More women in landscape architecture

By Steven Chesler

The number of women in landscape architecture has increased tremendously and now approaches the number of men in the profession.

This development was one of the main observations Charlotte E. Kitchell, assistant professor of landscape architecture, brought back from a recent conference on women in the profession sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

She also said the women gained moral support from talking to each other and discussing the problems of working in a field overrun with males.

The increasing number of women in the field is recent, she said.

Kitchell explained, many potential students went into other fields, in part because landscape architecture had few programs.

She hasn't experienced any discrimination personally but has heard of it from other women, she said, adding: "The bosses don't understand the changes taking place."

Sometimes the boss is from a different generation and he "sees women in more traditional roles," she said. "They are reluctant to treat them as professionals."

At the conference, Kitchell said, the women discussed how to be more effective in their dealings with men and clients.

Kitchell got her degree in architecture but switched to landscape architecture because it was better for women, she said.

Kitchell advised women going into her field not to accept a job with a firm that appears to be hiring a "token" female. If a woman takes on one of these jobs, she is cheating herself because she may not have the ability to handle it, she said. "She'd better be damn sure she wants and can handle the job," Kitchell said. "Don't be used. Women are just as qualified as men."
Architecture students design new playground for nursery

By Michelle Dorsey

Identifying with a three-year-old may seem difficult to the average college student. But landscape architecture students didn't have much trouble designing a new playground for the College of Home Economics' nursery school.

Students in landscape architecture have been working with graduate students in family relations and human development in designing a new playground next to Campbell Hall, according to Jean R. Dickerscheid, professor of family relations and human development and director of the nursery school.

The present Campbell Hall playground was built in 1961. The playground serves as a nursery school, a laboratory for college students and an area for research, Dickerscheid said.

During Autumn Quarter, graduate students in family relations and human development worked with the 60 students in Landscape Architecture 341. Each graduate student was a consultant to 10 to 12 landscape architecture students. Every landscape student presented a plan to faculty and university officials during the quarter, Dickerscheid said. The four top designs chosen were combined into one plan, she said.

Stephen R. Drown, assistant professor of landscape architecture, said $4,500 has been reserved to build the playground Summer Quarter. "We want to have it built by Autumn Quarter 1978." However, because of limited funds the building may be in stages, Drown said.

"The new playground will be flexible," Dickerscheid said. "We will have structures we can add or take away to adapt to the children as they grow. A child who starts at the nursery school in the fall is more advanced by spring."

The playground will provide three different play areas, a wall that can be painted and washed, a storage-playhouse and a quiet area. Each area is connected by a tricycle path, Drown said.

Dickerscheid said the trike path will be of graduated width and incline for the child to learn speed and agility.

Designing the playground "was a learning experience for the students," Drown said. "The landscape architecture students were able to work with a real client and understand specific needs."
Long-distance calls cut; internships hurt

By Julie J. Hursey
Lantern staff writer 2-18-82

The cooperative internship program in the Department of Landscape Architecture is hurting because budget cuts have forced the department to eliminate long distance phone calls, the department chairman said.

Landscape Architecture has nothing to cut from its budget except operating costs, said Chairman Jot D. Carpenter, which include long distance phone calls to contact sponsors for internship programs.

The process of getting a co-op job has slowed down to the point that many students are choosing not to participate, Mary Dansard, a junior from Sylvan, said.

Students must either phone the companies themselves or write letters, both of which take more time than if the department contacted them.

Dansard has chosen not to co-op this year because contacting sponsors has become so slow that she would not find out until June if she got a job, leaving her no options for another job, she said.

Internships are a vital part of a student's learning experience. Without internships a student has no on-the-job experience, said Carpenter. "We cannot provide any services that we consider substantial to the program," he said.

Landscape Architecture instructors will no longer provide handouts for classes. Professors are relaying information by putting it on the board or sending it to Kinko's Copies to be paid for by the students, he said.

"We're screwing the students, but what choice do we have?" he said.

Carpenter fears faculty and students will leave OSU if tuition keeps going up and the quality of education keeps going down.

The Department of Landscape Architecture is the only landscape architecture program in the state. Students must either pay rising tuition here or pay out-of-state tuition, he said.

"We're screwing the students, but what choice do we have?" he said.

The department could only replace four out of five faculty members that left last year, he said. This increases the number of students in the classes, and reduces the quality of the education they are getting,
On display. Watercolors by Sun Xiaoxiang, a visiting professor in landscape architecture, are on display through May 26 on the first and second floors of Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall, OSU.

Sun Xiaoxiang is head of landscape planning and garden design at Peking College of Forestry. He is one of China's leading landscape architects and artists. As an author and researcher, Sun Xiaoxiang is known for his expertise in park and garden design, landscape planning and architecture.

Guided tours can be arranged from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through May 22 by calling Vicki Braddy at 292-S156.
Buildings go up, down at the blinking of an eye

By Robert Gelchion

Computer-enhanced video images will carry people into Ohio State's future — and past — because of work going on in the Department of Landscape Architecture.

Students are using new computer equipment to alter the way the campus looks — on videotape, that is. They can quickly construct a new building or tear down an existing one, change the structure's color, plant trees and add sidewalks.

"It's an exciting opportunity to help with the campus design," says Richard Jackson, vice president for business and administration. Jackson's office funded the project, which faculty in the landscape architecture school developed.

"We think it is going to help us save some money with design costs in the future. It's a good tool."

During the next few years, the Columbus campus will change dramatically. The Wexner Center for the Visual Arts and the multipurpose sports facility are now under construction and other proposed projects include the razing of Brown Hall Annex and the addition of two floors to Arps Garage.

