HELLO!

Welcome to the ACE Mentor Program of Austin's 2019 Final Presentation Night. As a culmination of our students' work over the past 16 sessions, each student team will present their design and collect feedback from a panel of industry experts. The evening will conclude with the Awards Ceremony, a celebration our students, mentors, and the future of the A-E-C Industry!

Upcoming Events
Be sure to connect with us via social media to stay up-to-date with upcoming events.

May  2019  ACE Austin Board Application Opens
August 2019  Student Registration Opens, 2019-2020 Program
October 2019  First Session, 2019-2020 Program

ACE Mentor Program of Austin  ACEMentorAustin

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

5:30 PM  Doors Open
6:00 - 6:25 PM  Project Board Showcase
6:30 - 8:10 PM  Project Presentations

Community Health Clinic (CIRT Competition), Classroom 202
Housing, Classroom 203
Park and Community Health Clinic, Amphitheater 204

8:10 - 8:20 PM  Amphitheater for Awards Ceremony
8:20 - 9:00 PM  Awards Ceremony, Amphitheater 204

2018 - 2019 SPONSORS

ACE Mentor Program of Austin

AT&T CONFERENCE CENTER, LEVEL II

WiFi

Network Name: UT Guest
DESIGN CHALLENGES

ACE Austin's 2019 Curriculum invited local high school students to design solutions for one of three challenges: a park, housing, and a community health clinic. The goal of the industry panel is to assess the ability of the students to make a reasoned, coherent, well thought out, clear presentations on their team's design and construction approaches within the project's objectives and/or constraints.

PARK

The design must include two building components, at least two different sports activities, two modes of transportation, as well as play areas.

HOUSING

Teams were given the option to determine if their project is affordable, moderate, or luxury; a single family residence or multi-family. The housing challenge has the greatest diversity amongst teams, with designs ranging from a luxury home to a tree house. These projects are maximum of three stories, and are required to include at least two exterior elements such as pool, outdoor kitchen, etc.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Teams must design a one or two story building with parking, and interior spaces such as a lobby, exam spaces and employee only areas. In addition, the design must provide two modes of transportation.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC, CIRT COMPETITION

The 2019 CIRT National Design & Construction Competition invites ACE Mentor Affiliate teams from across the country to design solutions for one of three challenges: a playground or playscape, alleviate urban transportation congestion, and a community health clinic.

The competition is maintained, coordinated and juried by the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), in coordination with ACE Mentor National and the Chicago Architecture Center.

The 2019 theme celebrates the innovations and contributions the design and construction community make to the quality of American life, while understanding the issues and challenges the industry faces to deliver on this legacy.
Panel of Experts

Ed Prendergast
Vice President, Business Unit Leader-Central Texas
Balfour Beatty
Advisory Board Member, ACE Mentor Program of Austin

Ed has been working in the Construction environment for 39 years. After graduation from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in Construction Science, he has worked in Operations as a Project Manager, Estimator, Preconstruction Manager, Business Development officer and now a Business Unit Leader and Vice President for the Austin office of Balfour Beatty.

He previously served on the ACE Board of Directors for the last 15 years, serving as the President of the Board for the last 5 years. He recently joined the Advisory Board of ACE Mentor Austin.

Philip Koske, LA
Co-Founder, Nudge Design

I moved to Austin in 2003 and worked for two large, award-winning firms for 14 years. Within that time, I was able to work on a wide range of project types and conditions. As a result, I have developed a broad skill set including most aspects of landscape architecture, planning, strategy, and interaction design. The context of my work includes every major market within Texas, with an emphasis on public spaces, workplaces, retail experiences and parks. In 2017, I started Nudge Design with Brian Ott. We opened the office to pursue creative and technical aspects of landscape architecture within our region and community.

I firmly believe that the process of design is collaborative and open to discussion throughout. Creating new places is a team effort, often benefiting from a wide range of skills and knowledge. This means that everyone is part of the story, process and formation of ideas. My specific approach focuses on using a holistic and human-centered process to create high-impact spaces, with a curious and hands-on mindset during construction. Success for me is measured by what gets built, how it functions, and the surrounding stories.

Andrea Weisheimer
Project Executive, DPR Construction

Andrea is a Project Executive and member of the Austin Business Unit Leadership Team at DPR Construction, with over 20-years of construction industry expertise providing a balance of private and public sector residential, hospitality and commercial developments. In this role, Andrea delivers projects successfully by combining strategy, direction and highly motivated leadership with experience, organization, passion and dedication.

She oversees commercial and corporate office projects, and guides ongoing preconstruction process and strategic client partnerships. This scope of work encompasses supporting regional growth strategies and administering business development best practices. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Management from Oregon State University.

Sophia Razzaque, AIA
Project Architect, Lake|Flato Architects

An Austin native, Sophia's love of design began at an early age and was inspired by her father, an architect. Her previous experience is diverse, having worked at Cook + Fox Architects in New York City, Zaha Hadid Architects in London, and Michael Hsu Office of Architecture in Austin prior to joining Lake|Flato. Designing buildings in urban cities all over the world influenced Sophia's return to her Austin roots to contribute towards the city's vibrant renewal as Austin rapidly grows.

