An Option to Integrate Interior Design and Landscape Architecture into
The School of Architecture and Construction Management within
The College of Engineering and Architecture

The New School of Design and Construction Management
Architecture, Construction Management, Interior Design, Landscape Architecture

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In response to the Provost’s charge to search for efficient and effective solutions to the current economic conditions facing Washington State University, Architecture, Construction Management, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture have investigated the opportunities to unify the academic and administrative structure into one academic unit.

Currently, Architecture and Construction Management are housed within the School of Architecture and Construction Management (A+ CM) in the College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA). Interior Design is a free-standing department within the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS). Landscape Architecture is a program within the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in CAHNRS. With this potential merger, all four of the disciplines that are responsible for the design and construction of the built environment would be located in one school. This merger would make Washington State University the only PAC-12 school with this comprehensive combination of programs in one academic and administrative unit. This uniqueness could be built upon to create a strong recruiting tool.

The New School would house the following degrees:
- Doctor of Design
- Master of Architecture
- Master of Arts Interior Design
- Master of Landscape Architecture
- Bachelor of Science Architecture
- Bachelor of Science Construction Management
- Bachelor of Arts Interior Design
- Bachelor of Landscape Architecture

This paper will identify the teaching, research and budget metrics that would be gained through this merger as well as how the merger would incorporate the Interdisciplinary Design Institute in Spokane.
Research:

All four academic programs have research focus areas in the following areas:

- Sustainability (Pullman and Spokane Campus)
- Clean technologies (Pullman)
- Health and design (Spokane)
- Community service (Pullman and Spokane)

Currently, integrated/interdisciplinary research and outreach endeavors fall under the umbrellas of two institutes: the Interdisciplinary Design Institute (IDI) and the Institute for Sustainable Design (ISD). The IDI is a collaboration between the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Engineering and Architecture involving faculty from multiple design disciplines. The ISD is a collaboration between the School of Architecture and Construction Management, Civil Engineering and the Composite Materials Engineering Center. Both institutes have an established funding record. In the last five years the IDI has realized $1,790,390.76 in funding for research and projects; the two primary recipients are the Integrated Design Lab (IDL) and the GISSL (GIS and Simulation Lab). Since inception in late 2008 the ISD has realized $750,000 in funding, including a $150,000 NSF grant in which architecture faculty are co-PI’s.

The IDI and IDI share a common vision of providing collaborative research and design opportunities for students as well as faculty. For example, the ISD has recently launched the Integrated Design Experience studio (iDeX) a collaborative design studio focused on developing research and sustainable strategies for communities and entities within the state of Washington. These studios integrate Architecture, CM and Civil Engineering as well as the Composite Materials Engineering Center. Similarly, interdisciplinary design studios of the IDI have a long track record of research and community engagement with the neighborhoods of Spokane as well as throughout the state.

Clearly, both Institutes would be stronger as one, leading to new opportunities for expanded research initiatives and bringing more collaborative opportunities to the table. For example, the Rural Design Communities Initiative in Spokane (RCDI) is in the early stages of development, and holds great potential in its core mission of fostering rural economic development for small communities by renovating and repurposing existing downtown structures. The initiators are faculty in Interior Design and Landscape Architecture but faculty other programs would be strengthen this initiative through expanded perspectives.

The restructuring (see diagram 2 pg.7) would enhance all grant writing activities through the creation of a single institute with multiple “workshop” entities bringing a wide range of disciplines and expertise to the project at hand. The combined successes of the various projects and grants will provide a stronger track record when submitting new proposals.

Teaching:

Undergraduate Education

Through the merger of these disciplines the undergraduate teaching and curriculum would be enhanced in a number of ways.

1. The first advantage is that through the merger we would be able to offer an enhanced level of interdisciplinary education. This would occur through a model based upon fully integrated curriculum during the first three semesters of enrollment at WSU. All studios and lecture courses would be integrated between all four disciplines that would provide students with an introduction to all the design and construction disciplines. In as much as all these disciplines must effectively work together in the profession it follows that establishing this framework for first year students would be extremely beneficial to the undergraduate experience. In addition, the merger of first year courses would result in significant cost savings (see budget metrics). Beyond the integration during the first three semesters we would also integrate students in collaborative course for all senior capstone
courses. This again would provide students with an integrated design and construction experience immediately prior to entering the workforce. In order for this model to work in the most effective manner we would propose that the current undergraduate ID students in Spokane be relocated to Pullman. Courses in the second and third year may be shared between two or more disciplines dependent upon course content.

2. Another advantage in the merger for undergraduates is that the senior students would be involved in initiatives such as the ISD. All senior students would be able to focus their senior capstone projects in issues of environment and energy which is a core component of the strategic plan in clean technologies for both the college and the university.

**Graduate Education:**
The merger would also enhance the graduate programs at both the Pullman and Spokane campuses. The graduate enrollment between both campuses for fall 2010 breaks down as follows.

- Master of Architecture: 66 students: 45 Pullman, 21 Spokane
- Master of Arts ID: 23 students located in Spokane
- MS Landscape Architecture: 11 students located in Pullman
- Doctor of Design: 20 students in Spokane

With the merger graduate education would break down as follows:

**Pullman:** In Pullman we would have a cohort of graduate students in architecture and landscape architecture. For these students they would be involved in interdisciplinary studies through the ISD. For example, our IDeX studio would become part of our required fall studio that would include architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering and CMEC. In addition, we would expect in the future that materials engineering students could be added to the IDeX. We would also expect that a series of these students would be able to continue their interdisciplinary work through their graduate projects.