The image-enhancement project is designed to show people how these changes will alter the way Ohio State looks in a way they can relate to — via television pictures.

"It's better than putting out a set of architectural drawings which the average person can't understand," says Jot Carpenter, a professor of landscape architecture.

The first computerized scenes students produced were pictures of what the area around the Brown Hall Annex will look like when it is razed next year. The annex will be replaced by another building, which will be added to the computerized scene as well.

Other completed pictures show the existing Arps Garage parking deck with two additional planned parking levels. One view shows how the work would look using brick, another shows the project using only concrete. The computer can also be used to change the interiors of buildings. Another project will show before and after interior views of renovations to Honors House.

Students videotaped various University scenes. Then, with the aid of image-enhancement hardware and software, they altered the video picture to make it conform to the proposed changes.

Using "an electronic palette," students can draw in buildings or change the color of sidewalks. The palette and the computer take the place of conventional drawing tools.

The computer draws straight or curved lines so that the students can make an outline of a building, for example. They can select two points on the screen and the computer will connect them with a line. Then, using the palette, they can fill in the details.

Carpenter and Paul Young, professor of architecture, want to use the system to carry University visitors back in time, to show how the campus has developed since Ohio State was founded in 1870. A special program will store the architectural plans in the computer. This program can display scenes three-dimensionally and can show a scene from any angle a person chooses.

This will be of great help in assisting architects in constructing a video view of any proposed changes.

The school acquired the equipment in January. The Image Enhancement Technology program uses AT&T Targa hard-

ware and Truvision software. It cost less than $10,000.
Seeing the Future

Computer images help planners avoid mistakes

By David Lore
CityBeat Science Reporter

Instead of building glues of clouds of glassy glass, a few engineers and architects such as Jot D. Carpenter are using computers to sketch the future on videotape.

Before the first dirt is turned, the first brick laid or the first tree planted, planners can see the vistas they are creating with remarkable vision and impact.

"It's not like looking at a model or an architectural sketch. It's like looking at a real picture on the front page news," said Carpenter, a professor of landscape architecture at The Ohio State University.

Professor Jot D. Carpenter with equipment to make graphics for landscaping.
The technique is built around a cluster of technologies.

A standard videotape camera records the construction site and its surroundings. The videotape images are converted so they can be electronically manipulated on a graphics computer. The OSU machine is a Compaq Desk Pro 386S computer with 32 megabytes of random access memory.

USING A "paintbrush" software program developed by American Telephone & Telegraph Co., new buildings or landscape are inserted in the videotape image.

The accuracy of the hybrid scene depends much on the artistic ability of the computer artist as it depends on the technology involved. But the computer artist has to be faithful to architectural plans or the growing characteristics of any new foliage.

As a window, building, tree or driveway is sketched and colored, it is stored in computer memory. Each feature can be inserted or removed from the final scene.

So realistic it is dangerous

Faithfully representing changes in vegetation is the hardest part, Carpenter said.

At the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C., he is working with landscape managers to show how plantings have changed since the 19th century and will continue to evolve.

To provide authenticity, the computer art must show individual leaves on a tree, or bricks in an old gatehouse. It must accurately represent background features, even when such vistas are fully or partially blocked by tree lines, walls or buildings.

AT BILTMORE, a decision must be made whether to prune or merely replant a line of century-old tulip poplars along the main esplanade.

"We can't make decisions for them, but we can create tools that allow them to see what their decisions will look like," Carpenter said.

“You can see a plan, but it doesn't have a real effect until you see it in a three-dimensional way, in color.”

— Dean Ramsey

To the lay viewer, the process is more magic than technology.

On a graphics computer, the OSU architectural images include animation such as students entering burger joints and cars moving on High Street.

It is so realistic it is dangerous “because people tend not to question it,” Carpenter said.

AT OHIO STATE, at least one project has been killed, and others may be changed because image forecasting exposed some aesthetic disaster in the making.

- A small mechanical systems building planned in the wooded glen south of Hagerty Drive, behind Mendenhall Laboratory, was canceled after it appeared on the videotape to be too ugly and obtrusive for the peaceful setting.

- A sign project was abandoned after videotape images showed St. John Arena looked much better without big letters spelling out its name.

Planners are having second thoughts about how to squeeze a new mathematics building into the modest space to be provided by raising the Brown Hall Annex.

The site videotape, modified to reflect construction plans, shows a blocky, multi-story edifice wedged in between Dulles and Cockins halls.

"CHEERY, EH?" Carpenter said. "The impact on the campus is really pretty bad."

Carpenter sees the technique as a way to prevent spoiling the campus during this period of peak building activity. The university, with 307 buildings, has 10 building projects under way, including new construction and major renovations.

Technology's dramatic impact

Carpenter began the project last year after convincing Richard D. Jackson, vice president for business and finance, that the technology was a good investment, both for teaching and facilities planning.

"I told Jackson that OSU was facing more changes on campus in the next 10 years than it had experienced in the previous 70," Carpenter said. "I told him, 'We have a way to help you see what it's going to look like.'"

Jackson, as well as the OSU Center for Teaching Excellence, responded enthusiastically, providing not only the technology but money for graduate students to do the necessary programming and graphics.

DEAN RAMSEY, assistant vice president for physical facilities, says the Carpenter tapes have had a dramatic impact on several projects.

"You can see a plan, but it doesn't have a real effect until you see it in a three-dimensional way, in color, and just the way you'd see it," Ramsey said. "You'd be surprised by the number of people, including many who are trained in architecture, who really can't visualize things this way."

