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HOUSED by CHOICE, HOUSED by FORCE - Homes, Conflicts and Conflicting Interests

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Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Architectural ramifications for U.S. public-private homeless shelter funding

2. **Format:** verbal presentation with paper

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6. Abstract (300 words):

Public-private partnerships are increasingly used to fund the construction of homelessness facilities in the U.S. (Eaton, 2015; Kraft & Riley, 2011). While this model can increase the quality of service and inject desperately needed dollars into these expensive

construction projects, this funding model may alter the dynamics and complexity of decision-making for architectural designers.

The authors provided pro bono service on two shelter construction projects, and post-installation interviews with multiple shelter directors and observation of the projects' design processes identified that donors seek gratification through their act of giving. Further, shelter directors are motivated to acknowledge these givers in meaningful ways so that these contributions continue. Private funding also injects the impulse for donors to positively identify with the resulting facility's appearance.

Donors' desired level of involvement in a project varied in the projects. In one, the donor simply wished to see the general result of their funds and was engaged only on large decisions such as the facility's external appearance and floor plans. In the other project, shelter directors felt donors would be further motivated if donors had deeper influence on the environment's detailed finished appearance—and by implication, a heightened participatory role in the project's development. This is a departure from typical design processes that would engage a designer only with the agency running the facility. For example, offering donors options for furnishings, interior materials and color palettes for areas in a shelter such as private bedrooms may motivate continuing donations. Thus, the designer must navigate both the 'looks good' factor while maintaining high performance in an environment that will subject to intense cleaning and around-the-clock heavy use. While successful in securing funding, public-private partnerships also have the by-product of making more complex the process of design as new motivations for appearance and attribution enter the equation.

7. Author(s) Biography (200 words maximum for all authors):

Jill Pable, Ph.D., FIDEC, ASID is a professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Interior Design at Florida State University. She holds B.S. and M.F.A. degrees in Interior Design and a Ph.D. degree in Instructional Technology with specialization in architecture. She is the author of the textbook *Sketching Interiors at the Speed of Thought* and co-author of the instructor reference book *Interior Design: Strategies for Teaching and Learning*. In 2009 she served as national president of the Interior Design Educators Council and is a Fellow of IDEC. She was included in the 30 Most Admired Design Educators in the United States in the 2015 annual DesignIntelligence rankings. Her research focuses on the design of environments for the disadvantaged and she is the originator and project lead for *Design Solutions for Homelessness*, a research-informed online resource for architectural designers and organizations that create facilities for homeless persons. She believes that design can make life more interesting, fulfilling and humane.