

ARCH 373: Graduate Design Studio

Fall 2002: Service Learning: Alta Sita



Architecture students under the direction of Professor Osman Ataman developed a master plan for a selected neighborhood block in Alta Sita, and designed and helped construct an experimental, affordable residential unit prototype on that block.

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'A win-win opportunity for all of us'

■ UI students design house to help revitalize East St. Louis

By JULIE WURTH
News-Gazette Staff Writer
EAST ST. LOUIS — Signs of hope are springing up on a neglected street in East St. Louis, thanks to hard work by neighborhood residents and some University of Illinois students. A block that until now had only a smattering of homes amid vacant lots will soon see a half-dozen new houses, including a unique contemporary design by a UI architecture class.
 Construction began last week on the two-story home created by Professor Osman Ataman's senior design studio. He and his students will travel to East St. Louis' Alta Sita neighborhood in late May, on their own time, to help with the project.
 After a feverish year of design and redesign to fit the prescribed budget — and the buyer's wishes — students said they're happy to see the work get under way.



"We see it as a cooperative thing. That's valuable training and experience the students are getting. ... We're all getting something."

— Helen Hudlin,
 president of Alta Sita
 Neighbors Inc.
 in East St. Louis

At left, University of Illinois architecture Professor Osman Ataman, right, and his senior design students, from left, Moria Henry, Tebogo Schultz, Tom Stroka, Jonathan Lim, Jacobi Gastile, Carl Giometti, Marcus Cross, Ben Ellerman, Esther Cho, Aaron Woessner, Molly Cherrick, Brian Cubberly and Kasey Kluxdal gather recently around three-dimensional models of a house they designed to be built in East Saint Louis.