

HEALTH CARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Architecture students help design center for year 2030

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

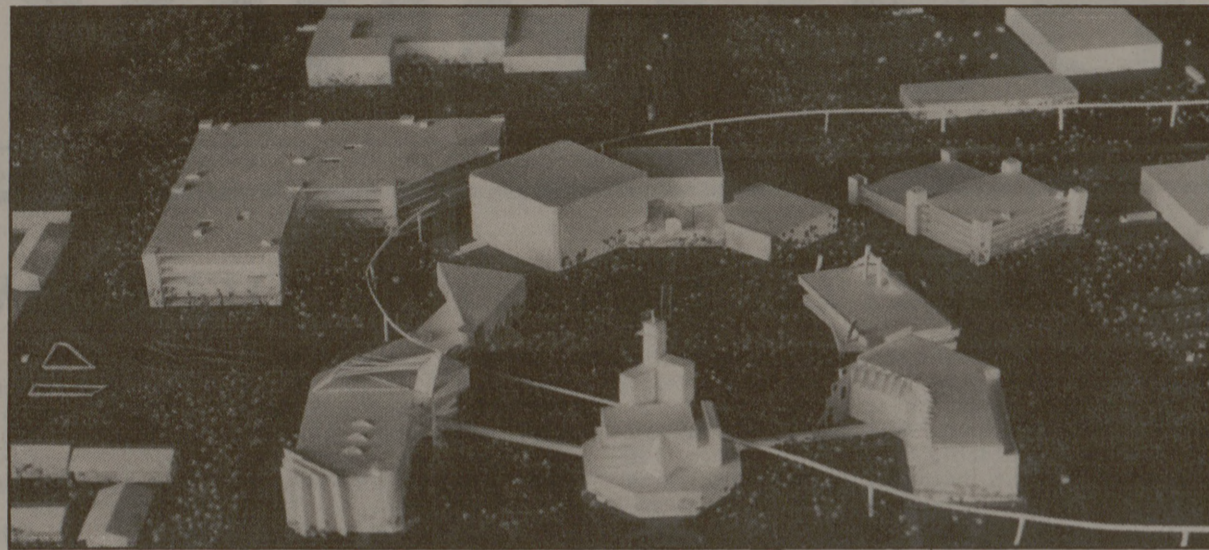
Some Texas A&M architecture students are helping design the future of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Professor George Mann's third-semester environmental design class was asked by the president of the center to design a model for the center in the year 2030.

One of Mann's classes designed future facilities for the St. Joseph Hospital and Health Center last semester, which inspired this project.

Students formed nine teams and were advised by HKS Architects, Inc. of Dallas to design a center that would be more integrated. Jonathan Bailey, an architect with the firm, said the students did an excellent job on a very difficult project.

"Health care is a hard field to understand," he said. "The students had no biases of any kind (going into the project), and that generates new concepts and



A model of a futuristic health care center built by Bo Butler, Tom Pearson and Parris Jones.

ideas that you wouldn't find in an established firm."

Brian Arenz, a junior, and Ory Durand, a senior, worked as a team to design a future health center that would have more of a warm, campus environment.

"The way it is right now, there's no campus feeling," Arenz said. "A warm site is necessary for patients and to attract students."

Greg Gold, a junior who worked alone on his project, said he wanted the design to have a "parkish" atmosphere.

"I didn't want it to be a cold, glass thing," he said. "I wanted to make it comfortable."

Gold said he enjoyed trying to solve the center's problem of being too spread out. "That's what architects do - solve problems," he said. "It just so happens this one was health care."

Gary Walston, a junior, and Eric Korth, a senior, said they both enjoyed the challenge of their project.

"We really didn't know where to begin at first," Korth said. "We hadn't taken on anything this big before."

Walston said he enjoyed working with actual clients, which is not something the students get to do very often.

"It wasn't a hypothetical situation," he said.

John Dailey, a sophomore, and Christine Tellier, a junior, tried to bring a human atmosphere into their design.

Dailey said the project was a challenge in that he and Tellier had to design a health and research facility that would still be a nice place to stay.

"It was good experience about the way things work in the architecture world," he said.

Juniors Amy Hammons and Douglas Edney said they enjoyed working with center officials. "They took our ideas seriously," Hammons said. "It's an opportunity you don't get often."

Commission adopts regulatory changes

State officials give producers more say in amount of natural gas production

AUSTIN (AP) - State regulators Monday unanimously approved giving producers a bigger say in how much natural gas is produced, but delayed action on rules that critics said could lead to higher prices and federal intervention.

"We've come a long way. This is an extremely important effort," Texas Railroad Commission Chairwoman Lena Guerrero said.

The new system takes effect July 1. Its adoption changes a more than 50-year-old method in Texas of allocating demand to producers, and follows 17 years of study by the commission and four months of heated debate.

Under the new rules, the producer will tell the commission how much gas they can sell, and then the commission will set the "allowable" production.

Currently, pipeline companies and other purchasers each month tell the commission how much natural gas they will need for the next month. The commission then sets a production limit, the allowable, on a pro-rated basis among the state's more than 2,700 separate gas reservoirs.

