Welcome to Contour, the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Department of Landscape Architecture profile of student work. This issue focuses on a select group of student capstone projects that have occurred over the past three years (2009, 2010, 2011).

The two-semester senior capstone provides students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and ability to resolve a “real-world” design problem. All students in the accredited undergraduate program are required to pass the capstone in order to proceed through graduation. The selection and oversight of the capstone projects has been in partnership with the UW-Extension Landscape Architecture faculty coordinator.

The capstone coordinator links students to a client(s) and related project, generally within the state of Wisconsin. Most projects fall within community design, urban redevelopment, conservation, or regional design. During the first semester of the capstone (LA 610) students identify a unique project, engage a client or community group, collect base materials and conduct site inventories and analyses, perform a critical review of the literature and precedents, finalize the project scope and defend the design proposal.

During the second semester students produce a regional and/or community analysis, develop design solutions and rationales, and presentation drawings. During the two semesters students address design ethics, research investigation, the critical review of design precedents and proposal writing.

Although the Capstone Studio extends back into the 1980s, from 2001 to 2012 it has addressed the needs of more than 225 clients, the majority of these being Wisconsin communities in 55 counties. In addition, past capstone projects have occurred in Minnesota, Texas, New York and Illinois.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Contour and encourage you to share your comments with the department (jaharrin@wisc.edu). The department is always looking for complex and engaging projects for students to undertake. Please do not hesitate to inquire of Debi Griffin (dagriffin@wisc.edu) if you have a project to recommend.

John Harrington, Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture

Capstone Projects Across Wisconsin

2009-2011 Capstone Catalog Projects
All 2001-2011 Capstone Projects in Wisconsin

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When considering the Port of Milwaukee Redevelopment Plan, Rory Agnew had one fundamental concern - how to remediate the heavily polluted Solvay Coke & Gas industrial site. Agnew identified several goals to create a Master Plan, including strategies for stormwater management, environmental certifications, green roofs, and greywater reuse. His planting palette was based on native habitats to combat flooding and support phytoremediation in hopes of filtering and reusing stormwater. Through public access to the waterfront, commuter rail stops, full remediation of Solvay Coke & Gas, and the redevelopment of UW-Milwaukee’s School of Freshwater Science, he aimed to promote sustainability and lessen urban sprawl.

Of all the challenging spaces that landscape architecture can be applied, Agnew has always found the waterfront to be the most interesting. His capstone project allowed him to spend his senior year researching and designing part of a major shipping port. Thanks to the UW LA Department, Agnew now has a job with Baird, a world-class coastal engineering firm that allows him to practice in an area he enjoys and appreciates.
The Dane County BUILD Advisory Committee identified a number of goals for the Madison Capitol East District: providing a balance of residential space, employment development and office space, parking ease and accessibility, and overall site design. Gentile’s Master Plan emphasized an improved streetscape and alternative transportation for this heavily traveled area. In Central Park, Gentile proposed a submerged stage, rooftop seating at an outdoor restaurant, a reflection pool, and living walls. A promenade, green house and skate park complete this community gathering place. In addition, the regional inter-city rail station—Yahara Station—featured sustainable technologies, green roofs, and a new, lake-inspired design.

Gentile is currently employed at RVK Architects in San Antonio, Texas. He is always grateful for the direction and amazingly talented people he came to know at the UW-Madison. Gentile strongly believes Wisconsin’s LA program is a hidden gem that produces professional graduates whose perspective of the environment is whole.
**“Downtown Green Lake: Preserving a Way of Life”**

The Downtown Green Lake (WI) Renewal Project sought to revitalize the downtown, assist existing businesses to thrive, actively recruit new businesses, and improve the appearance of the city. Marlin’s revitalization plan created an additional 12 feet of sidewalk that featured increased planting, seating and incorporated paving reminiscent of Green Lake’s waves and prairie grasses. He also focused on environmental restoration and preservation, and proposed additional recreational opportunities, a Nature Center and 50-foot observation tower.

