DAAP cares thinks connects works

University of Cincinnati  College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning
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2013-2014
MISSION

The DAAP Cares Initiative is a collective of faculty, students, alumni and organizations committed to improving the quality of life for individuals and communities in need through the pursuit of theoretical and applied research. This group recognizes the academic design institution as a resource for innovation and development at all scales. The mission is to foster improved quality of life by identifying humanitarian causes and working as interdisciplinary teams that connect design, architecture, art, planning, and other disciplines to conduct research, create new theoretical frameworks, and generate solutions.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first DAAP Cares event was held in April 2011 and since that time, over 40 projects from DAAP students, faculty and alumni have been presented through DAAP Cares events. These events highlight projects that benefit communities that would not otherwise have access to Design, Architecture, Art or Planning. Everyone who is engaged with DAAP Cares is deeply appreciative of each person who has committed their time and energy to these projects. We are especially appreciative of all of the community members who have worked with the DAAP designers, artists and planners.

Since its inception, DAAP Cares has been supported by College of DAAP Dean Robert Probst and Craig Vogel, DAAP Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. We are also deeply appreciative to Frank Russell and others at the Niehoff Urban Studio who have hosted the DAAP Cares event each year.

In 2013, a group of students began developing the DAAP Cares student group. They have worked with faculty and consultants to run public interest workshops for DAAP students. DAAP Cares was initiated by DAAP students and it is great to see DAAP students getting more involved with these meaningful projects.

The projects in this book reflect DAAP Cares projects from 2013 and 2014. Thank you to all who were involved in these projects. Every community deserves access to design, architecture, art and planning.
Since the devastating earthquake in January 2010, Haiti has needed more than a handout. Haitians need reconstruction models that weave sustainable resources, cultural sensitivity, grassroots economies and technical expertise. Since long before that, the City of Cincinnati, like most urban centers, has wrestled with “marginalized populations.” What is needed here at home is systems thinking and holistic design addressing not only survival, health and educational needs, but also the core dream within each being. Co-ops for Causes (C4C) was developed in response to student aspirations to make a significant difference in our world, to do so in an interdisciplinary, collaborative way with each other and with mentorship from both profit and non-profit sectors.

Client organizations included: Good Shepard Orphanage in Carrefour Haiti, Cynthiana KY Rotary Club, Cincinnati DreamCenter and Cincinnati DreamWorks. Corporate partners included: FRCH Design Worldwide, Avi’s Bakery, Zimmer Construction, Center for Cooperative Education Research and Innovation (CERI), Mike Martin Rental, SFA Architects, Advantage Group Engineers and Thorson Baker & Associates.
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS ON UC’S CAMPUS

The DAAPcares student group held a workshop led by graduate professor Mike Zender and RECLAIM director Ashley Rouster. This workshop focused on cultural issues surrounding sex. Zender presented information about creating an HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum in Swaziland, Africa, and Rouster presented information about sexual assault on UC’s campus. After the presentations, the students discussed campus’s sexual assault problem in regards to methods used by Zender for the HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum. The students decided to continue this workshop into a full blown project, and worked to create a sexual assault awareness campaign for UC’s campus.
THE FIRST SEMESTER

The DAAPcares student group is based off of the mission of the DAAPcares initiative. It promotes social and public interest design, and how the DAAP disciplines can be used for humanitarian causes. The fall semester of 2013 was the first semester that this group convened, and they started off with a great start. They held 3 different workshops in various aspects of social design. One of them was led by Chas Weiderhold and emulated an urban design project he led in Detroit with high school students.

PARTICIPANTS
Heather Kereluik, Chas Weiderhold, Mike Zender, Ramsey Ford
The Student Members of DAAPcares

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014

DAAP Cares Student Group

UNIVERSITY AVENUE GARAGE: A NEW COMMON AREA

our solution
...
FOR WOMEN EXPERIENCING BREAST CANCER TREATMENTS

When women are released from the hospital after having their breast surgery, they are often sent home with a drainage bag and tubes that connect to the incision site to drain fluids until the incision heals, depending on the extent of their surgery. These pouches can often be troublesome and uncomfortable, and many women have to resort to home remedy solutions for holding all of the medical tubing and the pouch itself. Garments that accommodate her after surgery need to fit around the drainage pouches; they need to be able to be put on easily (because after surgery the tissue around the breast(s) is extremely sensitive and arm movement is extremely limited making it impossible to put anything over the head); and they need to hang and fit loosely (because avoiding tops that are tight fitting following treatments is highly recommended). These long sleeve wrap tops offer specialized function and support by holding an interior pocket feature specifically tailored to hold the drainage pouch and tubes. The pocket sewn on the inside of these garments is the perfect size and placement to comfortably hold her drainage system to allow her to feel more relaxed and at ease.

