

USF Grad Students Put Skills To Use

DESIGNS TO BENEFIT SCHOOL, CENTER

By MICHELE SAGER
msager@tampatrib.com

USF CAMPUS — When looking for the inspiration for Grady Elementary's new school canopy, the architects relied on one child's wish for "tree holes."

That simple request became the inspiration for the entire design.

The student was referring to the various degrees of light that scatter through tree leaves. So the architects decided to create various shades of light through their steel design.

It was how some architecture students turned their classroom sketches into solutions for the community.

A group of University of South Florida graduate architecture students is designing a canopy for a walkway and outdoor classroom space for Grady, a school on Morrison Avenue in Tampa. The walkway connects the media center to the cafeteria.

The USF students also are designing a pavilion for The Franciscan Center in Tampa. The projects are part of the new Introduction to Design-Build Service Learning course at USF.

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Tribune photo by CANDACE C. MUNDY

Elizabeth Rodriguez and Juan Frontaeo are among USF graduate architecture students designing a canopy for Grady Elementary School.



Rendering from Brian McRae

Through designing a canopy for Grady, USF students gain practical experience while helping the community. Students will build the canopy this summer. It will cost about \$20,000.

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"This is a unique opportunity for these students in that they will actually see their sketches get built in the community," said Don Dulaney, the assistant professor who teaches the course.

Dulaney said he collaborated with Grady and The Franciscan Center to come up with projects that would serve the groups' needs and give his students some practical experience.

After students met with Grady, they worked as a team to come up with a design. Grady Principal Melanie Palm-



Dulaney
"This is a unique opportunity for these students," assistant professor says of the class.

eri-Bottini said she was impressed by the USF students' professionalism.

"Their work has been outstanding," Palmeri-Bottini said. "They met with us and the students to come up with a design we would all like. They also had to design the walkway within the standards of permitting and our school board."

"It was definitely a learning experience," student Jared Willoughby said. "Normally in class, you just sit at your desk and come up with whatever plans you want. But here, you're working with other people and their requirements."

The designs are done, but the projects cannot be completed without donations. Although most of the labor is free because the USF students will build the projects this summer, each project still costs about \$20,000.

Dulaney said the students are counting on donations of materials and money for other costs to get the work done.

"It's not looking very bright right now," Palmeri-Bottini said. "We need donations right away if we're going to get the materials in time for the students to start building this summer."

To help out either project, call Dulaney at (813) 974-6007.

Reporter Michele Sager can be reached at (813) 977-2854, Ext. 32.