ABSTRACT

We will fulfill important University needs by planning a restoration of a historical home and the possibility of retrofitting the building to improve energy and environmental performance as a “smart building” on campus. With in the house we will create a University innovation center. We will introduce an app for the UB community to connect them to social and educational activities taking place on campus and in the greater Bridgeport area.

Why 82 Marina Park Street?
The University of Bridgeport owns eight historic homes, several are hubs of activity for students and faculty while others stand vacant coming closer and closer to their demise. We knew we wanted to use one of these grand historic homes for our project but it was not so easy to decide which one. When meeting with George Estrada, Vice President of facilities for the University of Bridgeport we reviewed which houses would best suit our needs for this project. We kept in mind that this would be used by students and faculty alike and would need to provide as much space as possible. We met several times each time going through each building carefully, finally deciding on what the university calls, Darien Hall, the prior dormitory for law students. We felt strongly that this was the best choice, due to the fact that the basement level ceilings stand at 9’ high with large brick arches defining the spaces. This gives us a full four floors to work with and 8600 square feet, making the house the perfect choice. The Grippin house was acquired by the University of Bridgeport in 1959 and was primarily used for a dormitory for law students. The home was in full use until 1990, now standing vacant for 27 years. The significance of the Marina Park area in history is clearly marked in the beginning of Bridgeport itself as a city. From P.T. Barnum as one of the single most influential figures to the city, to the many innovators such as: William A. Grippin, Charles B. Read, Lewis B. Curtis, George Comstock, Waldo C. Bryant, John G. Howland, Allen B. Wilson, Nathaniel Wheeler and Joseph Noble, just to name a few. In the interest of preservation renovating this historical gem is a necessity.

THE PROCESS OF APP DESIGN

Design thinking is the process we used to ideate our abstract. We focused on human centered design to help us empathize with the students on campus, especially international students. We found that their need for connection was not be met by the university. UB Social is the answer. The students need a social application that can connect them to the educational and social events taking place on campus as well as in the city of Bridgeport. Through our research of other university’s social apps we carefully formulated an app that is user friendly, connected to social media and contains the lacking information that we discovered through our surveys.

CREATING A HUMAN FRIENDLY BUILDING

The concept was developed to help form connection between the University of Bridgeport and students, as well of creating awareness of events on campus and in the city of Bridgeport.