Breast Cancer Garment Design

PARTICIPANTS
Megan Sullivan

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014
Design, Storytelling, and Empowerment was a multi-disciplinary studio course that explored the connections between design, education, storytelling and empowerment. In this course, the team developed improved video-storytelling facilitation and learning tools for empowering middle-school students. These tools took many forms, including workbooks, toys, games, posters, and updated facilitation guides. Through the course, students collaborated with Thrivera, a non-profit that empowers youth through video storytelling, and the Academy of World Languages (AWL), a local public school.
HOME FIRE EXTINGUISHER

The Fireguard is a fire extinguisher designed for the home environment. It addresses three challenges:
1) That fire extinguishers are intimidating and confusing to use
2) That fire extinguishers do not fit in a kitchen environment aesthetically
3) That fire extinguishers are not recyclable, and must be thrown out after they expire or are used.

With an easy-to-use start mechanism, the Fireguard is activated with a motion much more natural than pulling a pin; instead simply pull the lever and you are ready to go. The inside is also assembled with two separate canisters, allowing them to be individually refilled or recycled, so nothing has to be thrown away any more.
DE-WORMING PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

A convergence of inputs from various trips to Africa, publications, and interactions with NGO’s revealed that elimination of intestinal worms in children was highly effective at improving quality of life and that medication was highly effective at eliminating worms, but that after medication the reinfection rate within 9 months was over 80%. In response to these insights, and working with Hope Education Foundation, students at UC developed a plan to communicate hygiene lessons through a school-based curriculum taught in conjunction with a medical de-worming program. The aim was to both eliminate worms and educate to prevent re-infection. The strategy our team designed to achieve the aim was to create an attractive teaching aid in form of a large poster that told the hygiene lessons visually without relying on words.

Working with content experts, graduate design student Feifei Pang and Professor Mike Zender designed a poster and accompanying teachers’ guide providing lessons for teachers to present with the poster. The poster was initially evaluated by Professor Zender in Shirali Tanzania, with the help of the Village Life Outreach project and Professor Michael Zaretsky. Based on this initial success, the poster was field tested by Hope Education Foundation staff in May 2012 in the Central Africa Republic in 7 lower primary schools with positive results.

PARTICIPANTS

Mike Zender (Professor)
Feifei Pang

LOCATION

Central African Republic
DAAPcares 2013
VISUALIZING PHONEMIC SOUNDS
TO AID IN EARLY READING SKILLS

Children took part in a 40-week intervention for sound-to-letter correspondence, titled See Word Reading Tool intervention. The See Word Reading Tool is a digital, interactive tool that uses visual communication principles to provide graphic cues so students may concretely visualize the relationship of phonemic sounds to alphabetic letterforms.

The tool is rendered on iPads, with each child having an iPad to work on during each session. Graduate students trained on the reading tool worked with a small group of 3-4 children at a time for no longer than 30 minutes (with breaks built in). The small groups met two to three times per week.

Rayma Waters is the Co-Director of CECH Partner for Achieving School Success (PASS) at UC. She is the coordinator/liason with Mt. Washington School and Academy of All World Language schools. She is coordinating the after school program in which the study will take place.
PROVIDING AN APPROACH THROUGH SOCIOCULTURAL LOGIC + EXPRESSION

The earthquake disaster in Haiti in 2010 created immediate and long-term needs for their people. The resulting unbalanced hierarchy between nature and man produced an environment with little to no organization or control. This thesis addresses how the American architect can provide the best design solutions for Haitian people in his or her role as a foreign agent. It poses the question of whether non-local agents can design cross-culturally by employing a sociocultural approach through the use of indigenous materials, craft, building techniques, and spatial organization. The built environment is a reflection of the sociocultural logic of place. This thesis is an exploration of architecture as a cultural and social expression of the Haitian life, arguing that social expression of architecture is embedded in development through agriculture. For long-term improvements in Haiti, this thesis studied and analyzed subsistence farming through an agriculture-training center in Jeremie, Haiti.
LEARNING & CREATING TOOLS FOR ERADICATING URBAN POVERTY

In fall 2013, the UC Forward course CoreChange was taught by 3 faculty from Architecture, Medicine and Organizational Leadership. There were 18 students from 8 different disciplines all engaging in a meaningful and productive discussion on the systemic complexity of cyclic poverty and related urban issues. The class explored the roots of the issues and explored how to visualize and communicate these relationships in an informative, interactive and inspirational way. Students met with local community groups and work together to address the challenges facing every person who believes in the city and the people who live there.

