

BY DR. WAYNE RUGA

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# Designing More 'Care' into Healthcare

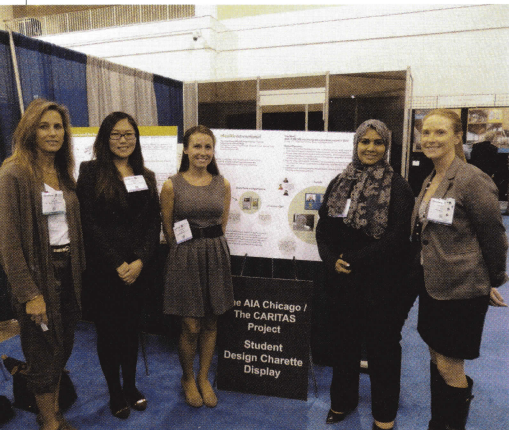
## The 2014 AIA/TCP Student Design Charette

>> The CARITAS Project was founded in 1999 to discover new ways to design healthcare environments that both systemically and sustainably improve lives. In 2003, as the result of being funded to conduct a UK government-supported research project, the concept of generative space was defined and developed as the method to achieve TCP's aspiration.

Today, the CARITAS Project conducts various educational initiatives to bring research findings into mainstream practice. One of these initiatives, Generative Space Week ([generativespaceweek.net](http://generativespaceweek.net)), includes a range of programs that enable individuals to learn about generative space and to



The student design charette team from the Art Institute of Chicago begins collaborative design at the Saturday kick-off event.



Philadelphia University students, faculty advisor and firm host.

experience it directly. Several Generative Space Week programs are held in conjunction with the Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo, or HFSE.

One of these programs, the AIA/TCP Student Design Charette, having completed its second year, was held in conjunction with the HFSE. This charette is a partnership between the Chicago AIA Chapter, its Healthcare Knowledge Community and The CARITAS Project. This year's charette was a source of inspiration for participants, those who attended its HFSE presentations, as well as for those who engaged with its students.

Five design schools each sent three students and a faculty advisor to: (1) produce

a design for a next-generation outpatient care service; (2) learn about generative space and how to integrate it within the design of their projects; (3) actively engage with industry leaders through full participation in the Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo and (4) have a real-time experience of professional work by being hosted to design their projects within the offices of the five local firms that "adopted" each one of the schools.

Participants learned about generative space and how to apply the gained knowledge to create systemic and sustainable

improvements in lives, organizations and communities.

One of the key learning objectives, to support this outcome, is collaborative engagement. The most common approach to organizing charettes, is to have it be a competition where the students all compete against one another and a winner is designated and receives a prize.

In designing this charette to be a learning experience for teaching future leaders to actively focus design efforts toward the making of a better world, the competitive aspect was eliminated and, instead, each participant was a winner through their personal learning experiences. Toward this end, each school functioned as a collaborative design team and developed its own unique solution. The collaborative spirit was infectious, and it enlivened the experience of all those who engaged with the students and their projects.

Student teams presented designs to an audience of professionals at the HFSE, which included a panel of generative space experts who provided comments. The panel provided educational input for each team in support of that team's further learning, as well as to reinforce the

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & FIRMS:

- > Harrington College of Design, hosted by Eckroth Planning Group
- > Iowa State University, hosted by Legat Architects
- > School of the Art Institute of Chicago, hosted by CannonDesign
- > Philadelphia University, hosted by Perkins+Will
- > Texas A & M University, hosted by VOA Architects



experience of each student in becoming a successful generative space designer.

The cost of each school's participation was funded through local sponsorship and generosity. The only cost each school was required to fund was travel to and from Chicago. The charette teams arrived on the Friday preceding the HFSE and departed on the following Thursday. Each school's participants' costs were funded through the local AIA-HCKC organizers' (Samantha Duba, Terence Houk, and David Nienhueser) efforts. Full attendance at the HFSE was made possible by a registration waiver, by the HFSE organizers (JD Events), for all charette members.

The charette program began with a kick-off event and dinner hosted in the offices of Gensler. Each team, then, launched into design work on Sunday in the offices of their host firms. Sunday evening included a dinner and networking event. On Monday morning, the students were back in their



Iowa State University students, faculty advisor and host.

host offices completing projects. That afternoon, they began their HFSE program by participating in the pre-conference workshop, followed by a networking reception for all of its attendees.

Tuesday, after a good night's sleep, the students presented projects at the HFSE. The presentations included formal

presentations to the professional attendees and the panel of experts, and also informal presentations of their projects within the expo.

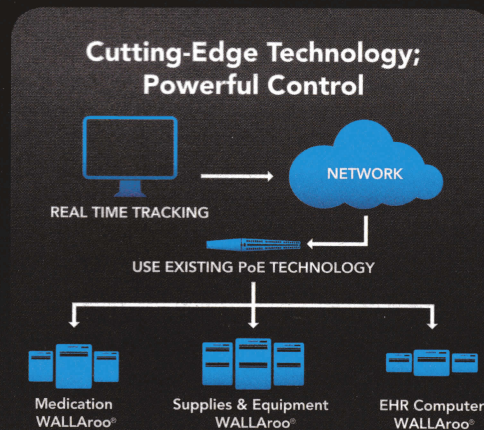
On Wednesday the students continued to present projects at the expo and attend HFSE programs. On Wednesday evening, the Humanscale Mixer event provided a time for further networking and celebration. On Thursday, the charette participants attended the final HFSE sessions, including the generative space tours that afternoon. Having completed their charette participation, the students and advisors returned home.

It's too early to know what the legacy of this 2014 charette will be, but — not too long after the 2013 charette was complete, two of the student participants were hired by leading international healthcare architectural firms, enabling each of these students to have their career dreams be realized. Stay tuned...as the 2015 charette is being formulated.

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