Since graduating, Marlin has continued his education at UW-Madison, where he will obtain additional degrees in Horticulture and Environmental Studies. This summer, he will move to Milwaukee, WI for a job as an entry-level Landscape Architect at Kapur & Associates, a multidisciplinary engineering firm. There, he will work with another landscape architect and alumni, along with engineers and planners. He is excited to stay in Wisconsin and looks forward to seeing how his work can affect the community where he grew up.

**“Belleville – A Beautiful Village: Human-Environment Interaction in Public Spaces Informing the Design of Community Open Spaces”**

The Community Development Authority of Belleville (WI) identified several goals for this project: stabilize and enhance existing central neighborhoods, improve biking/pedestrian connections, and address blight along the railroad corridor and Sugar River/downtown waterfront. Vechart’s Master Plan connected people through a bridge between the downtown and Community Park, while also providing a pavilion, a skating area, and kitchen facilities/shelters. His plan minimized river pollution through bioswales and planters in downtown Belleville.

Vechart works as a Landscape Designer for Schmalz Custom Landscaping and Garden Center, a premiere design-build firm in Appleton, WI. In Appleton, Vechart enjoys the opportunity to be outside and experience nature in the area. Without the education and resources that he was given in the UW Department of Landscape Architecture, Vechart would not be in the position that he is today!
“The Village of Sherwood: Downtown and Community Revitalization Applied to Open Space Design with Regards to Human Interactions with the Environment”

by: Michael Mliner

Michael Mliner and the Village of Sherwood (WI) identified a number of goals for the project, including a pedestrian-friendly downtown, usable outdoor spaces, accessible walking/biking trails, and efficient traffic and parking circulation. The project consisted of two sites. The more developed northwest site includes an entertainment district, more parks and trails, a sledding hill, an assisted living building, a grocery store, and a civic center. The southeast site included walkable streets, usable outdoor spaces, shops and safe streets, with streetlights, planters, and bike racks. A Play Hill included a large plaza space with a water feature.

After graduation, Mliner accepted a job with Buettner & Associates in his hometown of Milwaukee, WI and has been there for almost a year. As a designer, Mliner has had the opportunity to work on residential properties, commercial properties, public parks, botanic gardens, school campuses, and community developments. He has enjoyed seeing the influence a Landscape Architect can have on complex projects.
Insurance

"Milwaukee Aerotropolis"

by: Brooks Ostendorf

Ostendorf examined the 13th District of Milwaukee, with the goals of improved aesthetics, access to the Amtrak station, increased retail shops, and more diverse entertainment options. He proposed a pedestrian mall with a marketplace, civic buildings, mixed-use office spaces, a recreation field, and a restored stream. In addition, he created residences for a variety of incomes, a sculpture garden and a “Center for Sustainability.” Finally, his design incorporated public transportation to connect with a high-speed rail and a downtown streetcar system currently being planned by the transit system. The new town square included an open lawn and Infinity pools with floating benches that promote local identity.

Since graduating, Ostendorf has moved to Los Angeles, CA for a job at Landscape Architecture firm EPT Design Pasadena. There, he joined two fellow Badger alumni and a number of amazing and talented Landscape Architects. Ostendorf has worked as a designer at EPT Design for 10 months. Ostendorf said, “While the amount I’ve learned so far has been incredible, I wouldn’t be able to succeed if it weren’t for the education I received at Wisconsin.”
The Park East Redevelopment (Milwaukee) focused on creating pedestrian-friendly streets, planning for a streetcar system, and designs for an urban park development. Salzman’s vision for Park East, which is comprised of the North End, Ogden Square, and McKinley Avenue District, took advantage of the site’s unique context and physical features. He incorporated smart growth, new urbanism, stormwater management, complete/green streets, globalization, mass transit, education, and water access. His Park East Plan reconnected Milwaukee’s downtown through community development, pedestrian friendly streets, urban open spaces, and a riverwalk. Streets included bike lanes, a streetcar system, and wide sidewalks for pedestrians. Incorporating art and new plantings in public spaces improved public aesthetics.

Upon graduation Salzman moved to Houston, Texas, to pursue a career with the landscape architecture firm SWA. He currently works as a landscape designer on diverse projects throughout Texas and southern China. In his free time he is involved with urban agriculture and community garden projects throughout Houston. He often reflects on his experiences at the UW and is thankful to have been inspired by so many faculty members and fellow students.

