

## **CMU Engineers and Architects Tackle Sustainability**

A team of eight graduate students and faculty members from the College of Engineering (CIT) and the College of Fine Arts (CFA) Department of Architecture participated this summer in an international workshop to tackle a set of real-world projects aimed at creating more sustainable communities, buildings and infrastructure in urban areas.

The CMU team joined other graduate student and faculty groups from the University of British Columbia (Canada), Cambridge University (UK), University College Cork (Ireland), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), and the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain), which hosted the week-long workshop in Valencia, Spain from June 10-15. The program aimed to provide students with practical project experience as part of their graduate programs in sustainability studies.

CMU Prof. Ed Rubin (EPP/MechE) gave the workshop's keynote talk focused on sustainability opportunities and challenges of global climate change. Later in the program, Prof. Stefani Danes (Arch) spoke about "A Regenerative Approach to Community Design," discussing the plans of a small New England city to be carbon-neutral by 2030, as well as a more enjoyable place to live, work and play.

Drawing on their preparation prior to the workshop, nine graduate student teams each studied a unique project in the Valencia region under the supervision of local sponsors and stakeholders. From their interdisciplinary perspectives, each team then designed a plan to reduce the environmental impacts and improve the utility and sustainability of the project they analyzed, which ranged from historical buildings to an urban neighborhood. At the end of the week, each team presented its findings and recommendations to a panel composed of project sponsors and faculty mentors from the participating universities. Those plans are now being evaluated by the project sponsors to determine the best paths forward.

Back in Pittsburgh, Pragma Chauhan, one of the engineering students in the program, summed up the experience of all participants as a “once in a lifetime opportunity.” Prof. Rubin reports that planning is already underway for future workshops on urban sustainability.

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CMU students and faculty (left to right): Ritu Philip (CIT), Pragma Chauhan (CIT), Maddi Johnson (CFA), Prof. Ed Rubin (CIT), Harsha Vardhan (CFA), Prof. Stefani Danes (CFA), Matthew Prelich (CIT), Roshni Krishnan (CFA).



Sustainability Workshop participants at a reception by the Mayor at Valencia City Hall.



Sustainability Workshop participants at the opening day plenary and keynote session.