

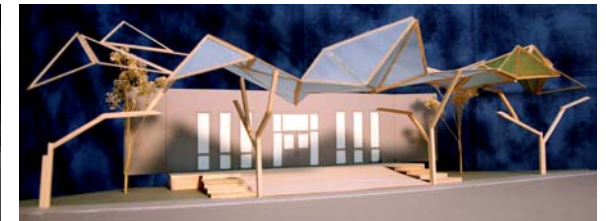
# sophomore studios design playground and drop-off for a school



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Sophomore design students in the UTSA College of Architecture worked on a new design for a covered child drop-off and a playground for the **Jose Cardenas Child Development Center**, in the **Edgewood School District**. The project, part of a larger remodel of the school, was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant was awarded to the **UTSA Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute**, under the leadership of **Dr. Harriet Romo**. Studio faculty for the project included **Craig Blount**, **Jim Dawes**, **Jose Jimenez**, **Bill Lambert**, **Ela Poursani**, **Irina Solovyova**, **Jon Thompson**, **John Webb**, and **Eric Wood**.

After a field trip to the school – no small task considering that 150 UTSA students made the trek – members in each of the nine studios divided into teams to work on both the playground and the drop-off, which took the form of an open linear pavilion. Concepts for the playground ranged from innovations for existing playground equipment, to highly conceptual learning and play environments. Design for the drop-off focused on tectonics, with emphasis on the structure as the primary architectural expression.

After working on the project for three weeks, each section held its own review and two of the top projects from each were chosen as finalists for an awards review. Organized by Dr. Romo, reviewers for the awards review included teachers and administrators from the Edgewood School District. After a tally of the review ballots, three team projects each garnered the same number of votes. Each therefore received “first place” awards, consisting of a gift certificate donated by **Asel Art Supply**.

One of the three winning teams came from Solovyova's studio and included **Tiffany Calvin**, **Katherine Rodgers**, and **Ryan Jaster**. The other two winning teams represented Thompson's studio and included, on the first team, **Edith Salinas**, **Fabian Mancha**, and **Pedro Rodriguez**. The second team included **Rebecca Kotzur**, **Marisol Romero-Troncoso**, and **Jeremy Herrod**. The winning projects, and the other finalists, will now be moved to the Jose Cardenas Child Development Center for display to students, faculty, and parents. It is hoped that funds can then be raised to construct a version of the playground and the drop-off.