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(A) Park East Master Plan
(B) Park East Zoning and Massing Model
(C) District Inventory
(D) Water Street Layout
(E) The Green Network
(F) MSOE Promenade
“Bad River Indian Reservation: A Study of Healthy Native American Communities in Odanah, WI”

by: Kathy Lewis

Lewis’ Master Plan for the Bad River Indian Reservation focused on four areas for development: housing, tribal college campus, casino/main entrance, and a heritage center. Houses will have solar heating and will be oriented according to Ojibwe culture. An abandoned ball field will become a tribal college in the native Algonquian language. A heritage center will serve as the central “heartbeat” to the community.

After graduating, Lewis moved to Ashland, WI for AmeriCorp where she partnered with the Bad River Indian Reservation. After completing her year of service, she returned home to the Twin Cities. She is currently building her design and installation skills working at Knecht’s Nursery in Northfield, MN. Lewis also works with adults with disabilities at Lifeworks. She is thankful for her education at Madison, allowing her the freedom to work at a variety of scales of design. Lewis is kept busy preparing to be married this fall!

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“Sustainable Atwood: Ecologically Sensitive Urban Infill and Redevelopment in the Schenk-Atwood Business District and Surrounding Neighborhoods”

by: Alissa M. Santurri

In her Master Plan for the Schenk Atwood Starkweather Yahara Neighborhood Association (Madison, WI), Santurri proposed infill development for the three largest surface parking lots to address neighborhood fragmentation. She developed a cohesive streetscape plan and a rooftop plaza/garden atop the transit station. Her retail corridor included a boutique hotel and conference center. Finally, she envisioned a town square at a major intersection to slow traffic and created a cohesive central public space.

In her Master Plan for the Schenk Atwood Starkweather Yahara Neighborhood Association (Madison, WI), Santurri proposed infill development for the three largest surface parking lots to address neighborhood fragmentation. She developed a cohesive streetscape plan and a rooftop plaza/garden atop the transit station. Her retail corridor included a boutique hotel and conference center. Finally, she envisioned a town square at a major intersection to slow traffic and created a cohesive central public space.

Santurri lives in Madison and currently works at Flad Architects as a Landscape Designer.
Mary Roley’s capstone project explored how Green Urbanism can be applied to the redevelopment of post-industrial lands to support sustainable, livable communities in Janesville (WI). She recommended the following design elements:

1. Humanizing the site and the scale,
2. Unifying street character,
3. Fostering a sense of place, and
4. Conserving water and preventing erosion.

Roley suggested providing surface lots, street terraces, building setbacks, and improved street corners. Subspaces were used to create smaller scaled environments that are casual and inviting. By redeveloping the Sunnyside Shopping site, Roley promoted architectural harmony and cohesion. She also introduced transition zones and plantings to create gradients of uses and transitions for residential to commercial areas.

Since graduating, Roley has worked on a Riverwalk Design for Grundy, Virginia as part of a coal mine reclamation project and has spent a summer doing prairie and wetland mitigation projects all over Wisconsin. Roley was also involved with a Tamarack Spruce Bog restoration in Superior, Wisconsin and a Pike spawning habitat in Middleton, WI. She is currently a designer at Olson Toon Landscaping in Middleton. Her goal is to keep learning and gaining experience in all aspects of the field of Landscape Architecture and to pursue a license.
“The Cross Plains Ice Age Trail Complex: Managing and Designing for Natural and Cultural Land-based Resources”

by: Dee Finnegan

The Cross Plains Ice Age Complex is both an ecological and cultural protection project of the National Park Service. Dee Finnegan’s Master Plan for the 1850s Wilkie Family house and grounds proposed using the Wilkie house as a place for out-of-town National Park Service staff to stay overnight. The barn will be used for staff offices, library, and meeting spaces. Finnegan’s design included stormwater planters, green roofs, a stormwater pond, and landscaping with native plants. Renewable energy included solar energy, radiant flooring technology, and photovoltaic glass. Outside of the barn, visitors can enjoy the Jane Wilkie Cultural Garden.