Still, says Ramsey, it is only one tool among many used in campus planning. And those projects that look bad on tape aren't necessarily going to be thrown out the window.

That cramped mathematics building, for example, is a case in point.

"The main thing is to make that space look the best we can," Ramsey said. "We moved that building around as best we can, but the location is the only space we have left."

A FEW ARCHITECTURAL and engineering firms around the country are using such planning graphics, but OSU is one of the few universities to experiment with it, Carpenter said.

He is excited about the teaching potential for such machines. They give OSU the opportunity not only to turn architectural students in the classroom but to turn out graduates with highly salable skills.

Benefits in other locales

Any expansion of the program will require more computer work stations, an expensive proposition at $10,000 a unit.

But Martin B. Solomon, director of OSU's Instruction & Research Computer Center, says a recent donation by NRC Corp. of $750,000 worth of advanced graphics computers could allow a 40-unit graphics laboratory to be set up in the School of Architecture by next fall.

This could have direct benefits to community as well as campus planners. There is no reason, Carpenter said, why architectural graphics can't be used to visualize the effects of various building or zoning decisions in places like German Village, the Short North or other areas.

"If you decide to allow three-story zoning in the university area, I can show you what would happen in a very dramatic way," Carpenter said.
Marching band, woodwind faculty to play

Thursday, Oct. 27, 1988

...ulty from The Ohio State University's Department of Landscape Architecture, along with the work of several regional landscape architects, will be highlighted in an exhibition from Wednesday through Nov. 18.

"Landscape Architecture: Tradition and Transition" will be on display at the University Gallery's Hopkins Hall Gallery, 128 N. Oval Mall.

A reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 7.

The exhibition features a selection of works showcasing traditional and emerging design issues in the field.

These graphic illustrations of landscape architecture designs represent projects created for a variety of uses, from landscaping for private residential gardens to urban park design.

For more information, call the University Gallery at 292-0339.

The work of students and fac...
Students help design wildlife preserve

By Jennifer White
Lantern staff writer

For the past six weeks, OSU landscape-architecture students have been working with the International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Inc. in an effort to design land-use plans for a wildlife preservation near Zanesville.

The preservation, which is expected to be opened by 1993, will be the home of endangered and nearly extinct species from around the world, including the black rhino, snow leopard and Japanese crane.

The wildlife preservation will be the first of its kind in the United States or around the world, said Rosalind Neer, ICPWA executive assistant.

"This is an extension of a zoo providing the opportunity for the breeding of animals that will not breed in a zoo setting," Neer said.

In 1986, the 9,154 acres of land was donated to the center by American Electric Power Company. The land had been used by the electric company for strip mining, which removes natural resources such as coal from the ground to be used as energy.

The OSU junior landscape architecture class, consisting of 44 students, is studying ways to use land such as this that has been altered to a non-productive state in some areas, and recreate it so it can be functional, said Deborah Georg, associate professor of landscape architecture at Ohio State.

The land, which was strip mined during a time when no laws requiring reclamation existed, does not have normal soil and severely limits the possibilities for development, Georg said.

"The students are using the site as a resource to study ways that stripped land can be recreated or restructured," she said. "The preservation illustrates how the environment can be brought back to a productive state when it has been changed or altered."

Although the school is not in a client-consultant relationship with ICPWA, the plans the students are developing are regularly reviewed by the center, Georg said.

"When students handle the complexity of a project like this, programs for land that has not been altered are much simpler," she said.
Architecture students receive honors

By Angela Hagen
Lantern staff writer

Eleven landscape architecture students were honored Wednesday for developing landscape designs to be used to improve Drake Union's aesthetic and functional features, a planning consultant for the Drake Union Aesthetic Committee said.

Debra Walker, a junior from Worthington, and Michelle Martin, a junior from Wooster, were each awarded first honor awards and a $100 cash reward. Other awards included second and third honors and first and second order merits, and each winner received a cash amount from the operating budget of the Ohio Union, Cecilia Zanetta, a planning consultant, said.

Sixty-five juniors from Lawrence Walquist's Winter Quarter landscape architecture class participated in the project. The project lasted about seven weeks and consisted of four phases of professional effort: Data Collection and Analysis, Conceptual Idea Studies, Illustrative Master Plan and Detailed Design Development Drawings, Walquist said. Each student had a final set of 10 drawings.

The students created their designs based on goals and objectives set forth by the Aesthetic Committee. They worked with the committee on a client-landscape architect basis, Walquist said.

"The thing that's exciting about that is that it's a real project, not an academic exercise," he said.

"We actually had some feedback," Martin said.

Martin's design had a wave theme, and she placed three oblong structures in the water causing ripples as the water flows through them.

Michael Watkin, a junior who received a third honor award, hopes that groups, such as the senior class, will be encouraged to donate things to the project.

Watkin expressed concern that the only students who see the riverfront and Drake Union area are those who live in Lincoln and Morrill Towers.

"A design can change everything," he said. "If you enhance the design of a certain area, you entice the people, and the university will be more willing to spend the money."

David Mucci, director of the Ohio Unions, hopes to implement the plans drawn by the students.

"I think these ideas have to be put forth and have to be perceived, and they have to be experienced," he told students at the awards ceremony.

The students have been in contact with the right people, Mucci said.

"My commitment is to drive from your ideas some realization," he said.

The Aesthetic Committee goals and objectives for the project are based on the original purpose of the union when it opened in 1972: providing retail, recreation, study/meeting space and water recreation, with direct access to the river, to students, and performance, studio and office space to the theater department, Zanetta said.

The riverfront was of particular importance to the committee, Zanetta said.

