

ARCHUpdate 04.26.07

FROM THE ARCHITECTURE CHAIR

- **NAAB VISIT FEEDBACK**

Shortly before the NAAB Visiting Team left last week, they offered some feedback. Based on what they observed, the team thought it might be helpful, and they said that this feedback could be shared with faculty, students, and administrators. Generally, the team was very encouraged by what they saw. In all four areas under examination they saw marked improvement. The team leader, Bruce Blackmer, said that the design work shown was of good quality, and that it appeared that the program was on a “steep incline” in raising quality, and that it had “good momentum,” which the program should build on. The team said that the SIT program appeared to be an effective strategy. The team said that the quality they saw should be spread throughout the program (support courses, etc.). They said that the students they spoke with appeared to be energized by the recent changes in the department, and were supportive of them (they noted that students expressed “very few negatives”). They said that one of the program’s biggest challenges will be expanding faculty, especially in studio. They believe that the program is under-staffed, and that this could be an impediment to accreditation. The team will make its recommendations at the NAAB Board meeting in July, and that the department will receive official notice from NAAB in late July. The NAAB report will be shared with everyone. The date for the next visit will likely be in the Fall ’08 semester, although the date has not yet been set.

- **STUDIO VISITORS**

Next week the Department will be hosting several visitors participating in final design reviews. One of them will be here for a few days. Dr. Forrest Wilson, author of several books on architecture, design, and building science, will participate in first year, second year, and Masters thesis reviews. Forrest has been an architecture professor at such schools as Catholic University, Pratt Institute, and the University of Maryland. Angela Cahill, Dan Davis, and Mike Crosbie had Forrest as a studio critic when they were architecture students.

- **‘SKETCH FOR CASH’ WINNERS!**

The faculty reviewed the submissions to the “Sketch for Cash” Competition and chose sketches by Stefanie Leontiadis, Dmitry Kulikov, and Guzel Salimova for first, second, and third place, respectively. All sketches submitted can be picked up in Mike Crosbie’s office.