



University architecture students Melody Burghard and Bryan Emerick check out the display of environmentally conscious entries from last spring's nationwide American

Institute of Architects competition. The traveling exhibit will be on display at the University in the lobby Lawrence Hall until Oct. 6.

Photo by Andre Ranieri

Eugene wins earth-wise architecture contest

By Layne Lakfish
Emerald Entertainment Editor

These days there's a whole new language out there. Let's call it environmentese. It's the jargon that boasts words and phrases like recycle and don't waste. Plant a tree. Don't litter. Save the animals. All in the name of the environment.

What about "Build a house" or "Construct an office building"? These aren't exactly common phrases for an environmentalist, but they became just that last spring.

That was when the American Institute of Architects called for entries across the nation of environmentally conscious architecture. From that competition, 13 were chosen.

The winning entries, including residences, office buildings, commercial properties and visitor centers, come from such states as Arizona, Oregon, Nebraska, New York, New Mexico and California.

"The exhibit was originally set up in Washington D.C., and now we have it as a traveling exhibit," said Margot McDonald, University liaison subcommittee chair for the Southwestern Oregon chapter of AIA.

The exhibit, which will continue through Oct. 6, is on display in the lobby of Lawrence Hall. The lobby is open 24 hours a day and admission to the exhibit is free.

Since the national competition last spring called for en-



Alan Zelenka, tour guide at the Emerald People's Utility District, points out one the winning entries in a competition of environmentally conscious architecture.

Photo by Andre Ranieri

tries of environmentally conscious buildings, the exhibit features photographs of the buildings as well as text describing the earth-wise architecture.

"All of the chosen entries demonstrate energy efficiency and conservative use of natural

resources," McDonald said. "The exhibit also features architecture in hot, arid climates to architecture in cool, cloudy climates."

"The idea is that you can have energy efficient design in all kinds of climates."

For Eugeneans, there's more

to the exhibit than just pictures — there's an actual building. Last spring when the AIA was considering entries, Eugene's Emerald PUD Headquarters building, 33733 Seavey Loop Rd., came out a winner.

Now, with the exhibit in town and one of the featured

buildings being local, exhibit-goers have the opportunity to view photos, as well as the actual building.

"The emphasis of the building is on energy conservation," said Dick Williams, one of Eugene's WEGROUP Architects who helped with the design of the building.

"We came up with strategies for saving energy in the building," he said. "We positioned it on the site to maximize the good sun angles. We tried to get the most daylight into the building in a controlled manner to minimize the need for lighting."

"There are also devices that shut off the lights automatically when they are not in use."

For those people who are interested in seeing more than just the outside of the building, "they seem very open to giving tours," said McDonald.

The whole exhibit reflects a nice change, said McDonald. "Architects haven't been leaders in this area," she said. "We're hoping this will get them to be more aware."

"In the exhibit, there are some pretty innovative solutions that people came up with, and we're hoping it will spearhead that kind of consciousness."

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