

Leaving behind ideas, taking with them experience

UW Storefront Studio students' final community open house

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ROSLYN – It's a challenging balancing act, supporting what's historic while creating a modern enough structure to meet today's needs.

The University of Washington's Storefront Studio student architects think they've hit the right balance with the designs they've recommended to the community of Roslyn and presented to

them at the last Studio held on Friday, June 4.

It includes an expanded museum, signs reflecting building facades and the incorporation of flowering plum trees at several locations.

"Originally, we had lilac trees," said Stacy Cannon. "The community said they didn't know if that was really practical – or natural. Little details from community input like that, and we made changes accordingly."

Not everyone likes everything, Brianna Craft admitted, as she talked about the design

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for the Roslyn Museum. "People like that there's more square footage," she said. "And we got a lot of positive feedback on connecting the outside exhibit space to the museum with the use of windows.

"Some people are hesitant about how modern it looks, though, but you don't want to just replicate the past."

One of the things Roslyn could replicate is what Cannon called a "common language" of details connecting significant features of the community.

The flowering plum trees at multiple locations are part of that common language as well as the similarity in the design of wooden structures and building facades.

"For example Fugi's welcome sign at City Hall Park and the Visitors' Center repeat the shape of the downtown building facades," Craft said.

In the Cemetery, the Veteran's Memorial Wall designed by Kim Wilson mirrors the highly polished stone used for the Lithuanian Monument installed last year – another connecting thread.

"They wanted to make it obvious it's a Veteran's Cemetery," she said about the retaining wall monument proposed at the head of the cemetery.

Now it's up to Roslyn to decide what to do with this and all the other ideas the students are leaving behind.

"We realize you're not going to build things like this right away," Cannon said. "We're just saying here's an idea, if you're interested take it and develop it."

Cannon, Craft, Wilson and the other seven architecture students are leaving their ideas behind and taking with them the experience they've gained working with real people here in Roslyn.

"This is the first time we've had real clients," Craft smiled and said.

The first of many clients to come as these ten student architects become full-fledged architects with degrees in hand after graduation on Friday, June 11.

"Till now it's mostly been theoretic, big intangible ideas," Cannon commented.

"It's different getting feedback from other people, than just designing for yourself, which is what we've been doing," Wilson added. "I found out I like learning about clients and their projects, and making something they like and will use."

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BRIANNA CRAFT points to the flowering plum trees; one aspect of a common language of details connecting Roslyn's significant features.

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HERE THEY ARE, the ten UW Storefront Studio architects whose first client was the city of Roslyn. They graduate Friday, June 11. Back row (l-r): Brianna Craft, Professor Jim Nicholls, Kimberly Wilson, Stacy Cannon, Dana Pierce, Maya Cheng, Misael Acevedo Gonzalez. Front row (l-r): Jina Kim, Fuji Tjiang, Dilan Huang, and Sasha Jun.

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