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Affordable Housing Initiatives:

How cultural considerations can inform design innovation

Historically, affordable housing has failed to meet the needs of those it is meant to serve. This is partly due to the neglect of the cultural component in the housing design. With the knowledge of specific cultural needs in mind, my research will demonstrate that it is possible for designers to design sustainable and adequate housing. Currently, an extensive literature review is underway to identify twenty-five affordable housing designs that either respond to cultural needs or were designed to house cultural groups. With my selection, the research scope will then be narrowed to further evaluate and analyze five of these projects which demonstrate the strongest cultural design qualities. My findings will describe notable affordable housing design methods that have been implemented within the last fifteen years. An analysis of planning designs, site analysis, structure, layout and cultural sustainability will be used to propose design guidelines. Through the education of the current ideas, these architectural innovations and proposed guidelines can be considered for future designs. It is possible that by proposing alternative design solutions and planning procedures, planners and architects will consider pioneering methods from transpiring their new housing ideas into a successful reality.



Poster Number:

Session: