

# Design grant awarded to AIAS-IIT Lissette Project

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TECHNEWS WRITER

The American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) chapter at IIT recently participated in the Freedom by Design Program which utilizes the talents of architecture students to impact the lives of the people in their communities through design and construction.

Modifications are made to enhance the houses of low income and disabled people. By addressing the everyday struggles they go through and allowing them to achieve normalcy on their own we are giving them a freedom that every person should enjoy.

The program at Illinois Institute of Technology is just starting up and we are already on our way to make our community better. We are in the design phase of a bathroom for a disabled teenager named Lissette who has

Spina Bifida, a birth defect caused by the incomplete closing of the embryonic neural tube that affects the development of ones spinal cord. This birth defect has limited her mobility to a wheel chair. She is usually very independent when she has the freedom to do so. The family's current bathroom situation does not allow her any freedom to practice the independence she will need to live on her own in the future.

The current bathroom has a door that is only thirty inches wide. This makes it very hard for her to enter and close the door by herself in her current chair. As she is only a teenager she is going to grow out of her current chair which will not fit through their current door.

Another problem she runs into is having storage for her catheter within reach so she can use that by herself. The last most important issue is the tub. The current bathtub

makes it impossible for her to bathe by herself because she is not able to get in and out by herself.

During our Charrette we had separated into groups to iterate as many solutions as we could. We then got together as a group and proposed each solution. In the end we combined certain aspects of each that we thought would work best as a cohesive bathroom.

To solve the door issue in a space that a full swing door wouldn't work, and a sliding door wouldn't have enough wall to slide into, we decided that a bi-fold door is the only option that allows her to enter and close the door by herself. In order to accommodate the wheelchair, we decided that we need to move a wall to offer her full mobility.

To offer her freedom within the bathroom we decided to wrap key walls with a handrail so she can access the full bathroom.

The bathroom is the only one in the house so we need to accommodate her as well as the family.

We figured out that a fold up bench would offer the most freedom for her and allow her family to use the shower normally. To create an edge condition and storage to show the separation of shower and bathroom while creating storage within reach we decided to create a storage wall that helps her store her catheter and other supplies while offering storage for the family when they shower.

Our completion date is by the end of January 2013 with a budget of around two thousand. We have recently received news that we received a grant for \$1500 from Graphisoft and we are working hard to raise the rest of the money. If you are interested in helping support The Lissette Project or IIT Freedom By Design donate to this website <https://www.aias.org/custom/freedomdonate.asp?id=2153>

## Galvin Library seeks applicants for Student Advisory Board

**Pattie Piotrowski**  
ASST. DEAN FOR PUBLIC SERVICES, GALVIN LIBRARY

The Paul V. Galvin Library is committed to enriching and enhancing the educational experience for students and to that end we are establishing a Student Advisory Board.

Come and participate to make the library a better place for yourself and others! We would like your input on policies, services, collections, and spaces, and we welcome vol-

unteers to serve.

The board will be comprised of 8-12 undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines who will meet a few times each semester to:

- provide feedback and insight on library services, collections, and spaces
- help identify trends in the student use of services and resources
- participate in the development of surveys or focus groups
- assist in decision-making that will

affect the student body

In the past Galvin Library has listened to our students and we have added:

- A quiet study zone
- Increased vending options
- More soft and comfortable seating
- Night Owl Lab
- Study Week, an additional week of

