

About the College

Center of Excellence

With its vision:

to be the acknowledged Leader in the Enhancement of the Designed and Built Environment for the Upliftment of the Quality of Life of Our People,

the University of the Philippines College of Architecture has been declared by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as a National Center of Excellence in Architecture since 1999. Upon reassessment in 2004, CHED continues to recognize the college as such mainly because of its accomplishments, qualifications of its academic personnel and facility upgrading.

Academic Program Development

The college offers two undergraduate and two graduate degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Architecture (a quota course), Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (a non-quota course), Master in Architecture and Master in Tropical Landscape Architecture

The curricula for both architecture and landscape architecture were revised last 2002 and are now implemented to keep up with the advancement in technology and to better respond to the changing needs of the profession and the built environment.

Team teaching mode is already conducted by professors handling some architecture and landscape architecture courses to extend their knowledge and capabilities to all students in a course.

Out of class learning experience is promoted to enrich the students in the college thus field trips are organized regularly in provinces of Ilocos, Central Luzon, Cagayan and in towns with rich architectural heritage.



Figure 1 – Ilocos region field trip in 2002

Curriculum Development

Continuous preparation and improvement of the syllabi are being undertaken by the professors handling the assigned subjects. Course manuals for selected subjects both for architecture and landscape architecture program are made available in the library to assist lecturers in teaching new courses. Packaging of multimedia presentations, lectures, videos, and other teaching materials is also implemented.

Building, Facilities and Equipment Acquisition and Construction



Figure 2 – General Assembly at Fernandez Hall

From its previous location at Melchor Hall (College of Engineering), the whole college has been transferred to its new home in April 2005. The complex is composed of two main buildings, Building 1 and Building 2 (former Campus Maintenance Office). Building 2 is composed of a large open court, spacious library, partitioned classrooms, an accommodating administration office, a faculty lounge, a conference room, a canteen, a graduate room and a computer laboratory. Building 1 which is still in its late construction phase will house an open gallery, an equipped research studio laboratory and a state-of-the-art auditorium. The landscape design of the new architecture complex to include the parking areas, an amphitheater, drop-off area, tambayans and covered walk will be designed by the landscape architecture laboratory while an elevated walkway connecting the two buildings is being designed by students supervised by the building science studio laboratory.

The UPCA Alumni Foundation (UPCAAF) had conducted a vigorous fund-raising campaign to aid the College with procurement of furniture, equipment, and landscape materials for the complex.



Figure 3 – UP Arki Complex exterior perspective

Operationalization of Studio Laboratories

The faculty members are subdivided into studio laboratories namely the (1) architectural design, (2) architectural practice and governance, (3) architectural communication, (4) environmental architecture, (5) landscape architecture, (6) history, theory and criticism, (7) urban design, and (8) building science (sub-clustered into building construction technology, building utility systems and structural design systems). The studio laboratories function as the research arm of the college headed by the research program director. It is programmed that the students may be involved in different studio laboratories to participate actively in ongoing research projects. Developing a culture of research in the UPCA among students will lead to the eventual offering of an alternative architecture degree that is geared towards the career path of research and development.



Figure 4 – Faculty workshop at Tagaytay in 2005

Faculty Advancement

The college continuously enriches its academic personnel by participating in conferences and seminars here and abroad such as in the Inter-University Seminar on Asian Megacities, the National Symposium on Filipino Architecture and Design (NSFAD), Annual Conferences on Architectural Research & Education (ACARE), courses offered by the University of Lund, annual summer college workshops and various CAD training programs.



Figure 5 - Participation in the Third Annual Conference on Architectural Research & Education (ACARE3)

Research and Extension Program

The college has been involved with extension activities such as the documentation of the Batanes houses for its world heritage recognition, Teachers' Camp documentation, the Pila master planning, design of the Philippine Nationality Room at the University of Pittsburgh, preparation of teaching kits for the traveling exhibit, "Lines Across Time", documentation of the buildings in the UP Campus, a study on the housing situation for faculty, staff and student in UP and urban renewal of Metro Manila.



Figure 6 - Mautuab House in Batanes

The Muhon journal acts as a medium for facilitating the dissemination of knowledge from research activities done by the professors and graduate students.



Figure 7 – NSFAD 2004 in SM Cebu

The National Symposium on Filipino Architecture and Design is organized by the college once a year to expose to the public its social and environmental concerns, its research and extension activities. Another college publication contains the proceedings of this NSFAD.

Apart from these, it is envisioned that other publications may be produced by the College as well. These may be:

- publications of the laboratories and sub-laboratories
- collections of the various undergraduate works
- documentation of all extension work
- research monographs
- refereed journals

Apprenticeship Program

An apprenticeship program in architecture is being developed by the architectural design laboratory and will be open to third and fourth year students during the semestral and summer break while the apprenticeship program in landscape architecture has already been in place since summer of 2004.

Competitions and Exhibits

Design competitions are organized both by professors and student organizations per semester among students enrolled in architectural design, landscape architectural design, and tropical design classes.



Figure 8 – Haraya 2003

“Haraya”, an annual recognition and exhibit, is held at the college before the second semester ends to showcase the best works of students in various courses.

Scholarships and Awards

The college is honored to be awarded by the Professional Regulation Commission for always garnering the highest percentage of graduates passing the architecture licensure examination.

The foundation is also making available to deserving students a scholarship grant per semester.

New Fields of Interest

The architecture graduate program is promoting more career opportunities for its students by exploring new areas of study aside from its 4 existing fields of interest (community architecture, architectural science, housing and architectural design). Among the topics being explored are the following: architectural communication, tropical architecture, history, theory and criticism, practice and governance, structural design and building utilities.



Figure 9 – Students' field trip on tropical architecture

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(UPCA) received a grant intended
to further improve its standards
for teaching and research.

As a Center of Excellence,
the UPCA is also responsible
for disseminating knowledge
to other architectural schools
and to the public at large.

We, hence, launched MUHON
as a vehicle for reaching out
to other architects in academe.

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