

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

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Dobbs Ferry's Christopher Kumaradjaja wins national high school architecture competition

North Bergen, New Jersey and Washington, DC students take second and third prize

Chicago, Ill.—The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is pleased to announce the winner of its 2014 DiscoverDesign.org National High School Architecture Competition. Christopher Kumaradjaja of the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, New York took first place out of 219 teens from 12 states and 28 high schools who submitted design projects to redesign their high school athletic pavilions to promote healthy lifestyles. A jury of 35 architects, engineers, designers and university professors from across the country evaluated the entries. Second place went to Hamza Qureshi of High Tech High School in North Bergen, NJ, while Nikhil Chaudhuri of Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC placed third. Their winning projects can be seen at www.discoverdesign.org/competition2014.

CAF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public interest and education in architecture. In January 2012, it launched DiscoverDesign.org, a unique web-based learning tool that gives high school students the opportunity to solve real-world design problems. Through project-based learning and social networking, students are connected with professional architects and engineers, allowing for real peer interaction and professional feedback during every step of their design process.

"In our third year of the national competition, we are still impressed by the work these teens bring us through the competition," said Lynn Osmond, CAF's President and CEO. "Many of the architects participating on the jury could not believe the work was completed at the high school level. The sophisticated level of design thinking submitted by high schools students across the country is inspiring and we're pleased to be a part of their learning process and foster 21st century skills with DiscoverDesign.org."

Citing expanding extracurricular program offerings that are quickly outgrowing the school's athletic and activity spaces, Kumaradjaja's design seeks to reorganize the circulation spaces to eliminate the

inefficient and congested hallways while creating spaces for interaction between diverse social groups, along with additional activity spaces for simultaneous programming.

Kumaradjaja's first place prize includes a trip for two to Chicago; two nights at the Palmer House Hilton Chicago, a CAF walking tour and architecture river cruise; visits to several architectural firms; a year-long membership for design software tutorials from Black Spectacles (\$280 value); and a copy of CAF's textbook "*The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings.*"

"I am very impressed with all the designs this year; with the amount of tools and resources available, they took advantage of [the competition] and created experiential athletic pavilions," said Leslie Robinson, AIA of incite Design Studio. "It was a learning and inspirational experience for me and I hope the students, too!" Marc Teer, AIA, architect at Cannon Design and founder of Black Spectacles commented, "It's impressive to see how DiscoverDesign's process-based framework has helped the students & teachers develop thorough and well thought out projects. The process really works- you can see the lightbulb go off in the early stages of their research, and then they follow that idea or inspiration through all the way to the final rendering."

The National Competition jury also gave Digital Citizenship Awards to one student and one architect mentor who did the most to foster, encourage and build an online design community of learners in DiscoverDesign.org. With their comments and feedback, they provided both encouragement and constructive criticism on students' work throughout the run of the competition. The winners were student Christian Orme of Advanced Technologies Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada and architect Leslie Robinson, AIA of incite Design Studio in Overland Park, Kansas.

DiscoverDesign.org was awarded a 2013 AIA National Honor Award for Collaborative Achievement. The award recognizes the distinguished achievements of organizations, knowledge communities and others who have had a beneficial influence on or advanced the architectural profession. DiscoverDesign.org complements the CAF high school textbook and teacher guide, *The Architecture Handbook: A Student Guide to Understanding Buildings*. It is the first high school architecture textbook published in the U.S. Created in partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, educators and students in 48 states and 17 countries currently use the handbook. In 2009, it also earned a national honor award from the AIA.

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The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Current exhibition is *Chicago Model City* featuring a large scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a

nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. For further information visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/chicagoarchitecture and Twitter: www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture.