

BY DR. WAYNE RUGA

EVENTS

Generative Space Week Recap

The new public health — by design — displayed in Chicago

➤➤ “Generative space” is a research-based, internationally field tested and extensively peer-reviewed approach to designing the environment that can be easily learned and economically applied. Since 2003, I have been working with leaders and their respective organizations to demonstrate the tangible benefits of utilizing this approach. In 2007, the Generative Space Award was developed as an open-source knowledge base.

In 2013, I invited six Chicago-based professionals to a meeting to support a series of events that would bring experiences of generative space into mainstream awareness. For the past three years, this group — now known as the Generative Space Task Force — has produced an increasing number of events within the annual Generative Space Week that bookends the four-day program of the Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo.

The 2015 annual GSTF meeting, hosted by Perkins+Will and Anderson Mikos Architects in the AIA Chicago, Illinois office, resulted in the commitment by the taskforce to produce a range of generative space experiences, all to be held in partnership with the expo. Each one of the programs is an



Tama Duffy Day and her husband, Michael, provided a construction tour and design briefing to explain how the generative space approach is being applied to their new home. The tour was part of the generative space experiences, all held in partnership with the Healthcare Facilities Symposium and Expo.

expression of the GSTF, as well as offering an experience to provide new opportunities for its participants to express their own personal goal to create a place to flourish. Events included:

2015 Chicago healthcare student charette

Produced as a generative space learning partnership between The CARITAS Project and the AIA Chicago Healthcare Knowledge Community and sponsored by Assa Abloy, the charette is a five-day learning intensive that enabled five design schools to send a group of three students and a faculty advisor. The title of the design challenge was “Realizing Behavioral Health and Wellbeing within the Village.”

This year’s charette included an actual client — the Norwegian American Hospital — enabling the students to tour the facility and work directly with the manager of its Behavioral Health Services. Each school was hosted to work in the offices of a local firm. All charette participants received a complimentary registration to attend the full HFSE event where their work was presented and displayed.

HFSE pre-conference workshop

The workshop featured a Chicago-based community health and housing project case study. The Town Hall Apartment project, designed by Gensler, coincidentally was a recipient of a 2015 Generative Space Award.

The workshop included an introduction to generative space, a panel discussion led by Tama Duffy Day on designing for community health and wellness with invited guest panelists and a workshop session in smaller breakout groups.

Generative Space Awards

Three Generative Space Awards were presented. Each of the three award recipient project submittals and the respective judges’ comments are available on aplacetoflourish.net.

Of particular note this year, two of the three awards were presented for projects that are not conventional healthcare projects — the Town Hall Apartments and the Denver office of Humanscale. The third award recipient was Bridgepoint Active Healthcare, a physical rehabilitation facility in Toronto.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & FIRMS:

- > Iowa State University: CannonDesign
- > Kansas State University: Perkins+Will
- > New York School of Interior Design: HKS, Inc.
- > Philadelphia University: Legat Architects
- > Texas A&M University: Eckroth Planning Group

Tour of the Chicago Cultural Center

The taskforce aspired to develop generative space tours that could be conducted throughout the year, be available to lay audiences, feature new ways of experiencing publicly accessible Chicago sites and develop the capacity for taskforce members to serve as tour docents.

Orest Burdiak, Deborah Hawkins and Bob Schaefer collaborated in developing a tour of the Chicago Cultural Center to serve as the prototype of such a program.

Tour of the Duffy Day residence

When Tama Duffy Day was an active participant in the Leading by Design project — a program provided for individuals to learn



Charette members touring the Norwegian American Hospital.

about generative space — she and her husband, Michael, redesigned and remodeled their Washington, D.C. home according to the generative space design approach (a case study is available at thecaritasproject.info).

The Days are both taskforce members. They are remodeling their new Chicago apartment residence according to the generative space approach and are using their D.C. home design experience to inform their new design. They provided a tour of their construction site and a design briefing to explain how the generative space approach is being applied to their new home.

Upon reflection of the most recent Generative Space Week, two facts are absolute: the enthusiasm of the taskforce is infectious and

local awareness of what a generative space is — and is not — is increasing.

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