

junior studios re-envision Monterey Building



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This 20-year-old building has served as an excellent laboratory for collaborative projects between architecture and interior design students as they create new plans to improve the structure's appearance and functionality.

This studio project required the students to focus on using the existing structural frame, plumbing, and elevators to renovate the interior space as well as add a high performance exterior. In groups of four (two interior design students, two architecture students), the semester began with programming and space planning. After a few weeks of group work, the two disciplines split and as the interior space developed, the architecture students began a highly detailed look into the sustainable façade. Utilizing daylighting and shading baseline models via environmental analysis software, tests were conducted to determine the efficiency of the students' designs. The separate groups joined again to finalize the design and present to a jury which included several design firms in the San Antonio architecture community.

The response from the people who visited the exhibition, as well as the students, was overwhelming. All were appreciative of the detailed hard work and authenticity of the project. The collaborative interdisciplinary effort was not only a learning experience for the students but a glimpse at the emerging structure of the professional world.

Last fall four CoA junior studios collaborated in an effort to redesign the CoA home, the Monterey Building. Lead by Assistant Professors **Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali** and **Dr. Irina Solovyova** and adjunct instructors **Darryl Ohlenbusch** and **Michelle Clark**, the 68 students were challenged to work together in this experimental horizontal studio in order to propose new uses of the interior and create a new image of the exterior of the existing building.

The Monterey Building was originally built in the early 1980s as a computer manufacturing facility for a leading computer company from the 1960s. Previous to the 1980s, the area was considered a slum and was referred to as "Little Laredo." It, along with several surrounding buildings, was part of an urban renewal program aimed to uplift the area in the 1990s. In 2005 the College of Architecture moved from the 1604 campus to the Monterey Building downtown.



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