

The Screen ADU

An Innovative ADU Project Designed For Universal Design, Affordability, Sustainability, and Creativity

In an era marked by changing demographics and evolving housing needs, the concept of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) has emerged as a visionary solution. The Screen ADU design stands on four pillars: Universal Design and Aging in Place, Affordability and Cost Effectiveness, Sustainability and Resilience, and Innovation and Creativity. We specifically explored how each of these elements can come together to create a holistic and forward-thinking ADU that not only adapts to the needs of its inhabitants but also contributes positively to the community and the environment.

1. Universal Design and Aging in Place:

The Screen ADU is designed to be inclusive and adaptable, ensuring that it remains a welcoming home for residents of all ages and abilities. The layout prioritizes open spaces, wider doorways, and barrier-free entries to accommodate mobility devices. Additionally, the design integrates age-friendly features such as lever-style door handles, non-slip flooring, and ample natural lighting. These elements not only support aging in place but also create a universally accessible living space that promotes independence and well-being for all.

2. Affordability and Cost Effectiveness:

Addressing the affordability crisis in housing, The Screen ADU embodies an efficient and cost-effective approach. The project utilizes sustainable, low-cost building materials without compromising on quality or durability. Its compact footprint optimizes land use and reduces construction expenses. To further enhance affordability, we've incorporated energy-efficient features like LED lighting, smart thermostats, and high-performance insulation, resulting in long-term cost savings for occupants. ADUs are naturally affordable considering there is no upfront land acquisition cost and this ADU expands on that with lifecycle cost considerations woven throughout the design decisions.

3. Sustainability and Resilience:

The Screen ADU places a strong emphasis on sustainability and resilience. It is designed to minimize its environmental footprint and contribute positively to the

surrounding ecosystem. Energy-efficient appliances reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills, and with all electric appliances and systems it could be net zero energy with the addition of solar panels. The standing seam metal roof also makes this ADU perfect for adding a rainwater harvesting system, that could be filtered for potable water or used as greywater for toilets and irrigation for the landscaping. Furthermore, the ADU incorporates resilient building materials and construction techniques to withstand natural disasters, ensuring the safety and security of its occupants during emergencies.

4. Innovation and Creativity/Aesthetics:

At the heart of The Screen ADU lies a commitment to innovation and creativity. The ADU's design seamlessly blends modern aesthetics on the interior with a more traditional exterior that can blend in with the surrounding neighborhood context, while still having some contemporary flourishes. The wood screen anchors the traditional form, while providing privacy between the ADU and main house all while bringing in the natural warmth of locally sourced wood.

The interior design is focused on flexibility with the large “great room” providing residents with the freedom to adapt their living space to their changing needs. The high vaulted roof and large bank of windows floods the interior with natural light while offering views out into the garden to make the smaller dwelling feel spacious. Small details like wood window frames, makes the minimalist interior have a touch of elegance.

The Screen ADU is more than just a design; it's a vision for the future of housing. By prioritizing Universal Design and Aging in Place, Affordability and Cost Effectiveness, Sustainability and Resilience, and Innovation and Creativity, this project seeks to redefine the possibilities of ADU living. It is a testament to the power of thoughtful, holistic design to address the pressing housing challenges our communities are facing. This design envisions a future where housing is not just a place to live but a harmonious, sustainable, and inclusive haven for all.