



GEORGIA

“Dream Big” ... that was the charge given to us by the Directors and staff of Extra Special People. Their words were inspiration, as we came to see their work with their campers not as a struggle, but an opportunity to experience real joy.

CAMP HOORAY STUDIO DESIGNING FOR ALL

DATES: SPRING 2016

The College of Environment and Design was given a unique opportunity to partner with Extra Special People, Inc., and our architecture cohorts at Georgia Tech to design Camp Hooray – a first-of-its-kind, fully accessible overnight camp for children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Our challenge was to deliver a typical summer sleep-away camp with all the classic camp experiences – campfires, bunk beds, swimming, and canoeing, etc. – but with innovative designs that accommodate young people who rely on a wheelchair for mobility, or require all-night caretakers, or are easily overwhelmed by sensory input.

The semester-long studio benefited from a blending of Georgia Tech’s architecture expertise, the land design expertise of UGA’s College of Environment and Design, and the vast experience and knowledge of ESP’s staff in providing responsive logistics and endless fun for kids at summer camp.



This outreach project was conducted by students and faculty of the
UGA COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN
Ph: (706) 542-1816 www.ced.uga.edu

PARTNERS:
EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE, INC., GEORGIA TECH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

CAMP HOORAY STUDIO DESIGNING FOR ALL



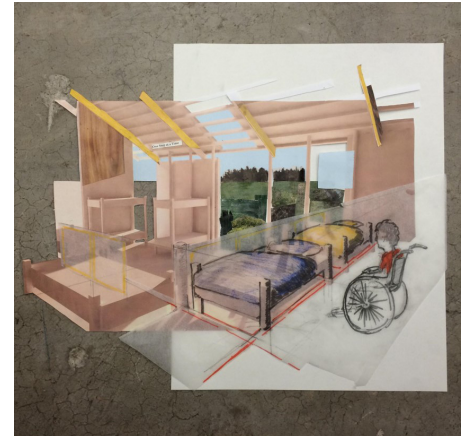
College of
Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Service-learning lets students engage with actual clients needing real-world solutions. Working with ESP took the experience even further, as these clients were EXTRA special esigning for their world required thought ful, creative solutions that engender equal participation.

The collaboration began with a three-day design charrette in which the UGA and Georgia Tech students got to know each other, the ESP staff, campers and parents, in addition to the 70-acre site that will become Camp Hooray. Then three teams were formed that blended students from the two undergraduate design studios, led by Professors Donnie Longenecker and Danny Sniff of CED and Professor Julie Kim of Georgia Tech. This necessitated travel between Athens and Atlanta during the semester, which provided additional challenges to a cross-disciplinary learning experience.

After students researched the full spectrum of special needs, conceptual plans emerged that allows children in wheelchairs to access the top bunk, and children with autism to wander freely. Ziplines and an “activi-tree” provide for off-the-ground nature exploration, while a farmstead provides for equine therapy and accessible gardening. Cabins grouped around an outdoor circle creates a gathering space that accommodates ESP’s programming for group songs, games and cheers.

At the conclusion of the studio’s final presentation, ESP Director Laura Whitaker said, “These are 10, 20, 100 different ideas that Extra Special People can use to help hundreds of kids go to camp,” she said. “This process is far and beyond anything we envisioned it to be... it is not just a project, not just a grade. This is a moment that is going to change lives for many, many years to come.”



Cabin designs ensured that every kid can have the top bunk.

“This project has opened my eyes to how important accessibility is...people with disabilities are no different than anyone without a disability—they have dreams, goals, feelings...and want to participate in anything anyone else can.”

– Grace Wooten
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture student



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