"We think having a river is a really great natural feature," Zanetta said. "I don't think any campuses have such a thing, but somehow it is not a focal point; it's ignored."
Four OSU students donate 1,500 hours to park architecture

By Andrew Johnson
Lantern staff writer

An unusual design project to improve an Upper Arlington park gave four OSU landscape architecture students an opportunity to gain valuable professional experience.

The students, guided by their professor, donated more than 1,500 work hours to a park project with ties to AmeriFlora '92, said Lawrence Walquist, professor of landscape architecture at OSU.

The Upper Arlington Garden Council contacted the OSU Department of Landscape Architecture in the spring of 1991, to have designs made for the renovation of Tremont Fountain Park, Walquist said.

Walquist chose Joseph J. Dziatkowicz, William D. Minadeo, Scott C. Mosolf and John T. Woods to design a master plan for the renovation. The students have worked more than 92 weeks on the project.

The half-acre park is in the triangle formed by Canterbury, Reading and Northam roads in Upper Arlington.

The project has an estimated cost of more than $170,000.

The design of the park embodies a pentagonal theme broken down into five phases. Each phase is defined by a five-sided figure and blends many flowering plants, trees, a seating area and a sculpture/fountain representative of a flower.

The students and their professor have completed two phases of working drawings for the park. Funding is complete for the first phase, the entrance of the park, and will be under construction this spring, said Jackie Roederer, garden council president.

Walquist said during the past two years the students have been able to develop many professional relationships while working on the project.

"The students were able to experience a full-scale professional effort ... a true professional undertaking from its beginning stages to the final working drawings of the project," Walquist said.

Walquist said the garden council could have paid as much as $30,000 for the 1,500 hours of work already put into the project if they had bid out for private consultation.

"It was worth the hard work to receive the real world experience," Woods said.

The realization this was not just a class project or for credit, and the project would be cancelled if the community did not accept the students' proposal helped motivate them.

"We were not just presenting (the plans) to present them. If they didn't accept our work we were done," Minadeo said.

He said the entire project was done on top of their already tough school load, which made for an almost nonexistent social life.

Even though the project was undertaken on a voluntary basis, the students did receive around 10 credit hours for independent studies in landscape architecture.

The five-member design team produced a flowering landscape scheme for the park to bloom during the summer of 1992 because Upper Arlington was selected to be the host community for AmeriFlora '92.

The design, made to draw attention and to crum up support for the renovations of the park, incorporated juxtaposed pentagons of varying colors, symbolizing the 500 year anniversary of Columbus's journey to the new world, Walquist said.

Although Roederer was optimistic about receiving a single sponsor for the second phase, the fountain renovation, those plans fell through in early February. The garden council is currently seeking to raise the $50,000 needed for the construction of the fountain through private funding, Roederer said.

Woods and Mosolf have recently graduated and taken this experience into their new professions. Woods is working in Columbus for a landscape architecture firm, and Mosolf is overseas in Germany also working for a landscape firm.

Dziatkowicz will receive his diploma this spring, and Minadeo will finish his education this summer in China.
Students conceive city’s new look

By J.D. Shippegrover
Lantern staff writer

OSU landscape architecture students gained practical work experience Thursday and Friday.

The OSU Department of Landscape Architecture and other local landscape architecture associations sponsored a two-day workshop for students to create ideas for revitalizing 14 targeted neighborhoods in Columbus.

The neighborhoods included a stretch of High Street connecting campus to the Short North, the Old Town area around Parsons Avenue and an area of Cleveland Avenue, said Karen O'Reilly, a junior landscape architecture major.

Many of the targeted areas are located between neighborhoods that have already been revitalized, like the Short North and German Village, O'Reilly said.

These neighborhoods have been deteriorating since the 1960's, said Steven Stinn from the Columbus Neighborhood Design Assistance Center.

The invention and eventual mass use of the automobile led to the movement of people to the suburbs and the decline of city neighborhoods, he said.

There has been a recent interest in moving back into these old areas, with revitalization of areas like German Village and Victorian Village, Stinn said.

Stinn said the project was helpful because there were 100 people developing ideas, rather than 15 people working in an office on a project.

The students were assigned an area and worked in teams with faculty and professional landscape architects, O'Reilly said.

For instance, Nick Spehar, a senior majoring in landscape architecture, worked on the Old Town project. He said his group was looking to make the area more humanized. The area has a lot of traffic, so the group diverted traffic in some sections and added more pedestrian space, Spehar said.

In general, many students have proposed adding parks or pedestrian plazas to their areas, O'Reilly said.

Spehar added that just a few trees would make some areas look better.

The workshop is a good learning experience because it takes students out of the classroom and into the fast track of real landscape architecture, said Craig Depugh, a junior majoring in landscape architecture.

"We are also learning to take a look at the history of what the area used to be like and return it to its original state," O'Reilly said.

The project was initiated to create a strong connection between students and local professionals,

Jonathan Quilter/the Lantern

Tom Gallagher, right, an employee with EMH&T Inc. of Gahanna, discusses a logo idea with Jim Dicola, a senior majoring in landscape architecture.

said Jim Hiss, associate professor of landscape architecture.

"I wanted to develop an annual program where graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty and area professionals could work together on real projects," Hiss said.

Some of the ideas might be presented to the area’s business associations for possible implementation, O'Reilly said.
Landscape students learning in the field

By Melissa Bare
Lantern staff writer

It's not just a walk in the park for 11 OSU landscape architecture students spending the summer in Redwood National Park in Requa, Calif.

The students are volunteers in a program funded by the National Park Service to give them experience in different areas of planning for the park, including historic preservation, creating trails and examining different species of local plant and wildlife.