But purchasers have historically overesti-

mated demand, leading to competition among producers to sell to a smaller-than-expected market. That pinch on producers has been most acute during the recent spate of record low prices for the commodity.

Under the new system, the commission will tally monthly natural gas demand estimates from producers, factoring in production records, and then set the allowable.

"The independent natural gas producer in Texas has struggled to survive under the weight of a race-to-waste regulatory system," said T. Boone Pickens, chairman of Dallas-based Mesa Inc., one of the largest natural gas producers in the state. "Much of that weight has now been lifted."

The change comes at a time when other natural gas producing states have either adopted or are considering rules limiting production. This has drawn fire from some members of Congress who say they fear an emerging OPEC-like cartel of energy-producing states.

Guerrero said the change was not designed to limit Texas natural gas supplies and thereby drive up the price. "We will never allow less gas in this state to be provided than the market

demand," she said.

Texas is the biggest producer of natural gas in the nation, providing about 31 percent of the country's demand. The state also has 27.5 percent of the nation's natural gas reserves.

The commission delayed consideration of how to handle waste and market discrimination disputes that come up between parties with interests in an individual field.

Commissioner Bob Krueger said he didn't want to get involved in deciding whether one producer over another should be shut down.

He said that could lead to statewide rather than field-by-field production rules. It could also hurt the development of the natural gas market and draw fire from Congress, Krueger said.

"If you pit the U.S. Army against the Texas National Guard, I know who wins. If you pit the U.S. Congress against the Railroad Commission, I know who wins," he said.

Commissioner Jim Nugent said he didn't care what Congress thought, and said the state should guarantee that every producer has an opportunity to a share of the market based on production capability.

What's Up

TUESDAY

CAREER CENTER: "Career Options" The seminar is designed to introduce participants to the career exploration and career decision making process. 2:30 p.m. in 111 Student Services. "Compensation and Salary Analysis." The seminar will offer advice on how to analyze a total benefits package when considering a job offer. 4 p.m. in 111 Student Services. Call Pat at 845-5172 for more information.

HORTICULTURE SOCIETY: New officer inductions, end of year slide show. 7 p.m. in 101 HFSB. Call Lisa at 260-1674 for more information.

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM: Undergraduate Fellows Symposium Presentations. 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower. Call Julie at 845-1957.

GENETICS SOCIETY: Last meeting! New officers, trip and banquet information. 7:30 p.m. in 107 BICH. Call Keith at 693-5452 for more information.

MSC VISUAL ARTS: Free drawing lessons with two instructors and supplies provided. 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in 510 Rudder. Call Erik at 846-3624 for more information.

CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY SOCIETY: Dr. George Bass, founder of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology discusses the World's oldest shipwreck. 7:30 p.m. in 101 Halbouty. Call Peter at 775-4021 for more information.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: is proud to present the Eighth Annual Humanities Lecture. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

HEALTH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND AGGIE REACH: Beating the Body Blues: sack lunch seminar at 12:30 p.m. in 016 Health Center to get you set for the summer. Call 845-1341 for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call the CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

AGGIES FOR PEROT: General meeting. 8:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

ASSOCIATION OF A&M GUITARISTS: Last meeting of the semester! 8:30 p.m. in Rumours in the MSC. Call Kelly at 696-3522 for more information.

MINORITY EDUCATORS: Guest speaker on stress management. 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Call Miriam at 846-8331 for more information.

THE TOUCHSTONE: FREE PROGRESSIVE/LEFT JOURNAL: General meeting. We will discuss advertising and distribution and plans for the summer. 7 p.m. at Spanky's Restaurant. Call Shawn at 846-5545 for more information.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/MEDICINE TRIBE: General meeting. 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. respectively behind Sul Ross. Call Kaade at 847-1199 or Irwin at 846-7425 for more information.

CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: This will be our last fellowship meeting. There will be water baptismal. President Britt Sells will be speaking. 7 p.m. at the All Faiths Chapel. Call 693-0924 for more information.

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS: General meeting, guest lecture and elections for 1992-93 officers will be held. 7 p.m. in 228 MSC. Call Brandi at 693-5362 for more information.

SPANISH CLUB (LA TERTULIA): Flamenco dancing by Alicia. 3:30 p.m. in the MSC Flag Room. Call Anne at 847-0696 for more information.

TAMSCAMS (METEOROLOGY CLUB): Election of officers, new and old business. Meet at the O&M Observatory. Call Tony for more information.

PRE MED/PRE DENT: Mandatory meeting. Lecture on Medical Ethics with Dr. Self. 7 p.m. in 105 Heldenfels. Call Brent at 696-2829 for more information.

TAMU ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Guest speaker is Dr. Mary Wickham speaking on "Shrimp from the Tropical Pacific Ocean: New Species But Same Old Records." 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Call Patrick at 847-2022 for more information.

CANTERBURY BELLS AND COVENTRY BELLS: Concert of handbell music. Musica Trinitas concert series. 7 p.m. at the A&M Methodist Church located at 417 University Drive. Call Christy at 846-8731 for more information.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS OF TOMORROW: General meeting tonight at 8:00pm at the Chicken Oil Co. For more information, contact Doyle at 847-0244.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 013 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3313.

The Battalion

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