PROJECT DESCRIPTION
OregonBILDS is a residential design-build program that has been developing over the past several years. In this program, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Interior Architecture students have been designing and constructing an affordable residence each year. This fall studio will be the sixth to design houses and gardens that will later be constructed by students in the OregonBILDS program. BILDS stands for “Building Integrated Livable Designs Sustainably,” which describes the overall goals of the program. The studio will produce a set of permit drawings for four tiny houses with gardens that will be constructed on a single-family lot in Cottage Grove. The tiny houses will provide affordable rentals for veterans.

A LOCAL MODEL
The studio will collaborate with Homes for Good, a local non-profit with the primary mission of providing affordable housing. We will work closely with veterans as potential renters, with local builders, and with Homes for Good. The potential is to produce a model that is beautiful, practical, sustainable, and replicable.

OregonBILDS and Homes for Good are currently working with manufacturers of mass plywood with the common interest of incorporating this local wood-based material as the major structural element.

THE STUDIO:
The entire studio will work collaboratively toward developing a single design that can be constructed by UO students in Cottage Grove. The first few weeks of studio will be dedicated to defining the problem in terms of program, site constraints, code restrictions, energy performance, and market forces; and each student will make an individual proposal for a design. The studio will then work collectively to synthesize the best elements of each design into a cohesive proposal that will be developed throughout the term. The end result will be a set of permit drawings for four tiny houses, including complete site development for each.

DESIGN ISSUES TO BE STRESSED:
In the first part of the term an analysis of the site, environmental response strategies, and preliminary budget analyses will be central to the generation of schematic design proposals. Later in the term, the focus will shift to design development: refining the character of the project, with special emphasis on materials, building systems, and construction details. Overall talking points will include:

• The nature of sustainable architecture.
• Fundamentals of residential design – site design, building design, budget, legal restrictions.
• Fundamental issues of affordable housing.
• Integration of building technology to define/support the spirit of the project.
• The potential for efficiencies to be found in prefabrication.
• Collaboration, teamwork, and the role of the individual in the design process.