NEWS RELEASE  
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2012 DESIGN WEEK FEATURES HILLTOP  

Baton Rouge, LA - The LSU Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture is pleased to announce their upcoming “Design Week” activities, which will take place from January 23-January 27, 2012 and involve LSU’s Hilltop Arboretum as a case study site. Design Week is an annual design competition hosted by the School in the spring semester. Students at all levels from both the undergraduate and graduate level programs form collaborative teams to resolve week-long projects posed by invited landscape design professionals of note from all over the world. Faculty participates as advisors to the teams and participates with the visiting critic(s) judging the results and in awarding prizes to those determined to be the most deserving teams.

This year, Design Week will be directed by Lori Ryker from the Artemis Institute in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Lori is the current Marie M. Bickham Chair of the School and has in the past semester visited LSU three times for lectures and guest critiques of student projects. Besides Design Week, Lori will be associated with the LSU Schools of Architecture and Landscape Architecture during the remainder of the spring 2012 semester working with an interdisciplinary design studio. It is anticipated that for the first time since the inception of Design Week more than 25 years ago, some Architecture students will also participate in the 2012 event.

Lori Ryker’s work involves the intersection of architecture and the landscape and her specialty is in assemblies of responsible designs in the landscape using indigenous materials—especially vegetation. She also emphasizes site analysis and the connections of culture and the landscapes in which they exist. She currently conducts “Remote Studio” experiences at her institute with students from all over the country—including LSU students—and has previous exposure to the landscapes of Louisiana, particularly the area between New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette.

An architect by education, Lori is in the process of researching for a publication related to her work and the landscapes she has visited, and hopes to impart her knowledge and experiences to students through their “understanding the relationship between design and the natural world.” For Design Week, she plans to take the students out of the traditional classroom setting and into the natural beauty of LSU Hilltop Arboretum, helping them appreciate natural settings and become better observers. Students will form teams and collect both inert and living material both from Hilltop and surrounding environments. The student teams will then spend the week working together to design and construct interventions using these materials. The products are to make visual statements about issues at Hilltop and currently impacting other landscapes of the world, thereby providing educational exhibits of both a permanent and temporal nature for public consumption at Hilltop Arboretum. The exhibits will remain for viewing during the remainder of the semester and thereafter for a time to be determined by LSU and the Friends of Hilltop Management Board.

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