Mazama

Eco-Share House

Sustainable, communal, academic housing for eight
Before we begin, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge that we are currently residing on the unceded ancestral homelands of the Methow people. Our project addresses land that has been stewarded by the Indigenous people of the Methow Valley since time immemorial.
The Need

- A sustainable, “Eco-Share” house located in the Valley and designed with the needs of both students and the community in mind.

- Provide housing for up to eight students while also modeling ecological housing design, filling some housing needs for local residents, and functioning as a community learning and gathering space.
The Principals

1. Sustainable design and environmentally responsible construction

2. Supportive and resilient intra-house community

3. Thoughtful and meaningful land stewardship
Methodology

1. Interviews

*Special Thanks:* Joshua Porter, Leyland Whittaker, Sarah Thomas, Elizabeth Hayes

2. Class Design Clinic

3. Research
The Context
Methow Valley (blue) and prospective house location (red) within Washington State.

Data: USFS, ESRI, USGS
Leyland Whittaker’s prospective Eco-Share house property (red) within the Methow Valley (blue).

Data: USFS, ESRI, USGS, NASA
Property map illustrating Lee Whittaker’s “River to Raven” concept.
Sustainable Design- Construction and Efficiency

- Southern aspect with sunshades for passive climate control
- Above ground design for flood resilience
- Lower-priority rooms & spaces used as “Insulation”
- Zonal electric “mini-split” heat & A/C
- On-site solar

Image: ArchDaily
Sustainable Design - Livability

- Open-plan communal spaces
- Emphasis on natural light
- Spatial and acoustic separation of shared and private spaces

Image: Hanson Fine Building
Sustainable Design - Concepts
Intra-House Community

- House Values Statement
- Cohort Specific Contract
- Community Committees
- Scheduled House Meetings
- Cozy Interior
- Provided Games and Instruments
- House Upkeep
- Connection to McKinney Ridge
House Values Contract

A Philosophy

A Catalyst of Change

A Space of Education

A Model of Sustainability & Stewardship
Cohort Specific Contract

- Cleaning and upkeep of home
- Company/visitors
- Noise/quite time
- Conflict resolution

- Allergies and dietary restrictions
- Personality types (Myers-briggs)
- Shared vs. communal food
Community Committees

- Garden committee
- Greenhouse committee
- Communal meal committee
- Cleaning committee
- Community well-being committee
- Sustainability Committee
House Meetings

- Bi-weekly
- After a communal meal
- Anonymous submission box
- Mediator if needed
Cozy Interior

- A large sectional couch
- A plethora of blankets and cushions in the living area
- Soft fabrics
- Non-overhead lighting
  - Lamps
  - String lights
- Plants
  - Also serves as stewardship of the home
- Local and student art
  - Contributes to sense of place
  - Supports local community
Image: Dwell's favorite Living Photos [link]
Games and Instruments

● Yard games
  ○ croquet, corn-hole

● Board games
  ○ Chess, Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride

● Sports equipment
  ○ volleyball, soccer ball

● Local recreation Equipment
  ○ bikes, river tubes, kayaks, paddle boards
Support Local Businesses

- The Methow Valley Senior Center Rummage Room
  - [https://methownet.com/senior_center.html](https://methownet.com/senior_center.html)
- Winthrop Mountain Sports
- Cascades Outdoor Store
- Goat’s Beard Mountain Supply

Musical Instruments

- Guitar
- Mandolin
- Banjo
- Bongo
- Cymbal

Music assists in developing social identity, connecting with others, maintaining well being, experiencing and expressing spirituality, maintaining positive esteem, feeling competent and independent, and helps avoid feelings of isolation and loneliness - Oxford Handbook of Music Psychology
Communal Meals

- Voluntary sign up
- 3x week goal
- All members of house welcome
- Allergies and dietary restrictions
- Leftovers saved for missing members
- Provided food staples:
  - Oil
  - Salt and Pepper
  - Flour
  - Dry beans
Kitchen and Dining Space

- Multiple fridges
- Ample cabinet space
- Quality pots and pans
- Large dining table
- Open kitchen

Image: Barrel-Vaulted Ceilings Cap an Architect’s Off-Grid Retreat in Mexico
Image: Dwell’s Favorite Kitchen Photos
https://www.dwell.com/favorites/browse/photos/6571796718321893376?filter=6268417501073629184

