Around the World

Keetwonen Student Housing, Amsterdam, 2006

University of Utrecht, Student Housing, 2002

Construction of shipping container housing has been proven successful other parts of the world. Above are two of our favorite student housing examples which possess the qualities of recycled materials, speedy construction, and a trendy final product. The aesthetic and economic success of these buildings is why we chose to bring this building type to Chicago.

Get Involved

As we prepare for construction of the full scale model, we are seeking participation, contributions and sponsorship to our project in the form of materials, products, and fixtures that will aid in meeting our goal of constructing a sustainable residential building. Project completion is planned for April 2010.

Email us or visit our website for more information. You can follow the progress of our model construction via our website and facebook page.

email: ipro339f09@iit.edu
website: http://www.iit.edu/~ipro339f09/

The IPRO Program

The Illinois Instutute of Technology IPRO program is our launching pad. An IPRO project course is a team-based learning environment in which students from various concentrations and disciplines work together to solve a real-world problem. Every semester new projects are added and the program grows. To learn more or If you would like to see other projects from the program please visit http: //ipro.iit.edu or contact the IPRO office.

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IPRO 339

INNOVATIVE CONTAINER DESIGN

Redefining Chicago Housing

The Problem

ISBU, otherwise known as shipping containers, are standardized shipping boxes that are responsible for the transportation of our worldwide economy. Strangely enough, it is more expensive to ship an empty container than it is to build a new one, and as a result tover 700,000 containers sit in intermodal yards, stuck and unused.

The Opportunity

Excess containers can be re-purposed to serve as the main construction element in our design. They are ideal for many reasons: they are exceptionally strong, modular, and relatively inexpensive when compared to traditional methods of construction. Using containers as modules would allow for houses to be finished off-site, and be put together in only 2-3 weeks. This would save on-site construction time, and make it easier to work through cold months. In these ways it would be more cost effective than conventional construction for both the developer and owner.

Designing Chicago Homes

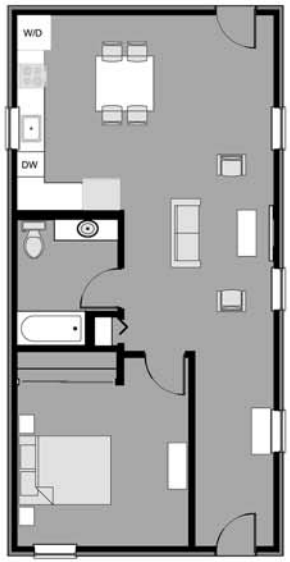
We believe shipping container design can and should be implemented in Chicago. We began this project looking to create an affordable housing solution that was both sustainable and progressive. That vision has grown over the past two years into a strong belief that shipping container dwellings should become a part of Chicago neighborhoods, enabling more families to become home-owners.

Our single family home design consists of four stacked containers to accommodate 4 beds and 3 baths. Clad in brick, this home will blend in nicely with Chicago's predominantly brick neighborhoods. The facade options are endless, and provide an opportunity for owner upgrades, one of the many benefits of container construction.

Full-Scale Construction Model

full scale model on IIT campus

This year we are building a full scale model of the container building type on IIT's Main Campus. The purpose of this model is to showcase our housing type to members of the Chicago community, so they can become aquainted with its many possiblities first hand.



model floorplan