

# EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HOMESFORLESS DEBUTS AT GRANVILLE ISLAND

**Four brand new homes, ready for immediate occupancy.  
Short-term tenancy only...  
To qualify: must have no fixed address.**

In response to the continuing crisis in homelessness in British Columbia, third year industrial design students at Emily Carr University of Art + Design have joined forces with wood manufacturing students from the University of British Columbia's Centre for Advanced Wood Processing program to present this project on prefabricated short-term housing. The goal of the project - to design small homes on a small budget that can be erected anywhere in the province.

The houses, measuring 64 sq ft, provide a snug, dry, personal home for the night; students were challenged to ensure that their designs cost \$1,500 or less to build in BC. The prefabricated wood frame homes can be manufactured in components in a factory, and then assembled on location using simple connectors. A mandatory component of the project was that 30% of the building components were outsourced from recycled/reused materials, reducing costs and exemplifying sustainable practices in new and creative ways.

Student groups conducted research by interviewing homeless citizens, directors of shelters and support agencies, which provided the necessary knowledge to develop a solution to this socially-challenging issue. Teams then constructed full-scale homes to validate their designs and to initiate a dialogue.

The project originally premiered at the Home for Less Expo, held at FP Innovations Forintek in April 2008. Through consultation with industry, community groups and the public, the houses have been further developed and refined. The project has already piqued the interest of Mayors Wayne Wright, of New Westminster and Ian Sutherland, of Squamish.

"The main objective of this project was to construct an experience about the reality of homelessness that would connect with people more than the statistics we keep seeing--and get more of us talking about real solutions," said Emily Carr Associate Professor Christian Blyt.

Vancouver's smallest housing development is on display October 16 to November 14, 2008 in the space adjacent to Ocean Artworks, Johnston Street, Granville Island. **The formal opening takes place October 16, 2008 at 2pm.**

*Degrees + Programs in*

*Visual Arts, Design + Media*

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*Established in 1925*

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## HomesforLess Cont'd

It is currently estimated that between 8,000 and 15,000 people are homeless in BC. See some solid steps forward, some small solutions, housing that makes sense - Homes for less.

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**About Emily Carr University:** Established in 1925 and based in Vancouver, BC, Canada, Emily Carr University of Art + Design is one of the world's leading art universities devoted to excellence and innovation in visual arts, media arts and design. Emily Carr University offers Master and Bachelor degree programs and a rich variety of continuing studies courses.

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