

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

[This section is an excerpt from the end-of-term State of the College Report by Dean Mary Ann A. Espina to the UPCA faculty, staff, students, and guests on September 16, 2013 at the Museum of Filipino Architecture, University of the Philippines College of Architecture.]

Vision and Mission of the College

A vision is a picture of a preferred future. It inspires and guides. It channels or directs all goals, strategies, thrusts, programs and projects towards that desired future. The vision of the University of the Philippines College of Architecture as adopted at the turn of the century is restated here as follows:

"The UP College of Architecture through the persistent pursuit of excellence and leadership, the constancy of relevance and responsiveness, the facility of access and equal opportunity, and armed with holistic vision amidst the culture of freedom of ideas, envisions itself to be the acknowledged Center of the Designed and Built Environment, and, thereby be a moving force in the improvement of the quality of life of our people."

The Mission statements of the College are as follow:

- Provide responsive and relevant academic programs in the undergraduate, graduate and distance education levels that can serve as a guide and model for similar educational institutions;
- Develop research capabilities through the establishment and maintenance of research laboratories, which will generate new and innovative knowledge in architecture and the built environment;
- Hone continuously the capability and capacity of its faculty and staff by developing and implementing programs, which would harness and consolidate all resources to firm up its commitment as the National Center of Excellence; and
- Educate and inspire society at large to pave the way for a more dynamic and appropriate interaction for a better designed and built environment.



Figure 1. The UP College of Architecture Building 1.
Source: Roi Francisco (UPCA Alumnus)



Figure 2. The UP College of Architecture Building 2.
Source: Glenn Orbon (UPCA Research Office)

History of the UP College of Architecture

The Architecture program of the University of the Philippines, upon the approval of the Board of Regents, started in 1956 as the university realizes the importance of architecture and the built environment in society. With thirty-six (36) incoming students as a start, a five-year Bachelor of Science in Architecture undergraduate curriculum was administered through the College of Engineering in the First Semester of Academic Year 1956-1957. In 1959, sensing that architecture was more art than science, the Board of Regents transferred the program to the School of Fine Arts which consequently converted into the School of Fine Arts and Architecture. As soon as the program graduated its first graduate in 1961, the School was elevated into a College. In 1970, when architecture was acknowledged to cover both the arts and science domains - *integrally concerned with culture and technology, people and place* - the UP College of Architecture (UPCA) was finally recognized as an independent unit.



Figure 3. The fourth and fifth floors of Melchor Hall (College of Engineering Building) served as the home of College of Architecture before transferring to its present home in 2005.
Source: Glenn Magaspac

About the College

Further, the College developed architecture programs in the Graduate level and pioneered programs in Landscape Architecture in its pursuit to make itself a *relevant and responsive educational institution* and to advance the architectural education in the country. The Master of Architecture (M Arch) Program offered specializations in Architectural Design, Architectural Science, Community Architecture and Housing and produced its first batch of graduates in 1974. More than a decade later, the College introduced the Master of Tropical Landscape Architecture in 1985. In 1990, the College established its Research and Extension Unit. With its initiatives and leadership in developing further the architectural education in the country, the honor of Center of Excellence in Architecture was awarded to the College by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in 1999.

In time for the celebration of the College's Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2006, UPCA left Melchor Hall and moved to its new home in E. de los Santos St. in the summer of that year. This new College of Architecture Complex consisted of 2 buildings - one was an adaptive reuse, designed by Prof. Nicolo Del Castillo, of the partly burned old CPDMO building, and the other, a brand new Studio Laboratory Building designed by Prof. Jose Danilo Silvestre. The UPCA Alumni Foundation assisted in raising funds for the procurement of new furniture and equipment.

Today, after more than half a century of existence, the UP College of Architecture continues to break new ground for visionary concepts and approaches in the fields of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Its faculty members are among the pillars and fountainhead of architectural knowledge in the country, its graduates becoming not only shapers and molders of the built environment but builders of the nation as well.



Figure 4. Out-of-class learning activity for the undergraduate students of Urban Design and Housing.
Source: Dr. Grace Ramos

Sources:

(1) Fermin, Ephraim K., June 30, 1985. *The University of the Philippine College of Architecture: The First Thirty Years by the People Who Made It*. Quezon City: UPCA.

(2) Various interviews and College documentary research made by the UPCA Research and Extension Programs.

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

The College offers two (2) undergraduate and two (2) graduate courses for both Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The Bachelor of Science in Architecture (BS Arch) degree has a total of 188 academic units to be completed in a period of five (5) years. The other undergraduate program - the 149-unit, four-year Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA) was the only such program in the Philippines until 2004 but to date, UPCA continues to produce, not only the most number but also the topnotch graduates in landscape architecture. The first faculty of the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Program included Ildelfonso P. Santos Jr. who is regarded as the Father of Landscape Architecture in the Philippines and who was honored as a National Artist for Architecture in 2006. These two undergrad programs have been revised and updated into the present 2012 curricula.



