

Winning Habitat Home Design Announced by AIA

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American Institute of Architects partners with Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity on duplex project



AIA Denver, in partnership with CAD-1, Inc., administered a design-build competition for Habitat for Humanity of Colorado. The local Habitat for Humanity affiliate selected to participate in this first design-build competition is Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity (Kittredge, Colo.).

The winning team was selected on Friday, Nov. 4, by a jury comprised of David Barrett, AIA; Stephen Colella, Construction Manager, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity; Kevin Eronymous, AIA; Shane Gring; Judy O'Brien, Kathleen O'Leary, Executive Director, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity; and Kevin Yoshida, AIA.

The winning team includes Molly Blakley, Assoc. AIA; Alan Ford, AIA; Kathy Ford, AIA; and Matt Weaver, Assoc. AIA. (Matt and

Molly are pictured right.) The Architect of Record is Denver-based Alan Ford Architects P.C. They will be awarded a \$5,000 stipend to complete construction documents.

In the spring of 2012, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity will break ground on a duplex for two families in Colorado, furthering the Habitat for Humanity of Colorado mission to create simple, decent, affordable housing. "Keeping the solutions simple and easy to build with volunteer labor was a primary objective. This was important both for affordability and build ability," Alan Ford, AIA, said. "Given the small square footage of the home, it was critical to keep circulation down and functional efficiency high... and considering that the design had the potential for being repeated, we set out to make the design solution adaptable to different sites."

Matt Weaver, Associate AIA, continues, "No matter what the budget of a project is, the approach is always similar to create high quality space. Our goal is to bring in daylight, provide for fresh air, and to carefully consider the possible uses of each space."

As with most properties acquired by Habitat in this mountain area, the terrain is steep, making this lot almost unbuildable, thus presenting competing teams with a particular challenge. The winning design offers driveway access to the upper level, which is ADA compliant.

Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity and AIA Denver are each fundraising to build one half of the duplex. Sponsorship opportunities are available; contact AIA Denver for more information. EVstudio will donate the required engineering (structural, mechanical, civil) for the winning design. GE Johnson Construction Company provided cost estimation services for the winning design. BCER Engineering provided energy modeling for the winning design.

