



## June 2015

### CTH+A FIRM NEWS

**Holden Heights Community Center Opens -** C.T. Hsu + Associates (CTH+A) participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony on June 17, 2015 signifying the official opening of the project. The project is located in Orlando's established Holden Heights Neighborhood on the shore of Lake June.



This facility is an 11,600 square foot community center that provides the citizens of Orange County with a scenic and picturesque indoor and outdoor venue for a variety of group gatherings such as weddings, banquets, and receptions. The County also plans to accommodate several youth and senior programs, as well as social service programs in the facility. The primary feature of the building is a large multipurpose area with an adjacent warming kitchen that accommodates up to 260 people. Additionally, this state-of-the-art facility includes breakout spaces, offices, a computer lab, a high tech training room, and an outdoor event area.

At the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Mr. Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Orange County's Family Services Department Director expressed, *"We had a wonderful architect on board.... Great design... made this building all it could be"*. Mayor Teresa Jacobs of Orange County expressed, *"Good job. It is a beautiful building"*.

**Give Kids The World Village Towne Hall Nearing Completion -** CTH+A was honored to provide architectural design services for the new 53,000 SF Towne Hall that connects to the existing 5,600 SF dining facility known as the "Gingerbread House". The grand opening and ribbon cutting event of the Towne Hall will occur in August 2015.



The new Towne Hall will be a welcome addition and will be opening at the same time as the Enchanted Carousel and a Castle of Miracles at the Give Kids The World Village. Give Kids The World Village

provides free week-long vacations to kids with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Give Kids The World has helped more than 138,000 kids from all 50 states and 75 countries since it opened in 1986.

The ground level of the Towne Hall includes an expanded dining food court and a multipurpose hall with stage. The upper level houses the administrative offices for Give Kids The World. This themed facility is an important addition to the village as it increases seating and dining capacities as well as offers a much anticipated indoor venue for group activities.

The organization's President, Ms. Pamela Landwirth, expressed that they are excited about the Towne Hall project, and can't wait to share the completed facility. *"So much of what we do as a firm goes towards strengthening Central Florida's communities, ensuring children are cared for and given the opportunity to grow. We were thrilled to design this facility."*, said C.T. Hsu, FAIA, LEED AP, President of C.T. Hsu + Associates.

### CTH+A hosts the AIAS University of Central Florida and Valencia College

**Firm Crawl** - CTH+A hosted several American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) members for the 2015 Firm Crawl including students from Valencia College and the University of Central Florida who are part of the 2+2+2 program. The 2+2+2 program allows architectural students to complete all their degrees in Central Florida including: their Associates' degree from Valencia, their Bachelor's degree from the University of Central Florida, and their Master's degree from the University of Florida housed in UF's Citylab in downtown Orlando.

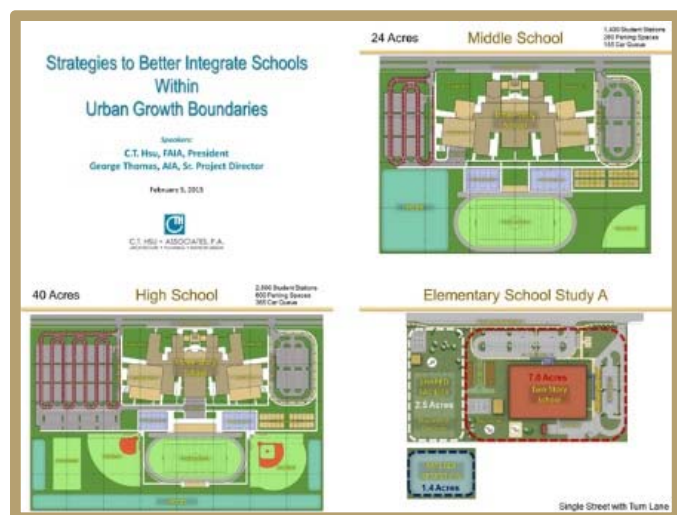


AIAS is an independent, nonprofit, student-run organization dedicated to providing unmatched programs, information, and resources on issues critical to architectural education. This year, we had several students from the University of Central Florida tour the office on February 20, 2015 to experience how an architecture firm operates. The tour was provided by our very own, Diana Ariza, who was part of the 2+2+2 program and graduated in 2014.

### CTH+A Staff Members Speak at a Presentation

#### Session at 2015 FEFPA Winter Conference - C.T.

Hsu, FAIA and George Thomas, AIA, CPM, NCARB prepared a training session presentation entitled, "Strategies to Better Integrate Schools within Urban Growth Boundaries". The course focused on strategies to better integrate schools into more densely populated communities planned within the Urban Growth Boundary of a Comprehensive Plan. Some of the topics they discussed included Florida's changing demographic urbanization trends, urban school characteristics, case studies, and recommended strategies. The overall



objective was to provide the attendees with an understanding of how the integration of schools have been approached in other urban settings in Florida and other communities within the United States.

#### **The First Academy's New Athletic Field House -**

CTH+A was awarded a contract to design The First Academy's (TFA's) New Athletic Field House facility. TFA is a Christ-center, college-preparatory school that serves over 1,200 Central Florida students that attend grades K4 through K-12. TFA participates in over 20 interscholastic sports at the varsity, junior varsity, and middle school levels, and their students have won numerous district, regional, and state championships.



CTH+A is in the process of designing a new 25,000 square foot facility that includes athletic, education, sports, and facility support areas, as well as food and beverage concession and retail areas. CTH+A staff members are working closely with The First Academy's Owner's Representative Firm, Fetterhoff Company, Inc. (FCI) and TFA staff members. A focal point of the design will be the design of an enhanced building entrance as part of the exterior design concept. The new Athletic Field House will be located adjacent to The First Academy's Upper School/Middle School building and the existing gymnasium. The new athletic field house will be used to support and strengthen TFA's athletic program including school related events and functions. Additionally, it is anticipated that TFA will attract a variety of outside patrons with the goal of becoming a revenue generating venue. The construction budget is \$10,000,000.

All images and articles copyright © 2015 C.T. Hsu + Associates, P.A.



C.T. Hsu + Associates, P.A.

820 Irma Avenue • Orlando, FL 32803 • 407 423 0098 • Fax 407 423 4793

[CTHSU.com](http://CTHSU.com)