PARTICIPANTS
Dr. Ilma Barros (Professor)
Dr. Victor Garcia (Professor)
Michael Zaretsky (Professor)
Students from the 2013 CoreChange course

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014
THE FEATURES OF THE ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY SPACE IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS

A collaborated capstone project among eight Chinese architectural schools, this project specially focuses on the space reformation and community design for the Shibati Residential block in Chongqing, P.R. China.

The site is located within a mountainous area directly facing the Yangtze River, the longest river in China. The site boasts a long history of the city; the presence of houses passed down from generations to generations tell the story of how this precious architectural block is preserving itself well, regardless of the outside world. However, the old houses are so old and in such poor condition that they are prone to trigger health and safety problems, and even worse, criminal activity.

The project focused on finding a solution to reform this local community area.
Creating a Model for Patient-Centered Care is a collaborative project between the George L. Strike Bone Marrow Transplant Center at the UC Cancer Institute and the Live Well Collaborative. An interdisciplinary team of students from the College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning developed solutions that reflect the patient centered care philosophy of the Transplant Center, led by Dr. Elias Anaissie.

“Our patient-centered model of care relies on engaging the patient in decisions around all aspects of care. We encourage our patients to become empowered as an active partner in their care. This includes extensive education about your disease, discussion of personalized medical therapies available as well as where they are delivered and understanding patient rights and responsibilities. All of this is done with the goal of reaching a treatment plan that is based on a shared decision between patient and doctor. This full-partnership with the patient also includes the family and other caregivers, with a strong focus on patient and family education from a dedicated nurse educator.”

Solutions focus on the physical space, communication, process and amenities – categories identified in the patient and staff research as critical areas that impact patient care.

Creating a Model for Patient-Centered Care
This design proposal is responding to the recovery of the human spirit after a natural disaster, such as hurricane Katrina, when masses of people seek refuge within a large civic or commercial structure like the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana. In such circumstances, the refugees are herded together, without any space of their own for privacy, relaxation, working, or storage. While they may be safe from the elements, they are not able to mentally and emotionally recover in such conditions. The goal of this design is to create a secure, modular enclosure that could utilize the terraced seating within such a complex to provide the sense of stability that the human psyche needs to heal.
CHRISTOPHER J. WALKER MEMORIAL BENCH

The project is a cast-in-place concrete bench inspired by the work of our classmate Chris Walker, who passed away in 2013. The Class of 2014 has rallied behind this cause since its inception 10 months ago from conceptual design, to design development, and official university approval. While a core group of students has been spear-heading the operation, larger groups of supporters will be aiding in the construction slated to happen during the end of March 2014. With the overwhelming support from faculty members and campus officials, the management and design of the project has remained student run, acting as both an educational project as well as an inspiring and healing outlet for everyone involved.

PARTICIPANTS
Jillian Blakey, Rebecca Doughty, Joyce Hanlon, Phil Riazzi, Matt Lamm
Architecture Class of 2014

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014
Located in East Africa, this new outpatient healthcare center supplements existing services provided by Cherish Uganda in their effort to combat the destructive myths, stigmas, and perceptions of local children living with HIV/AIDS. The center will also be open to the surrounding community with a focus on addressing their daily healthcare needs, including HIV transmission prevention, nutritional education, and other medical services currently inaccessible to the community.

This project is the result of a partnership between Cherish Uganda and Engineering Ministries International East Africa (EMI EA) which are both faith-based non-profit organizations located in Uganda. Currently under construction, the building of this healthcare facility is being managed by the construction management department of EMI EA.
EXPLORING INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

This project involved examining the costs of poor water and sanitation infrastructure in Nairobi over the last few years. By documenting, observing, and interviewing heads of households in Nairobi, solutions were explored.

