The mission of the School of Architecture + Design is to create a setting for the pursuit of theoretical, practical, and productive knowledge, embracing the duality of the education of an individual and the practice of a profession. The school takes a decidedly Modern position towards design and simultaneously seeks to understand the structure of historical development and culture. The school has a long-standing commitment to international and urban studies through the Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center, the Study Abroad Program, and the university’s Center for European Studies and Architecture.

The objective of the School of Architecture + Design is to produce graduates who will be leaders in their chosen professions and in the communities in which they live. The school seeks to provide a forum that cultivates vigorous dialogue and debate, enriching the interrelations between education and practice.
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In May of 2008 the School of Architecture + Design was honored by the university’s exemplary department and programs awards committee for our work across departmental boundaries. Much of our success, which extends beyond the boundaries of our school and the university, can be attributed to integrated teamwork across disciplines. Collaborative education begins in our foundation design labs, where fundamentals of design are taught in small studio-based learning environments to students from each of the school’s four programs. The studios offer beginning design students the opportunity to form teams and engage in collaborative creative work. Presently, we are creating an experimental house for the 2009 Solar Decathlon, developing an autonomous transportation system, a traveling exhibition designed to make the abstract physics of fields concrete and relevant to middle schoolers, and have plans to expand our involvement with developing countries. We are confident that these and other collaborative projects, with partners across the university, will enrich the learning experiences of our students and provide a platform for future research.

ScoTT Poole, AIA,
School of Architecture + Design Director

AN EYE FOR QUALITY

Remember you as an eighteen-year-old freshman? You were smart, up for a challenge. Everyone could see you were going to go places. And now you’re there! Your professors could see your potential then and they enjoy hearing about your accomplishments now. Please use the envelope at the right to update your email address.

Please consider supporting our efforts to further establish the school as a premier center for design education and research. Your support is essential to our efforts. Your contribution will assist us in cultivating a forward thinking, technologically innovative, and socially connected school and university. The envelope in this newsletter details giving opportunities.

Your gift will be recognized in a future issue of this newsletter.
The 2002 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition was a hard sell. There was no track record of the US Department of Energy’s new program to reach a wider public regarding issues of energy, no awareness of the School of Architecture + Design’s ability to compete at a national level, and no sponsored research funding. Despite this, the school’s house enjoyed considerable success—a high ranking and recognition as the most innovative house on the Mall. The 2005 effort became a litmus test for the efficacy of design research. Could the knowledge developed by the first team be transferred to and transformed by a new team of students? The answer is a resounding yes. The cornerstone concept—every technical decision is measured against its contribution to spatial effect—was met with a complexity well beyond the previous work. The 2009 effort ratchets up the degree of difficulty. Presently in design development, students and faculty are working towards the October ’09 competition. Joseph Wheeler, AIA, associate professor; Robert Dunay, AIA, T. A. Carter Professor of Architecture; and Robert Schubert, associate dean of research, lead the design/research team.

STUDENTS VISIT A.ZAHNER COMPANY, KANSAS CITY

Christopher W. Leyenberger
Peter Manning
John P. Markunas
Lawrence H. Mason
Michael D. Mastrota and Ann Mastrota
William K. Miller Jr.
Johann C. Mordhorst
Nashawtuc Architects, Inc.
Michael J. Nolan Jr.
Olshesky Design Group LLC
Michael J. Palladino and Carol F. Palladino
Carl L. Peterson, III
Mary M. Price
Mohammad Rajab
Patrick Rand
Katherine E. Randolph
Drew C. Ranieri
Ratio, PC
Karen E. Schwank
Anthony M. Sease
Linda Sebesta
William S. Scolline
David L. Spady
Robert S. St. John
Joseph T. Sroka
James R. Thompson and Teresa Thompson
Sara J. Thorne-Thomsen
Acker & Urban, MLA
Thomas S. Vater and Yuliya Vater
M. Lee Walker
Stephen T. Weisman
Lisa J. White and Michael D. White
Roger A. Woodford