The northern California park includes several ecological zones, such as coastlines and grasslands that are dominated by redwood forests.

The diversity of the land makes the park ideal for students to become exposed to the complexities of involvement in national parks, said Jot D. Carpenter, coordinator of the program and professor of landscape architecture at Ohio State.

"This experience gives students an opportunity to help in creating polices, planning and designing for the park," he said.

The students are separated into four teams to work on 18 different projects scheduled throughout the summer.

Gabe Hays, a junior majoring in landscape architecture, is currently working on a project designing bicycle and hiking paths through the park and locating scenic views for park visitors.

"Designing the walking trails isn't easy because trails can't go above a 12 percent slope or elderly people won't be able to walk them," Hays said. "We try to be sensitive to the people who use the park."

One goal of the volunteer project is to make visitors aware of the natural resources in the park.

Hays' team is also designing educational areas in the park where visitors can learn about different types of wildlife, natural resources and history. Students must catalog different species of plants, animals and land forms to be included in the information display.

"Everything we are doing ties in awareness and sensitivity to the environment while trying to bring people into the park," Hays said.

Andrew S. Reese, a junior majoring in landscape architecture, is working on a project to improve picnic areas. Current eating areas must be moved because they are surrounded by potentially dangerous wetlands. The team is investigating sites for possible picnic and parking areas.

The students are also involved in planning boardwalks, signs for directing visitors, restroom accommodations and sites where bridges need to be built.

"Our main priority is to get as much out of each site as possible without hurting the environment," Reese said.

Sarah P. McCandless, a graduate student in landscape architecture, is involved in a project to preserve the Lyon Ranch, located in the grassland area of the park. During the California Gold Rush, the Lyons family came to the area from Indiana hoping to strike it rich.

Most of the original buildings were burned down by frequent fires in the grasslands, but some of the barns still remain. McCandless' project is to have the ranch nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

Taking action to maintain the environment of the park is a critical objective, said Professor Carpenter.

"The students are learning how to protect the natural resources of the park, debating whether to burn prairies, cut down acres of forest, thin trees or just do nothing."

The projects are similar to what the students have done in class, but far more complex, according to Reese. "We're following the same procedures we learned in school, but with major differences. At school we didn't have much time, and there wasn't a budget to work under. Now we have more time to work on sites, and we're taking thought processes we learned in class into reality."
Life easier, cheaper when landscaping is used right

By Michael Leach
Dispatch Garden Reporter

Landscape design means more than beautiful outdoor spaces. It can mean lower utility bills, a shorter trip to work and help for the environment.

To prove it, eight Ohio State University graduate students in landscape architecture redesigned two neighborhoods — one in Upper Arlington and the other in the Short North. The students used energy-saving and environment-friendly concepts.

It was a purely academic project — no cost limits and no plans to alter the two areas. But the students’ aim was to show that the neighborhoods could become “sustainable communities.”

The project was an entry earlier this year in the student category of a national design competition by the American Institute of Architects.

In recent years, the professional architectural group has promoted awareness of “urban ecology” with a view that conservation and sustainable communities are important for the future, said Norman Booth, chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee at OSU School of Landscape Architecture.

Sustainable communities are less oriented around cars and have a mix of ages and social groups. They are more self-reliant economically, as well as in the production of energy and food.

Along with ecological benefits, such a neighborhood also is more convenient. Basic necessities are a short bicycle ride or walk away.

Similar planning is used in Europe but not widely found in the United States, Booth said.

Students were required to retrofit existing neighborhoods, rather than design new communities, which would have been a far easier task.

The Upper Arlington site, near the Lane Avenue Shopping Center, covers 80 acres and is bordered by Ashcliff Drive, North Star Drive and Heumann Road. The 12-acre Short North site is bordered by 1st Avenue, N. High Street, Buttles Avenue and Dennison Avenue.

What did the students do?

Streets in the Upper Arlington area became greenways, filled with low-maintenance shrubs and trees, footpaths and bicycle paths. Alleys were used for vehicular access to the rear of properties.

Along with creating a park-like setting, part of this green space would be used for storm water retention. This reduces the amount of water running into storm sewers and helps raise ground-water levels.

Students said the goal of the plans is to live in a symbiotic relationship with nature.

Other features of the Upper Arlington plan included:

- A community center with an elementary school, day care for children, senior care and some offices and businesses. It also would generate some jobs for residents.
- Conversion of space over existing garages into small apartments, which would rent for less than houses in the area and would encourage a broader range of age and income levels.
- Elimination of through traffic via the alleys, which would provide vehicular access. That would allow an end to driveways and their maintenance, such as snow removal and resurfacing.
- Electricity-generating windmills, which would supply some power and could create a surplus of energy for sale to the electric company. The windmills would be partly concealed by trees.
- Low-growing plants on the southeast sides of buildings to prevent shading of rooftop solar panels. Northwest corners would be planted with evergreen trees to reduce winter heat loss.
- Widespread planting of ground covers and native plants that would reduce maintenance in greenways.

In the Short North, where economic and social diversity already exist, alleys became greenways lined with small plots that were located in former garages and carriage houses.

The aim would be to further enhance the growing artist community.

Underground parking garages would replace lost street parking. Below these would be cisterns to capture rainwater for irrigation.

Where possible, edible plants — such as nut and fruit trees — were recommended.
Budget landscapes show possibilities

By Michael Leach
Dispatch Garden Reporter

More than refurbished houses can be seen at the second annual Parade of Possibilities today. Some of the new residents will have not only a house but the beginnings of a garden waiting for them.