The study found many innovative responses currently happening in Nairobi. The Kounkuye Design Initiative designs and builds small scale solutions by building facilities that offer water/toilet/shower services for a low cost. Umande Trust converts human waste into biogas that is intended to be used for cooking fuel. Peepoo is a design solution of biodegradable plastic bags that can serve as mobile toilets. The Human Needs Project is building a very large water and sanitation facility that uses new technologies for purifying waste water from the toilets and showers and engages the local community in the management of the facility, scheduled to open in July 2014.
In partnership with the Lower Price Hill Community School and Price Hill Will, the team proposed a garden shed that strives to empower and engage the residents of Lower Price Hill through community involvement and the cultivation of food. From planting to growing, harvesting to composting, this garden shed will provide an opportunity for residents to invest in their neighborhood, augment the green space in Lower Price Hill, and offer more options for fresh food, thus encouraging healthy lifestyles.

This project was initially an entry in a local Cincinnati competition called “Place from Space” which strives to rehabilitate vacant lots and transform them into community assets. Our involvement with this competition and project began while volunteering with Waterfields LLC, a local for-profit business which grows and sells microgreens to the Greater Cincinnati community. It was under this guidance and support of Waterfields and its founding organization, CoreChange, that this project was first conceived.

The team anticipates building the garden shed on an open lot adjacent to the Lower Price Hill Community School. The shed will enhance the school’s existing garden on the site and help to further the school’s gardening program.
The most beautiful places, the most destitute places, and the most powerful places are equally vulnerable.

We have seen constant human displacement at home and afar in the last decade from both natural and economic disasters. This DAAP seminar explored creative responses to mitigate the destruction of infrastructure in transitional periods.

The class began by considering how new technologies and fabrication techniques could be leveraged to accommodate human habitation. Students then sought to understand how a particular branch of scientific method, ergonomics, has been used to design spaces to accommodate the body and streamline, maximize and add efficiencies to human activity.

The class’ output was selected by competitive review to be exhibited in New York City in May 2012 at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair—“North America’s platform for global design.” The ultimate objective is to publicly advance open-source shelters using contemporary fabrication and highly accessible materials through design thinking.
Despite the increasing potency of natural disasters, designers have yet to effectively create a feasible solution to the displacement of these victims. Some proposals require outrageous funding to kickstart, others require significant deployment and construction times to house the victims, and a few even demand squalid and cramped living conditions. Victims of natural disasters face a myriad of problems when all they want is a way to get back to their everyday life. They may be without food, water, shelter, electricity and other amenities until the recovery team has arrived, which may take a significant amount of time if the organizations are not prepared.

The focus of the OoF Deployable Disaster Shelter is to minimize deployment while maximizing recovery. There is a period of time, from the day after the disaster to day 45, when interim housing solutions are merely in inception stages, where disaster victims are being shipped from one temporary shelter to another. The goal is to provide a temporary shelter to disaster victims within days of the event that serves as a stepping stone towards life as it was before the storm.
INTERPRETING THE EMERGING CULTURAL IDENTITY OF UGANDA THROUGH TECTONICS

Foreign aid in developing countries has contributed positively in countless ways, however there have also been hidden consequences from aid provided by non-government (NGO) and not for profit organizations (NPO). Among these consequences, the cultural identity of Uganda as it is expressed architecturally has been shrouded by the very groups trying to help them, because these organizations have typically applied the same blanketed approach to building regardless of context. This has caused missed opportunities for communities receiving aid to express themselves through built form as they historically have.

This thesis seeks to establish a new design methodology applicable to foreign aid projects that might better interpret the cultural identity of Uganda through tectonics, temporality, and craft. Contextually, the research is manifested within an educational program which, today in Uganda, might be the most severed relationship between built form and youth. The academic environment also offers a direct relationship between tectonic, pedagogy, and youth that might begin to craft an architectural strategy which interprets the cultural identity of Uganda’s future leaders. This strategy may then be adapted towards a building methodology in which NGO’s might fashion culturally inspired architecture that begin to interpret the cultural identity of Uganda.
In fall 2008, University of Cincinnati graduate architecture students began designing a masterplan and a building proposal for the Roche Health Center in rural Tanzania, East Africa. On April 1, 2011, the Roche Health Center Clinic opened its doors and has since treated thousands of patients who previously had no access to healthcare available. The Tanzanian District Government has recognized the Roche Health Clinic as one of the best buildings in the region and they are evaluating how to implement aspects of the design including siting, passive design, flexibility, water collection and many other design features.

Phase two of the Roche Health Center is the RHC Medical Housing. Designs began evolving in a fall 2011 UC Graduate Architecture studio. The team then worked with the local community in Roche and our non-profit partners in Shirati, Tanzania. The project continued through the Village Life Outreach Project Building Committee with the assistance of Emily Roush, Richard Elliott and Sharon Luu. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2014.