SOLAR DECATHLON 09: RESEARCH AS AN ITERATIVE PROCESS

The 2002 US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition was a hard sell. There was no track record of the U.S. Department of Energy’s new program to reach a wider public regarding issues of energy, no awareness of the School of Architecture + Design’s ability to compete at a national level, and no sponsored research funding. Despite this, the school’s house enjoyed considerable success—a high ranking and recognition as the most innovative house on the Mall. The 2005 effort became a litmus test for the efficacy of design research. Could the knowledge developed by the first team be transferred to and transformed by a new team of students? The answer is a resounding yes. The cornerstone concept—every technical decision is measured against its contribution to spatial effect—was met with a complexity well beyond the previous work. The 2009 effort ratchets up the degree of difficulty. Presently in design development, students and faculty are working towards the October ’09 competition. Joseph Wheeler, AIA, associate professor; Robert Dunay, AIA, T. A. Carter Professor of Architecture; and Robert Schubert, associate dean of research, lead the design/research team.
STUDENTS DESIGN, BUILD HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE

Two fifth-year architecture students, Dan Gusman, of Williamsburg, Va., and Brandon Lingenfelser, of Blacksburg, Va., have worked with faculty to design and build an innovative house that takes advantage of the prefabricated housing process while providing all the attributes of a custom-designed home. The house is the students’ undergraduate thesis project with faculty advisors Joseph Wheeler, AIA, associate professor, and Robert Dunay, AIA, the T.A. Carter Professor of Architecture. This design includes two modules completed at the school’s research facilities with as much of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing work as possible in place prior to transport to the home site. The modules are placed with an open space between them, then a crew will frame the connecting floor, walls, and roof. An important aspect of the design strategy is to make the on-site installation run as smoothly as possible in an effort to best utilize unskilled volunteers who are routinely involved in the construction of Habitat for Humanity houses. This project builds on a body of research of students and faculty.

GIFTS

The Sigrid Rupp Trust

ConocoPhillips

A. J. (Jack) and Linda Davis

Baskervill

Melinda H. Becker

Beeryrio Architecture + Interiors

Blue Ridge Masonry Association

Michael J. Burton

Stephen J. Carlidge

Dafang Chai

Commonwealth Architects, PC

Demian & St. Leger

James R. Duber

Eastman Chemical Company

Kristine Fallon Associates

Kris K. Fallon, FAIA

Lucy S. Ferrari

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

Freeman White

John W. Good

George S. Grady

Douglas A. Ham

Jeanne and Jack B. Harrell

Raymond Howell

Richard Howell and Carla R. Jennings

Mary J. Keen

Mike T. Shippocott

Lois F. W. Stott

Steadman Architects

Steve B. Harper Jr.

Rodney T. Harris

Charlotte O. Heile and David E. Heile

Donald E. Hill and Sara W. Hill

Graham Y. Hill

Wallace F. Holladay and Wilhelmina C. Holladay

Benjamin R. Humphreys Jr.

Mark G. Johnson

Jones Lang Lasalle Americas, Inc.

Thomas A. Kamstra

Anne W. Keene and Richard C. Keene

Curtis B. Keesee

Danielle D. Kim and Dr. Patrick K. Kim

Jennifer N. Koenig and Stephen W. Koenig

David J. Krahe and Irene E. Krahe

Harry & Glória

Jane J. O’Gorman

S. Gary Will

Susan J. Applegarth

Patricia T. Kearns

Charles and Dawn H. Keil

Donald M. Miller and Sara W. Miller

Hambly S. Miller

Hilton and Hambly C. Mitchell

Wellesley College

Benjamin D. Humphreys Jr.

Mashburn

Jones Lang Lasalle America, Inc.

Thurman T. Kuenne

Pamela A. Klein and Richard E. Klein

Evelyn B. Knopf

Dane M. Knopf and Dr. Patrick K. Knopf

Jennifer B. Krygier and Stephen W. Krygier

David A. Krahe and Irene C. Koster

Payton, P. Country

Design WLLC

Angel T. D’Arrigo

Tony J. D’Arrigo

Blair B. Dunay

John Miller and smartphones

Edward C. Dunay

Asia A. Dunay

Sarah A. Dunay

Kenjiro Kuma

James D. Dunay

William J. Dunay

Sally R. Wilson

Bruce E. Zivic

Mary J. Zody

William D. Almond

Steven P. Andersen

Archetype

Berryrio, Inc.

