

# House Proposal Using Prefabrication & CNC Wins RIBA Journal's Sterling OSB Habitat Award

08:00 - 28 September, 2016 | by **Alyssa Wu** 

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MawsonKerr Architects' Low Rise High Density has been selected as the winner of the RIBA Journal Sterling OSB Habitat Award. The house proposal, in the Byker area of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, uses prefabrication and CNC techniques to confront issues of substance abuse and addiction.



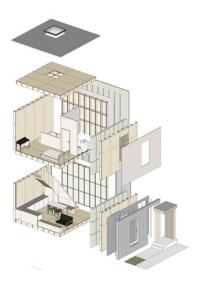


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Designed to be constructed quickly, easily, and by unskilled laborers, the single occupant houses and bungalows can be stacked or arranged side-by-side, coming together to form a low-rise, high-density community. This arrangement accommodates 115 homes per hectare, which each include their own front doors and private external spaces.

The design is based on modular units made with 8 sheets of OSB and allows for prefabricated window and door openings, kitchen units, and storage solutions. The interiors are lined with lacquered OSB for a simple aesthetic that contrasts with the external cladding material.



"MawsonKerr understood that you can create a bespoke component from a sheet of OSB and a CNC machine and make that component interesting and useful, while performing several tasks at once, said judge Tim Lucas.

"

The architects aim for the construction of the prefabricated building components to become a community project, empowering individuals to gain control and pride in ownership of their homes. A panel system allows for customizability of both interior and exterior; meanwhile, the modular approach allows for an efficient use of space. The energy-efficient shell and low-rise design also bring natural light to all areas of the home, overall providing affordable and sustainable housing to promote a safe and vibrant community.

New via MawsonKerr Architects

Correction update: This article's headline originally referred to "RIBA's Sterling OSB Habitat Award." It has been changed to reflect the fact that the award was run by RIBA Journal, and is not a mainstream RIBA award.



Regis Nde Tene





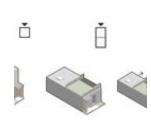


Courtesy of MawsonKerr Architects





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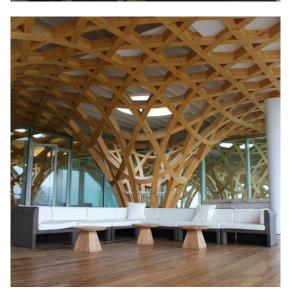
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