Finnegan continued on after graduation to pursue a Master’s degree at UW. She has held a variety of internships from the WI Department of Natural Resources to the National Park Service. Finnegan’s Capstone project launched her career within the NPS, where she currently works as a planner/designer and GIS technician. “Without my Capstone project, I never would have made the contacts necessary to pursue a challenging career with so much variety. I love working on trails and the NPS is a great place to work.”

“A Master Plan”
“Jane Wilkie, 1950s Newspaper Photo”
“The Wilkie Farmstead Site Plan”

“Integrating Sustainable Urbanism Patterns in the University Avenue Gateway Corridor”

by: Justin Frahm

Justin Frahm provided linkages throughout the University Avenue Gateway Corridor site in his Master Plan for the City of Middleton. Frahm focused on improving land uses, building multi-modal transportation, and enhancing the connection to parks. His design applied sustainable urbanism to a centralized transportation hub that served as a gateway pedestrian/bicycle connection. A pedestrian plaza in the central commercial district created a socially-engaging environment. On-road bicycle and pedestrian circulation improvements and enhanced street lighting initiatives enhanced safety for everyone.

“A Parkwood Plaza Cross Section”
“Land Use Analysis”
“Site Analysis Data Layers”
“Multi-modal Bike/Pedestrian/Bus Hub”

In Oct. 2010, Frahm accepted an offer from JSD Professional Services Inc. in Verona, WI. He currently works there in the landscape architecture and planning office, facilitating planning, design and project management on commercial, mixed-use master planned communities, retail and health care projects through South Central and South East Wisconsin. He also assists the real estate development arm, Forward Development Group (FDG) in providing 3-D marketing materials, including renderings and illustrations for retail and mixed-use projects throughout Dane County.
“Guiding Economic Development Through Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Community Infrastructure”

by: Daniel Schmitt

This capstone focused on the Lindsay Heights neighborhood in Milwaukee. Schmitt investigated how ideas of urban extension inform community development and economic growth through urban agriculture and sustainable community infrastructure. Goals for this project included strengthening community through affordable home ownership, improved quality of life, and positive youth development. Schmitt identified additional goals including:

- A 25% increase in Green Index within 10 years,
- A decrease in community-wide stormwater runoff of 15-25% in 5 years,
- An increase in permeable or porous surfaces of 35-50% over 10 years,
- Extensive use of native plantings, and
- Safe routes for pedestrians and the development of open spaces and neighborhood enhancements.

In the fall of 2009, Schmitt began graduate school at UW-Madison to earn his MALA. In 2010 he traveled to Honduras with Sam Dennis’ Study Abroad/Service Learning Program. That summer, he interned at Troy Gardens. In April 2011, Schmitt began working at Avant Gardening and Landscaping, Inc. as a Landscape Designer, and was recently promoted to project manager. Schmitt received his Master’s Degree in Spring 2012.

In 2009, Schmitt began graduate school at UW-Madison to earn his MALA. In 2010 he traveled to Honduras with Sam Dennis’ Study Abroad/Service Learning Program. That summer, he interned at Troy Gardens. In April 2011, Schmitt began working at Avant Gardening and Landscaping, Inc. as a Landscape Designer, and was recently promoted to project manager. Schmitt received his Master’s Degree in Spring 2012.
“Making Allied-Dunn’s Marsh Sustainable: Using Neighborhood Revitalization to Promote Politically Engaged Community Economic Development”

by: Gwyneth Owen-Webber

Working with the Allied Drive Neighborhood, Owen-Webber’s goals were to establish a community vision for the Allied Drive Community through green redevelopment, capitalizing on community involvement and designing for affordability and community growth. Her recommendations included passive solar heating, ecologically-oriented landscape vegetation, recycled waste water, minimizing runoff, recycling of existing materials, and alternative energy sources. Owen-Webber provided a clear indoor/outdoor programming space and pedestrian paths in her design. She utilized greenroofs and parking lot bioswales, as well as traffic calming designs. Focusing on community education, the new central plaza will be utilized for neighborhood activity. Roof gardens, food and selling carts, parks, a highway cap plaza, and semi-permanent shelters gave the Allied Neighborhood structure and programming without taking away its character.

