

PORTICO

2002/3

Annual Report to Alumni

A Publication of the A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning

FROM THE DEAN

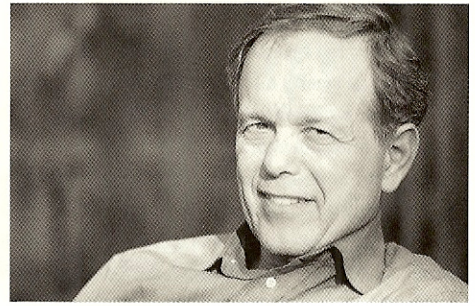


Photo by Casey Kelbaugh

Dear Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,

We have heard concerns expressed by some of our alumni and friends about retaining Mr. Taubman's name on our college. This issue has been seriously and earnestly discussed within the College and University. Because the final outcome of the Sotheby's case was determined after the last issue of *Portico*, and this is the annual issue that deals with financial support, it might be good to review and clarify our position.

The University's position, fully endorsed by the College, was articulated in a formal statement last year: "Al Taubman has been a loyal alumnus and a very good friend to the University.... We will continue to recognize his longstanding support through those University academic programs and facilities that bear his name." Later statements noted, "Mr. Taubman's gifts were made and accepted by the University in good faith. They are part of a pattern of philanthropy by Mr. Taubman extending over many years and across many institutions. Therefore, the University has decided to continue using his contributions for the support of our academic programs and to recognize him in the manner agreed upon when the gifts were accepted. This is a judgement we have arrived at carefully and with much consideration."

The College has had a long and warm relationship with Al Taubman. We have grown to know him as someone who cares deeply about the University of Michigan. We believe that ultimately he will be remembered for the many philanthropic gifts he has made and the extraordinary support he has shown to worthwhile causes, the College and the University in particular.

The College was named according to University guidelines, specifically that the gift be of sufficient magnitude as to be transformative. The gift agreement was signed in good faith in May 1999 (well before there was any indication of possible wrongdoing). The \$30 million gift is dedicated to enhancing in equal measure the quality of the faculty and student body. The gift has already noticeably strengthened both. We have used the annual income from this endowment to increase student financial aid and to appoint distinguished visiting and permanent faculty. At the end of this academic year, we will have provided countless new scholarships for students, as well as appointed many distinguished visiting professors and two permanent faculty (See box on page 3.). If the Regents were to give Mr. Taubman's gift back and remove his name from our college, the quality of our faculty and support for students would be greatly reduced. We would be penalizing the students now and in perpetuity. Al Taubman is paying his debt to society for his misdeeds. It would be wrong to punish him for his good deeds.

Like universities, professionals must engage the world to be responsible and effective. That engagement means not ignoring or shrinking back from the formidable complexities—technical, social and moral—of contemporary life. Although western ethical principles haven't changed since they were first formulated in ancient Greece, new dilemmas materialize in unprecedented and unrecognizable packages, often wrapped in strange camouflage and clouded by enigma. The College and the University will continue to do their best in unpacking and resolving these challenges in what they judge to be both fair and in the best and most abiding interests of the parties involved—just as we all must do in our personal and professional lives. Our students are made well aware of ethical issues in some of their courses. For instance, all of our Master of Architecture students start their Professional Practice course with an ethics case study, with moral themes threaded throughout the required 14-week course.

On behalf of our 650 students, faculty and staff, I thank each of you who has included us in your philanthropy. Last year the College experienced the third highest giving ever and this issue of *Portico* lists the many generous donors.

Like last year, we are almost certain to experience flat or reduced funding from the state, perhaps even a mid-year budget cut. Because of declining state funds and because of tighter economic circumstances for everyone, we appreciate your generosity all the more.

Happy Holidays,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kelbaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

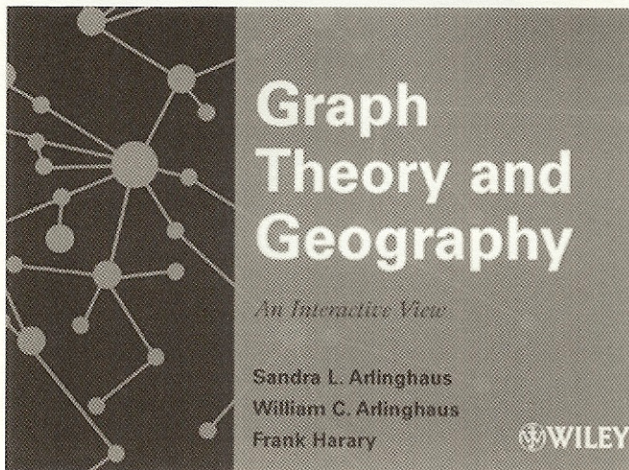
Douglas S. Kelbaugh FAIA, Dean and Professor

