment management in the California Bay-Delta. [The Hellman Fellows Program](#) recognizes scholarly potential in junior faculty members, and provides research funding to assist these faculty members in their progression toward tenure.

Brett was also awarded a grant from the [Graham Foundation](#) for his work on "[Wicked Ecologies](#)," a design research project conducted alongside University of Florida professor Rob Holmes. "Wicked Ecologies" uses scenario design techniques to determine new trajectories for the ecologically-vulnerable California Bay Delta and the Florida Everglades. Graham Foundation grants are awarded to innovative and thought-provoking projects that explore the future of architecture and environmental design. More information can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to Brett on these momentous achievements!

Dredgefest California is currently seeking workshop participants and sponsors for their 2016 event. Interested parties can click [here](#) for more information.

Michael Rios Leads Capitol Mall Urban Design Study

LA+ED Associate Professor Michael Rios is leading a study on Sacramento's Capitol Mall that will develop a range of urban design scenarios to inform future planning and design of the area. Michael was asked by Sacramento City Councilman Steve Hansen's office to take on the project.

Work commenced in June with a two-day charrette, where Michael and his team of faculty and students met with City of Sacramento staff and area stakeholders. After analyzing the existing conditions and identifying a number of design goals, a draft of the results was presented to larger stakeholders in August. A final report was submitted in October.

For more information on the project, please contact [Michael Rios](#).

Alumni Update: Roche + Roche Wins Honor Award

[Roche + Roche Landscape Architecture](#), founded by LA+ED alumnus Dave Roche, was awarded the 2015 ASLA National Honor Award for the design project "[Sweetwater Spectrum Residential Community for Adults with Autism](#)." Dave received his BSLA from UC Davis in 1984 and now practices alongside landscape designer Nancy Roche.

Read a detailed description of the project [here](#). Congratulations to Roche + Roche!

If you have any alumni updates you'd like to share, feel free to email abvera@ucdavis.edu.

Fall Quarter begins January 4th
Contact us

For questions and comments, please email abvera@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 752-3907