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Nick Balliet
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Kale D. Bodendein
“Re-Green, Re-Define, Re-Invent: A New Vision for Spring Green, Wisconsin”
Location: Spring Green, WI
Client(s): Community of Spring Green, WI

Patrick M. Callahan
“Stoughton Redevelopment District No. 1: A Model for Sustainable Transit-Oriented Redevelopment”
Location: Stoughton, WI
Client(s): Stoughton Redevelopment Authority

Dylan Dettmann
“Creative Farming Studios Event Center: An Event Center with Green Technology”
Location: Fall Creek, WI
Client(s): Creative Farming Studios

Hogan Edelberg
“Rhinelander, WI: Fostering Downtown Revitalization through Community Oriented Design”
Location: Rhinelander, WI

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Dee Finnegan
“The Cross Plains Ice Age Trail Complex: Managing and Designing for Natural and Cultural Land-based Resources”
Location: Cross Plains, WI
Client(s): National Park Service; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Justin Lee Frahm
“Integrating Sustainable Urbanism Patterns in the University Avenue Gateway Corridor”
Location: Middleton, WI
Client(s): City of Middleton

Matthew Hanna
“Fox-Wisconsin Rivers Parkway: Regional Development of the Lower Fox River Section & Design Development of the Navigational Locks Within the City of Appleton”
Location: Appleton, WI
Elliot Braun Hansen
“Urban Agro Ecology Center Campus and Central City Redevelopment Vision”
Location: Horicon, WI
Client(s): City of Horicon

Aaron Jurgens
“Models of Sustainable Development”
Location: Rhinelander, WI
Client(s): Oneida County Economic Development Corporation

Capstone Instructors

Shawn T. Kelly
Faculty Associate
Capstone Course LA 551

Sue Thering
Assistant Professor
Capstone Courses LA 551, LA 610
Andrew R. Kibbe
“Park Street Corridor: A Sustainable Urban Community”
Location: Madison, WI
Client(s): Park Street Partners

Jonathan R. Klaas
“Shake Rag Valley Restoration: Mineral Point, WI”
Location: Mineral Point, WI
Client(s): Mineral Point Community; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Stevie Koepp
“The Lac du Flambeau Natural Resources Center and campground”
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Bryna Nielsen
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Kathleen Nutter
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Leigh E. Presley
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Daniel Robert Schmitt
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Susan M. Simon
“The Wilderness Center on Madeline Island”
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Kevin P. Smits
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Curt Staats
“Lake Wanbesa Bible Camp: Youth Development and Environmental Education”
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Bradlee M. Bertram
“Creating Community for the St. Croix Ojibwe: A Community Development Plan for the St. Croix Ojibwe of Maple Plain, WI”
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Client(s): St. Croix Ojibwe

Christopher Cook
“Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway: Urban Revitalization and Redevelopment in Portage, Wisconsin”
Location: Portage, WI
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Catherine Corcoran
“Copper Park Nature Center Design Solutions: Ladysmith, WI”
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Alex Desmidt
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Mark Harris
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Jonathan Ross Hodkiewicz
“Robbins Creek Community Park: Columbus, WI”
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Stephanie Judge
“Imagining a Future Beyond the Floods: Gays Mills, WI”
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Kathy Lewis
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Client(s): Bad River Ojibwe

Novella Pui Yan Man
“Dorothy Carnes County Park Master Plan Refinement”
Location: Jefferson County, WI
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Kari Nelson
“Bookworm Gardens and Sheboygan Community Gardens”
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Darin Newman
“Holzhuetter Farm Park: Town of Waterloo, WI”
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Ryan Parkos
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James R. Raebel
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Mary Roley
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Alissa Marie Santurri
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Christopher Sina
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Rory Agnew
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Blake Anderson
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Danielle Bilot
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Eleanor Brandt
“Redesigning Riverview Park: Resilient Design and Northern Wisconsin”
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Joseph Comer
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Jeffrey Lindstrom
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Jake Salzman
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Dallas Siewert
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Client(s): The Community Development Authority of Belleville

Robert Wolter
“Redevelopment of Military Avenue in Green Bay, WI”
Location: Green Bay, WI
Client(s): City of Green Bay Planning Department
Department of Landscape Architecture

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