

MIZZOU

The magazine of
the Mizzou Alumni Association

[Home](#) » [Summer 2011](#) » [Features](#) » [sound bytes](#) » 3-D walk-through

MEDIA
OF THE
FUTURE



3-D walk-through

Constructing virtual buildings

We all need a reality check now and then. With new technology in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, architectural studies students are getting virtual reality checks on their designs using 3-D software and big screens.

Back in the day, students and professionals alike laboriously produced two-dimensional drawings of buildings by hand, and only experts could read them fluently. Now the new generation of drawing software allows students to produce their own plans in 3-D, says Bimal Balakrishnan, assistant professor of architectural studies. Viewing designs on a computer monitor is helpful, but bigger is better.

In the college's newly renovated room outfitted with an 18-by-6-foot rear-projection screen, an audience of 20 can sit comfortably, don 3-D glasses and participate in a virtual walk-through of a room or building.

"When students are creating designs, they have to deal with a lot of abstractions," Balakrishnan says. "This technology enhances understanding of their own designs by putting them inside the project." With this sort of experience, it's much easier to spot, say, a lobby that is too small. And the technology makes it easy to communicate designs to clients.



Student Kendra Carpenter produced this computer rendering of Steven Hall's Little Tesseract House.

Although many colleges have 3-D labs, most are restricted to research, Balakrishnan says. “You might see this sort of 3-D technology at an elaborate car show, but the architectural industry hasn’t caught up to it yet. We want to send out our graduating students ready to use it.”

[Back to Sound Bytes](#)

Share your comments with Mizzou magazine at Mizzou@missouri.edu.

Note: If published, feedback may be edited for length, style and clarity.



[Follow us on Twitter](#)



[Join us on Facebook](#)



[Subscribe to our feed](#)

Published by MIZZOU magazine, 109 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211 | Phone: 573-882-5916
| E-mail: Mizzou@missouri.edu

Opinions expressed in this site do not necessarily reflect the official position of MU or the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Copyright © 2021 — Curators of the [University of Missouri](#). All rights reserved. [DMCA](#) and other [copyright information](#).

An [equal opportunity/affirmative action](#) institution.

Last updated: Feb. 15, 2013