See rochehealthcenter.blogspot.com for more about the Roche Health Center design and construction.
AN URBAN DESIGN PROJECT IN ZHUHAI, CHINA

An urban design project investigates the long-term growth in the Tangjiawan valley, Zhuhai, China. This area is experiencing the rapid transformation from two agriculture-based small villages into a dense new city core including several universities and emerging IT districts. The project integrated the space syntax and parametric computation into the urban design process. The road networks are optimized based on the minimum path algorithm combined with topographical analysis.

PARTICIPANTS
Ming Tang (Professor)
Yiyi Zhou
Tang & Yang Architects

LOCATION
Zhuhai, China
DAAPcares 2014
With the recent devastation caused by natural disasters, aid organizations have been faced with the challenge of providing shelter for victims. Unfortunately, there is a lack of transition between short-term emergency structures and permanent homes. This project explores the aid provided following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and how architecture can play a role in the long-term rebuilding process. Through community participation and professional involvement, disaster relief can provide homes that foster resiliency in residents, and become a catalyst for positive change. The design incorporates the flexibility of recycled materials like rubble and tarp, along with cultural aspects surrounding the traditional Haitian lakou, or courtyard. The lakou is integral to everyday life, providing space for interaction, commerce, and respite. The building process involves the construction of a core unit, providing areas for sleeping and security, allowing the remainder of the home to evolve over time, adapting to the needs of individual families.
The client, Felix and Christina Madrigal, desired an eight-foot expansion to the front bedroom of their two-bedroom home, and a porch renovation that would be a habitable extension of the interior space and a beacon and place of gathering for the community. The design team’s proposal was to pull the face of the building out in two distinct volumes around the existing porch and clad the extension with an intricate pattern of wood slats that would give the illusion of a sculptural, more voluminous form. The Madrigals were also interested in the possibility of splitting the house along the wall that divides the living room and master bedroom from the kitchen and dining room so, if desired, they could exist semi autonomously from whatever tenant lived on the other side of the divide. For this the team proposed relocating the door of the master bedroom so that it opens towards the living room and installing sliding doors as a means of partitioning the living room from the dining room. The plan also proposed extending and regularizing the kitchen, and providing a canopy and deck with a series of sliding glass doors that would, in effect, open Felix’s home to his neighbors and serve as an extension to the living room.
Since its eruption in 2011, over 2 million refugees have fled the destruction of the Syrian Civil War into neighboring countries like Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Refugee cities have formed and spread quickly in these countries to provide relief and security to fleeing Syrians. One such city, Za’atari, located close to the Syrian-Jordan border, has grown into Jordan’s 4th largest city since its inception in 2012. UNHCR caravans and tents provide shelter but offer little more than a barrier from the elements. Our project seeks to provide Syrian refugees with both a shelter and a home. By allowing for personalization and versatility, the shelter creates a sense of ownership and identity. The construction system is simple and intuitive, relying on waffled plywood ribs and a fabric envelope. Additional furniture components can be added to transform a shelter into a commercial unit, health clinic, or educational space.
Bridging a Social Gap Through Art

For several months in 2013 I carried around my ceramic mugs and bowls everywhere I went. I sat down with dozens of strangers in my community and asked if I could eat and drink with them. I pulled out my ceramic bowls and filled them with crackers, and filled my ceramic mugs with water. I would share a meal with them and learn from them. At the end of this interaction, I gave them the ceramic vessel as a gift and photographed them with it.

By sharing my ceramics, food, and life with strangers I have developed new relationships within my community. I care about the gap that separates college students and the community and I am attempting to bridge that gap through sharing meals together.

Elizabeth Jade Burnard

A Community Art Exchange

Corryville, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014
A COMMUNITY-BASED ART PROGRAM WITHIN THE SCHOOL OF ART EDUCATION PROGRAM

Art in the Market is a community-based art program housed in the Art Education Program in the School of Art that provides urban high school students opportunities to explore art as a vehicle of expression, education, and social change. Established in 1997, the program brings together diverse students from local area high schools, DAAP students and faculty to learn about, conceptualize, and develop socially-engaged art projects in the neighborhoods surrounding the university. The program exposes students/teens to the environment at DAAP, seeking to foster their professionalism as artists. During this academic year the students/teens were busy developing their own portfolios in preparation for pursuing a college degree in a creative field. A partnership with Uptown Consortium secured a community space on short Vine for public exhibitions. Out of this year’s twelve participating teens, two highly talented students will be freshmen at DAAP in fall 2014.

