OZANAM INN
FALL 2016 DESIGN-BUILD

A COLLABORATION WITH
OZANAM INN
AND
THE ALBERT AND TINA SMALL CENTER
FOR COLLABORATIVE DESIGN AT
TULANE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
WITH SUPPORT FROM
MR AND MRS (ERIN) JEAN PAUL HYMEL
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As in many cities, New Orleans faces the chronic and complicated issue of homelessness. A variety of organizations, health services, economic opportunities, and affordable housing are needed to address the challenges of homelessness, and Ozanam Inn has been committed to providing such services for more than 60 years. As a special work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Ozanam Inn’s immediate priority is to offer aid and comfort to the poor and needy in our community by offering the most basic needs, (shelter, food and clothing), in addition to case management and counseling, job and life skills training, physical, dental and mental healthcare treatment, legal counsel and more. Staff and volunteers work with each client’s individual needs to create a path for success.
“PEOPLE ARE JUDGMENTAL ON THE STREET, HERE YOU ARE AROUND EQUALS, WE ARE ALL HUMANS.”

– Ozanam Inn Client
Ozanam Inn’s leadership team approached Small Center through its annual Request For Proposals process, hoping to revitalize their outdoor day-space. Replacing an existing structure in a location that is used by Ozanam’s clients 365 days a year represented a unique challenge for Ozanam and the Small Center team. The seating area facilitated line-up for meals at Ozanam, storage of clients’ belongings, social functions, and served as a waiting area for access to the Inn’s many services; these elements had to be included in the new designs, and services needed to continue throughout the building process.

Uncommon among local shelters, Ozanam provides space for their clients not just at night, but all throughout the day. Because of this offering, it was critical for the design team to create comfortable, user-friendly space.

Located in the heart of New Orleans’ historic Warehouse/Arts District, the project site lies within the regulatory boundary of the Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC). As such, the project required review and approval by HDLC staff and a panel of local architects and preservation experts. Small Center worked closely with the HDLC ahead of the Fall 2016 design/build studio to ensure student designs could be reviewed within the project’s tight 14-week schedule.
FOR YEARS THE OUTDOOR SPACE WAS UTILITARIAN AT BEST. JUST A ROW OF WOODEN BENCHES PUSHED UP AGAINST OZANAM’S BRICK WALL.”

– The New Orleans Advocate
The project team worked with Fred Karnas, Senior Fellow at Kresge Foundation and former Executive Director of the National Coalition for the Homeless to better understand the issue of homelessness from a national perspective and to discuss working directly with the homeless population as design clients.

Through the lens of several fundamental questions, students attempted to understand the past, present and future of Ozanam’s services and the day space to be redesigned: How can architecture affirm human dignity? What is the student’s role as a designer? How can students best engage with Ozanam’s clients to accomplish these end goals? Through listening, brainstorming, and presentation, students began to understand the deliverables required.
BRAINSTORMING QUESTIONS, DESIGN REVIEW MEETINGS WITH OZANAM STAFF AND CLIENTS
In order to familiarize themselves with Ozanam Inn’s mission, students spent time with the staff, leadership, and clients. They learned about available services, including shelter, meals, case management, and medical and dental services, and heard from clients who were in the residential work program at Ozanam and on a path to permanent housing and independent living. These stories focused the students’ efforts on the central question of how the built intervention could confirm the dignity of its daily users while serving multiple concurrent practical needs.

Early material explorations focused on environmental and physical comfort, ease of use, and functionality to best serve Ozanam’s diverse clientele. Through readings and discussions, small built projects, site observation, and volunteering to serve daily meals in the cafeteria, the students gained a new perspective on the space in which they were going to be working.

RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEERING

READING LIST:

'I'M PROTECTIVE OF THIS YARD': LONG-TERM HOMELESS PERSONS' CONSTRUCTION OF HOME PLACE AND WORKPLACE IN A HISTORICAL PUBLIC SPACE
REBECCA SHEEHAN

COMPARING HOMELESSNESS RESEARCH IN THE US AND BRITAIN
SUZANNE FITZPATRICK & JULIE CHRISTIAN

PREDICTORS OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG FAMILIES IN NEW YORK CITY: FROM SHELTER REQUEST TO HOUSING STABILITY
MARYBETH SHINN

THE GEOGRAPHY OF SURVIVAL AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY: SPECULATIONS ON SURVEILLANCE, LEGAL INNOVATION, AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF INTERVENTION
DON MITCHELL & NIK HEYNE
SITE PLANNING & DESIGN SCHEMES

Using information from the readings, observations, and Ozanam stakeholder input, students began to design by considering a variety of site configurations that would improve the experience of its primary functions: seating, storage, weather protection, bike parking, and client line up for both meal distribution and nightly shelter access.

