

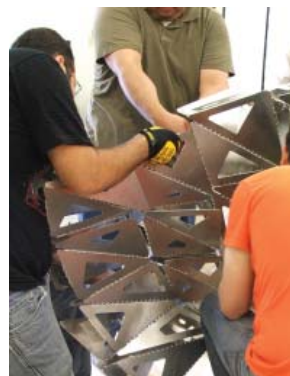
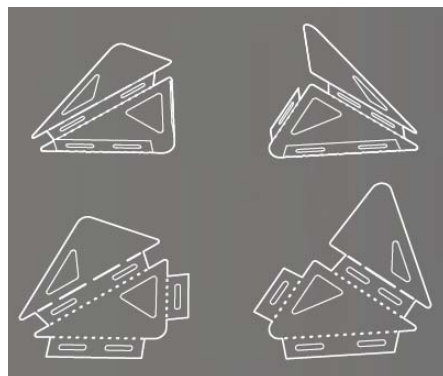
digital fabrication "Embrace"

On March 24, 2010, UTSA College of Architecture, in collaboration with TEX-FAB, brought in **Brad Bell**, Assistant Professor at UT Arlington, to conduct a workshop and lecture for CoA students on contextual and regional construction developed through digital fabrication. The afternoon lecture had an attendance of over 100 students and was standing room only. The students, who participated in the workshop, included five graduate students, seven seniors, nine juniors, and five sophomores, were nominated by faculty. CoA faculty members, **Armando Araiza** and **Kevin Patrick McClellan**, a **TEX-FAB** co-director, planned and choreographed the all day event which took place in the CoA Gallery.



This program was designed to incorporate parametric issues into the design studio. The lecture/ workshop format gave students the opportunity to learn new concepts and to put these concepts into use. During the workshop portion of the event, students worked in small groups and were asked to use the Rhino plug-in Paneling Tools to create a design that could house a lighting idea. After completion of the design, students used the college's laser cutter to build the 2'X2' design. Student feedback was very positive and showed that students had, overall, gained knowledge using this new design approach. Students repeatedly said that they would enjoy more of these types of lecture/ workshops in the future. Students in Araiza and McClellan's Performative Connections senior studio utilized techniques from Brad Bell's workshop in their final class project. For the final project of the semester, the entire class collaborated to design and build an 8'X8' free standing structure. The structure itself was created by using 88 unique triangulated aluminum panels. Small triangulated cutouts were designed into each flap for fabrication purposes. The final structure was counterbalanced in such a way that it only required two structural ribs to hold itself up. The square base was painted a bright red color in order to reflect a red hue from the structure itself.

On June 10, 2010 students had the opportunity to present their finished built design. **James Leflore**, director of **Public Art San Antonio (PASA)**, graciously hosted a reception and exhibition in their Lab Space in Downtown San Antonio. It was a successful turn out and both Araiza and McClellan hope to continue developing and coordinating these types of collaborating projects.



Design Studio

- Alejandro Arizpe
- Stephanie Balbin
- Javier Fano
- Emily Guerrero
- Erica Herrera
- Kevin Linton
- Raul Montalvo
- Danny Murray
- Ricardo Reyes
- Sarah Staten
- Gustavo Tirado
- Jennifer Villarreal
- John Zerda