Figure 5. 2006 National Artist for Architecture and Father of Landscape Architecture in the Philippines, Prof. Ildelfonso P. Santos, graced the turnover ceremony of his library collection to UPCA.
Source: Edra Belga-Casono

UPCA also pioneered the establishment of Master of Architecture (M Arch) degree in the country. A graduate student of Architecture must fulfill the minimum requirement of completing forty-two (42) academic units, within a minimum of two and a half years on full-time basis. The Master of Tropical Landscape Architecture (MTLA) program is unique in the world. It can be completed with minimum of thirty-nine (39) academic units to be completed by a licensed landscape architect, and sixty-seven (67) units by a licensed architect.



Figure 6. Commencement Exercises for the graduates of UPCA.
Source: Dr. Grace Ramos

Currently, a Doctor of Philosophy in Designed Environment (PhD Designed Environment) program is being prepared by the College for proposed implementation within two years. Once the program is approved, a post-graduate student must fulfill the minimum requirement of completing thirty-nine (39) academic units to be conferred with the doctoral title.



Figure 7. UPCA students at work on their plates in their studio class.
Source: Dr. Grace Ramos

College Deans Profile

A total of seven (7) deans have served the College to date. The late Professor Aurelio T. Juguilon was the very first faculty of the Architecture program in 1956 (under the College of Engineering) and later as the first dean of the College of Architecture in 1970. He was succeeded by Professor Geronimo V. Manahan, the Architecture program's first Cum Laude graduate, in 1984. The late Professor Honrado R. Fernandez, PhD., assumed office in 1990 and served for three (3) terms. Professor Cristopher Stonewall P. Espina took over as the fourth Dean of UPCA from 1999 to 2002. The curriculum review of the BS Architecture program of UPCA and the syllabi-writing were initiated during his term, as well as the operationalization of the Studio Laboratory organizational structure to further promote a "Culture of Research" in the College. It was in 1999 that the College's leadership role was confirmed when the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) declared UPCA a National Center of Excellence in Architecture.



Figure 8. The UP College of Architecture Deans: Prof. Aurelio Juguilon (1970-1984); Prof. Geronimo Manahan (1984-1990); Prof. Honrado Fernandez (1990-1999); Prof. Cristopher Stonewall Espina (1999-2002); Prof. Prosperidad Luis (2002-2007); Prof. Jose Danilo Silvestre (2007-2010); and Prof. Mary Ann Espina (2010-present).
Source: Dean Mary Ann Espina and UPCA Research Office

In 2002, Professor Prosperidad C. Luis became the fifth Dean and the first Lady Dean of UPCA. It was during her term that the College was transferred to its new home in the summer of 2005, where it held its first ever College Recognition Rites in its own grounds in UPCA Building 1. Professor Jose Danilo A. Silvestre, the design architect of Building 1 and UPCA's first Magna Cum Laude graduate, assumed the deanship in 2007. In 2010, Professor Mary Ann A. Espina became the seventh Dean and the first Landscape Architect Dean of UPCA.

College Executive Board & Faculty Profile

The College Executive Board (CEB) serves as the highest policy-making body of the College, composed of the Dean, College Secretary, and six (6) directors of the following programs of the College: Architecture Undergraduate Program, Architecture Graduate Program, Landscape Architecture Program, Research Program, Extension Program and Student Relations Program. The College Dean and Secretary are tasked to execute and implement the decisions made by the Board regarding major concerns affecting the College.

As of the First Semester of Academic Year 2013-2014, the College has twenty-five (25) full-time faculty members, twenty-one (21) lecturers, and one (1) teaching associate. Of the 25 full-time faculty members, 17 are tenured faculty, with 4 holders of PhD and the rest having various graduate degree obtained in the country and across the globe as well. Members of the UPCA faculty are all licensed professionals in the fields of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Planning, Civil Engineering, and other related fields of the designed and built environment. Most of the faculty members were student achievers of UPCA and licensure board topnotchers.



Figure 9. UPCA students present their thesis projects during deliberations as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degrees in Architecture or Landscape Architecture.
Source: Glenn Orbon

Several faculty members from the College are holders of administrative positions in UPD and UP System, as well as in various professional organizations. Other professors also received prestigious awards from design competitions and from various respected organizations for their valuable contribution not only to the academe but to the allied professions as well. Five (5) were recipients of the prestigious Most Outstanding Professional of the Year awarded by the Professional Regulatory Commission.

