### EMMETT TILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

RACIAL RECONCILIATION BEGINS BY TELLING THE TRUTH



2024 First-year studio of the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University with Venita Halbert (right) and Patrick Weems (left) of ETIC

## Cultivating Commemorative Spaces: Mississippi State University's Studio Project Honoring Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley

Cultivating commemorative spaces takes many years of time and effort, but the <a href="Emmett Till">Emmett Till</a>
<a href="Emmett Till">Interpretive Center</a> (ETIC) has been lucky to work with the <a href="School of Architecture at Mississippi State">School of Architecture at Mississippi State</a>
<a href="University">University</a> since 2020. This collaboration has not only provided learning opportunities for students but it ensures that the stories of Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till are preserved and honored.

In the first-year students' final 6-week project, students will be designing a space of memory dedicated to the enduring legacy of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley as a class assignment. The projects will focus on a community building located near her birthplace in Webb, Mississippi.. Led by a dedicated team including Silvina Lopez Barrera, Angela Shyaka, Audria Hicks, and Conner Griffin of MSU, the studio embraces an approach that champions experiential learning and critical reflection. Throughout the design process, students visited historic sites associated with Emmett Till's legacy and had meaningful interactions with ETIC.

On March 5th, the studio visited the Delta. They met with key members of the memorial at ETIC including Venita Halbert, Community Engagement Coordinator, Patrick Weems, Executive Director, and Belinda Stewart, Principal Architect. During their visit, the students engaged in profound dialogues with Venita and Patrick at the project site and the historic Tallahatchie County Courthouse.

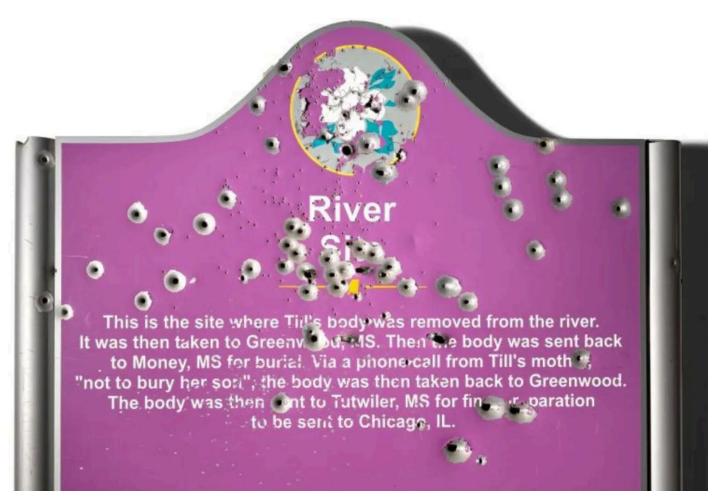
Central to the project is the recognition that the youth are the vanguard of change and progress. By entrusting the design process to first-year students, the studio not only harnesses the creative energy and fresh perspectives of young minds but also instills a sense of ownership and responsibility towards commemorative endeavors.

At its core, this studio project transcends the boundaries of academia, serving as a beacon of hope and remembrance in a world fraught with injustice and inequality. By honoring the memories of Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till, the studio not only pays tribute to their legacies but also underscores the power of architecture to inspire social change and collective healing.

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# Reckoning with Remembrance: History, Injustice, and the Murder of Emmett Till - Opens April 6; Closes Sept. 15 Smithsonian Museums

"In Mississippi, citizens of Tallahatchie County formed the Emmett Till Memorial Commission in 2006 and erected nine historical markers to remember Till. Over the years, the signs have been stolen, riddled with bullets, or thrown in the river but have always been replaced. This temporary display of the defaced River Site historical marker preserves the memory of Till while demonstrating the contested nature of racism's violent legacy in America." Find Out More»



This temporary display of the defaced River Site historical marker preserves the memory of Till while the 317 bullet punctures serve as a reminder that the racism that caused Till's death still exists today. Smithsonian National Museum of American History

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Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument Hiring Park Manager (Superintendent)

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