

NEW URBAN MODELS FOR AGING

STUDENT COMPETITION

AIA

(American Institute of Architects)
Design for Aging

The Challenge

This competition poses a unique challenge – design an intergenerational project that includes housing for frail elders and is an integral part of an urban community. It will provide students an opportunity to learn about a project type that is part of a burgeoning market and in need of innovation. The AIA Design for Aging committee is seeking ideas in response to the following questions:

- How can locating intergenerational spaces in a senior community enhance seniors' experience?
- What are innovative ways of incorporating "Small Houses" into an urban community?
- How does the location and program enable seniors stay connected with the greater community?

The main goal of this competition is to create a place that seniors want to move into - a dynamic, highly functioning community for people to age in – one that provides activity, interest, excitement and connection to each other and the community. This project is focused on three potential areas of innovation – program integration and interaction, community connection, and contextual and contemporary building design. The project will create connection between the residents and people within the project, and outward with those in the surrounding community.

Program integration will allow for an environment that promotes health and wellness in smooth transitions between levels of care as residents become more frail.

There are three phases that comprise this project – site selection and analysis, master plan, and detailed design of one component of the senior housing program. In the site selection and analysis phase, the student must define how the surrounding urban community interacts with the project. The master plan must be defined by an architectural concept that incorporates intergenerational spaces, community spaces, and senior housing in one dynamic project. The detailed design component is an opportunity to learn how to design for this specific population.