Robert A. Boynton, FAIA, and Helen C. Boynton

Jennifer N. Browne

Kimberly C. Bruffy

Barbara F. Burns and David N. Burns

John L. Bush

Rebecca A. Callcott

Paul G. Campbell

City of Olean, Div of Youth & Recreation Services

Rachel Callcott

Ryan C. Campbell

Scott A. Campbell

City of Olean, Div of Youth & Recreation Services

R. Corry D’Amato

Laurie J. Colbe and Zolakuk M. Code

Wendi J. Company

Pella Windows & Doors Company

Perkins + Will Architects, Inc.

Susan C. Pilato and Vincent Pilato

Lee C. Quill and Lori A. Quill

Edmond H. Rahme

Margaret M. Rietveld

Robson Group Architects, Inc.

Ryan G. Sheehan

Mark L. Shalvey

James M. Williams, FAIA

Montgomery Architects

Nathaniel Mathis

James L. Waddell

David R. White

Lee A. Shea, FAIA

Zachary W. Shumaker

David A. Oviedo

Oolland Associates

Brian C. Opperman

Pritchard & Pritchard

Pond Architects

Peggy Shumaker

Trent E. Shumaker

Juan B. Shumaker

Porter & Zehnder

Roberta Shumaker

S. Cary Gill

Steven B. Harper Jr.

Thomas A. Kamstra

Anne W. Keene and Richard C. Keene

Curtis B. Keesee

Danielle D. Kim and Dr. Patrick K. Kim

Jennifer N. Koenig and Stephen W. Koenig

David J. Krahe and Irene E. Krahe

Wendi J. Company

Pella Windows & Doors Company

Perkins + Will Architects, Inc.

Susan C. Pilato and Vincent Pilato

Lee C. Quill and Lori A. Quill

Edmond H. Rahme

Margaret M. Rietveld

Robson Group Architects, Inc.

Ryan G. Sheehan

Mark L. Shalvey

James M. Williams, FAIA

Montgomery Architects

Nathaniel Mathis

James L. Waddell

David R. White

Lee A. Shea, FAIA

Zachary W. Shumaker

David A. Oviedo

Oolland Associates

Brian C. Opperman

Pritchard & Pritchard

Pond Architects

Peggy Shumaker

Trent E. Shumaker

Juan B. Shumaker

Porter & Zehnder

Roberta Shumaker

S. Cary Gill

Steven B. Harper Jr.

Thomas A. Kamstra

Anne W. Keene and Richard C. Keene

Curtis B. Keesee

Danielle D. Kim and Dr. Patrick K. Kim

Jennifer N. Koenig and Stephen W. Koenig

David J. Krahe and Irene E. Krahe

Wendi J. Company

Pella Windows & Doors Company

Perkins + Will Architects, Inc.

Susan C. Pilato and Vincent Pilato

Lee C. Quill and Lori A. Quill

Edmond H. Rahme

Margaret M. Rietveld

Robson Group Architects, Inc.

Ryan G. Sheehan

Mark L. Shalvey

James M. Williams, FAIA

Montgomery Architects

Nathaniel Mathis

James L. Waddell

David R. White

Lee A. Shea, FAIA

Zachary W. Shumaker

David A. Oviedo

Oolland Associates

Brian C. Opperman

Pritchard & Pritchard

Pond Architects

Peggy Shumaker

Trent E. Shumaker

Juan B. Shumaker

Porter & Zehnder

Roberta Shumaker

S. Cary Gill

Steven B. Harper Jr.

Thomas A. Kamstra

Anne W. Keene and Richard C. Keene

Curtis B. Keesee

Danielle D. Kim and Dr. Patrick K. Kim

Jennifer N. Koenig and Stephen W. Koenig

David J. Krahe and Irene E. Krahe

Wendi J. Company

Pella Windows & Doors Company

Perkins + Will Architects, Inc.

Susan C. Pilato and Vincent Pilato

Lee C. Quill and Lori A. Quill

Edmond H. Rahme

Margaret M. Rietveld

Robson Group Architects, Inc.

