

Dear Whatcom Housing Alliance ADU Design Competition Committee,

I am thrilled to submit my entry, *Detached ADU on Downslope Lot*, for the Whatcom Housing Alliance ADU Design Competition. This is an opportunity to encapsulate the ideals of universal design, affordability, sustainability, and innovation.

The Challenge: Working within the constraints of a 50x100-foot lot, with an existing 20x35-foot primary residence, was a captivating puzzle. I added the challenge of a steep slope to this lot; to add to my own creative practice, and to show what can be accomplished on varied terrains. My goal was to seamlessly integrate my design into the semi-dense urban environment while preserving the community's character.

Universal Design and Aging in Place: My vision for this ADU revolves around the core principles of universal design. I've incorporated ideas such as wide doorways, zero-step entrances, transition-less floors, and lever handles to ensure accessibility for all. The open floor plan promotes inclusivity and ease of movement, creating a space where everyone can thrive, despite the small footprint.

In terms of aging in place, my design takes into account the needs of residents over the long term. I've integrated an adaptable bathroom, strategically placed grab bars, and proper lighting that provides not only security but also a sense of empowerment.

Affordability and Cost Effectiveness: Affordability is always a challenge when faced with the reality of a less-than-ideal lot configuration. Using quality products, efficient systems, and air, water, and vapor control best practices for our climate, my design ensures longevity of the structure over time, thereby reducing long-term costs of ownership. The intent is that the core components of this structure will perform at a high level for many years to come.

Sustainability and Resilience: Sustainability is a core value in my design. I've incorporated renewable energy sources such as solar panels and a rainwater harvesting system to minimize environmental impact. Systems and materials have been thoughtfully selected to enhance energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

Resilience is crucial in our ever-changing world. My design includes robust construction materials and methods, and efficient construction techniques to ensure the ADU can withstand the test of time and environmental challenges.

Innovation and Creativity: My approach to innovation and creativity was to think beyond the conventional. A perfectly flat lot is a much simpler endeavor than the reality that presents itself in the majority of the building sites in our community.

Existing and proposed structures like this in-fill concept are a testament to the potential of ADUs to redefine how we live in cities, fostering a sense of community, inclusivity, and environmental responsibility. I am honored to be a part of the Whatcom Housing Alliance ADU Design Competition and am excited to contribute to the conversation about the future of urban living.

Thank you for considering my entry.