



Governor's Chair for Energy + Urbanism

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At a Glance

Started in 2014, the Governor's Chair for Energy + Urbanism is a five-year, \$2.5 million partnership of Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and the College of Architecture and Design to investigate innovations and next-generation technologies for healthy communities and smart cities. Through the Governor's Chair program, faculty and students work alongside professional designers and scientists to contribute to solutions for sustainable design in the region and world. Leading the program is Phil Enquist, Consulting Partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Impact

Tennessee River

In the innovative Governor's Chair Tennessee River Project, Landscape Architecture and Architecture students are investigating the 21st Century challenges of the Tennessee River and how responsible urban planning can protect the water we call ours. Led by Brad Collett, the project has expanded from a studio to a nationwide visioning effort that includes a new Tennessee River trail system. By partnering with professionals at Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, among others, students gain real-world experience and preparation for successful careers while impacting one of the world's great waterways.

Additive Manufacturing

The Governor's Chair partnership had an early success with AMIE (additive manufacturing integrated energy), a revolutionary energy-harvesting system designed and built by the partnership's team of students, faculty, design professionals and science researchers. Students in James Rose's Governor's Chair Architecture Integrations Studio contributed to AMIE's design and continue to push the boundaries of using new technologies. Participating in the development of the AMIE prototype and previous projects related to net-zero design exposes students to the collaborative environment and technological innovations of projects like these prepares them for shaping the future of the built environment.

Timber Tower

The Governor's Chair Timber Tower Studio, led by Ted Shelton, worked with SOM's Benton Johnson to propose a 15-story residential timber tower in Nashville. Louisiana Pacific and the Nashville Civic Design Center were partners in the studio. Timber structural systems hold the promise of creating buildings with much lower energy profiles than those constructed with typical methods.

Future

The future of the Governor's Chair is one of expanding investigations into

- water and ecology
- additive manufacturing
- energy use
- urban development
- city planning

as academia, science and design continue to come together to impact the world.