

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

Press Release

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Las Vegas' Paolo Vazquez wins national high school architecture competition

Midlothian, Va. and Brooklyn, New York students take second and third place

Chicago, Ill.—The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is pleased to announce the winner of its 2013 DiscoverDesign.org National High School Architecture Competition. Paolo Vazquez of the Advanced Technologies Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada took first place prize out of 226 teens from 16 states and 32 high schools who submitted design projects to redesign their school library to be more people-centric not just book centric. A jury of 70 architects, engineers, designers and university professors from across the country evaluated the entries. Second place went to Andrew Harsono of Cosby High School in Midlothian, Va, while Wen Hao Wang of Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, New York placed third. Their winning projects can be seen at www.discoverdesign.org/competition2013.

CAF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture. In January 2012, it launched DiscoverDesign.org, a unique web-based learning tool that gives high school students the opportunity to solve real-world design problems. Through project-based learning and social networking, students are connected with professional architects and engineers, allowing for real peer interaction and professional feedback during every step of their design process. "In our second year of the national competition, the sophistication and problem solving skills of these teens continues to impress us and the architects serving on the jury." said Lynn Osmond, CAF's President and CEO. "The level of design thinking and architectural work submitted by high school students across the country is inspiring and we're pleased to be a part of their learning process and foster 21st century skills with DiscoverDesign.org."

Citing challenges with his school's existing library, Vazquez's solution proposes a large colorful addition which would include quieter student reading areas, collaborative areas for special events, and a maker's space where students could work on class projects.

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Vazquez's first place prize includes a trip for two to Chicago; three nights at the Palmer House Hilton Chicago, a CAF walking tour and architecture river cruise; visits to several architectural firms; a year-long membership for design software tutorials from Black Spectacles (\$280 value); and a copy of CAF's textbook "*The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings.*"

"It is so inspiring to see these student projects that have gone through a thoughtful design process of documenting existing conditions, research, analysis, developing and culling ideas, and then creating a unique final solution," said Marc Teer, AIA, architect at Cannon Design and founder of Black Spectacles. "DiscoverDesign.org is an important design education tool and we're seeing the impact of its classroom use. Students will be far ahead of their peers when they move on to college and the profession."

The National Competition jury also gave three Digital Citizenship Awards to one student and two architect mentors who did the most to foster, encourage and build an online design community of learners in DiscoverDesign.org. With their comments and feedback, they provided both encouragement and constructive criticism on students' work throughout the run of the competition. The winners were student Danielle Parr of Central High School in Burlington, Ill. and architects Sarah Jacobson, AIA with Gensler and Joe Cliggott, AIA of Rafael Vinoly Architects, both in Chicago, Ill..

DiscoverDesign.org was awarded a 2013 AIA National Honor Award for Collaborative Achievement. The award recognizes the distinguished achievements of organizations, knowledge communities and others who have had a beneficial influence on or advanced the architectural profession. DiscoverDesign.org complements the CAF high school textbook and teacher guide, *The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings*. It is the first high school architecture textbook published in the U.S. Created in partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, educators and students in 48 states and 17 countries currently use the handbook. In 2009, it also earned a national honor award from the AIA.

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Current exhibition is *Chicago Model City* featuring a large scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. For further information visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/chicagoarchitecture and Twitter: www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture.