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INNOVATIVE “CAMPING CABINS” FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS DEBUT AT CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

As part of “Parks Forward” Initiative, CalPoly Students Design Smart, Low-Cost Designs Designed to Appeal to Non-Traditional Campers

SACRAMENTO – Innovative “camping cabin” designs aimed at attracting non-traditional campers to California State Parks are making their debut at this year’s California State Fair.

Architecture students from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona designed the cabins as part of efforts by the Parks Forward Commission, the independent initiative designed to address the cultural, financial, and operational challenges facing California State Parks. Fair-goers are able to see four designs, including a full-scale prototype built by Phoenix-based Cavco Industries, and vote for their favorite cabin.

The design challenge asked students to balance issues of culture, sustainability, mobility, and construction. The cabins are designed to be inventive, low-cost, eco-friendly alternatives to traditional lodging.

Cal Poly College of Environmental Design Dean Michael Woo, who serves on the Parks Forward Commission, was asked to have architecture students take the lead in designing the cabins in an effort to jumpstart interest among groups that are not typical campers.

“Our students frequently get to use their imaginations to solve design problems,” Woo says. “With this project, our students are not only using their imaginations but also are making something which will change the way Californians perceive and use the great outdoors.”

Associate Professor Juintow Lin’s Architecture 503 studio spent the spring quarter researching and designing more than 10 distinctively different cabins that had to meet certain conditions such as size, portability and a tight budget.

“They know it is a real treat to work on this type of project,” said Lin. “The whole purpose is for the community at-large.”

“We want to thank the students for their thoughtful and creative work in designing these cabins. Their efforts play a key role in our collective goal of enhancing the park visitors’ experience and appealing to a broader population by expanding the types of camping experiences we provide to our visitors,” said California State Parks Acting Director, Lisa Mangat.

Visitors to the state fair will be able to participate in a survey that would help inform the approach going forward on expanding the types of camping experiences available in the Parks System.

State Parks currently provides cabins for visitors at various state parks in the system. Some of the state parks include Burney, Samuel P. Taylor, Boothe Napa, Mt Tamalpais, Crystal Cove, Cuyamaca, and Anza Borrego. The prototype on display at the State Fair will eventually be placed in a State Park to be enjoyed by Park visitors.

For more information on the project, visit <http://www.revampthecamp.com/>. More information on Parks Forward is available at www.parksforward.com.

For more than 160 years, the California State Fair has showcased the best of California. The Fair runs until July 27 at Cal Expo. Tickets to the State Fair are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children and \$10 for seniors. Information on tickets and special packages is available at castatefair.org or by calling [916-263-FAIR](tel:916-263-FAIR) (3247).

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