"Homelessness" is only superficially a problem of shelter. When architecture takes this challenge on, however, it can sometimes result in well-intentioned but misguided flights of fancy and expression. The issue of homelessness goes far beyond the problem that it names and architecture should be uniquely situated—both pragmatically and expressively—to address not only the myriad problems of the homeless individuals themselves, but also the larger social and ideological problems that have confounded society’s response to date.

Still, architecture is stymied because the homeless problem confounds contemporary “up-and-down” strategies of critique and celebration. In this context, the critical attitude’s inherent censure is socially irrefutable, and its negativity is regressive, and celebration doesn’t work if there are neither heroes to praise nor exemplars to emulate.

What remains for architecture is cleverness and economy, and the disciplinary trust built up over millennia that these are enough and worthy.
The container's simple form and noble proportions are the natural end product of years of refinement in the harshest physical and economic environments. They ask only for thoughtful arrangement, according to their own modular logic (relying on minimal internal modification and corner fittings for connection and anchoring, for example), to guarantee a dignified and respectful result.

By avoiding extensive modification and sticking with the natural dimensions, systems and fittings already established for the container and its extensive infrastructural support system, the design takes maximum advantage of the container's inherent economy, strength and durability.

Needless to say, this is crucial to the ADUs' ability to successfully address the homeless problem, considering the unique challenge this population presents. Furthermore, the design's architectural "modularity" makes it more likely to be able to "fit in" to the greatest variety of neighborhood settings, from the expected urban infill scenario to the more surprising suburban scenario, with its likely NIMBY reactions.

Finally, the container's modular logic, extensive infrastructure support system (transportation and procurement), and minimal costs make it ideal for quick deployment in this ongoing crisis.