

Patio Shed

Patio Shed is a 675 square foot living arrangement situated on the most Northwest corner of the site. The footprint mimics that of the primary home, speaking to its parental structure. Still, playful light-wells, robust, concrete blocks, and curious living arrangements define Patio Shed and differ itself from the primary home. Patio Shed acts as a compact, inclusive, sustainable and caring architecture project that emphasizes spatial experience and human joy.

Innovation & Creativity/Aesthetics:

The proposed ADU takes inspiration from vernacular architecture belonging to the Pacific Northwest. A central core acts as the hearth of the concept, housing a small bedroom, restroom and a kitchen. The core is embraced by a delicate exterior, exposed on four sides to maximize daylight and transparency. This area acts as an extended, patio of the compact core, housing the dining, living and entry spaces. The enclosed rooms consider the use of the rooms in their most minimal form, but still provide efficient use, without sacrificing itself to an open studios; thus, retaining a sense of privacy and spatial quality.

Affordability & Cost Effectiveness:

Ultimately, materials and craft are the basis for Patio Shed. The pigmented concrete block-work at the interior, inform the layout and construction of the space. Meanwhile, the cedar planks, and modular window-units clad the exterior and interior, contradicting and protecting the internal core. Both the CMU and the cedar, allow for a creative consideration in budget and sustainable materials. The hope is that minimal architecture create for minimal site disruption and potential cost reduction in construction. Rather than relying solely on pre-fabricated elements, craftsmanship and aesthetics define the project. After all, the goal in the built environments is to design less, not more.

Sustainability and Resilience:

Further, the design invites simple and meaningful detail, materials, and assembly to be used with low-tech and regenerative principles. Therefore, Patio Shed relies on passive design strategies, placing great emphasis on being a low-energy home. Passive solar orientation, durability and high performance windows and envelope assist in the comfort of the spaces. Circular light wells, allow for daylight to enter into each of the rooms, providing natural daylight within all spaces of the building. Finally, a green roof with solar panels retain energy and reduce stormwater runoff, all the while, providing a place of leisure and use for the user.

Universal Design and Aging in Place:

The spaces themselves celebrate the simplicity of the plan, yet allow for flexibility for many types of users and activities. The entry allows for early morning light to enter into the 5' corridor, which doubles as a usable space, for a studio or a foyer. The living and dining area, take optimal advantage of the southern sun while celebrating the act of living. The operable windows on all sides allow a breeze to enter in the most sunniest or rainiest of days. Meanwhile, the enclosed rooms create a sense of refuge from the landscape and in-between living areas. Finally, a hidden garden creates for private space of relaxation and extension of the core bedroom. All areas, although robust, allow for personality to be embedded in them along with a variety of layouts. Patio Shed is a home for a private residence, or a home for two, or a home for aging, or a home for growing.