Ryan G. Sheehan

Mark L. Shalvey

James M. Williams, FAIA

Montgomery Architects

Nathaniel Mathis

James L. Waddell

David R. White

Lee A. Shea, FAIA

Zachary W. Shumaker

David A. Oviedo

Oolland Associates

Brian C. Opperman

Pritchard & Pritchard

Pond Architects

Peggy Shumaker

Trent E. Shumaker

Juan B. Shumaker

Porter & Zehnder

Roberta Shumaker

S. Cary Gill

Steven B. Harper Jr.

Thomas A. Kamstra

Anne W. Keene and Richard C. Keene

Curtis B. Keesee

Danielle D. Kim and Dr. Patrick K. Kim

Jennifer N. Koenig and Stephen W. Koenig

David J. Krahe and Irene E. Krahe

Wendi J. Company

Pella Windows & Doors Company

Perkins + Will Architects, Inc.

Susan C. Pilato and Vincent Pilato

Lee C. Quill and Lori A. Quill

Edmond H. Rahme

Margaret M. Rietveld

Robson Group Architects, Inc. 
Daniel Hilgenberg, a graduate of the industrial design program, has invented a wearable computer case that can be worn like a backpack or suspended on the chest, where it can swing down to create a work platform that allows for computer use while standing. Hilgenberg designed the device as an assignment in a sophomore industrial design studio.

Four industrial design students have created a swift-water victim-transport harness for boat transport. In swift-water rescue, neck and back injuries are among the most difficult for rescuers. Current back-immobilizing rescue harnesses present complications and hazards. Beginning as an industrial design class project, Liz Varnerin, Kyle Schumaker, Brian Sandifer, and Matt Zacherle, all fourth-year students, developed a rescue harness that provides proper spine immobilization, self-righting to face-up flotation, and protection from water hazards. The team showed their product, hydroSpine, at the National Association for Search and Rescue conference in Colorado Springs, Colo. in May 2008.

Akshay Sharma, assistant professor, and Jonathan Mills, architecture graduate student, are leading a team of industrial design and mechanical engineering undergraduate students on a $68,000 grant to study Advanced Personal Transport (APT). The goal of the APT project is to provide for a mass transportation system that resides between the anonymous scale of the bus and the intensive energy expenditure of the private vehicle. This system of user-friendly vehicles will provide greater flexibility of movement to a wider audience (elderly, those with disabilities, and pre-driving age). Addressing issues of sustainability and responsible consumption of resources, the system will reduce time and hassles related to commuting; diminish dependency on gasoline, provide environmental benefits of energy conservation and lower emissions; and foster better land use and planning due to significant reductions in parking of personal vehicles. Robert Dunay, the T. A. Carter Professor of Architecture, serves as a co-principal investigator and coordinator for the project.
GIVING BACK

Meet Kevin B. Sullivan, AIA, principal and a studio director at Payette, a 180-person firm located in Boston. Kevin is cochair of the School of Architecture + Design Advisory Board. He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1987 and the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1994, and joined Payette in 1987. He currently sits on the firm’s board of directors and chairs its design committee. Sullivan designs complex health care and science facilities, domestically and internationally, that are intricate in their geometry, rich in color, and with a strong connection to the landscape. He is working on the design for a cancer center and children’s hospital for Hershey Medical Center, a private hospital in Pennsylvania, and The Science Center for Brandeis University, and an 18-story high-rise for Thomas Jefferson University in downtown Philadelphia. His designs have been recognized for their innovation and impact; he has received numerous AIA design awards, including six national awards. He received a Boston Society of Architects Young Architect Award for Design in 1998. He is an active lecturer and sits on the Boston Society of Architects Honors and Awards Committee.

