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News Release:

STUDENT TRAVEL & UKRAINE MUSEUM DESIGN PROJECT

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The Architecture of Reconciliation: Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews---Multi-Culturalism in Eastern Europe

Five students from the UW-Milwaukee architecture design studio of Professor Thomas Hubka recently returned from a one week trip to Lviv, Ukraine. In Lviv, they teamed with students from Hubka's spring term studio at the University of Oregon and Ukrainian students from the Lviv Polytechnic National University to produce designs for a cultural museum and historic building restoration center. The Ukrainian students were lead by Professor Mykola Bevz, Head of the Department of Restoration and Reconstruction of Architectural Monuments, Lviv Polytechnic.

The design project was developed in planning discussions with the directors of the Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life; a regional folk architecture museum near downtown Lviv. The project is intended to revitalize the museum's exhibits by developing a new small-town focus of interpretation. Students prepared designs for a wooden building restoration center that is intended to reconstruct destroyed examples of Ukraine's monumental religious structures. A component of this Fulbright sponsored design program was to address the difficult issue of historic multi-culturalism and inter-religious dialogue among the major ethnic and religious communities of Ukraine—principally Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians. Lviv and western Ukraine have a historic tradition of multi-cultural community coexistence that was largely destroyed in World War II. The reconstruction of major religious monuments was thus seen as a positive way of interpreting the multi-cultural heritage of Lviv and Ukraine.

Student Program:

The one week student program included three days of lectures and design studio work, two days of travel to historic religious structures in Lviv and the surrounding region, and one day of site visitation at the Museum of Folk Architecture. The highlight of the regional tour was the visit to town of Zhovkva, a historic regional center with a late 16th century masonry synagogue and several Orthodox and Catholic churches. Lectures were given on Ukrainian architecture and cultural topics by Professors Hubka and Bevz, local historians, and faculty from the Lviv Polytechnic. Final design presentations were given by combined teams of American and Ukrainian students to the Lviv faculty, architectural professionals, and representatives of the Folk Architecture Museum. Upon returning to Milwaukee, students

from Hubka's studio continued to develop their designs which will be shown in an exhibit of the combined student work to be attended by museum and Lviv city officials in January.

The project was jointly sponsored by the Fulbright Program in Ukraine, Kiev; the Department of Restoration and Reconstruction of Architectural Monuments, the Lviv Polytechnic National University; the Center for Urban History, Lviv; and the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In Ukraine the project was coordinated by Myron Stachiw, Director, Fulbright Program in Ukraine.

Professor Hubka Activities:

After the students returned to Milwaukee, Professor Hubka traveled to Kiev where he gave a lecture sponsored by Fulbright Senior Specialist Scholar program entitled, "Jewish Art and Architecture in Ukrainian Context: An Integrated Perspective."

Before leaving, Professor Hubka returned to Lviv to attend a conference, "Urban Jewish Heritage and History in East Central Europe, sponsored by the Center for Urban History, Lviv, October 29-31, where he gave a paper, "The Wall-Paintings from the 18th Century Ukrainian Wooden Synagogues: Jewish Multi-Cultural Art and Architecture."