

Funk Shui

People tend to think of ADU's as impermanent or transitional living situations, but that doesn't necessarily have to be the case. I chose to create an ADU design that focuses on a more permanent living situation. Whether that is for a young adult still living with the family but wants to be allowed their own space, or older relatives that need some extra care, but still want to maintain their independence, this design is practical and efficient.

With interest rates the way they are, and the costs of living increasing faster than minimum wage, for more and more young people the dream of homeownership feels more and more out of reach. The average age of young adults living with their parents in the United States is on the rise and will likely continue to rise if rent prices go unregulated. Multi-generational living is not a bad thing. Quite the contrary in many other countries it is very common to have living situations with 3+ generations living under one roof. There are many benefits to a more communal living situation. Younger children and older relatives have in house care with people they love, it can lessen the cost of living for individuals, and in many cases it can lower the risk of depression due to loneliness. Community is a part of human nature, but individualism is a part of the American culture we are so familiar with. ADUs are the perfect way to create spaces that allow for people to create a community, but also leave room for individual growth.

One of the most important aspects when designing a space that is useful and appealing to everyone, is versatility. Everyone is different and everyone has different budgets and priorities. The open floor plan and boxy design make it easy to increase or decrease the size as the budget or lot allows as well as making the framing relatively simple and (depending on the owner's particular skill sets, DIY). The roof is trussed, also decreasing labor cost with the ease of install and creating ample roof for maximum roof insulation (page 2, cross section 1). All walkways are a minimum of 3' wide and all doors (interior and exterior) are 3' wide, making it possible to operate a wheelchair in the space.

I chose to gear this design to a more mid century modern aesthetic, but it can easily be treated as a more modern or pacific northwestern contemporary style depending on the owner's own tastes or the style of the existing house. The siding types and roof materials chosen are low maintenance, durable, and efficient insulators (page 2, elevations). The stone veneer, fiber cement siding, and metal roof are even fire-resistant which may be important as dry/fire seasons get longer and more intense.

Since I chose to do a design that followed a more permanent living situation, I was able to focus more on the exterior, and ways that you can increase the functionality and performance of the house and decrease the cost in the long run. The largest roof plane is fitted with a solar array and facing south to maximize the sun exposure and as a result the efficiency of the solar panels, (page 1). The butterfly roof drains into a single downspout that can be used to irrigate a garden, or even supply a rainwater catchment system, (page 1). There are multiple areas around the house for garden patches or green spaces. Plants can help regulate the temperature of the air around the house, making it more efficient to heat or cool. Large overhangs and high southern

windows (refer to elevation E4) also help to passively heat and cool the space. In the summer when the sun is high, the overhangs shade the windows, keeping the interior cooler, and in the winter when the sun is low, the windows let sunlight in that helps warm the house. All of these things can help to save money, through decreased energy costs.

This design is flexible, contentious, and fun. It was important to me to create a space that not only I would love to live in, but others could see themselves thriving in as well. I hope that this can be an example of how environmentally conscious and universal design doesn't have to be an afterthought or uninteresting, it can be inspired, fully ingrained into the design, and a little funky.