D.O.E. Grant Supports Study Abroad

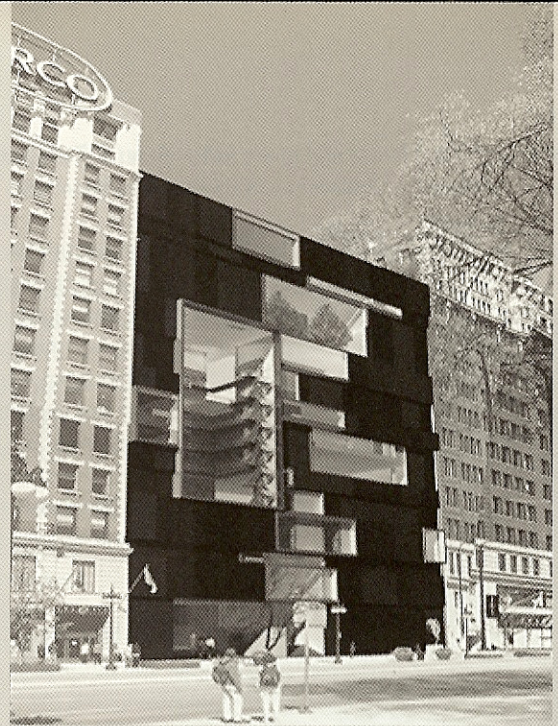
Margaret Dewar, chair of the Urban and Regional Planning Program, announced that the URP Program received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund URP students at specific European universities to study planning for a semester. In exchange, three students will come here from the hosting universities. The University of Cincinnati submitted the proposal, and we are one of two other U.S. programs participating. Assistant Professors of Urban Planning **Scott Campbell** and **Aseem Inam** are the principal investigators for the grant and will work with people from all the other institutions to plan the program to be implemented in 2003-04.

Other Faculty News. . .

Graph Theory and Geography: An Interactive View, a new electronic book (eBook), was written by Adjunct Professor of Urban Planning **Sandra Arlinghaus**, and Professors William Arlinghaus and Frank Harary, renowned experts in the fields of geography and graph theory. *Graph Theory* uses animation and user interaction to enhance the learning process. The work is part of the Wiley Interscience Series in Discrete Mathematics and Optimization. The book includes real-world examples to highlight the synthetic nature of graph theory and geography, and provides complete, up-to-date coverage of relevant theories using animations, interactive activities, and full-color graphics. Author Sandra Arlinghaus explained that while printed books can only show non-moving graphs, "using an electronic medium allows a human reader to click on portions of a graph, then move sections of the graph, and immediately see the results—right within the pages of the book."



Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning **Robert Fishman** was keynote speaker at the Sixth Annual PlaNet Congress on Suburbia in Copenhagen in August. PlaNet is an organization founded and run by planning students from throughout Europe. Fishman was also the Landsdowne Lecturer at Victoria University, British Columbia in October. This major endowed lectureship provides for a public lecture, faculty seminar and meetings with students over a three-day period. In addition, Fishman was the 18th Annual Urban Studies Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania in November where he gave a public lecture and met with students. He presented a paper at the "Law and the City" seminar at the Harvard Law School, also in November. He also presented papers at the first bi-annual conference of the Urban History Association in



Mitnick Wins the Burnham Prize

Assistant Professor of Architecture **Keith Mitnick** won the Burnham Prize Competition in June 2002. The Burnham Prize Competition is an international design competition sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Club and the Graham Foundation. The prestigious award provides for a three-month fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. The subject of the competition was a new building for the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. The competition jury was chaired by Michael Sorkin and included Judith Kirschner, Ben Nicholson and Ron Krueck. The project team included Lecturer **Mireille Roddier** and students **Stewart Hicks**, B.S.'02, and **Jon Stevens**. The winning entry (pictured above) was on exhibit this summer at the Spertus Institute and is currently on display at the Graham Foundation Gallery in Chicago. It will be included in the upcoming publication of the *Journal of the Chicago Architecture Club*. For more information visit www.chicagoarchitectureclub.org

Mitnick received the first place award for unbuilt design work sponsored by the BSA Unbuilt Architecture Competition in September 2002. Jurors for the competition included Brian Healy and Robert Campbell. The entry was on exhibit this fall in Boston.

In addition, Mitnick received a Graham Foundation grant in May 2002 for research into the merger of landscape and vernacular minimalism in the work of Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto Moura. The grant will provide for travel to Portugal and the development of a book entitled *Dissolving Thresholds*.

Various projects and ideas developed by Mitnick were profiled in the "Emerging Practices" section of *Architectural Record* and in *archrecord2* in October 2002. Read the article online at archrecord.com/archrecord2/design/october02/Mitnick.asp