Gibbs House Outdoor Education Space Design Challenge  
Summer 2014 Status Report  
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Overview of Concept

The Outdoor Education Space Design Challenge is an interdisciplinary, hands-on, and collaborative approach to complete the design development phase for a Living Building Challenge-inspired outdoor pavilion at the Gibbs House in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Design Challenge calls on student, industry, and community-based teams across southwest Michigan to compete for the chance to design the future Outdoor Education Space that will be based on the Energy, Materials, Water, and Beauty Petals of the Living Building Challenge 2.1. The future Education Space is part of the new Gibbs House Permaculture Demonstration and Research Facility and aims to provide a gathering and learning space for regionally based lectures, meetings, events, and other university and community activities.

Term Goals

The programming phase of this project took place from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 that included the full research, drafting, and publicizing of the Design Challenge Guidelines, Rubric, and other relevant literature. The Summer 2015 term focuses on project adoption and full-throttle competition until projected competition deadline on October 1, 2015. Winners are to be announced on National Campus Sustainability Day in late October of this year.

Core goals for the Summer 2015 term include:

1. Recruit as many teams as possible (goal minimum is 4-5)  
2. Recruit advisors, supporters, and donators  
3. Officially allocate $2,000 prize from WMU Money Men  
4. Host Living Building Challenge info-presentation, site visit, and design panel  
5. Fact-check Design Guidelines with MI code, etc.  
6. Recruit WMU jury panel members

Goals Accomplished

Intense attention was paid to the recruiting of teams and event planning. Recruitment efforts included phone calls and emails to industry firms, professional individuals, faculty and staff members from universities, campus visits to relevant departments, community and campus postering across southwest Michigan, web presence, and other marketing techniques.

1. Teams recruited: 2 (third and fourth teams pending)  
2. Many advisors recruited (13+)  
3. Prize award recognized by WMU Accounting, but not approved yet  
4. LBC presentation led by Matt Hollander to take place on July 30  
5. Site Visits taking place individually throughout summer  
6. Design Panel is scheduled for Sept 2 with Steelcase, Haworth, and ChemLink  
7. Sufficient webpage material and execution (largely collaborated with Anne)  
8. Fact-checking update: Clivus Multrum compostable toilets can comply with MI code if waterless  
9. Offers for donated materials from ChemLink, Quality Edge, and Pittsburgh Corning (the makers of Foamglas)

Insights
Failure to recruit more teams may stem from the following conditions:

1. Students are not on campus during the summertime
2. Professors are more focused on their ongoing research projects than starting new ones
3. I offered the option of “Design Challenge Advisor” rather than requiring interested parties to compete on a team
4. People just don’t call or email you back (especially when you follow up like a lunatic)

Next Steps + Action Items

1. Recruit more teams
2. Plan design panel
3. Host remaining site visits
4. Collaborate with teams until submission date
5. Allocate funding (using local platform / Landscape Forms follow up)
6. Address WMU donated materials protocol

Upcoming Timelapse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Panel</td>
<td>September 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester begins</td>
<td>September 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design Plans due</td>
<td>October 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCSD</td>
<td>October 23 (pending)</td>
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