

# 2008 Lende Design Competition won by Fabian Mancha

On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, the UTSA College of Architecture, in conjunction with the **San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA)**, hosted the judging for the 2008 Lende Design Competition. Each of the 150 second year architecture and interior design students presented a design for a mixed use project known as **Ars Longa**. The project defines a plaza across Jones Avenue from the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA). The hypothetical plaza follows the general outline of one shown in the River North Charrette. The site is also on the Museum Reach of the River Walk extension project.

The project criteria stated that it should attract businesses and individuals directly involved in what writer Richard Florida has called the "creative economy." Designs for the project therefore needed to make a statement as to concept, innovation, quality of life, etc. Features in the individual student proposals included: a two story colonnade surrounding the plaza, with room for out door dining; roof-top gardens for insulation; art galleries and studios open to streets inside the buildings; and even a go-cart track on the roof.

Ten awards, ranging from \$1,000 to \$300, were donated by **Bill Lende**, a resident of downtown San Antonio, who initiated the competition to encourage creative thinking about the future of our historic inner-city. The awards were announced at SAMA in an event that was open to the public. Judges for the design competition included **Tim Blonkvist**, FAIA, Overland Partners; **Ed Cross II**, Cross & Co., Commercial Realty Advisors; **James Lifshutz**, Liberty Properties Development Group; **Mike McGlone**, AIA, Alamo Architects; **Santino Medina**, an alumni of UTSA and Archeworks, in Chicago; **Richard Mogas**, AIA, Mogas & Associates Architects Inc.; **David Rubin**, The Brown Foundation Curator for Contemporary Art, SAMA; and **Bob Sohn**, Attorney & Strategic Planner.

The first place award in the competition, and the monetary prize of \$1,000, went to 2nd year student **Fabian Mancha**, while the three second place awards went to **Mauricio Espinoza**; **Alejandro Gallegos**; and **Arnoldo Rodriguez**; and the third place awards went to **Jae Cho**; **Alfredo Frausto**; **Casey Johnson**; **Domingo Sanchez**; **Justin Scanio**; **Thomas Schatte**.

CoA students were under the guidance of 2nd year faculty members: **Craig Blount**, **Jim Dawes**, **Alan Harmon**, **Bill Lambert**, **Ela Poursani**, **Charles Schneider**, **Meredith Siegel**, **Stan Thomasson**, **Jon Thompson**, and **John Webb**.



Jury member Lifshutz and winner Mancha  
jury member Mogas in the back



Bill Lende addressing the students



model by Fabian Mancha