SOA+D ESTABLISHES CENTER FOR DESIGN RESEARCH

The impetus behind the development of a Center for Design Research is to give identity to the manifold activities of the school that are or can be directed to further research. The goal is to exploit the uncharted territories of opportunity that lie between disciplines with the following objectives:
- provide new options and increased linkages between the school’s undergraduate and graduate programs through research studies
- amplify undergraduate student exposure to design research
- expand our capacity to build relationships within the design professions and affiliated industries
- expand the pursuit of collaborative research projects within and beyond the boundaries of the university
- increase corporate partnerships and sponsorship

Presently, the vision is to build a center of collaboration where performance criteria can commingle with cultural forces and societal precepts to produce works of use, surprise, and wonder.
STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

Jeremy Connell, a third-year industrial design student, won first place in the Create the Future design contest’s machinery/equipment category for his cargo management system. The Create the Future design contest is sponsored by SolidWorks, the leading 3D CAD solution worldwide, in conjunction with NASA Tech Briefs, HP Invest, Comsol, and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The contest rewards the best ideas for new products, and celebrates breakthrough thinking about problems of all kind, large and small. Connell’s design fulfills a need in the pick-up truck market. The familiar form of truck beds have not changed since their conception. The space is well equipped for bulky materials, but standard truck beds lack the ability to secure loose items easily. Only recently has the automotive industry begun to address this need in their newest models. Unfortunately, a stand-alone, aftermarket product for most any truck has not yet been offered to consumers. Connell’s solution offers a simple and convenient system that offers utility and practicality. The design allows for customized securing and organizational solutions.

UNDERGRADUATE ARCHITECTURE RANKED #1

The school’s undergraduate architecture program was named the #1 program in North America by the Design and Futures Council and the journal DesignIntelligence in its 2008 report. A total of 130 architecture firms employing more than 100,000 people, in addition to 46 deans of architecture schools and 740 students, participated in a survey that established the rankings. The school’s graduate architecture program was named the #5 program in the nation, and #1 of all public universities.

For almost two decades, the Pella Prize has been awarded for Excellence in Undergraduate Architecture Thesis. Sponsored by Pella Windows, this award is the culmination of a series of exhibitions of all the fifth-year undergraduate students’ work throughout the year. Every April, the finalists give a public presentation of their studies, findings, and design proposal. Sean King received the honor this year for his body of work. Hunter Pittman, associate professor, was King’s primary faculty.
COWGILL HALL RENOVATION COMPLETE

A major renovation of Cowgill Hall is complete. The four-story, 68,000-square-foot building was essentially gutted and its HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems were updated. The $10 million scope of work also included asbestos abatement; elevator upgrades; ADA bathroom upgrades; new exterior windows and doors; a new sprinkler system/standpipe; new interior doors; new raised floors in design labs; new lighting; new terrazzo flooring for the lobby, stair treads, and risers; and new railing in the stairways.

The Art & Architecture Library was moved to the first floor and a new lecture room—Room 300—was created with a capacity to seat more than 200. Ten new offices were also added on the third and fourth floors. Bruce Ferguson served as project manager for the university. The architect was MMM Design Group of Norfolk, Va., led by Vice-President and Chief of Design Stelios Xystros.

SWISS TOY MAKER INTERNAL COMPETITION AWARDS

Naef Spiel, Ltd., sponsored its first biannual competition for design of a wooden toy. The internationally renowned company, located in Zofingen, Switzerland, created this competition exclusively for students enrolled in Virginia Tech’s School of Architecture + Design. Jurors included company owner Hans Peter Engler, and acclaimed designers Peer Clahsen and Heiko Hillig.

In May 2008, Engler visited Blacksburg to announce the winners. Out of 107 entries, first place was awarded to FERRA, designed by Kelly Harrigan, a second-year industrial design undergraduate. The toy is a set of wooden pieces with magnets that combine into numerous configurations. BOW, designed by Sean Mattio and Chelsea Lindsey, first-year architecture students, placed second. GABLE, designed by Andrew Lintenstabl, a first-year architecture graduate student, placed third. Winners received cash awards, as well as the possibility of royalties if the company decides to produce the toy. Engler stated that Naef intends to manufacture several of the designs.
FACULTY INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Two faculty were recently named by the Design and Futures Council and DesignIntelligence as two of 28 educators most admired and respected in the fields of interior design, interior architecture, architecture, design, architectural engineering, industrial design, and landscape architecture. Ron Kemnitzer, IDSA, an industrial design professor, wins for the first time this year. He holds more than 15 patents for his work. Kemnitzer currently serves as chairman of the board of the Industrial Designers Society of America. He was elected to the IDSA Academy of Fellows in August 2003. Gene Egger, the Nancy and Patrick Lathrop Professor of Architecture and the College of Architecture and Urban Studies Director of Special Programs, wins this designation for the second time in a row. He has taught at all levels in the architecture professional program. Egger has been inducted into the University Academy of Service and into the University Academy of Teaching Excellence. At its annual meeting, the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELAs) named Patrick Miller, associate dean of outreach and graduate studies, a fellow of the council.

