Kansas State University's 10-member multidisciplinary team competed at the 2015 Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) Student Design Competition, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sponsored by the institute and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The competition, which annually attracts top architectural engineering students from the world’s accredited architectural engineering degree programs, lets students showcase the value of innovation and education in architectural engineering and related fields by encouraging collaboration, research, innovation and peer review.

Projects are judged in five primary categories, including structural, mechanical, electrical engineering, construction management and building integration. The central challenge of this year’s competition was the design, integration and construction issues related to an urban vertical farming concept in Milwaukee. The K-State team significantly altered the given program, integrating the vertical farm into its surrounding neighborhood and optimizing the balance between aesthetic, function and long-term sustainability of the operation.

By placing as runner-up in the structural design category, K-State remains the only architectural engineering program in the world that has placed in or won at least one of the categories in each of the competition’s six years.