Sophia holds a Master of Architecture from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, and a Bachelor of Environmental Design from Texas A&M University. Sophia has maintained a presence in the architecture community outside of her professional work, including teaching at the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Phil Thoden  
President and CEO, Austin Chapter of the Associated Contractors of America  
Advisory Board Member, ACE Mentor Program of Austin

The Austin Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) is a trade association of over 250 leading general contractors, specialty contractors and suppliers working in the Central Texas commercial building industry. These companies, large and small, employ roughly 10,000 people in the local economy and build a wide range of projects such as office and residential towers downtown, hospitals, schools, retail spaces and just about anything that is not highway or residential work. Key services provided by the Austin AGC are safety, advocacy, networking, education and building information.

Before coming to Austin in 2003 and beginning work with the Austin AGC, Mr. Thoden spent 18 years in Washington, DC. He worked for 9 years as a lobbyist, including 5 years for the AGC of America. He also spent 4 years on the staff of a U.S. Senator. Phil graduated with a Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree from Georgetown University in Washington, DC, in 1989.

Matt Fajkus, AIA, LEEP AP  
Tenured Associate Professor, University of Texas at Austin  
Director, Graduate Program in Sustainable Design, UTSoA  
Principal Architect, Matt Fajkus Architecture

Matt Fajkus is a unique hybrid of practicing architect, academic researcher, and university instructor; and he was won national awards in each respective category.

Fajkus holds a Master of Architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. His designs, research and writings have been published extensively, including but not limited to National Public Radio, ESPN’s Longhorn Network, Texas Architect, Dwell Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and he recently co-authored a book titled Architectural Science and the Sun, which has been published in 2018 via Routledge Publishers.

Ashley Scroggs, PLA  
Landscape Architect, Coleman and Associates

Ashley joined Coleman & Associates as a Landscape Designer in 2015. Ashley graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor’s of Landscape Architecture and Minors in Urban Planning and Horticulture. Ashley has had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects including student housing projects, university expansions and enhancements, commercial developments, and residential design.

She is now a Project Manager and enjoys working on a variety of projects and thrives on the challenges and opportunities to learn with each one.

Melissa Bagdatli, PE  
Structural Engineer, DCI Engineers

Melissa Bagdatli is a Structural Project Manager at DCI Engineers. After graduating from University of Illinois in 2013, she moved to Austin. She loves working on student housing, medical office, affordable housing, hospitality, and school projects. When not engineering, she enjoys yoga, baking, and taking her dog on adventures.
Panel of Experts

Wayne A. Crew, PE, NAC
General Secretary, National Academy of Construction
ACE National and Austin Chapter, Board of Directors

Wayne has over 45 years of experience in the engineering and construction industry, and has worked for both owner and contractor firms as well as in research. Early in his career, he served in project management and engineering positions for two large owner companies, Amoco Chemical Corporation and Michigan Chemical Corporation. Later he served in executive positions at engineering giants Technip USA and KBR. His roles in research included serving as Director of Research at CII and then as Director of CII.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University and an MBA from the University of Houston, and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Michigan. He is active in the ACE Mentor Program, serving on both the group’s National Board of Directors and the Austin, TX, Board of Directors.

Wendy Dunnam Tita, FAIA, IIDA, LEED AP
Principal, Page
Former President, AIA Austin

As an architect of interior spaces, Dunnam Tita champions the conversation between design, craft, and people to advance and nurture this essential collaboration, and to enrich the human experience of architecture and its making. She has deep experience developing sustainable design thinking in projects ranging from intimate residential spaces to large and complex public works. Wendy has conducted original research and developed designs and standards adopted as sustainable models.

Her award-winning projects include luxury single family homes, multiple multi-use residential buildings on the downtown Austin skyline, alongside corporate offices, and buildings and interiors for public institutions. In 1999, Wendy assisted in curriculum development for the Interior Design program at the University of Texas School of Architecture. For the following six years, she taught design studios and a lecture course, and today, Wendy continues to support the school as a visiting critic.

In 2018 she was inducted into the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows.

Chris Szeliga, LEED AP
Senior Vice President, JE Dunn Construction

Christopher Szeliga is senior vice president of the JE Dunn Construction Austin office where he is responsible for management of projects and personnel along with strategic growth initiatives in Central Texas.

Chris has been in the construction industry and worked with JE Dunn for 21 years and has been the Austin Office Leader since 2014. He is a US Navy Veteran with the SeaBees’ (Construction Battalion) from 1993 to 2001, and a LEED Accredited Professional. Chris serves his community as a member of The Associated General Contractors’ of America Board of Directors and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas Board of Directors.

Karina Trimble, PE
Principal, Architectural Engineers Collaborative

Karina is a structural engineer and a principal at AEC. She has worked in the Austin area for eight years and prior to that worked in New York City for many years. Karina has performed the structural design of innovative new structures in a wide variety of materials including steel, concrete, masonry and wood.

She has extensive experience with retrofit of and large additions to prominent existing buildings as well as restoration and preservation of historic landmarked structures. Her portfolio includes parks, visitor centers, municipal buildings, museums, academic buildings, high-end residential, multi-family housing, townhouse renovation, and high-end retail.