CENTER FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Through teaching, research and outreach, the Center for High Performance Learning Environments (CHPLE) seeks to better understand and improve the interrelationships between pedagogy, instructional technology, building technology, and architecture. CHPLE has established a number of cooperative relationships with public and private organizations and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Labs 21 program as a Center of Excellence. Recently, CHPLE was awarded a grant in the amount of $6,400 from the Council for Educational Facility Planners International for the investigation of “Integration Patterns for Alternative Pedagogical Models and Learning Technologies.”

CHPLE also conducts research into issues of systems performance and integration. The BHRAU company provided $15,000 for the comparative analysis of alternative radiant floor systems. In addition the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy provided $46,074—with $3,000 each from Acrylife, Inc., and UniSolar, Inc.—for the design and development of a solar electric integrated membrane roofing system.
The International Archive of Women in Architecture (IAWA) is dedicated to preserving and illuminating the work of women in architecture from around the world. IAWA invigorates the search for quality in the built environment to help close historical gaps by bringing important dimensions to the discipline of architecture. The IAWA Newsletter travels to architects, designers, and friends throughout the world. As IAWA efforts extend into a third decade, the archive has grown 300+ collections. The IAWA exhibition Three Decades of Collecting and Preserving: The Work of Women in Architecture opened the 15th congress of the International Union of Women in Architecture at the University of Architecture, Bucharest, Romania. IAWA Chair Donna Quay’s address to the congress detailed highlights of the collection. The exhibit is now traveling through Romania. Many in the school have contributed to the success of the IAWA; present faculty advisors include Marilyn Castle, Kay Elgee, William Galloway, and Lisa Tucker. The IAWA offers the annual $1,000 Milka Bliznakov Prize for research into women’s professional achievements to honor IAWA founder Milka Bliznakov.

**Facility Elected Officers for NASAD, IDSA, ASLA**

Ed Dorsa, associate professor of industrial design, has been elected to the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD) Commission on Accreditation, the accrediting body for many schools of art and design around the nation. Virginia Tech’s industrial design program is accredited through NASAD. Previously, Dorsa acted as a visiting evaluator of industrial design programs. Dorsa has also served a one-year term as the vice-president of education for the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) since January 2008.

Terry Clements, associate professor of landscape architecture, was elected to a two-year term as vice-president of education for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The term began with induction at the ASLA annual meeting in San Francisco. Clements has finished a three-year term as Virginia chapter trustee on the ASLA Board of Trustees.
FOURTH ANNUAL CAREER DAY

The school will host its fourth annual Career Day on Feb. 23, 2009, at the Inn at Virginia Tech. In some ways, Career Days is as much of a homecoming for alumni as it is an opportunity for students and faculty to learn more about numerous firms first hand and make connections for job prospects. This year, in conjunction with Career Day, there will also be an exhibition of students’ work on display in the Cowgill Hall lobby and rooms will be available for private interviews. For the first time, firms representing all four of the school’s disciplines—architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, and industrial design—are invited to participate. More than 500 students from the various levels of study take part in this special day. Please join us!

To obtain more details or make a reservation, please contact Trudy Epperly at 540.231.5384. The number of available spaces is limited and they fill up quickly starting in November 2008.

FACULTY WINS COMPUTER INTERFACE COMPETITION

Dennis Jones, associate professor of architecture, was one of 12 finalists in the Technology Innovation category in the international MOBILE RULES! Competition sponsored by Nokia and partners. Finalists were chosen from hundreds of entries over an eight-month period in three main tracks: Best Business Plan, Mobile Application, and Technology Innovation.