**Spokane:**
In Spokane we would have a cohort of graduate architecture students, interior design students as well as Doctor of Design students. With these three cohorts of students the focus would be on health, sustainability and community. This has already occurred over the last several years through the integration of our graduate architecture and interior design students in collaborative studios. The Spokane students through their coursework and graduate projects would be expected to further develop integrative projects with other disciplines in Spokane such as nursing, pharmacy or the sleep research center. Students could also select to develop their work with the IDL or continue the already established work with community development.

**Physical Facilities:**
The leadership of the four programs agrees that this should not be a merger in name only. In order to create an environment that fosters collaboration, design integration and interdisciplinary education the programs need to be in close proximity. Consequently, CEA will be proposing the acquisition of Daggy Hall\(^1\) to absorb the additional 240 students in Landscape Architecture and Interior Design. This use of Daggy for the design disciplines fits into our current use of Daggy 1 for the IDeX studio. This move would also free up potential funds and space in the old Bookie that is currently planned to be occupied by Interior design.

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\(^1\) Daggy Hall is/will be underutilized because of the program discontinuation of Theater Arts in 2009,
**Faculty, Resources and Efficiencies: Post Merger**

The diagram on page six illustrates the organizational structure for the new school.

**Director:**
There would be one director for the school. There would be no additional cost for this as that position already exists as a 12 month position.

**Design Research Collaborative Director:**
There would be one director for the Design Research Collaborative that would be a 9 month position and would save approximately $11,000 in summer administrative stipend that is currently paid.

**Program Coordinators:**
Each discipline would have one program coordinator. The coordinators would be on 9 month appointments with an additional summer stipend to cover needs regarding certification of students in professional programs as well as *summer alive* and other administrative needs. Each program coordinator would be given a slightly less teaching load (3 courses) during the academic year to accommodate the added responsibilities. Currently ID and LA chairs are on 12 month appointments and the CM program coordinator is on 10 month. With this change there would be a savings to the university of approximately $35,000.

**Staff:** In terms of staff we would have one academic coordinator for interior design and landscape architecture. This position would be transferred to Pullman from Spokane. There would be one academic coordinator for architecture and CM (which is an existing position) and the current academic coordinator in Spokane would add additional responsibilities of graduate architecture in Pullman. As such there would be no additional costs requirements in terms of staffing. The current staff position in interior design would not need to be filled which would yield a savings of approximately $30,000.

**Faculty:** Currently in Spokane there are three faculty members who are on 12 month appointments. Under this consolidation we would take two of the three positions and return them to 9 month appointments. The third faculty member was hired with a 12 month appointment. By returning two of the faculty to 9 month this would save the university approximately $30,000. In addition, there are two adjuncts faculty appointment in Spokane that would no longer be needed which total $38,000. One faculty line in interior design (Pullman) is occupied by a clinical professor with a one-year contract. This position has a partial funding from CAHRNS in order to cover administrative responsibilities in Pullman. With the consolidation the $17,000 dedicated to cover administrative could be saved.

With this consolidation we would save the university approximately $160,000.

**Current Budget Savings for 2009 – 2011 Biennium:**
Currently, in this fiscal year programs have taken the following cuts:

- **Architecture and CM:** $310,000 ($90,000 captured from a retired faculty position and $230,000 in adjunct funds from last budget cut).

- **Interior Design:** $200,000 (Captured vacant faculty and staff positions, Thompson, Roberts, Salzer).

- **Landscape Architecture:** $117,000 (Captured positions from two faculty vacancies).
Other potential budget savings:

With the potential merger and establishment of the new school the success will be very dependent upon establishing an attitude among faculty of collaboration and a willingness to work in different ways. Many faculty members in the four programs are already doing this and are working to make their teaching and research interdisciplinary. This is already occurring at both the Pullman and Spokane campus. It is these core faculty and future faculty dedicated to the integrative mission of the new school that will be the measure of its success. At the same time there are a series of faculty who will resist any changes and will “push back” at the notion of having to work differently than they have in the past. The question arises, given the potential of this reorganization, could this be a mechanism for us to eliminate unproductive tenured faculty and faculty who are not willing to advance education and research with new delivery models. We believe the “significant “savings could be realized by the university if such actions were taken.

There is great potential with this merger to create an environment unlike any other in the country. Having a faculty who buys into the goals of the new school is critical.

Summary:

We are very optimistic about the conceptual framework outlined in this paper for the New School. While there are many details to be worked through in terms of curriculum, physical facilities and organization we are confident that these can come together to form a new effective unit that advances the goals of the university and facilitates the new economic climate that the university and state are experiencing.
The New School
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Program Coordinators (nine month positions + summer stipend)

- Academic Coordinator: Graduate Architecture and Interior Design, 12 month Existing position
- Academic Coordinator Arch/CM. 12 month appointment Existing position.
- Academic Coordinator Landscape Architecture. 12 month appointment. Transfer existing position from Spokane

Office Manager: 12 month appointment. Existing position.

Figure 1