

The Intergenerational Commons by Yi Lu Wins Bronze A' Design Award in Architecture

Adaptive Reuse Proposal Reimagines Postwar Housing as a Layered, Intergenerational Residential Ecosystem

COMO, CO, ITALY, June 24, 2026

/EINPresswire.com/ -- The A' [Design Award](#) has announced The Intergenerational Commons by [Yi Lu](#) as a Bronze winner in the [Architecture, Building and Structure Design](#) category. The A' Design Award is one of the world's highly respected and well-recognized design accolades, presented following a rigorous blind peer-review process conducted by an expert jury panel. Recognition within the architecture field through this competition signals a meaningful contribution to design practice. The Intergenerational Commons is acknowledged as an outstanding example of thoughtful residential design. This achievement positions the project among a select group of works distinguished for creativity and practical merit.



The Intergenerational Commons

The recognition holds relevance for the broader architecture industry as cities confront social fragmentation, aging populations, and generational separation within high-density housing. The Intergenerational Commons addresses these pressing concerns by demonstrating how adaptive reuse can transform existing postwar housing stock into resilient, socially connected environments. The design aligns with current priorities around sustainability, affordability, and community care, offering a replicable pathway for urban housing renewal. By integrating learning, care, and daily life within close spatial proximity, the project provides tangible benefits to residents and stakeholders alike. Its approach reflects evolving standards that value social infrastructure as a core architectural concern.

The Intergenerational Commons redefines Stuyvesant Town as a contemporary model for intergenerational housing. Through adaptive reuse, the aging superblock becomes a layered residential ecosystem in which a revitalized podium integrates senior learning and daily exchange, while rooftop kindergartens reconnect generations in close proximity. Terraces and gardens soften rigid edges, transforming density into shared social infrastructure. The design preserves the majority of the building as housing while surgically converting select zones using a low-disruption retrofit strategy, including steel reinforcement, reversible insertions, bolt-on terraces, and prefabricated community modules. A standardized kit-of-parts system ensures cost control, phased construction, and replicability for aging urban housing stock.

This recognition through the A' Design Award may inform future projects that explore adaptive reuse, residential renewal, and intergenerational housing models. The award serves as encouragement for continued investigation into how aging urban buildings can become resilient, energy-conscious environments that support both social interaction and long-term sustainability. By validating a scalable approach to housing renewal, the project may inspire further exploration of socially responsive design within the field. The recognition reinforces a commitment to bridging technical rigor with creative inquiry.

Project Members

The Intergenerational Commons was designed by Yi Lu, who developed the concept, the adaptive reuse strategy, and the spatial design integrating environmental performance with social infrastructure.

Interested parties may learn more about the award-winning design, its features, and its designer at the dedicated page provided by the A' Design Award.

<https://competition.adesignaward.com/ada-winner-design.php?ID=182604>

About Yi Lu, Designer

Yi (Rachel) Lu is a licensed architect, building scientist, and creative practitioner working at the intersection of architecture, artificial intelligence, and environmental performance. Her work focuses on reducing carbon emissions and improving building sustainability by turning complex data into actionable design strategies. She has contributed to artificial intelligence driven research, collaborated with international firms, and had her work featured on platforms such as ArchDaily and The Young Archs. Based in the United States of America, she bridges technical rigor and creative exploration, using research and speculative three-dimensional visualization to envision more resilient, human-centered built environments.

About Yi Lu, Architect and Practice

Yi Lu is a licensed architect whose work bridges sustainable design, building science research, and socially responsive architecture. She serves as Sustainability Committee Chair of AIA Northern Nevada, where she promotes climate-conscious practice, material responsibility, and community engagement within the profession. Yi holds a Master of Architecture with an integrated Product Design Certificate from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of

Environments from the University of Melbourne. Her work integrates environmental performance analysis with spatial design, exploring adaptive reuse, residential renewal, and intergenerational housing models. Through research-driven methodologies and applied practice, she investigates how aging urban buildings can be transformed into resilient, energy-conscious environments that support both social interaction and long-term sustainability.

About the Bronze A' Design Award Recognition

The Bronze A' Design Award is granted to highly regarded designs that demonstrate a strong degree of creativity and practicality. It recognizes the dedication and skill of designers whose work stands out for thoughtful development and considered use of materials and technology. Within the Architecture, Building and Structure Design category, evaluation criteria include innovative use of space, structural integrity, aesthetic appeal, environmental impact, functional efficiency, material selection, technological integration, social relevance, and accessibility considerations, among others such as energy efficiency, adaptability to change, and integration with surroundings. Designs acknowledged with this distinction reflect professional execution and the potential to influence industry standards positively. The recognition highlights a designer's ability to blend form and function effectively while offering solutions that improve quality of life.

About A' Design Award

The A' Architecture, Building and Structure Design Award is an esteemed competition that welcomes a wide range of participants, including architects, engineering firms, construction companies, and influential brands across the architecture and design industries. Entries are evaluated through a blind peer-review process by an international jury panel of design professionals, industry experts, journalists, and academics, assessed against pre-established criteria. Organized since 2008 and now in its 18th year, the A' Design Award is an international and juried competition open to entries from all countries and across all industries. The ultimate aim of the A' Design Award is to recognize and promote superior projects that advance and benefit society, driven by a philanthropic mission to create a better world through the power of good design. Interested parties may learn more about the A' Design Award, explore the jury members, view past laureates, and take part with their projects at the following url:

<https://architectureawards.org>

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