



**PHILADELPHIA**  
UNIVERSITY

## News

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### Philadelphia University Architecture Wins Grant to Develop Innovative Textile Materials Strategies

**PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 16, 2015** – Philadelphia University’s College of Architecture and the Built Environment has received a 2015 NCARB Award to develop strategies for architectural textile composites for building envelopes.

PhilaU will receive \$34,208 in funding for an interdisciplinary design and experimental architecture studio to explore innovative approaches to architectural textile composites, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) [announced Nov. 13](#) at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture’s annual administrators’ conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

PhilaU students in architecture, engineering and textiles will study emerging technologies, new materials and environmental issues, and demonstrate how architects can drive the creation of innovative material systems and technologies.

The project will get underway next semester as a pilot course open to fourth- and fifth-year architecture students, and junior, senior and graduate students in industrial and textile design. The course then will be assessed, with the expectation that it will become an ongoing electives option, and possibly expanded to include other disciplines, said Kihong Ku, associate professor of architecture, who spearheaded the proposal.

“This Interdisciplinary Design and Experimental Architecture Studio approach builds on the university’s strength as a center of excellence in architectural innovation, textile design and engineering,” Ku said. “This project challenges architecture, industrial and textile design students to push innovation at the intersection of their disciplines, while facilitating meaningful interaction with architectural professionals. Simultaneously, the practitioners will have access to the expertise and intellect of PhilaU students and faculty to address emerging materials strategies and their implementation in practice.”

Other faculty members working on the project include Lyn Godley, associate professor of industrial design, Marcia Weiss, Harold Neuman Textile Design Chair and director of textile design, and Christian Jordan, adjunct architecture professor, as well as architects Petra Stanev and Ryan Lohbauer.

The NCARB award jury “recognized the proposal’s interdisciplinary collaboration and rigorous assessment of its outcomes,” the organization said.

The NCARB Award for the Integration of Practice and Education acknowledges is designed to help schools implement new programs that bridge the gap between practice and education and a classroom, seminar or studio setting. In addition to PhilaU, architecture programs at Mississippi State University and University of Florida also received awards.

*Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,700 students enrolled in more than 70 undergraduate and graduate programs. As the model for professional university education, the University, through its award-winning Nexus Learning approach, prepares students to be leaders in their professions in an active, collaborative and real-world learning environment infused with the liberal arts. Philadelphia University includes the innovative Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce; the College of Architecture and the Built Environment; and the College of Science, Health and the Liberal Arts. For more information, go to [www.PhilaU.edu](http://www.PhilaU.edu).*