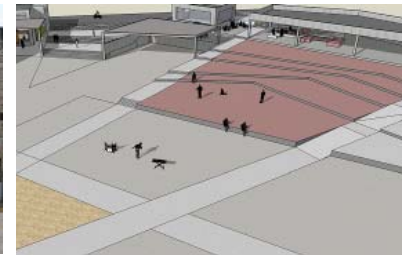


Design Studios for the city of Boerne with RUDAT



Daniel Lazarine



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During the Spring of 2008, **Vincent Canizaro** and **Darryl Ohlenbusch** guided 25 students through a design studio aimed at providing a vision for the future of the community of **Boerne, Texas**. Graduate students in Canizaro's and junior students Ohlenbusch's classes worked on design proposals for different buildings in the city, engaging the community in the process of the design development. This impetus was the granting by the **American Institute of Architects** of a **Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (RUDAT)** aimed at helping the City of Boerne work through its present and future development pressures. **Paul Barwick**, who is the city of Boerne's senior planner and initiated the process, was concerned about increasing pressure on the local ecology and the loss of its heritage and small town character as Boerne's population booms, turning the 158 year-old German settlement into a bedroom community for San Antonio. Such rapid growth has brought a host of residential and commercial developers to the area, adding traffic, strip centers and big-box retail to an area known more for pioneer Texas architecture, Main Street, creeks, and ranchland.



Brandon Melland



In response, the studios focused on projects that would help inform the RUDAT team and local residents. Environmental and cultural sustainability emerged as guiding principles. The students engaged in intensive research, studying and drawing key historical buildings, mapping, and working to determine key themes that contribute to better understanding Boerne's underlying ecology and what makes it a desirable place to live. Design projects varied. Ohlenbusch's studio focused on proposals for Boerne's new "city campus" including a city hall and library. Canizaro's studio developed a wide range of independent proposals, including a downtown grocery, parking garage, recycling center, spa, plaza, garden housing complex, and a variety of installations aimed at both preserving and enhancing the quality of life in Boerne as it grows.

The result of the studio was exhibited at Boerne Public Library at the end of the semester. All of the research and design proposals culminated in a publication entitled *Document on the City: Boerne, Texas: A Manual for Growth and Preservation*. It was presented to both the RUDAT team and the citizens of Boerne. CoA will continue its relationship with the city of Boerne with the future projects.