Art, design students’ improvements around Lafayette community showcased in Fletcher

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Running from Jan. 22 to Feb. 10, the students of the School of Architecture and Design will have their projects on display in the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Fletcher Hall gallery in room 207.

“The show is various student works from the school of architecture and design,” said Michael Eble, curator of events and exhibitions at UL Lafayette.

The gallery is used to showcase the works of industrial, interior design and architecture students.

The difference of the three types of design, Eble said, are what exactly is being built.

“Industrial design is basically product design, so if something is going to be created over and over again,” Eble said.

He added shoes, boats and iPod products are good examples.

“Buildings are things you can go into, and that’s architecture,” he continued.

“Designing the insides of those things, that’s interior design.”

Typically, when an industrial or architecture student picks a project, they’ll research it and think about how to improve it, how to make it better, according to Eble.

“So you’ll spend the first couple of weeks trying to identify product’s that you’re interested in, that need improvement. Then you research what you identify (as) all the different products that are out there and you figure out what’s on the market, then you start designing it,” he said.

One of SOAD’s students, Alex Angers, a senior industrial design major, used what she learned at UL Lafayette to help improve Lafayette. Angers helped with a transportation project last semester, giving shelter to bus stop signs. Angers said out of the 500 bus stops in Lafayette, only 27 of them had shelters.

“I designed this modular roof that can go on light posts because I noticed that a lot of bus stops are just signs stuck on light post so you don’t have to relocate them,” Angers said.

Another SOAD student, senior Ali Erdogan, an architectural studies major, said he likes the freedom of creating buildings.

“I like to design buildings and spaces, manipulate them, by changing the walls, by giving them texture,” he said.

Since November of last year, Ali’s main project is creating a multi-purpose building, with the first two floors acting as commercial, the third and fourth being residential and the roof being used for events.

Working long and hard on a project of that magnitude is something Erdogan said he loves and sharing it is his way of expressing his thoughts.

“I like architecture because it’s the only medium I can reflect my feelings,” Erdogan said.

But Angers, unlike Erdogan, said she loves the makings of products with an everyday use.

“I personally like industrial design more because it’s more hands-on,” Angers said. “I like working on a smaller scale. And this is something a user can potentially use, something that has a smaller function to it. Buildings have a function, but usually don’t make as big an impact as a product does.”

With their projects, which are set to positively impact Lafayette, both Angers and Erdogan are representing SOAD at UL Lafayette.

“Well, I think it’s a showcase for the school of architecture and design,” said Dean of the College of Arts Michael McClure. “And it showcases what each one of these departments do during the fall semester, and so it’s kind of a recap.”

McClure said he believes students like Angers and Erdogan will only inspire future generations of creators.

“And I think it’s important that it shows the younger students, the freshmen, what they’re going to be expected to do in the future and also students for recruitment purposes that may be interested in architecture and design,” McClure said.