

## **Honduras Ambulatory Surgery Center and Medical Clinic Design and Charrette Process**

On January 20, 2006 members of the AIA/Orlando Healthcare Committee flew to Honduras for a week as part of a team assembled by Engineering Ministries International (eMi) <http://www.emiusa.org/> to design a Ambulatory Surgery Center and Medical Clinic for Westside Ministries <http://www.gowestsideministries.org/>. They spent the week in Honduras inspecting the site, talking to the users about their programmatic needs, and investigating local building materials, construction methods, and the available labor pool. While there, they developed several floor plans that satisfied the users' programmatic needs. The goal, which was met, was to leave the country with a preliminary building design approved by Westside Ministries and the clinicians. They are currently working on the construction documents for the building.

From February 10-12, 2006, the Healthcare Committee sponsored a charrette with students invited from Florida A & M, the University of Florida, and the University of Southern Florida to develop designs for the Ambulatory Surgery Center and Medical Clinic in Honduras. We held the charrette for several reasons. First and foremost, we believed sustainable design strategies using appropriate technologies was a critical component of the design of the clinic, and that the students would be able to incorporate those concepts in innovative and exciting ways. Secondarily, we thought a charrette would be a very effective mechanism to introduce the students to local architects involved in healthcare architecture and vica versa, as well as to some basic healthcare design principles.

Sixteen students and Professor William Tilson from the University of Florida participated. The students were assigned to four different teams, given information about the local context, site, construction methods, the space program, a healthcare design primer, and because 25% of the patients seen by the medical ministry test positive for tuberculosis, documents describing ways to ventilate buildings with and without mechanical controls. **(Rob please create link to: Honduras PowerPoint\_20060419.ppt; Honduras Clinic Structural.ppt; Primer.doc; Infection Containment WITH Engineering Controls.doc; and Infection Containment WITHOUT Engineering Controls.doc)** In a remarkable short time, they came up with four very different schemes. **(Rob please create link to: CharretteComposite\_20060417.ppt)**

Team 1: Eric Polite: FAMU; Jose Gordon: UF; Andy Beckham: FAMU, and Anna Vasquez: USF developed a scheme that utilized the primary method of construction used on the site- concrete frame with masonry infill, to create indoor and outdoor spaces. Sketch by Anna Vasquez.

Team 2: Jason Worrell: UF; Arin Afolayan: FAMU; Ava Joseph: FMAU; and John Paul Melia: UF conducted a rigorous site analysis and sited their building to take advantage of the prevailing winds and used overhangs, outdoor porticos and patios to protect the building from the harsh southern exposure.

Team 3: Sheldon Clark: FAMU; Sam Sampoux: USF; Claudia Avilez: UF; and Tim Hoeft: UF took their cues from a traditional South American building type – the courtyard and brought natural light into the operating rooms with a large clerestory.

Team 4: Rayane Lawrence: USF; Maurizio Bianchi: USF; Trevor J. Walker: FAMU; and Izzy Torres: USF developed a very dramatic scheme placing clinical spaces and courtyards along a central circulation spine.

On Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, the schemes were critiqued by the clients from Westside Ministries: Mr. and Mrs. Roger Blanchard; the clinician: Dr. Hattaway, Professor Tilson, and local healthcare architects. All involved considered the charrette a success and the Healthcare Committee would welcome suggestions for other pro-bono healthcare projects that could be studied using the charrette process.