

Tony Filardo '09 adjusts the 3-D model he created of a recycling center for Hartford. The model is made of recycled materials found in the architecture studio.

## Green Concrete?

### ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS DESIGN RECYCLING CENTER

He started with pieces from a broken chair and a light fixture found lying around the studio. These scraps became part of a 3-D "garbage" model—made of recycled materials—for the recycling center Tony Filardo '09 envisioned for Hartford.

Filardo was one of 10 third-year architecture students who spent their spring semester designing recycling centers. By mid-March the students had developed rough exterior designs of the building and its floor plans, its orientation on the site and in relation to surrounding buildings, vehicle and pedestrian traffic flows, and the incorporation of other elements—such as educational displays, a rooftop garden, wind turbines, solar panels, or outdoor sculptures made from recycled material.

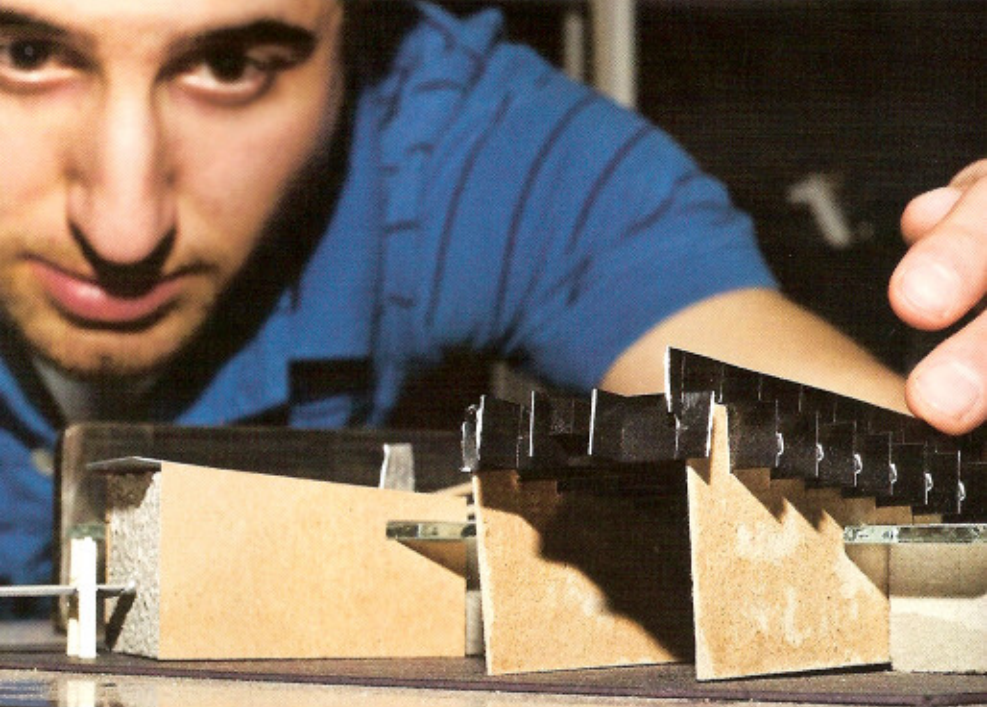
Daniel Davis, professor of architecture in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, chose a site across Interstate 91 from Riverside Park in downtown Hartford and took the class to see it. Students then developed a site model displaying the topography of the area and set to work creating designs using the

detailed specifications and requirements supplied.

They presented their work to a panel of local architects, whose feedback led to several rounds of refinements of the designs. In mid-May selected projects from the class were entered in an international student-design competition called Concrete Thinking for a Sustainable World. Winners will be announced in June.

Now in its third year, the competition is administrated by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and sponsored by the Portland Cement Association and the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. Students must use concrete as a key building material in their projects and are encouraged to come up with innovative methods of structure, fabrication, and construction.

"Sustainable design issues are very important in today's world," says Davis. "They need to be worked into the architecture curriculum. The students are embracing this project and really showing a lot of excitement about it." ■



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