

Design Outreach: The TrailerWrap Project

A University of Colorado Service Learning Collaboration

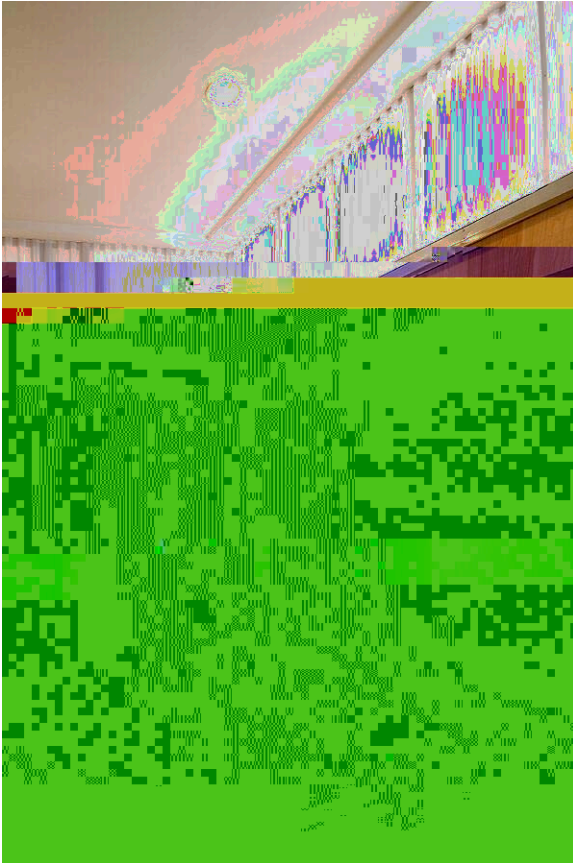
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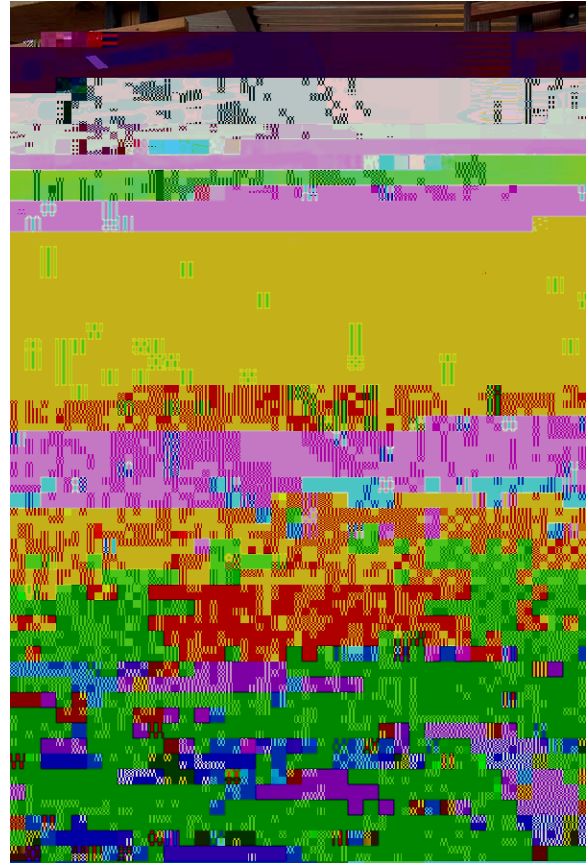
Often overlooked or looked down upon, the mobile home is an important but under-



graduation, they can use their skills to help improve housing for low-income households. It not only exposed students to the problems, but also showed them how their work can make a difference.

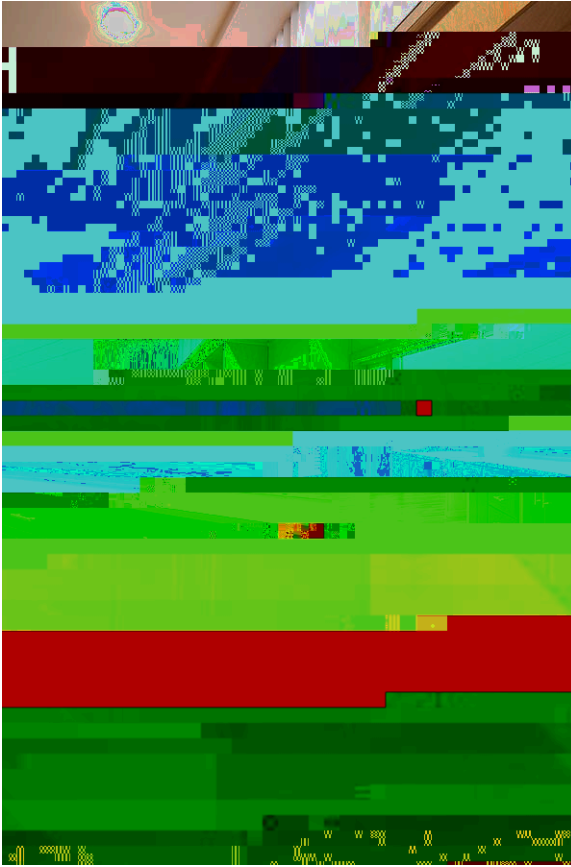
Against this background, we wanted to offer the next generation of young designers a hands-on learning experience not available in the traditional studio in a way that would engage them with the community, address a local need for affordable housing, using sustainable building techniques and materials (e.g., wall insulation is made of recycled blue jeans). A further goal was to explore issues that could be transferred to large scale production.

TW addresses issues of sustainable and affordable design in the context of the often overlooked American trailer park. At the scale of an individual building the project, explores the potential for augmenting this affordable housing type with outdoor living space, improved, energy efficient construction and high volume, light-filled interiors.



At the urban scale, TW reexamines the mobile home park as a model for, high- density alternatives to suburban sprawl. In pushing the envelope of adaptable reuse, TW created high-quality, small-scale architecture for people of modest means. The completed project provides dignified, permanently affordable, urban living for a low-income household.

The project incorporates a site strategy that links indoor and outdoor space through placement and circulation. The resulting interwoven spatial sensibility mixes the linear character of the trailer with a processional sequence more common in a traditional house with a large yard and spacious front porch.



The interior organization compresses functional utility into a dense, multifunctional zone that dissolves the boundaries typically associated with partitioned rooms. The large, freestanding



75 foot mobile home lot offers the single family a viable ownership option, complete with its own piece of land, at an affordable price.

TW was a five-semester collaboration between the college's Children, Youth and Environments Center, which provided the initial concept and impetus for the project, Thistle Community Housing (TCH), the Mapleton Home Owners Association (MHA), the Boulder campus' Department of Facilities Management, and an