HOUSING FIRST

creating places that support health and wellbeing for veterans

ARCH 572
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According to the Department of Veteran Affairs, 200,000 United States military veterans are homeless on any given night. Housing First, also known as service-enriched housing, is a solution that works particularly well for veterans, who face more physical and mental health challenges than other unsheltered people. Research has shown that health outcomes improve when housing is provided first, before treatment for addiction or other issues. For people with medical problems, housing is the first form of treatment: having a permanent place to live can prevent many illnesses and makes it possible for ill people to recover.

What can we do, as architects, in support of this mission?

This studio will focus on the development of a complex housing program through research and design excellence through the thoughtful character definition of the design. During the first part of the term, each student will individually create a design solution for housing 18 veterans in Champaign. During the second part, teams of two will comprehensively design a 65-unit apartment building, sited at the Danville Veterans Affairs hospital campus. This studio will include several field trips over the term, to be coordinated with other class schedules. Students will participate in Champaign County’s “Point in Time” count on Thursday night, January 25th.