

2015 SPP Popup Project Design Competition

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Which design problem does your submission solve? B – Semi-Secure Shelter

Description

On a recent bitterly cold night in Chicago, local homeless advocates identified 682 Veteran and chronically homeless people on the streets in need of shelter. As architects, we can play a role in Chicago’s homeless crisis. Our shelter is intended to provide basic protection for one person. It will help keep them alive in extreme weather, providing a safe and secure temporary home in which to sleep and store a few personal belongings. It is simple, modular, and easy to build. Through a partnership with a group like The Rebuilding Exchange, the shelter will be constructed of as much locally reclaimed and salvaged framing and finish materials as possible. Each shelter will take on its own personality depending on what materials are available at any given time. Construction of the shelters can also be used to train unskilled workers, leading to potential jobs in their communities.

It is not enough to provide a shelter alone. With the help and input of our local competition partners, the non-profit advocacy group Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and non-profit service provider LaCasa Norte, the critical link to supportive services can be established. The shelters are portable and can be transported around the City to available sites on a flatbed truck or trailer. Clusters of individual shelters can be set up as small villages. Vacant foreclosed buildings can be minimally rehabbed to provide common and shared facilities anchoring the shelter villages. The shelter module lends itself easily to be set up as a toilet room, food pantry, etc. when facilities are otherwise unavailable. This low threshold alternative to traditional ‘emergency shelter’ housing allows advocates and non-profits to focus on critical outreach, connecting the homeless with services and permanent housing.

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[Homeless Shelter Image.jpg](#)

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