Image: Modern Massive Wood Dining Tables That Will Amaze You
https://www.topdreamer.com/modern-massive-wood-dining-tables-that-will-amaze-you/
House Upkeep

- Dishes
- Personal belongings in communal spaces
- Sweeping
- Garbage/recycling/compost
- Dusting
- Vacuuming (if there is carpet)
- Bathrooms
- Refrigerator

- Chore chart
- Chore wheel
House Calendar & Event Board

- Community events
- House meetings and meals
- Chalk wall
Connection with McKinney Ridge

River To Raven

- Cohousing community
- Restoration project
- Wood fire stove
- Art pieces

Image: McKinney Ridge Neighborhood
https://methowhousingtrust.org/mazama
Meaningful Stewardship

- Welcoming outdoor space
- Communal garden
- Local stewardship opportunities
Welcoming Outdoor Space

- Gathering spaces
  - Playing fields
  - Private places
  - Firepit
  - Pizza oven
  - Shaded areas

https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g58794-d3176282-i299738489-Twisp_River_Suites-Twisp_Washington.html


https://www.pinterest.com/pin/826833483138086217/
Communal Garden

- Less than ¼ area
- Cover crops
- Located near water source
- Located near greenhouse
- Garden shed
- No animals
- Compost bins

https://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/landscaping-and-hardscaping/does-compost-bin-need-bottom

http://www.classroominbloom.org/food
Native Plants

- Serviceberry
- Kinnikinnik
- Oceanspray
- Mock Orange
- Buffaloberry

*Amelanchier alnifolia*

*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

*Holodiscus discolor*

*Philadelphus lewisii*

*Shepherdia canadensis*
Stewardship

- Native plant propagation
- Salmon restoration (in partnership with the Yakama Nation)
- Game cameras
- Bird surveys
- Forest management
- Education outreach
- Trail building
- Weed control
- Phenology stations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DOY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>OBSERVER</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/5/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELC</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Lots of deer activity close to campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Calf born on farm just upriver from Dibbsud Creek Bridge. Coyote observed eating the placenta in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skagit River</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Eagle pairs hanging out around nest sites all up and down the Skagit</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/17/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Sarah Meyer</td>
<td>Mergansers on the Skagit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Robins are in abundance and observed mating in the Confluence Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>First day over 60 degrees of 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Red Breasted Sapsuckers drumming in the Confluence Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Most trees have buds ready to burst</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/14/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Common Snowdrop flowering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Tanner Johnson</td>
<td>Beaver tracks on Confluence Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/19/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Sarah Meyer</td>
<td>Bees active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dibbsud Creek</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Willow is flowering and leafing out, an abundance of fresh beaver chews where the power line road meets Dibbsud Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20/2020</td>
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<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Molly Harrigan</td>
<td>Salmonberry flowering and Mullein's return</td>
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<td>3/19/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELC</td>
<td>Katie Manx</td>
<td>River Otter at dusk observed from the Peninsula Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/22/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>2 Turkey Vultures soared over Confluence Garden. First ones observed back in the valley this spring!</td>
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<td>3/24/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Grouse are drumming quite consistently</td>
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<td>3/23/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Periwinkles flowering on lawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Salmonberry flowering and Mullein’s return</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Bald Eagles have been noticeably absent upriver.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boker Lake</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Fresh Artist’s Conks are fruiting!</td>
</tr>
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<td>3/28/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Lindsay McCord</td>
<td>Two Barred Owls calling back and forth for about an hour around 11pm from the direction of Dibbsud Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELC</td>
<td>Zoe Wadkins</td>
<td>Diurnal wind return around 1pm every day</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Zoe Wadkins</td>
<td>Common Blue and Downy Yellow Violets in full bloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marblemount</td>
<td>Zoe Wadkins</td>
<td>Rufous Hummingbirds return to Upper Skagit</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10/2020</td>
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<td>ELC</td>
<td>Zoe Wadkins</td>
<td>Large, cinnamon colored Black Bear grazing on grass in Buster Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>ELC</td>
<td>Zoe Wadkins</td>
<td>Flowering Red Currant in bloom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observations by students at the North Cascades Institute, early spring 2020
Thank You