PARTICIPANTS
Flavia Bastos (Professor)
Curtis Smith; Felix Rodriguez

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
INTERACTIVE ARTWORK AND SENSORY PLAY SPACE

Designed with autism in mind, a foot putt golf course celebrates and harnesses the sensory needs of my son. The project is a playspace for a museum that gently allows families to start a conversation about how people with autism see the world differently, and how play might mean something very different. It is a visual celebration of the non-verbal language a father and son are developing and a teaching tool to continue his physical and occupational therapy sessions in a new location. And, it is a gesture to the families touched with ASD that their journey is unique, special, and worth sharing.

PARTICIPANTS
Ryan Mulligan, David Armacost

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014

A Dinosaur Says Moo
A PROGRAM DEVELOPED FOR ARTWORKS CINCINNATI

HDC is about listening and designing for one person. HDC co-creates custom superhero insignias for children in Cincinnati through a one-on-one positive and motivational interview. HDC designers combine the best approaches of Design Thinking with Empathic Listening and elementary Art Therapy techniques to help children recognize and visualize their internal strengths and abilities. A week later HDC delivers a custom superhero cape complete with a story and background sheet to help spark conversations in their family about the children’s special qualities and an induction ceremony into a league of superheroes.

PARTICIPANTS
Ryan Mulligan
150+ families served through Children’s Hospital Cincinnati, Boys and Girls Club, Ronald McDonald House, Glad House, & Creative Corner

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2014
The U.S. Peace Corps and the College of DAAP have a long and fruitful relationship. In 2002, the DAAP School of Planning joined with the U.S. Peace Corps to offer the Master’s International Program. The Master’s International Program provides students the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills gained from international development and planning courses by completing Peace Corps volunteer service between the first and second years of study. Six students have completed the Master’s International program, and two are now enrolled in the program, enhancing Cincinnati’s global awareness & engagement.

Two years later in 2004, the University of Cincinnati’s School of Planning partnered with the U.S. Peace Corps to offer the Coverdell Fellows program, integrating a Master of Community Planning degree with Peace Corps experience. The Coverdell Fellows Program is for returned volunteers who want to apply skills and incorporate experience developed overseas toward earning master’s or doctoral degrees. While enrolled, students serve as paid interns in local agencies that assist under-served populations in the Cincinnati area. To date, twenty-six students have provided over 20,500 hours of support. While enrolled, students serve as paid interns in local agencies that assist under-served populations in the Cincinnati area. To date, twenty-six students have provided over 20,500 hours of support.
DAAP’S RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

DAAP’s returned Peace Corps volunteers serve in local communities around the Cincinnati region. Bringing their Peace Corps experience back home, they strive to influence positive action in their communities through continual service and outreach.

The U.S. Peace Corps and the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning have a long and fruitful relationship. For over a decade, the School of Planning has offered the Master’s International (MI) and Coverdell Fellows (Fellows) Peace Corps Programs, allowing students to integrate a Master of Community Planning (MCP) degree with Peace Corps experience.

PARTICIPANTS
Students in Fellows Program: Adelyn Hall, Alan Edwards, Brandon Hixson, Kate Esarey, Tanner Yess, Carlos Jean-Baptiste

Students in M.I. Program: Daniel Rankin, Robert Eastman Johnson

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio DAAPcares 2014
The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Dallas-based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. The organization enriches the lives of citizens by bringing design thinking to areas of our city where resources are most scarce. To do so, the bcWORKSHOP recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work.

People Organizing Place [POP] is buildingcommunityWORKSHOP’s public design effort strengthening social, economic and physical health. POP has four components: the city map, neighborhood stories, neighborhood histories, and the Toolkit.

The POP Toolkit is a grassroots approach to planning. It provides a common-language that bridges between people and policy, positioning community members as effective advocates for change.

Tools in the Toolkit provide a primer in design thinking, offering creative problem solving strategies. Measures are also provided, to help neighbors identify and track goals. The Toolkit grew out of a number of internal initiatives and is ready to launch as a public pilot with two neighborhoods as stakeholders in finessing a tool for Dallas and beyond.

BUILDING COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Dallas-based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. The organization enriches the lives of citizens by bringing design thinking to areas of our city where resources are most scarce. To do so, the bcWORKSHOP recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work.