Eleven of the parade houses have simple landscapes that show what can be done on a shoestring budget of $500 or less for plants. The designs were created by students in the Ohio State University Department of Landscape Architecture.

The Parade of Possibilities is sponsored by the Columbus Housing Partnership, a nonprofit housing development agency. The parade features 20 houses in the $55,000 to $65,000 range, on the north, west, south and east areas of Columbus.

"We do the inside of the house. This landscape work says we care about the outside," said Beth Hughes, Columbus Housing Partnership's executive director. "I like it. It makes the houses look more finished."

She worked with Stephen Drown, an associate professor of landscape architecture, to develop the design concept as a class project. Now it has evolved into a new community service course being offered this fall. It gives landscape architecture students a chance to work with such organizations as the Columbus Housing Partnership or OSU Chadwick Arboretum.

Copies of plans, which also list plants used, are to be available at each of the 11 parade houses where the landscape work was done, and the new owners will be information on taking care of the new plants. The other nine parade houses already had plantings.

Students were encouraged to do more than foundation planting plans and to incorporate different types of shrubs, perennials and trees.

Mostly small plants were used due to budget restrictions. Generally shrubs are about a foot high and come in gallon containers. However, Drown said some larger, more expensive plants, such as a dogwood tree, star magnolia shrub and Japanese maple, were used for an instant effect.

Plants were purchased by the housing partnership at wholesale prices. The student designers supervised installation work on Sept. 11 by 35 high school students who work with the partnership.

Had the work been done commercially, the tab would have been well above $500: 20 percent higher for the plants; installation about $250; and a design fee of 5 percent based on the project's total cost.

Designs and plantings were rated by a panel of judges composed of: City Council President Cindy Lazarus; Brent Dennis, Franklin Park Conservatory executive director; Fred Hower, Ohio nursery stock marketing program; Mark Kline of Kinzelman-Kline, landscape architecture and planning; Kay Onwukwe, a landscape architect with HKI Associates; and Cherie Lucks, president of Colour Columbus.

"A Country Garden" at 280 S. 21st St., designed by Valerie Hennigan, won the most honors: overall winner, best front yard and best use of color. The designer is working toward a master's degree in landscape architecture.

Her goal was a low-maintenance garden that will provide some privacy from the street. There is also flexibility in the plan for the 14-by-30-foot yard to allow a tenant to add other plants.

"Life in landscaping is not perfect. The environment throws curve balls," observed Hennigan. One of those curves was an on-site plan changes after a 4-inch drain line was discovered.

The practical aspects "really enhanced the class," she said. "It's probably the most beneficial class so far."
Protection
OSU students to study ravines

By SARA LIPOWITZ
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Residents who want to help formulate a protection plan for Clintonville’s ravines can enlist the aid of students from The Ohio State University, who will study the ravines for a class project.

Professor Deborah Georg of the OSU School of Landscape Architecture and her students attended the Clintonville Area Commission’s Ravine Committee meeting Jan. 20 at the Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center.

The students, who are studying Clintonville’s four largest ravines as a project for a class entitled “Water in the Landscape,” will work with residents to define trouble spots and get permission to walk on private property.

“The class will divide into teams, and those teams basically will be looking at the ravines in sections,” Georg said.

Armed with cameras, the students will walk Glen Echo Ravine, Walhalla Ravine, Adena Brook/Overbrog Ravine and the large ravine at the Ohio School for the Deaf in the next few weeks, documenting erosion, pollution and other problems.

Although the Glen Echo Ravine generally is considered the dividing line between the CAC’s jurisdiction and that of the University Area Commission, CAC member Mike Averbuch said the CAC will include Glen Echo in its plans.

The CAC also will contact representatives of the University Area Commission to inform them of the project and ask if they want to participate, he said.

The information gathered will help the committee come up with a list of criteria to be molded into a zoning overlay, a protective augmentation to current zoning regulations, said committee co-chair Stephanie DuBow-Hubbard.

“...would identify areas of special consideration and some do and don’ts of development,” Averbuch said. “If someone does something out of conformance with the overlay, they would have to seek a variance.”

Development in a ravine area would require a certificate of appropriateness, similar to the requirements for developing in a historical district, Averbuch said, but hopefully not too onerous.

“We want to make it reasonable,” he said. “The CAC has never been interested in regulating the color people want to paint their houses, or anything like that.”

A zoning overlay proposal would have to be approved by Columbus City Council, Averbuch said.
Apartments near OSU are rescued by volunteer effort

Neighborhood rehab group owns units

By Michael B. Lafferty
Dispatch Staff Writer

Broom-wielding Erika Tantaroli made a face as she remembered her contribution to urban peace in Columbus yesterday.

"Ugh, I don't know how anybody could live like that," she said after helping clean out some abandoned apartments on Indianola Avenue and Summit Street, east of the Ohio State University campus.

She and 50 other young people from Methodist churches in Columbus and western Ohio held their noses as they removed trash, old furniture, clothing and junk from the apartments, which had been purchased by the Columbus Housing Partnership.

The volunteers from the neighborhood, OSU fraternities and sororities, the university's School of Landscape Architecture and the Northside Community Development Corp. to begin rehabilitating the apartments, which had become a breeding ground for crack users and drug dealers.

"This is a tough neighborhood. But my secretary came over here to check things out a few weeks ago, and one of the residents challenged her," said Beth Hughes, Housing Partnership director.

The project will make the neighborhood safer, he said.

"The buildings are brick and stucco structures built decades ago. They have full basements and skylit, third-floor attics," Hughes said.

Hughes said the partnership plans to complete the rehab by September and begin renting the three-bedroom units for $310 a month.

She said the partnership has encouraged neighborhood residents to begin forming neighborhood watch groups.