Students considered precedents, sketched their ideas for new roofs as the defining functional and visual element of the project, and studied various layouts to test the efficiency of the three schemes.
THE PORCH ENHANCE THE LINE

RECONSIDERING THE LINE

GROUND LEVEL PLAN 1/8" = 1' - 0"

SITE PLAN 1/16" = 1' - 0"
STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW AND COMMENT ON STUDENT DESIGNS, INCLUDING PLANS, MODELS, MATERIAL IDEAS AND RENDERINGS
DESIGN PROPOSALS AND FEEDBACK

Reviews were held with a variety of stakeholders, focusing on feedback from Ozanam’s clients and staff, the direct users of the final built project. Full-scale mock-ups were constructed at Small Center to provide a sense of scale, test materials and fabrication methods, adjust bench heights, and explore storage solutions.
The final design for Ozanam’s outdoor dayspace features a long, linear, and undulating roofline. The roof is lifted significantly higher than the flat roof it replaced, allowing for additional light and air while projecting further from the building to ensure continued protection from weather. A raised deck and benches with built-in storage ensure that clients’ belongings remain dry, avoiding localized flooding common to the parking lot. A designed service area contains trash collection and provides a dedicated and secure space for bike parking. A new ramp and stair integrate the day space with Ozanam’s primary client entrance and ensure equitable and ADA compliant access to services.
Falling within a historic district, Ozanam’s day-space was subject to review by the city’s Historic District Landmarks Commission. The team engaged with HDLC staff and leadership early in the process to ensure their work would meet submission and design standards. Neighborhood organizations, residents, businesses, and elected leaders were engaged and provided feedback regarding the project’s visibility and functionality. Ultimately, submitted designs were presented to the HDLC’s Architectural Review Committee and unanimously approved.
CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR HISTORIC REVIEW, INCLUDING NOTES, DETAILS, AND SITE RENDERINGS

- 6" x 1/4" Steel Flange
- Plate w/bolts epoxied to Existing Brick Wall
- 3/8" (10mm) Multiwall Polycarbonate with Gasket fasteners as per Mfg. Guidelines (Flame Spread = 20)

- FRT Braced Wood Panel w/ 1x4 Cross Bracing
- Tapered 1x FRT Lumber - from 8" to 4" nominal

- Double 2x6 FRT Supports
- 6" x 1/4" Steel Flange Plate
- 3" x 1/4" Steel Flange
- 3" I.D. Steel Tube Column
- 2'-3 1/2" Steel Flange
- 2'-3 5/8" Steel Flange

- 3" x 1/4" Steel Flange Plate w/bolts epoxied to Existing Brick Wall
- 12" Dia. x 3'-0" Concrete Pier
- 3/4" Galv. All-thread
- 3/4" Galv. Nuts for leveling

- Capped 3" Steel Tube welded to (2) 1 3/4" x 1/4" Steel Angles
- welded to 6" x 6" x 1/4 Steel Plate

- 12'-6"
- 10'-1 1/4"
- 2'-3"
- 1'-6"
- 3 1/2"
- 1'-0"
- 6'-9"
- 9'-7 3/4"
- 9'-0 3/4"
- 6'-1 3/4"
- 6" x 1/4" Steel Flange Plate
- 6" x 1/4" Steel Flange Plate
- 3" x 1/4" Steel Flange Plate
- 3" I.D. Steel Tube Column
- Steel Flange w/bolts epoxied to Brick Wall
- 2x6 FRT Supports
- Column Base Detail

- *See Column Base Detail
- *N.B. Designed for 130 mph Wind Loads as per Section 1609 of IBC 2012
After selecting a final design scheme and securing permits, students began designing and prototyping potential details and choosing key materials. Prototypes were built at half and full scale to test joint construction, bench comfort, various roof panel designs, and overall feasibility of construction. Ideas were then revised and reworked to improve their function and accommodate concerns about safety, material quality, and long-term durability.
MATERIAL EXPLORATION, STRUCTURAL SCALE MODEL, BUILDING ROOF PANEL PROTOTYPES
The design studio worked in teams focused on the planning and execution of specific design elements, such as the deck, roof, benches, and service zone. Teams collaborated to coordinate primary fabrication at Small Center, then transportation to and installation on site. Ozanam Inn provides services 365 days/year, and continued to operate throughout demolition of the prior roof and installation of the new deck, seating, and roof.
ON-SITE INSTALLATION

Installating roof panels & night construction

BENCHES IN USE WHILE ROOF CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

ROOF STRUCTURE TEAM LIFT
FINISHED PROJECT

FINISH PROJECT PHOTOS
BY NEIL ALEXANDER
FINAL PROJECT PHOTOS
BY NEIL ALEXANDER
Design and construction of the Ozanam Inn Day Space in collaboration with the Small Center and Tulane School of Architecture faculty and students. Sponsored by Mr and Mrs (Erin) Jean Paul Hymel.

**SMALL CENTER**
Doug Harmon (design lead), Nick Jenisch (project manager), Emilie Taylor Welty, Sue Mobley, Maggie Hansen, Donn Peabody, Shoshana Gordon

**STUDIO TEAM**
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**OZANAM INN**
Reneé Blanche, Deacon Baggio S. DiGiovanni, Clarence Adams

**REVIEWERS**
The clients, neighbors, and board members of Ozanam Inn; Sergio Padilla; Phoebe Crisman; Marianne Desmarais

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**
Mr. and Mrs. (Erin) Jean Paul Hymel
The clients of Ozanam Inn
Elliott Perkins & Anna Pernas (HDLC)
Neil Alexander Photography
Councilwoman LaToya Cantrell & Laura Bryan
Fred Karnas
Dash Lumber
Lexan
Peffer Heating & Air, Inc.
Walter Zehner