The Technology Innovation category focused on innovations, technologies, patents and ideas that have not been exploited to their full potential. Jones’s entry, Quantum Matrix, is a flexible, highly visual interface that enables three-dimensional display of all media and file types in handheld devices, laptops, and work stations.

Finalists were invited to a ceremony at San Jose, Calif., City Hall and Jones was later invited to the Nokia Headquarters, in Helsinki, Finland, where he presented the Quantum Matrix to Nokia Executives.
INTEGRATED THINK TANK HELD AT EMBASSY OF FINLAND

At the invitation of the director, program chairs, and advisory board of the school, a group of about 30 design professionals gathered at the Embassy of Finland in Washington, D.C., on May 30, 2008. The day began with a welcome from Finnish Ambassador Pirkka Lintu and remarks from Scott Poole, School of Architecture + Design Director, followed by brief presentations from four featured speakers: Jim Cramer, of the Greenway Group; Mike Hughes, of the Martin Agency; Craig Schwitter, of Buro Happold; and Robert Zahner, of A. Zahner Company. Each speaker addressed the pivotal role of design and design education in our world as it undergoes radical change. Participants responded with comments in relation to their experience and expertise. Primary aims of the day were two-fold: 1) to identify design affiliates that advance the school’s mission; and 2) to create a group of friends of the school who have no prior Virginia Tech affiliation. The outcome of the day was “positive positioning” between the school and design industry leaders. Existing collaborations were expanded upon and potential new endeavors were identified.

2008 AWARDS BANQUET

In April 2008 the school held its inaugural awards banquet at the German Club. More than 225 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors enjoyed an evening of celebrating the achievements of all who attended. Students and faculty were invited for membership into distinguished honor societies, including Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society for Architecture and Allied Arts, Omega Chapter honor Society of Sigma lambda Alpha, Phi Beta Kappa, and Alpha Rho Chi. Also recognized were students who placed in international, national, regional, and school design competitions. Since the inception of the school in 2004, the number of scholarships continues to grow. Many are the result of the generosity of alumni, while others have come from design affiliates and professional organizations. A growing number of scholarships offer internships in sponsor firms. Several are awarded for study abroad, as well as Chicago Studio. New this year were recognitions for excellence in a sponsored studio: KSA Interiors Prize, Mark Boone Residential Design Award, and Harrisonburg Studio Award; and awards of monies to students who developed the highest quality of a body of study/work.
Terry Surjan, associate professor, organized two competition and exhibition studios in spring 2008. The first was for the History Channel’s City of the Future competition, January 7 through January 15, when 17 undergraduate students, first through fifth year, projected 100 years into the future of Washington, D.C. The project was recorded for the History Channel City of the Future Television Program.

The second exhibition studio, which Surjan organized with the school and C uP (a collaborative of architects and academics), was for the London Festival of Architecture, June 20-July 20, 2008. Virginia Tech was the only U.S. school invited to participate in the festival. A group of Surjan’s students traveled to London with their exhibit, “Suitcase Pavilion,” packed in suitcases, and assembled the pavilion in a street exhibition. As a result, “Suitcase Pavilion” was invited to exhibit at WIre D magazine’s fest2008 in Millennium Park, Chicago, in September and October. The pavilion served as a gateway arch to nextfest.

Robert Dunay, the T. A. Carter Professor of Architecture, and Joe Wheeler, associate professor, exhibited the work of their students at the International Furniture Fair in Milan, Italy. The exhibition, “Industrialized Furniture,” links design with emerging digital and technical processes, particularly computer controlled systems. The body of the work connects experimentation in design research initiated in earlier projects, such as the Solar Decathlon, and previous exhibitions at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair in New York. The exposition, the largest and most important of its kind in the world, showcased the best work from more than 50 countries and provided students the chance to interact with top international designers. See the full story and vote for your favorite piece at www.vt.edu/spotlight/innovation/2008-08-04_furniture.html. “Industrialized Furniture” has also been invited to exhibit at International Furniture Fair Cologne, Germany, in January 2009.

“Suitcase Pavilion” was invited to exhibit at WIRED magazine’s NextFest2008 in Millennium Park, Chicago, in September and October. The pavilion served as a gateway arch to NextFest.