"This is a tough neighborhood," Hughes said. "But my secretary came over here to check things out a few weeks ago, and one of the residents came out and challenged her."

"Who are you, and why are you here," the female resident asked, according to Hughes.

"That's what it takes," she said.
Students complete study of ravines

By Melissa Henry
SNP Staff Writer

The reports are in and, thanks to Ohio State University graduate students, Clintonville ravine residents have plenty of information about how to improve their little corners of the world.

Students in the landscape and architecture program at the university performed an in-depth study of the ravines as a class project and presented their findings to residents last week.

Stafania Denbow-Hubbard, chairwoman of the ravine committee, said she was delighted with the results.

"I didn't realize the reports would be as extensive as they were," she said. "What pleases me the most is the tremendous amount of interest from the ravine residents."

The studies outlined specific examples of deterioration in each ravine and offered recommendations for improvement.

For example, the Overbrook ravine was divided into east and west forks. A prescription for the eastern portion is to reduce the velocity of the water flow by placing plants or other structures in the most channelized areas.

ON THE west bank, resident dumping of yard waste was cited as a primary problem. The waste inhibits underground and thereby contributes to higher rates of run-off and erosion. The soil can be re-established though planting programs, the report said.

Denbow-Hubbard said the study served both the students and the residents well.

"It works well both ways — I think students can get much more interested in a real project," she said. "And we have these enthusiastic and somewhat educated students that can do work for us that we couldn't do for ourselves."

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She said the next step in ravine conservation is to complete another grant application and compose a zoning change for review by the City Council.

The ordinance would be for approval of overlay zoning, Denbow-Hubbard said, putting additional controls on ravines and ravine-adjacent land.

THE ZONING would probably require a certificate of appropriateness if an owner wants to do anything that would change or affect a ravine, she said.

The committee hopes to have a draft of the ordinance completed by late spring.

Denbow-Hubbard said getting council to approve the zoning change may be a challenge.

"For us to get this enacted we will have to have done our homework and have large turnouts in City Council," she said. "I don't know who would oppose it but there's always the possibility."
Crime and the 'Dead Zone' studied

By Phil Custodio
Lantern staff writer

Landscape architecture students and faculty, and regional city planners met earlier this week at the Second Annual Design Charrette to develop ideas on reducing crime in the campus community.

According to a press release from the Landscape Architecture Department, the students divided themselves into 10 teams to study the south campus area called the "Dead Zone," which is the area bound by the railroad tracks on the east, High Street on the west, Eleventh Avenue on the north, and Fifth Avenue on the south.

With the help of professionals from around the city and state, the teams spent most of the two-day project in Brown Hall developing ideas and preparing presentations.

The teams also studied how the development of the Short North area forced crime into the campus area, and discussed how residents can take back their neighborhoods from crime.

Karen O'Reilly, the event spokeswoman, said the students' primary goal was to break-up the area into small sections where residents could get to know each other and form a sense of community.

City planners and residents could make improvements by cleaning up trash, organizing crime watch programs, and making physical changes that would restrict access to non-residents, O'Reilly said.

The physical changes would make the area less accessible to drug dealers, who would like to get in and out of the area quickly, she said.

Physical barriers could also be used to close some streets and alleys and create mini-neighborhoods, said Jodi Gradolph, a graduate student on team three, named the "5-11 High Group."

Several cities, including Dayton, have already implemented this plan in some areas, Gradolph said.

In the Dayton plan, through-traffic was reduced by 67 percent, traffic accidents by 40 percent, and crime by 26 percent, while the city's overall crime rate went up by 1 percent.

Chris Papakirk, another member of the 5-11 High Group, said the plan would control traffic circulation by limiting access to alleys and residential streets, revitalizing neighborhoods by planting trees and playgrounds, and making the school the major focal point of the neighborhood.

"Education is the best answer," Papakirk said.

Other team ideas included working with residents to find out their needs, reducing the number of unnecessary buildings, and creating pride in the community by giving each area its own identity, with a sign and gateway at the main entrance to the sub-communities.

The Second Annual Design Charrette was hosted by the Department of Landscape Architecture.
Students brainstorm on crime

One-way streets, new traffic flow among team ideas

By John Futty
Dispatch Staff Reporter

If it were up to Ohio State University students who spent two days searching for solutions to the crime problems near campus, traffic patterns in the neighborhood would be drastically altered.

Establishing one-way streets and creating barriers to prevent through traffic on other streets were among the suggestions from nearly all of the 10 teams of students in the Department of Landscape Architecture who participated in brainstorming sessions last week.

Students said the area, located between the campus and the Short North, has become a breeding ground for crime because it is accessible to drug dealers and other criminals who can drive through the neighborhood with ease.

Among those who observed the team's formal presentations were Joyce E. Swain, legislative aide to Councilwoman Cibby Lazanas, and Stephen J. Welk, a city traffic engineer, both of whom said they would take the recommendations back to City Hall.

"We need to make sure these ideas don't die," Swain said. "We have a very viable neighborhood there with concerned people and organizations that do want to re-create this area."

The area the students were asked to study is bordered by E. 11th Avenue, the Cornell tracks, E. 6th Avenue and High Street.

The teams, made up of seven to 10 students and faculty members as advisors, were allowed seven minutes to present their plans, complete with charts, maps and drawings, at the end of the two days.

Tom Hiss, associate professor of landscape architecture, said most people are surprised to hear that the department deals with issues like neighborhood crime.

"Landscape architects typically are viewed as people who beautify a city with plants," he said.

"But we also deal with much larger issues of exterior space development, things like circulation, pollution and the planning of entire communities."

