

IPRO 339

Adapting Shipping Containers to Create Affordable Housing

Code of Ethics

24 July 2009

Overarching Standard Improve the low-income housing situation in Chicago by creating safe, affordable housing, that blends in with established neighborhoods, through economic and eco-friendly use of existing resources.

1 Law

The team's plans and designs should conform to national, state, and local laws.

Pressure To minimize, bend, or gloss over laws due to time constraints.

Pressure To ignore laws due to lack of knowledge or concern.

Risk Producing a design that is not legal.

Measure Team members should research laws to make sure all plans are compliant. If necessary, consult an expert.

2 Contracts and Agreements

The team must not break any contracts or agreements, and must budget accordingly. Furthermore, the team shall endeavor to not make any promises it cannot fulfill.

Pressure To cut costs in any way possible, in order to stay within budget.

Pressure To make grand promises to help solicit support.

Risk Making an agreement, either written or verbal, that cannot be upheld by this team or future teams.

Measure Team members will not make any promises to or agreements with outside parties without approval of the IPRO Office.

3 Professional Codes of Ethics

The team will ensure the safety and well-being of all potential occupants by following applicable professional building codes.

Pressure Try to fit as many people/amenities into one unit as possible.

Pressure Try to have an ultra-high density site plan and unit configuration.

Risk Compromising building codes and user safety by not providing minimum egress, clearance, or circulation.

Measure Team members should familiarize themselves with the code of ethics for their profession (i.e. architect, civil engineer) to make sure they are complying. If necessary, consult an expert.

4 Industry Standards

The team will design housing that falls within industry standards of safety, comfort, and accessibility for both the Olympic Village and for permanent housing.

Pressure To lower costs by cutting or compromising features.

Pressure To ignore or minimize climate conditions and other risk factors out of ignorance, disregard, or time constraints.

Risk Designing housing inadequately suited to its environment, creating unsafe or harsh living conditions for future occupants.

Measure The team should research industry standards and consider the full range of safety, weather, and other factors.

5 Social, Civic and Geographic Communities

The team will engage with the communities it is attempting to affect, designing housing that will enhance the neighborhood and be welcomed by residents.

Pressure To create a dense and stripped-down housing complex to reduce costs.

Pressure To design a radical or overly artistic piece of architecture.

Risk Creating structures that are eyesores or unwelcome architectural intrusions that are rejected by the community.

Measure Permanent housing units are to be designed with the neighborhood in mind, so as to blend in with existing architectural styles. This can be confirmed by the support of community leaders, such as aldermen.

6 Personal Relationships

Team members should treat each other with mutual respect, be honest in their statements, and take responsibility for contributing to the team effort.

Pressure To make it seem like one has done more work than one actually has.

Pressure To make one's own ideas used over another member's ideas.

Risk Using the ideas of the most forceful team member, rather than the best ideas.

Measure All team members, plus the faculty advisors, will hold each other accountable to respect other people and their ideas. At the end of the project, peer evaluations will be used to help gauge how much work everyone really did.

6 Moral and Spiritual Values

Team members should foster personal moral and spiritual values, contributing to their sense of compassion and community, on which this project is based.

Pressure To see this project as a business proposal, rather than a way to help the community.

Pressure To let one's prejudices about certain demographics bias the team's plans.

Risk Losing sight of individuals who could potentially benefit from the affordable housing – low income families.

Measure Each team member must self-examine his/her motives and prejudices to ensure that he/she is being guided by moral principles, and to stand up for those principles if others lose sight of them.