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Building Community Workshop

PARTICIPANTS
Kelley (Romoser) Vogel
bcWORKSHOP Staff
Big Thought
Denton Homeowners Association
Mil City Community Association

LOCATION
Dallas, TX
DAAPcares 2013
The University of Cincinnati Community Design Center (CDC) collaborated with the East End Area Council (EEAC) and community stakeholders to envision an urban design concept for a five block section between Page St. and Delta Ave. along Riverside Dr. in the area is often referred to as the East End “Garden District.” This was chosen as the focus area due to the significant community investment in developing gardens in the vacant lots, and the potential for redevelopment of existing commercial structures along Riverside Drive. The CDC aimed to begin to give physical form to the EEAC’s vision of a neighborhood business district.

For this initial visioning phase, the concept aimed to articulate potential options for development, much like a menu, from which the community could respond and choose the preferred alternatives. The study identifies parking and pedestrian circulation options that support potential businesses along Riverside Drive, as well as identify opportunities for public space. The illustrations are not intended to be a static image or final product, but a catalyst for conversation about the future potential for the East End Garden District. Overall the goals of the design concepts are to aid the council in establishing more certainty for potential businesses investment in the East End Neighborhood Business District.

The East End Garden District Study
A SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTHCARE

Healthcare is a multi-faceted issue facing the entire world. The underlying complexities of healthcare make it very difficult, if not impossible, to find solutions that are going to alleviate the problem. Needs, expectations, resources, and social acceptance change drastically from one culture to the next and these are all directly tied to how healthcare should be provided in a unique way for each specific location. Healthcare is a human right and all people should have access to the highest level of healthcare available. What exactly this means is up for debate and will change with location, time, and people. However, it is undeniable that health, and therefore healthcare, are pivotal to determining the quality of life of the individual and society as a whole.

Healthcare as a Human Right
CURRENT HOUSING ISSUES FACING CINCINNATI, OHIO

This team focused on Homelessness, Urban Renewal, Housing Affordability, and Foreclosure. Each of the team members interviewed with different local organizations and conducted research on each topic. Focus was on Cincinnati, but also included Hamilton County and the States for comparison.

Based on research, the team found some surprising data about the current housing crisis. Cincinnati has a long history of suffering homelessness. Research shows that in Cincinnati area, 8,295 people are confirmed homeless in supportive housing, 2,454 are confirmed homeless men and 1,482 are confirmed homeless women. The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program is administered by Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) to provide rental subsidy for low-income residents. Approximately 19,000 households applied the program after the waitlist reopened in April of 2011. Only 13,000 households were selected to be on the waiting list and the current list is expected to take three to six years to exhaust.
Hunger is a national problem which affects most urban and rural areas to some degree. Those who are most susceptible include the impoverished, children, the elderly, and the disabled. Cincinnati is not spared from this phenomenon. As a part of a Social Justice class, three urban planning students explored the issues of hunger, food security, and food access in the Greater Cincinnati region. The findings of this study suggest that continued research and policy creation is needed on the national, regional, and local scale to search for more creative and comprehensive approaches to addressing food-related disparities.

THE GREATER CINCINNATI PERSPECTIVE

Hunger and Food Disparities

PARTICIPANTS
Beth Honadle (Professor)
Alexander Cassini, Paige Hensley, Wade Johnston

LOCATION
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
USING ADVANCED SPATIAL ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY FOOD DESERTS

Thousands of low-income Cincinnatians and Hamilton County residents without cars live in areas where they cannot reasonably walk or take a bus to buy healthy foods for their families. Professor Chris Auffrey of the School of Planning and Planning PhD student Sagar Shah have worked with Hamilton County Public Health and a number of other local community groups to identify those areas that are have the worst access to healthy food (food deserts), so that the limited resources available can be strategically targeted to help those in greatest need. Using the advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities provided by DAAP, Auffrey and Shah were able map all locations where food is sold in Hamilton County and to determine where low-income residents and residents without access to private motor vehicles lived more than a mile walking distance from the closest supermarket or grocery store. This information has been shared with the health department and community groups, so that changes, such as improved bus service or working with corner stores so they offer more fresh fruits and vegetables, can be strategically targeted where they are needed most.