Other suggestions the teams made include:

- Breaking the area into smaller, more manageable neighborhoods with their own identities and signs.
- Creating a community center for the area, preferably at the Weiland Park Elementary School on E. 7th Avenue, and incorporating a senior citizens center, a day-care center and other services.
- Surveying residents for ideas on improving the area and getting them involved in block watches, clean-up days, social events and regular meetings.

Linda Coody, a graduate student on one of the teams, said residents must become involved in finding solutions.

"It was a really good experience," she said.

"We got to do what we've been trained to do, and we were contributing to finding solutions to a very real problem."

"The key thing now will be to involve that community. We can't expect to come in from the outside, make changes and walk away."
In memory of Stephanie

JAMES HISS, professor of landscape architecture, shows drawing of the Stephanie Hummer Recreational Park to be built at the former Holy Name School, 155 E. Patterson Ave. The park was designed by landscape architecture students Kim Horn, left, Jeanne McKenna and Brett Park. Hummer was an Evans Scholar who was murdered off campus March 6. She will be remembered through the efforts of Catholic Social Services, which will sponsor a Family Center on the site to aid nearby residents. The University, the city of Columbus and Evans Scholars have joined in the project.
Cultivating good health in ‘healing’ gardens

By Michael Leach
Dispatch Garden Reporter

Ginny Salamy wrote a master’s thesis on something green thumbs have known for centuries. Gardens and gardening are good medicine for mind and body.

Salamy is a registered nurse and gardener who recently received a master’s degree in landscape architecture at OSU and thesis adviser for Salamy. He believes Salamy’s work will be especially beneficial for designers of hospitals, senior citizen facilities and doctors’ offices.

The work also ‘substantiates a lot of what we do’ in creating landscapes, Booth said. “This provides a little scientific basis.”

Salamy researched subjects ranging from quantum physics to mathematics to stress relief.

“I didn’t come up with any great findings. I came up with the fact that if you do good garden design, you’ll bring health to people,” she said.

One of her sources was research by Roger Ulrich, a behavioral scientist. He found that surgical patients, when placed in rooms with a view of nature, recovered more quickly and needed less pain medication than similar patients in rooms with urban views.

Alzheimer’s disease patients also responded favorably to garden medicine. At a Vancouver, B.C., facility with a garden designed for patients, violent incidents declined by 19 percent in a one-year period. At three conventional facilities, violent incidents rose by 68 percent, according to a Landscape Architecture magazine article cited by Salamy. Because people evolved in nature, not sterile hospital rooms with depressing views of parking lots or rooftops, such results shouldn’t be surprising.

Indeed, some theories Salamy looked at assert that people evolved in a savanna landscape — grasslands punctuated with groups of large, spreading trees. This may explain a nearly universal appeal of this type of landscape.

Landscape “Capability” Brown apparently knew this intuitively; he said. He created landscape designs for 18th-century English country estates that featured broad, grassy meadows, groups of trees and ponds — essentially the primal landscape. Because pastoral scenes are not available to everyone, she has suggestions for small, regular doses of garden “medicine”:

- If you haven’t gardened before or don’t have a lot of time, plant only a small area. Every year you may want to add more.
- Touch the buds, blossoms, seeds and leaves. Smell the flowers. Salamy is not interested in low-maintenance gardens — interacting with the plants is what helps promote health.
- All the basics that make an aesthetically pleasing garden make a healthful one. Essentials include balance, rhythm, repetition, use of color, light, and architectural features, such as fences, walls, paths and gates.
- It doesn’t have to be a formal garden, but organization is necessary. “People feel comfortable in an ordered environment,” Salamy said.
- Water is subconsciously recognized as fundamental for survival. It also appeals to our sight, sound and touch.
- Vegetable gardening, if only a tomato plant or two, should be a family affair. The family should help grow, harvest and prepare the food. She thinks there are benefits from just one home-grown meal a week, but “we never take the time.”
- Gardening is exercise, which is a known stress reliever.
- Sit still. “An evening garden is very important for those of us who work during the day,” she said. The calming effects of sitting amid soft colors, fragrances and sounds of water, birds or music are such that, “You won’t need a drink.”
Welcome back kid

Architecture students entering Brown Hall Tuesday got an unusual greeting from movie classic actor Humphry Bogart.
Fixing ravine may earn grant money

By Bill Zambernard
Lantern staff writer

An Ohio State student is attempting to earn a grant by improving the university district.

Tonya Nicholson, a graduate student in landscape architecture, is devising a proposal for upgrading the Iuka ravine area as a means for earning the grant, which is for a research and teaching position at OSU.

The ravine stretches south from Northwood Avenue to 15th Avenue and east from Indianola to North 4th Street.

Nicholson said her proposal will be based on two main sources.

One is an OSU senior design class which has been working in the Iuka ravine area for class credit this quarter, said Norman K. Booth, associate professor in landscape architecture. After studying the area, the students devised suggestions on improving methods of trash disposal and drainage, expanding green space and increasing available lighting.

The top four proposals from the class will be presented to city and university officials today at 2 p.m. in the Campus Partners building, said Steve Sterrett, spokesman for Campus Partners.

"I'll try to incorporate the best ideas from those proposals in my proposal," Nicholson said.

Nicholson has also been getting feedback from property owners and renters living near the ravine.

"I polled 95 residents in the area on issues such as security, how frequently trash is collected by the city, road conditions, and recreational space for children," Nicholson said.

After the suggestions are compiled into a master plan, the plan will be presented to OSU in her application for the grant and to the city for potential funding, Nicholson said.

The plan should be finished some time next quarter, she said.