College Achievements and Milestones

The College is a beneficiary of various Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) signed between UP Diliman and other local and foreign universities that foster exchanges between faculty and students. These MOAs have facilitated the academic exchange of faculty and students in various Asian and European universities. UPCA is a member of the IUSAM (Inter-University Seminar on Asian Megacities) for the past 15 years and have participated actively in its annual scientific paper exchange.



Figure 10. The UP Integrated School Grade 7-12 Building is a project overseen by the Office of Design and Planning Initiatives (ODPI) and team-designed by several UPCA Faculty members, with Prof. Emmanuel Litonjua as Architect-of-Record.
Source: Dominic Sadsad



Figure 13. "HARAYA", a vernacular term meaning "imagination", is an annual college exhibit of UPCA that showcases student works at the end of the school year.
Source: Edra Belga-Casono



Figure 14. UPCA holds the first ArkiREX (Research and Extension Extramural Workshops) last August 2013.
Source: Edra Belga-Casono



Figure 11. UPCA's participation in the IUSAM included the hosting of two international conferences in UP Diliman.
Source: Dean Mary Ann Espina and Dr. Grace Ramos

In 2012, a group of ten (10) faculty members held a workshop with the professors of National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei. In the same year, UPCA sent a faculty member and a graduate student to Sapporo in Japan under an academic exchange project with Fuji Women's University. UPCA also partnered with business and industry leaders in the conduct of conferences, workshops, design competitions, and the like for the students, faculty, and design professionals.



Figure 12. UPCA-NTU Workshop in Taipei last May 2012.
Source: Dean Mary Ann Espina

These partnerships have also generated professorial chairs and student scholarships.



Figure 15. Panorama Development Corporation offers UPCA Faculty scholarship.
Source: Prof. Maureen Anne Araneta (UP Diliman Information Office)



Figure 16. UPCA bore ArchCARE in 2000 that is responsible for conducting the Annual Conference on Architectural Research and Education (ACARE).
Source: Glenn Orbon



Figure 18. Aerial photograph of UP College of Architecture Complex, with Amphitheater between the two existing buildings.
Source: Paulo Alcazaren and LIPAD Aerial Photography



Figure 17. 2nd Prize Professional Category in FuturARC won by the alumni and faculty of UP College of Architecture.
Source: Prof. Nicolo Del Castillo

Hence, as a necessary objective to attain those two goals, UPCA embarked on the planning, design and construction of two projects in the UPCA Complex: (a) the Bridge and Amphitheater project which will provide a desirable physical and visual connection the two UPCA buildings; and (b) the 413-seater UPCA “Mindanao” Auditorium, funded by former Representative Fatima Aliyah Dimaporo from the Second District of Lanao del Norte.

The College is aiming to achieve two ambitious goals in the near future:

1. The proclamation of UPCA as the National Center of Architecture, rendering research and extension service to the country through the following:
 - a) Continuing leadership in the formulation of the BS Architecture program for all schools and colleges of Architecture in the Philippines;
 - b) Development, propagation and dissemination of researches in Architecture in the specialized fields of Green Architecture, Heritage Conservation, Safe Buildings, and Sustainable Sites and Buildings;
 - c) Provision of laboratory facilities for testing or simulating natural daylight and ventilation, structural frame optimization; rainwater recycling system, heritage architecture materials, and others; and
 - d) Production of guidelines for the government on the planning and design of disaster-prone sites, environmentally-sensitive sites, and heritage sites; and guidelines for the application of Filipino architecture and landscape architecture in civic buildings and sites.
2. The Internationalization of architecture programs of UPCA, in preparation for the 2015 Regional and 2020 Global Integration. This will entail strengthening of the current UPCA curricula by fostering intensive curricular partnerships with other UP academic units; establishing and maintaining international linkages with foreign academic institutions and with industry partners; facilitating student mobility with focus on increasing student exchanges among ASEAN universities; promoting faculty development through academic exchanges and fellowships; and making the necessary steps to qualify for accreditation in the AUN-ACTS and the Canberra Accord.



Figure 19. Perspective of proposed UPCA Mindanao Auditorium.
Source: Dean Mary Ann Espina

Within the next three years, the College will endeavor to build a 7-storey Studio Laboratory Building, a 3-storey *Bahay na Bato*, and the Bonsai Garden Convention Center as further testaments to the vision and mission of the UP College of Architecture.



Figure 20. Representatives Fatima Aliyah Dimaporo (2nd from left) and Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (3rd from left) graced the Groundbreaking Ceremonies of the UPCA Mindanao Auditorium. Joining them are UP Diliman Chancellor Caesar Saloma (4th from left), UPCA Dean Mary Ann Espina (1st from left), and representatives from the University and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).
Source: Timothy Augustus Ong