

2021 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design & Planning Competition



First Place Winner

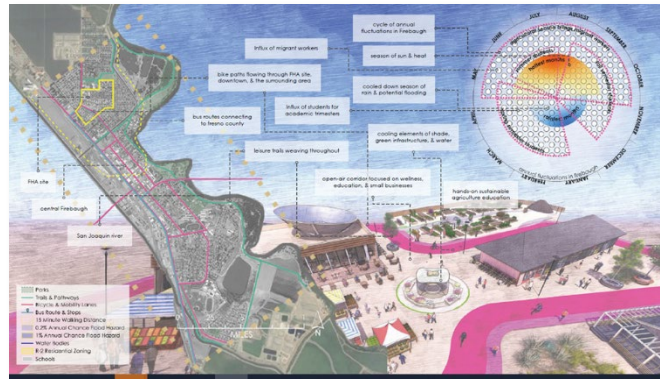
Pratt Institute and New York University

Team Members

Sabyasachi Das | Pankti Mehta | Nella Schools | Browne Sebright | Kats Tamanaha

Project Overview

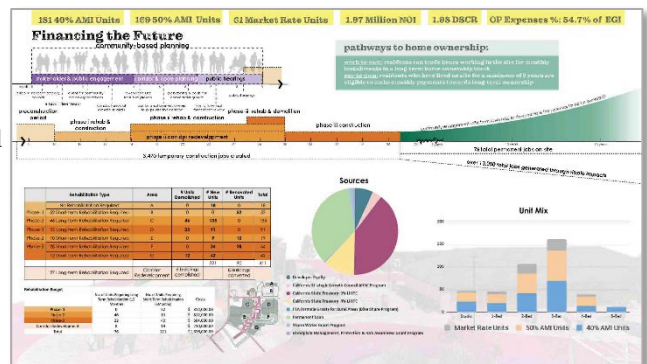
The Pratt Institute and New York University team presented their winning proposal called, “A Breathable Connected Community,” during HUD’s 8th Annual Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition. The team’s design addresses the intergenerational and agricultural needs of the Firebaugh, CA, community.



Site: The winning design incorporates breathability and permeability. The plan creates interconnected communities on three scales, the residences, the Fresno Housing Authority site, and the city of Firebaugh as a whole.

The team purposed three scales of buildings ranging from minor upgrades to full rebuilds, using architectural features to create micro-communities within buildings to encourage interaction between residents and facilitate time outdoors. Additionally, the Pratt Institute and New York University team were the only team to incorporate Fresno Housing’s plans for existing development, La Joya Commons.

Financial: The plan would renovative 90 units and create and additional 351 new units for a total of 411 units; 351 of those units will be affordable, at 50 percent of less than the area median income (AMI). The remaining 15 percent would be market rent. The total development cost for the project is a little over \$67 million.



The buildings accessible through central courtyards and open-air hallways, allowing each unit to have an allotment of semi-private outdoor space at their front door spacious enough to bring furniture into and enjoy as personal terraces.



Sustainability: The design focuses on sustainability by creating self-sustaining energy, water, and waste systems. Each of the buildings whether newly constructed or with minor renovations will have solar shade canopies and are designed to provide enough energy generation to sustain buildings’ energy needs.

