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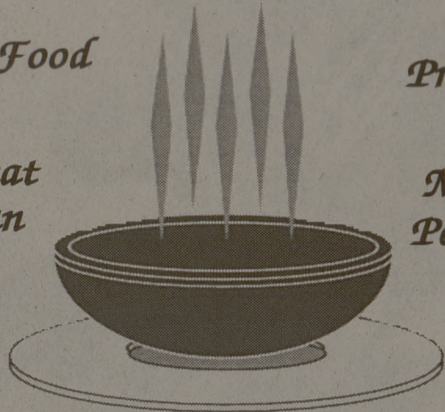
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# AGGIELIFE

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Tuesday • November 5, 1996

## School of design

Architecture students from Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M are working with children to build an ideal middle school

By SHEA WIGGINS  
THE BATTALION

Sixth-grade students at a middle school near Prairie View A&M want a swimming pool in the middle of their school. Architecture students from Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M want to build a middle school that will enhance education.

In a new project, the students have joined together to create a model for an ideal and innovative school.

Architecture students and faculty and the colleges of education from Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M are working with the administrators and students of H.T. Jones Intermediate School in the Waller Independent School District to design a new model of the school.

The project is giving architecture students a realistic environment in which to design educational facilities.

The project is supported by the Ray and Jerry Coy Foundation through the A&M College of Education.

Dr. Alice L. Manus, program coordinator for the College of Architecture, said the four colleges at the two universities work side by side.

"People are learning to get along with one another and to find commonality," Manus said. "We want to create and design a school that is going to serve the students passing through the doors but also the community itself."

Manus said the project is a different approach to learning.

"This is my first time as an educator that I have seen anything like this emerge," she said.

Architecture students from both schools have visited the H.T. Jones Intermediate School to learn from their ideas.

Bonnie Chaffe, a senior architecture major, said the fifth- and sixth-graders are the clients for their project.

"The students and the H.T. Jones administrators are our clients," Chaffe said. "In the same facet, the different colleges are our partners."

Chaffe said the children are articulate about what they want.

"The students brought models to show us," Chaffe said. "They wanted football fields, swimming pools and a huge cafeteria. They were very enthusiastic."

Amy Klinkovsky, an information representative for the College of Architecture, said one student drew a school surrounded by a football field, and others had various fast food restaurants inside the school.

Chaffe said working with the College of Education helped her see the building differently.

"They have helped us to understand how the building will educate," Chaffe said.

Dr. Dean Corrigan, a professor in educational administration and the director of the Commission on Leadership and Intercultural Education, said the project is a

**"We want to create and design a school that is going to serve the students passing through the doors but also the community itself."**

Dr. Alice Manus  
program coordinator for the  
College of Architecture



special to THE BATTALION

David Laycock, a fifth grade student from H.T. Jones Intermediate School in Prairie View, presents his idea and model to Bonnie Chaffe, a junior architecture student.

professional Education, said the students have an opportunity to deal with an actual situation instead of a theory.

"It is a more realistic way of learning," Corrigan said. "It is the kind of thing that should be done in more of our programs."

Whitney Willeke, a senior environmental design major, said it is a challenge to work with the children.

"It is good to see a different perspective instead of thinking architecture all of the time," Willeke said.

Willeke said she has pulled eight all-nighters in the past two weeks working on the project.

Christopher Garcia, a junior environmental design major, said the quality of their work will reflect in the quality of the architecture.

"People will look at the building and say 'Aggies did that,'" he said.

George Mann, a project coordinator and a Ronald L. Skaggs Endowed Professor in the architecture school, said the model school is concerned with educational and social needs.

"It is the integration of full-service concepts ... health, family, and social services," Mann said. "In our education system, you can't just look at reading, writing and arithmetic; you need to look at the total context."

