

Sky Costello places second in AFV competition



The winners of the **Air Force Village Chapel Competition** have been announced and **Schuyler (Sky) Costello** has received second place. The competition had 33 entries for the student portion of the competition and 92 entries for the professional portion.

The Air Force Village Competition was formed to give civilians an opportunity to contribute to the growth and remodel of the Air Force Village (AFV) by creating an architectural and aesthetically pleasing place of worship and spirituality, similar to that of the Cadet Chapel in Colorado Springs, CO. The original AFV was established in 1964, and later constructed in 1968, by the Air Force Officers' Wives' Club to provide a safe haven for the widows of retired Air Force Officers. It is located on the far west side of San Antonio, near Lackland Air Force Base.

Since its establishment the AFV has seen tremendous growth. Sixteen years after the initial construction a second campus was built, the Air Force Village II, which is where the site of the proposed chapel is located. This campus extends over 700 acres and is home to retired career officers, their spouses, widows, and the widows from all branches of the military. Along with the construction of the new chapel, a master plan has been created by Perkins Eastman, with intentions of making upgrades to a number of other facilities within the AFV.

The proposed chapel would encompass over eleven thousand square feet and would contain a number of unique spaces. The site itself lies just west of the Town Center and takes up 4.75 acres. The current visitor entrance is located on the south side of the campus, but the new master plan will relocate the entrance to the West of the Town Center. Competitors are free to locate the new chapel anywhere along the path of the new entrance, provided it meets the criteria indicated in the competition regulations.

Students enrolled in **Roberto Rodriguez's** Master of Architecture 3 studio in the spring of 2009, here at UTSA, were informed about the competition and were assigned to create an alternate master plan in the first half of the semester and then focused on the design of the chapel in the remaining portion of the semester. Eleven students produced individual designs for consideration in the competition.

The jury included retired **Major General M. Gary Alkire** of Air Force, now President and CEO of the AFV, Mr. **Craig Hartman**, Chaplain **William H. Jacobs**, as well as architects **Deborah Berke** and **Carlos Jimenez**.

As the second place winner for the student portion of the competition, Sky was awarded \$1,000. Sky's design was noted by the jury for merit with his usage of sustainable design concepts. His angled roof allowed for the maximum effective handling of sunlight here in San Antonio and the use of local materials, such as two large rammed earth walls taken from the excavation, was an exceptional way to utilize available resources.

