



2021 ARCHITECTURAL GLASS STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

AGI and Jefferson partner for the fifth annual challenge.

By: Amanda Gibney Weko

SPOTLIGHT

2021 WINNERS

First Place Urban Gem

Victoria Posadas and Vivian Vu

Second Place Stop Motion

Gabriella Bellino and Geoffrey Little

Third Place Journey of Learning

Sidney Murray and Onel Santiago-Medina



Left: Victoria Posadas; Right: Vivian Vu

FIFTH ANNUAL COMPETITION

AGI sponsored its Fifth Annual Architectural Glass Student Design Competition during January and February 2021. Jefferson University College of Architecture and the Built Environment students in Arch 312: Design 6 and March 614: Design 4 joined the Tectonics Investigation Studio to participate in the competition as part of required coursework. The competition began with presentations from industry professionals: Nancy Medl of Glass Enterprises, Inc. provided an overview of glass; David Stutzman of Conspectus, Inc. provided a lesson on framing systems; and Dana Landis, PE, of Wiss Janney Elstner discussed design and construction considerations.

DESIGN CHALLENGE

Working in teams, students were challenged to design a new facade for an existing historic building in Center City, Philadelphia: The University of the Arts Anderson Hall, home to the Institute for Cinematography. Using a minimum of 65 percent and a maximum of 85 percent glazing, the new facade system and its components could accentuate pattern, performance, materiality, transparency, environment, context, scale, porosity, or reflection. The design

intervention was permitted +/- 8 feet from the face of the average street facade above the first floor, while the ground floor facade needed to address building access. Each design team decided how much or little of the existing facade would be retained, modified, supported, extended, or highlighted. Although a program was not specified, the design needed to consider human occupation, visibility, lighting, and thermal performance. Students studied and developed their conceptual ideas through guided reading, a self-guided site visit, hand sketches, and in-situ documentation.

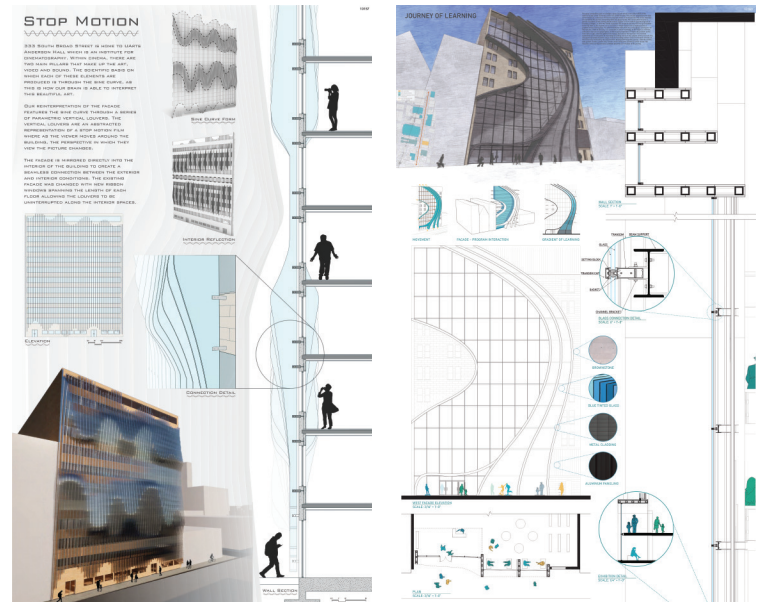
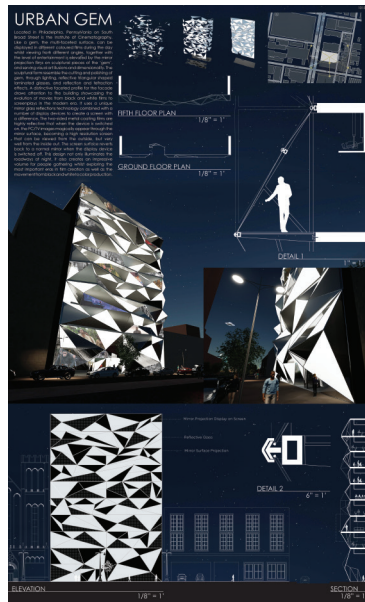
JUDGING

Submissions included brief narratives and detailed drawings presented on single 24-by-36-inch posters. Faculty reviewed and shortlisted finalists for presentations held Monday, 8 February. The jury of design and glazing professionals evaluated the proposals and awarded three winners.

The jury included Stephen Gilchrist of GMI Contractors, Inc.; Lynn Guthrie of Guthrie Glass & Mirror, Inc.; Nick D'Alicandro of Twindows, Inc.; Dana Landis, PE, of Wiss Janney Elstner; Clarissa

From left: presentation boards for Urban Gem, Stop Motion, and Journey of Learning

View the winning and finalist boards online in more detail at theagi.org



Kelsey, AIA, of Stantec; AIA Philadelphia Executive Director Rebecca Johnson; and Jefferson University Interim Director of Architecture Programs David Kratzer, AIA.

WINNERS

Victoria Posadas and Vivian Vu took first place and earned a prize of \$300 each for Urban Gem. Gabriella Bellino and Geoffrey Little won second place and \$250 each for Stop Motion. Sidney Murray and Onel Santiago-Medina earned third place and \$200 each for Journey of Learning. Finalists included Giovanni Ruiz and Ayanna Nelson for Lattice Complex and Joseph Sauers, Daniel Paul, and Jessica Lamlin for Fifth Dimension. Following are portions of the winners' design abstracts, edited for length:

FIRST PLACE: URBAN GEM

The sculptural form resembles the cutting and polishing of a gem, through lighting, reflective triangular-shaped laminated glasses, and reflection and refraction effects. A distinctive faceted profile for the facade draws attention to the building, showcasing the evolution of movies from black and white films to screenplays in the modern era. It uses a unique mirror glass reflections technology combined with a number of display devices to create a screen with a difference. The two-sided metal coating films are highly reflective that when the device is switched on, the PC/TV images magically appear through the mirror surface, becoming a high-resolution screen that can be viewed from the outside or the inside. The surface reverts to a mirror when the display is off.

SECOND PLACE: STOP MOTION

Within cinema, there are two main pillars that make up the art, video, and sound. The scientific basis on which each of these elements is produced is through the sine curve. Our reinterpretation of

the facade features the sine curve through a series of parametric vertical louvers, an abstracted representation of a stop motion film where, as the viewer moves around the building, the perspective in which they view the picture changes. The facade is mirrored directly into the interior to create a seamless connection between the exterior and interior conditions.

THIRD PLACE: JOURNEY OF LEARNING

The concept emphasizes the idea of "inversion" as a reflection of the arts program within. It developed into the design intention of expressing the journey of learning within the glass facade. The composition became a partial renovation of the existing facade and an organic curve to reflect the upward progress of learning a subject or skill. Each level is emphasized by a gradient of blue-tinted glass. The color transitions, a metaphor for interest into a field of learning. Past the curtain wall system resides a multi-story atrium that mimics the conditions of the facade. The inclusion of the curved entrance condition becomes an invitation to the journey.

IMPACT

"There is true innovation behind creating a good glass facade and making sure that your design is actually possible and not just saying it is," said winner Vivian Vu. "Thank you and your partners for giving me and my peers the opportunity to learn more about such an essential material and allow[ing] us to present you with what we were able to come up with."

Winner Victoria Posadas added, "The experience was something very different from taking on other design projects. Everyone had such a unique design... When the jurors came back with the results, it was honestly the best feeling I've ever felt in a long time to accomplish an amazing goal with one of my closest design friends."