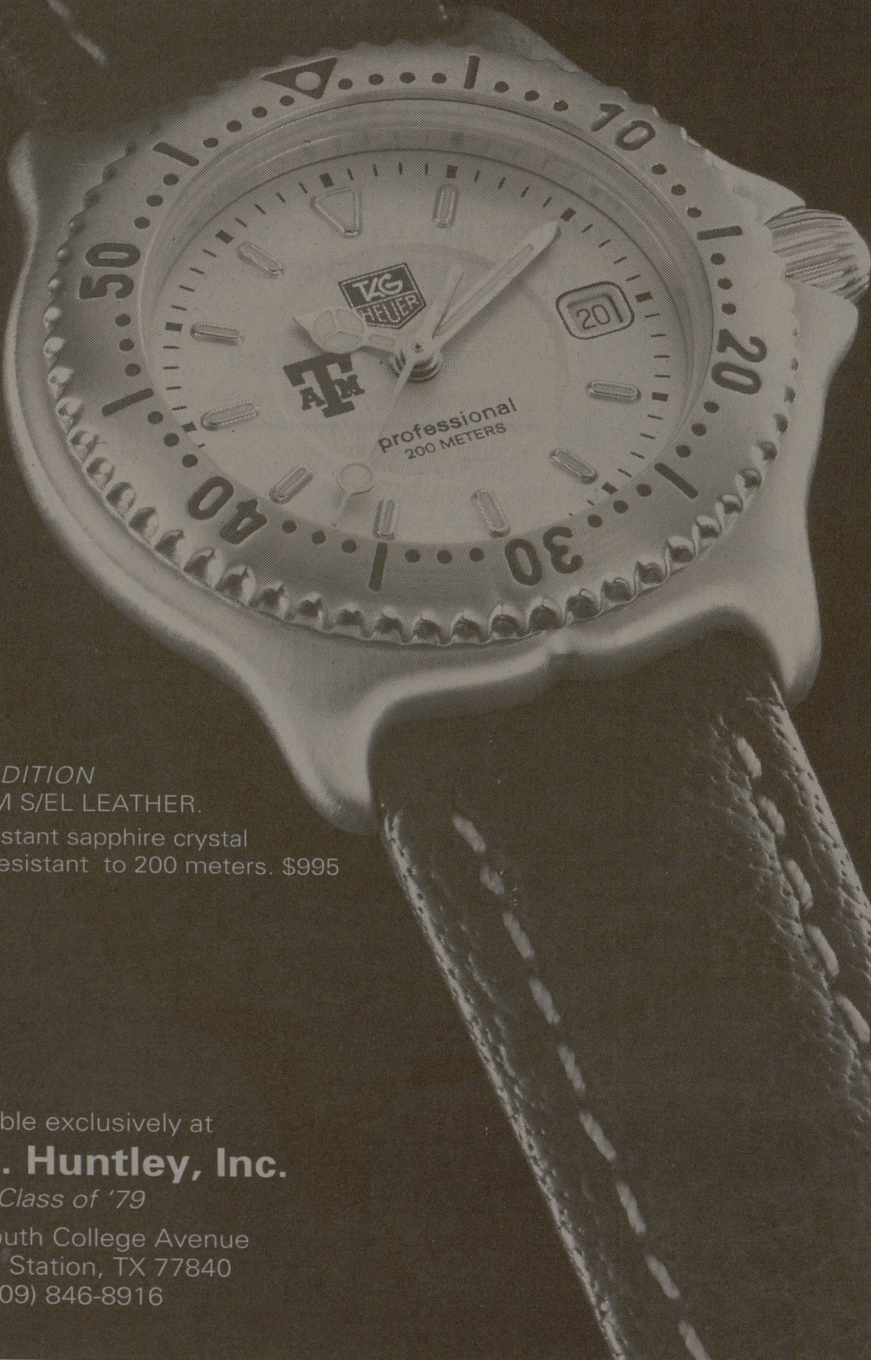
He said the project is supposed to be improve the world a little at a time.

"Life is hard by the yard and a cinch by the inch," Mann said.

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