2020 THIRD PLACE

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LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
Evolving Bungalow

Reimagining the Bungalow
Promoting a new American Dream

Support + Adapt

Flexibility
Affordable living
Interactive lifestyle
Greener decisions

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What allowed for the progression of white communities in Chicago also allowed for the lasting crisis that set minorities back for so long that many became stuck in social and economic isolation. Because minorities were prevented from participating in the housing market in the past, they were prevented from being able to build wealth, which white families were doing due to homeownership. This issue is has continued to keep these communities from being able to progress and has led to unemployment, unequal education, increases in crime, exploitation, etc. Having wealth makes it easier for people to pursue education, work, start a business and move to new neighborhoods. The architectural problem is that single-family homes aren’t affordable to the people living in these neighborhoods, and the houses aren’t compatible with the current day realities and needs of families.

A research study by Demos, based on data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation panel in 2011, showed potential effects of equalizing homeownership rates and income between black and white families.

The solution is to assist these communities in building wealth and providing a solid foundation for them to help themselves. I've provided a system in which these families can afford to first establish homeownership and then build more wealth by making an income from the house, and implemented a structure that’s adaptable to meet future needs, such as desires to downsize or upsize. Allowing room for units to be rented out by the homeowners is meant to support the families, while the adaptability of the structure helps keep up with the flexible family types we see today. The aim is to reimagine the bungalow in terms of a new American dream, which includes flexibility, affordable living, greener decisions, and an interactive lifestyle.
The sustainability of this housing model depends on its simple materials and its ability to adapt over time in order to keep up with the homeowner’s needs. The use of timber also allows for easier recycling and reusing of material, as development to the structure over time will result in taking material that was removed from one area and applying it to another. Additionally, the subdivision of space within one lot contributes to the sustainability as the structure serves multiple functions, and the homeowners are able to generate an income from renting, offsetting the cost of their mortgage.

The structure uses cross laminated timber beams and panels, and interior partition walls, both of which contribute to affordable construction and flexibility in the structure’s layout. Prefabrication is ideal in order to minimize waste during construction, allow for faster production, and cause less disturbance to the tighter lots. The cost of the structure will be dependent on these simple materials and the prefabrication process.