

MADWORKSHOP

Founders

David C. Martin
Mary Martin

Board Members

Edie Cohen
Barbara Heizer
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R. Scott Mitchell
Karen Hofmann
Frank Novak



Rendering of Homes for Hope

MADWORKSHOP AND USC WRAP UP HOMELESS STUDIO PROJECT

With coursework that investigated the architect's role in tackling homelessness, the Homeless Studio produced three projects and culminated in a real-life solution for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA [February 13, 2016] – In September, The Martin Architecture and Design Workshop (MADWORKSHOP) partnered with the University of Southern California School of Architecture (USC) to spearhead the Homeless Studio whose mission was to develop design solutions to address Los Angeles' rapidly accelerating homelessness crisis.

Nearly 47,000 people are homeless in the Los Angeles County area, a number that has increased by 5.7% from 2015. The problem has become a country-wide epidemic where over 500,000 people are homeless, and the need for housing solutions grows more pressing by the day.

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“The Homeless Studio set out to investigate solutions to an important and pressing issue in our cities. As designers, we have the power to make a difference, and the students realized that through the course of the semester. Being able to design and build at full scale and have actual people living in the spaces that they created made a big impact on them,” says Sofia Borges, Director of MADWORKSHOP.

The Homeless Studio, a concept conceived by co-founder of MADWORKSHOP Mary Klaus Martin in 2015, ties back to the goals set out by Mary and David Martin when they founded MADWORKSHOP, which was to support innovative design with an underlying social value. USC faculty members R. Scott Mitchell and Sofia Borges structured the coursework to produce three different designs that focused on temporary, modular and expandable solutions, as well as transitional housing.

Nomadic Shelters

The first project required students to develop full scale, inhabitable nomadic shelters that were collapsible and adaptive enough that they could be reconfigured to a range of locations. Materials used in these shelters were limited to what someone can easily gain access to while living on the streets such as a shopping cart, or a small wooden box.

Tiny Homes

Following this was a one-week workshop led by Oakland based artist Gregory Kloehn who tasked the students with scavenging the city for usable materials and transforming their findings into three tiny homes for the homeless. The only costs for this project were wheels, locks, and screws.

Homes for Hope

All 11 students worked together on the final project, a 30-bed modular shelter for women for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, a real-life client with a design problem to solve. Titled Homes for Hope, the project provides modular bridge stabilized housing for immediately sheltering the city's homeless. 92 square foot units aggregate into 30-bed communities, with base modules that combine to form communal spaces, bathroom facilities, outdoor terraces, and courtyards. In a rare feat, the project eventually received support from the city of Los Angeles and has now moved into the fundraising stage.

The efforts of this course will be documented and compiled into a final publication, which will be published by the USC School of Architecture towards the end of 2017.

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About MADWORKSHOP

The MADWORKSHOP Foundation (501c3), based in Santa Monica, CA, was founded by David and Mary Klaus Martin in 2015 to identify and support the next generation of inventors and designers in the creation of beautiful and artfully designed things with a focus on technological craftsmanship. The Foundation sponsors the development, marketing and launch of innovative products that have the capacity to impact design on a grand scale; things that relate to our culture much like architecture relates to our environment. In addition to supporting and mentoring designers through the complete product development lifecycle, MADWORKSHOP sponsors research, curricula and technology that inform design and advance process and production. For more information about the MADWORKSHOP Foundation please visit www.madworkshop.org.

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