24 hour access on both levels

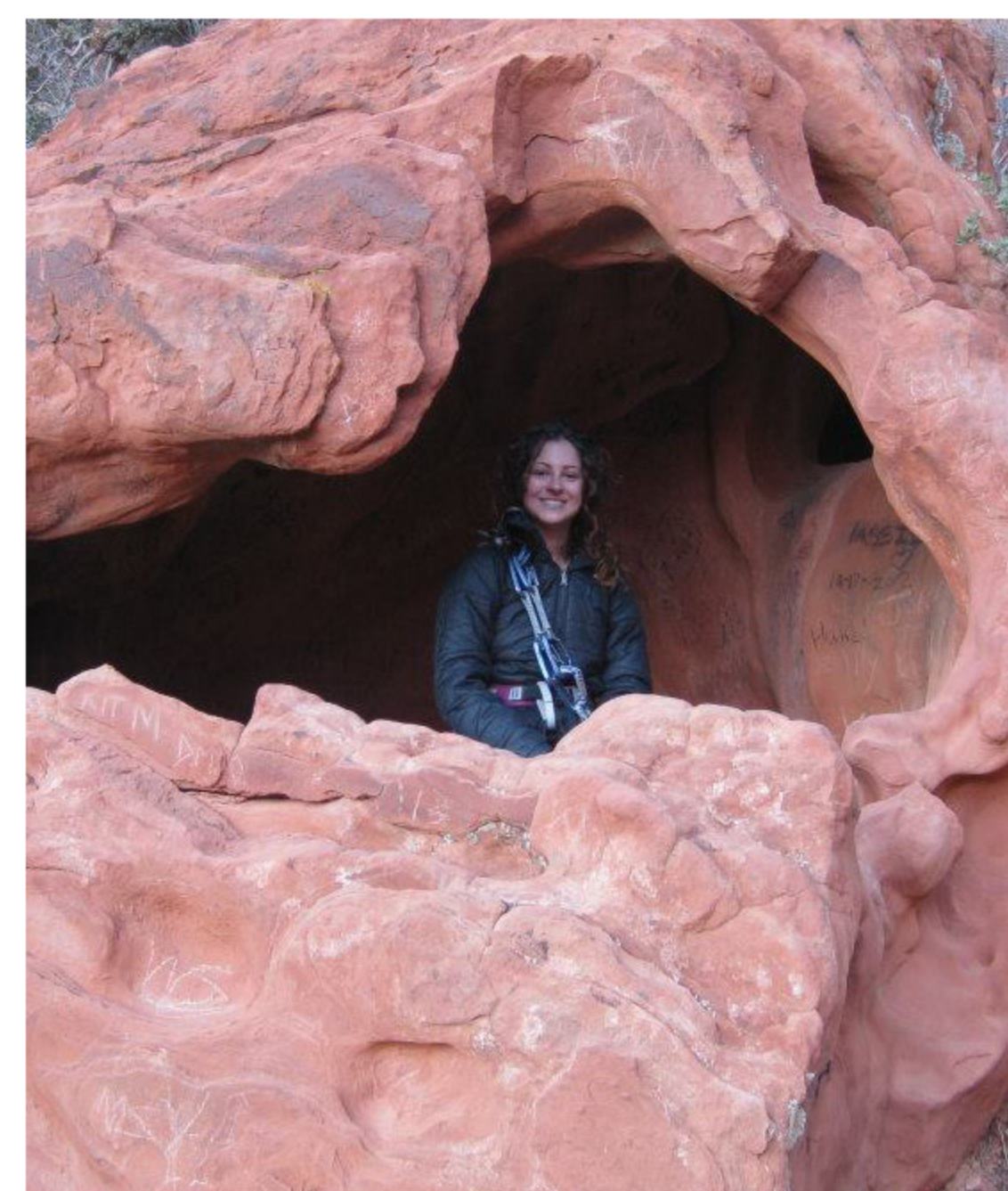
Now we want to find out what you think! If you are interested in participating, send us an email at [library@iit.edu](mailto:library@iit.edu), write "Stu-

dent Advisory Board" in the subject line and tell us three things:

- Your student status (undergraduate level freshman – 5th year or graduate)
- Major or intended course of study
- Why you would like to serve on the student advisory board

Please submit your email of interest to [library@iit.edu](mailto:library@iit.edu) by February 1st. Board members will be notified by Tuesday, February 12.

## Rock Climbing Club members travel to warmer areas over Winter Break



*Photos courtesy of Dan Zweig & Matt Wrodarczyk*