

Architects of Tomorrow

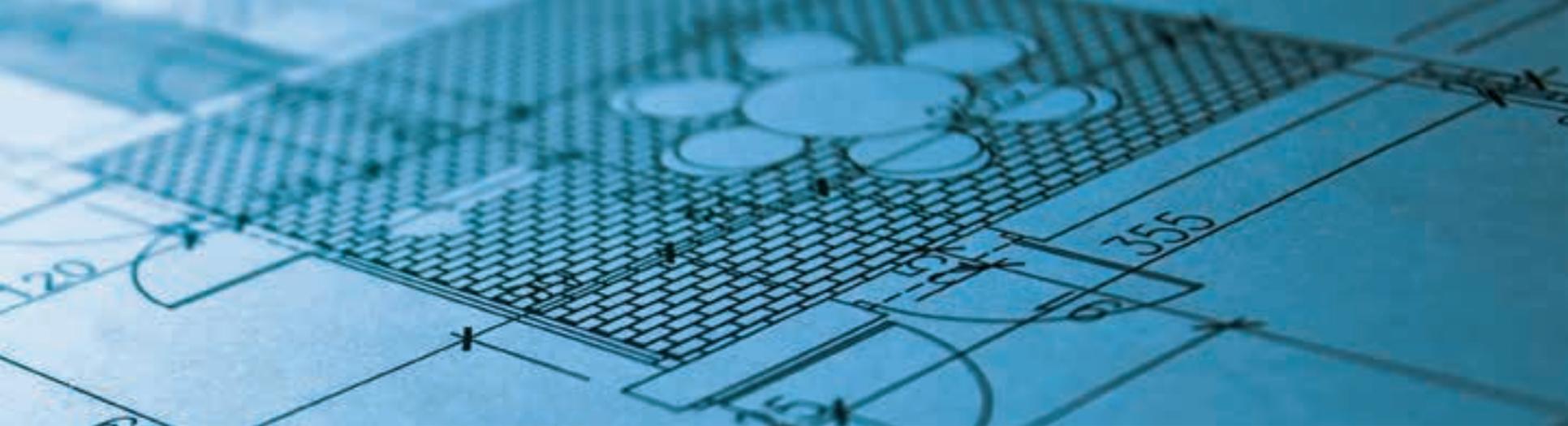
By Len Bourland

When commercial realtor, Bruce Harbour, became involved with the Park Cities Historic & Preservation Society (PCHPS), he immediately wanted to involve students by creating a scholarship fund. In fact he wanted to financially benefit a student in the Highland Park School District who, according to the Endowment's requirements, "has an interest in architecture, history, or decorative arts which reflect our organization's passion for the significance of historical preservation." Just as he had done for his alma mater, Baylor, he set about with the Highland Park Education Foundation and the HPISD in identifying and encouraging emerging talent. So where are these recipients now? Because there are no strings attached when the award is given, the founders weren't sure where the awardees were. As an historian by education, realtor by vocation, writer by avocation, I decided to find out. I contacted the three most recent recipients for an update.



In her award winning essay for 2014, **Rylie Davis** wrote: "I knew the day I walked into the Omni Orlando I wanted to become an architect, but the day I walked into the Church of the Holy Sepulcher {in Jerusalem} I knew I wanted to build something as grand and as lasting. My home, on the 4100 block of University was built by Fooshee and Cheek, so for the last decade my family has been painstakingly renovating the duplex to preserve the original style of the home. I feel a genuine respect for the homes in the Park Cities." Where is she on her journey? An effervescent Rylie is in the honors program in architecture at the University of Arkansas. With her good grades her work was chosen for exhibit for large construction: she is leaning toward the hotel industry. Her favorite buildings in Dallas? She finds the Beck home on Strait Lane among her favorite residences while the AT&T Performing Arts Center wow her with the use of spaces.

When asked about being a woman in architecture she says her department has about a 50/50 ratio of men to women. "Still" she chuckles, "because I'm an active sorority girl people often assume I'm in interior design and are delightfully impressed when I explain it's honors architecture."



In his sophomore year of a five year architectural degree at Tulane, the 2013 recipient of the scholarship, **Andrew Hanson**, is hard to find over Christmas break as he is spending his holiday working at the Page Architectural firm. His love of design goes back to his days as a toddler when his mother, a civil engineer, could tell her son was a “spatially creative” thinker. “I was drawn to Legos and spatial games,” remembers Andrew. In addition to his mother, **Andrew credits his Highland Park 3-D art teacher, Mr. Warren for mentoring him in his love of architecture.** His favorite architect is Santiago Calatrava, known to most Dallasites for the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge. Andrew’s appreciation for cutting edge is balanced; he is also proud that his grandmother’s home at 4006 University was given an award by PCHPS upon its renovation.



Senior **Jenny Adair** received her scholarship in 2012 which helped propel her to “Mr. Jefferson’s School”, the University of Virginia. In addition to the classical campus she is “really inspired by the Virginia firm of William McDonough & Partners which “Creates structures that embody sustainable architecture.I am majoring in Architecture with a minor in Global Sustainability which will hopefully prepare me for a field that is becoming increasingly intertwined with Environmental Science and initiatives to ‘go green.’” She was attracted to architecture because she loves both the problem solving and creative aspects of the field. Virginia has been a haven for providing a small group of about 60 students who are constantly brainstorming. **“Architecture is a fascinating combination of art and critical thinking and each project teaches you something new.”**

Mothers, teachers, inspirational architects both local and nation wide have dovetailed to inspire Park Cities’ own young talent. With any luck some of the young scholarship recipients will return to Dallas to continue the innovations while supporting the architectural integrity of what the home tour signifies. As for the brainchild of Bruce Harbour, the way to ensure that the Endowment will continue to grow so that the interest alone will provide for seed money to grow our local talent, tax free donations are welcomed and encouraged. ☒