

## **RURAL STUDIO** <http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/rural-studio/>



In 1993, two Auburn University architecture professors, Dennis K. Ruth and the late Samuel Mockbee, established the Auburn University Rural Studio within the university's School of Architecture. The Rural Studio, conceived as a method to improve the living conditions in rural Alabama and to include hands-on experience in an architectural pedagogy, began designing and building homes that same fall. Professors Mockbee and Ruth sought funding to begin the studio and, through the years, it has received additional funding which has helped it become what it is today: a vision of a process to make housing and community projects in one of the poorest regions of the nation. The students who attend the Rural Studio expand their design knowledge through actually building what they have designed. Utilizing the concept of "context-based learning," the Rural Studio asks the students to leave the university environment and take up residency in Hale County, Alabama. In doing so, the student joins a poverty-stricken region and "shares the sweat" with a housing client who lives far below the poverty level. The mission of the Rural Studio is to enable each participating student to cross the threshold of misconceived opinions to create/design/build and to allow students to put their educational values to work as citizens of a community. The Rural Studio seeks solutions to the needs of the community within the community's own context, not from outside it. Abstract ideas based upon knowledge and study are transformed into workable solutions forged by real human contact, personal realization, and a gained appreciation for the culture. (<http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/rural-studio/mission.htm>)

### **ARTICLES:**

#### **In Alabama, a Poor County Is Rich in Modern Architecture (Bernstein, 2005)**

From: *The New York Times Travel Magazine*, December 25, 2005:

<http://travel2.nytimes.com/2005/12/25/travel/25cultured.html?ei=5090&en=fcf70b835e26cecf&ex=1293166800&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1135859178-l9gmCJaXEh4A5/jyzi8Hfg&pagewanted=all>

#### **Warm, Dry, and Noble (Dean, 2002)**

From: *Yes! Magazine*, Summer 2002: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=507>

#### **Mockbee Southern Genius (Katauskas, 2000)**

From: *Architecture Week*, August 23, 2000: [http://www.architectureweek.com/2000/0823/design\\_1-2.html](http://www.architectureweek.com/2000/0823/design_1-2.html)

### **MORE RESOURCES:**

Available at Reed IMC, "The home maker (videorecording): Samuel "Sambo" Mockbee (ABC):

NA737.M635 H6 2002

**Index of Projects:** <http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/rural-studio/projectstype.htm>

**Index of Press Articles:** <http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/rural-studio/mediaMENU.htm>

**Student Project Blogs w/ Concept Sketches:** <http://www.cadc.auburn.edu/soa/rural-studio/blogs.htm>

**120-Image Flickr Album:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/downtownblue/sets/72157600014486723/>

**National Building Museum Profile:** <http://www.nbm.org/Exhibits/current/Mockbee.html>

Perry Lakes Park Projects, 2002-2005: <http://www.perrylakes.org/perrylakes/ruralstudiox.htm>  
PASTE Feature: [http://www.pastemagazine.com/action/article/2378/review/culture/the\\_rural\\_studio](http://www.pastemagazine.com/action/article/2378/review/culture/the_rural_studio)  
**IMAGES:**



**Bodark Amphitheater**, Newbern, AL (2000-2001) and **Butterfly House**, Masons Bend, AL (1996-1997)



**Subrosa Pantheon Memorial**, Newbern AL (2003-2004) and **Lucy House**, Masons Bend AL (2001-2002)



**Yancey Chapel**, Sawyerville, AL (1994-1995) and **Shiiles House**, Newbern, AL (2001-2002)