

Artemis breaks ground in Wilson

Architecture students gain real-life experience in Jackson Hole.

By JAKE NICHOLS

Just how much thought goes into building a pavilion? You'd be surprised.

Artemis Institute is designing and building the new pavilion at Owen-Bircher Park in Wilson. The undertaking is part of the not-for-profit's unique program called Remote Studio, an alternative educational program for third- and fourth-year architecture students.

Artemis, founded by director Lori Ryker, relocated to Jackson Hole last year after 10 years in Paradise Valley, Mont. Each semester, up to 12 students from colleges and universities across the nation are enrolled in Remote Studio. Students in the 12-credit course are pushed to develop their own creative instincts and vision, shaped by environmental responsibility and sustainability.

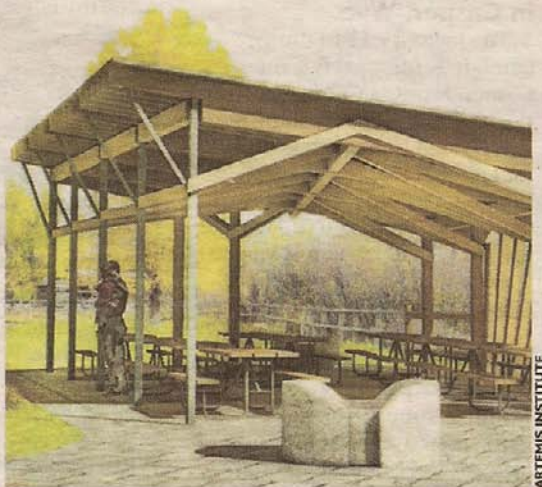
Phase One of each semester is dedicated to making students cognizant of the natural world and how their developing architectural expression might meld with their vision of the world, according to Artemis Institute's Meghan Hanson. Phase Two is the reality check.

Many burgeoning students of architecture hone their design skills at classroom desks. At Remote Studio, students create designs, then don hard hats to find out how practical their designs truly are. From pouring concrete to making welds on steel, students receive hands-on experience at the jobsite.

"It's a huge learning curve and a real eye-opener," Hanson said. "There is no substitute for the real-life experience: real-life interactions with a client and working with a real-life budget."

To stay on budget, students on the Owen-Bircher pavilion project quickly learned they would need to reclaim salvageable materials from the original structure. They also picked used lumber from the transfer station and tapped the expertise of Wilson's longtime welder Dick May.

Students of Remote Studio design and build a public, open-air structure each semester. The first Jackson project was last summer's natural play-



ARTEMIS INSTITUTE

Students will build a new park pavilion in Wilson.

ground at the Children's Learning Center. Talks with Steve Ashworth of Teton County Parks & Recreation led to this autumn's pavilion makeover. The project should wrap by Nov. 22.

"It has been exciting to see these kids put their designs forth and take public input," Ashworth said. "What a great learning opportunity for them, and we look forward to working with them in the future."

Hanson called the program a real win-win for both students and clients. Clients, typically, are billed only for materials and a portion of insurance. Design and labor is provided by Artemis, saving clients 50 to 60 percent in costs, Hanson said. Students, in turn, get a taste of what it takes to go from drawings to dirt.

"A course like this gives them a different edge," Hanson said. "They will have an amazing permitted and built portfolio piece that they worked on. It is invaluable, practical experience in designing, building, and budgeting a project, while allowing them to display their teamwork skills." 