Participants
Chris Auffrey (Professor)
Sagar Shah (PhD student)

Location
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
ESTABLISHING A CULTURE OF HEALTHIER LIVING IN THE PRICE HILL COMMUNITY

The Price Hill Sustainable Food Project is a group of five students (four industrial designers and one biomedical engineer) dedicated to establishing a culture of healthier living in the Price Hill community. Through working with multiple organizations, such as Core Change, the Enright Ridge Urban Ecovillage, and Price Hill Will, the group hopes to make enough connections, meet enough people, and learn enough about the community so that a true change can be made to the culture of the community. What originally started as a project based around developing an aquaponics farm has evolved into a full-fledged effort to improve the awareness of Price Hill residents of the existence of the Enright Ridge CSA so that they can become aware of the organic and healthy foods available to them. The group started by reaching out and organizing meetings with members of the Price Hill community and hopes to utilize findings when designing methods to improve the look and feel of the Enright Ridge greenhouse, packaging and delivery of healthy farm foods, and other physical improvements that build on the community aspects of local, organic food.

Participants
Matt Anthony
Industrial Design and Mechanical Engineering
Co-ops

Location
Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
PUBLIC ASSET CREATION THROUGH THE LENS OF TEENAGERS

Territory Urban Design Team asked teens to be the authors of change and to take ownership of a public space on behalf of their community. Teenagers, as the primary users of public space, explored questions of stewardship, safe passage, and social gathering and developed projects to address public safety issues in the neighborhood of Albany Park through architecture, public art, and urban design. In response to public safety concerns, and with members of Albany Park community groups and neighborhood stakeholders acting as the client, apprentices catalogued neighborhood public spaces, considered opportunities and problems associated with each space, selected one as their site, studied its history and context, and reviewed the impact of new use on its surroundings. At the same time, apprentices studied precedents in architecture, public art, and urban planning through research and site visits, and learned architectural design and presentation techniques. Based on this foundation, groups of apprentices created a design proposal to transform the site into a usable public asset.

PARTICIPANTS

Helen Slade (Museum of Contemporary Phenomena)
Rashri Ramaswamy, Mike Newman, Chas Wiederhold (SHED Studio Chicago)
After School Matters

LOCATION

Chicago, Illinois
DAAPcares 2013
URBAN AGRICULTURE AS EDUCATION IN OVER-THE-RHINE

Stemming from the vision of Pope Coleman, a Prospect Hill Resident and board member of the Over-the-Rhine (OTR) Foundation, the Rothenberg Rooftop Teaching Garden is an innovative green roof project intended to integrate with the curriculum of the existing public elementary school below. The project supports a program to provide OTR youth access to fresh vegetables and opportunities to understand and participate in food production. The rooftop garden also functions as a recreational space, outdoor classroom, and a green roof. The Community Design Center (CDC) collaborated with green roof experts Green City Resources and the OTR Foundation to provide design, specifications, and construction documents for the project which was scheduled to open in 2014.
A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MANAGING OUR VACANT LOT INVENTORY

Students interested in landscape urbanism joined forces to advance emergent strategies for sustainable city-making. Engaging in a rigorous weekend design charrette, graduate and undergraduate students (from community planning, architecture, and horticulture backgrounds) collaborated with design leaders and community stakeholders to develop a strategic framework and site-specific approaches to managing Cincinnati’s vacant lots. This process aimed to celebrate Cincinnati’s expanding vacant lot inventory as an under-exploited asset for rebuilding place and strengthening social and cultural continuity throughout the city. The outcome of their hard work is a pattern book that clearly leverages the strengths of each discipline and proposes informed solutions that demonstrate a thorough understanding of the dynamic relationship between natural and urban systems.

PARTICIPANTS

Ryan Geismar (Professor)
Virginia Russell (Professor)
Students from the 2013 Vacant Lots course

LOCATION

Cincinnati, Ohio
DAAPcares 2013
OCCUPYING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Students in the multi-disciplinary Vacant Lots: Occupying the Neighborhood initiative collaborated with community representatives of the neighborhoods impacted by their theoretical explorations to develop place-specific strategies for managing vacant lots. The initiative is a fruitful example of how the relationship between UC’s DAAP and Keep Cincinnati Beautiful has empowered local communities with pragmatic tools to inspire lasting, transformative change. Building from the framework established by 2013’s group, students engaged community members over a weekend charrette to envision the best and highest use for the growing inventory of vacant lots in select Cincinnati neighborhoods. Beyond sustainable site-specific solutions, students explored district/neighborhood-oriented opportunities for supporting the unique natural, social, and cultural characteristics of each study area.